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# OUR RIGHTS: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GUARANTEES

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MOSCOW

Translated from the Russian by *Galina Sdobnikova*

Designed by *Nikolai Gruzdev*

А. ЗЛОМАНОВ, А. УМАНСКИЙ

НАШИ ПРАВА: ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ  
И ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ ГАРАНТИИ.  
ЦИФРЫ И ФАКТЫ

*На английском языке*

© «Политиздат», 1984

English translation © Progress Publishers 1984

*Printed in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*

З  $\frac{0802010203-575}{014(01)-84}$  72-84

## CONTENTS

<i>Chapter One.</i>	In the Name of Man, for the Benefit	
	of Man . . . . .	5
	The Supreme Goal of Social Production . . . . .	5
	The Economic Base of the People's Well-Being . . . . .	6
	The Working People's Growing Incomes . . . . .	18
	Measures to Raise Wages and Reduce Taxes . . . . .	21
	Popular Consumption . . . . .	26
<i>Chapter Two.</i>	The Right to State Administration . . . . .	31
	The Soviets; a Form of Genuine People's Power . . . . .	31
	Other Forms of Involvement in Running Public	
	Affairs . . . . .	42
	Work Collectives . . . . .	43
	Communist Party of the Soviet Union . . . . .	44
	Trade Unions . . . . .	48
	All-Union Leninist Young Communist League (YCL) . . . . .	49
	Cooperative Organisations . . . . .	50
	Voluntary Societies . . . . .	51
<i>Chapter Three.</i>	The Right to Work . . . . .	53
	The Socialist Economy: Foundation for Implementing	
	the Right to Work . . . . .	53
	The USSR: a Country of Full Employment . . . . .	62
	A Desirable Job for Everyone . . . . .	69
	Women's Participation in Social Production . . . . .	73
	State Concern for Working Conditions . . . . .	76
	The Working People's Involvement in Economic	
	Management . . . . .	82
	The Duty to Work . . . . .	89
<i>Chapter Four.</i>	The Right to Rest and Leisure . . . . .	92
	Length of Working Week and Holidays . . . . .	92
	Health Facilities . . . . .	101

	Physical Training and Sports . . . . .	105
<i>Chapter Five.</i>	The Right to Health Protection . . . . .	109
	Development of Public Health System . . . . .	109
	Concern for the Health of the Young . . . . .	119
	Environmental Measures . . . . .	124
<i>Chapter Six.</i>	The Right to Material Security in Old Age and in the Event of Disability . . . . .	128
	Socialist System of Social Security in the USSR . . . . .	128
	State Pension System in the USSR . . . . .	131
	Other Forms of Social Security . . . . .	135
<i>Chapter Seven.</i>	The Right to Housing . . . . .	140
	The Scale of Housing Construction in the USSR . . . . .	140
<i>Chapter Eight.</i>	The Right to Education . . . . .	152
	The Principles and System of Public Education in the USSR . . . . .	152
	Universal Secondary Education . . . . .	163
	Development of Vocational Education . . . . .	172
	Specialised Secondary and Higher Education . . . . .	174
<i>Chapter Nine.</i>	The Right to Enjoy Cultural Benefits . . . . .	184
	Culture for the People . . . . .	184
	Clubs; Cultural Centres . . . . .	186
	Theatres, Cinemas and Museums . . . . .	194
	Books for the People . . . . .	203
	Libraries for Everyone . . . . .	210

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	the Right to Work . . . . .	53
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	Management . . . . .	82
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	Development of Vocational Education . . . . .	172
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<i>Chapter Nine.</i>	The Right to Enjoy Cultural Benefits . . . . .	184
	Culture for the People . . . . .	184
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	Libraries for Everyone . . . . .	210

## **IN THE NAME OF MAN, FOR THE BENEFIT OF MAN**

**Citizens of the USSR enjoy in full the social, economic, political and personal rights and freedoms proclaimed and guaranteed by the Constitution of the USSR and by Soviet laws. The socialist system ensures enlargement of the rights and freedoms of citizens and continuous improvement of their living standards as social, economic and cultural development programmes are fulfilled.**

*Constitution of the USSR, Art. 39*

### **The Supreme Goal of Social Production**

In a socialist society, economic, scientific and technical progress, education, the health service and culture are oriented to make the working person's life materially secure and spiritually meaningful, to create conditions for the individual's all-round development. Such is the socialist system's great advantage over the capitalist economic system.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet state have always sought to raise the Soviet people's living standards. But, for concrete historical reasons, the possibilities for improving the Soviet people's well-being were limited for a fairly long time. On the eve of the October Revolution, the country's economic level was several times lower than in the developed capitalist states. Be-

sides, it took the country roughly 20 years to win the wars thrust upon it, and to eliminate their destructive consequences.

Today, when the Soviet Union's economic potential has multiplied, the CPSU has geared the whole economy to the improvement of the working people's material and cultural well-being. At the same time, the rise of living standards is conditioned by the requirements of social production and is a major prerequisite for its further growth.

Socialist democracy proclaims not only political, but also socio-economic rights for the working people. These rights are not only proclaimed, but reliably guaranteed, and that is one of the fundamental distinctions between socialist and bourgeois democracy. In the Soviet Union—a society of mature socialism with a highly developed economic potential—that distinctive feature of socialist democracy is particularly pronounced.

*“During the 1980s the Communist Party will continue consistently to implement its economic strategy, the supreme objective of which is steady improvement of the material and cultural standards of the people's life and the creation of better conditions for the all-round development of the individual, based on further growth of the efficiency of all social production, higher labour productivity and greater social and labour activity of the Soviet people.”*

*Documents and Resolutions. The 26th  
Congress of the Communist  
Party of the Soviet Union, p. 163.*

## **The Economic Base of the People's Well-being**

Seventy-five per cent of the national income went into consumption, and considering the outlays on housing and socio-cultural construction,

## Use of the USSR's National Income for Consumption and Accumulation over the Five-Year Periods

(in comparable 1973 prices, 1,000 mln. roubles)

	Eighth five- year period	Ninth five- year period	Tenth five- year period	Tenth five-year period, per cent of:	
				eighth five-year period	ninth five-year period
National income used for consumption and accu- mulation	1,230	1,647	2,045	166	124
including:					
consumption	887	1,191	1,511	170	127
accumulation and other expenditures	343	456	534	156	117

80 per cent of the national income went directly to boost the people's well-being; in the tenth five-year period, the figure was 1,625,000 million roubles, or 334,000 million roubles (26 per cent) more than in the ninth five-year period.

In the eleventh five-year period, the national income is to increase by 78,500 million roubles as compared with 74,500 million in the tenth period, industrial production by 160,000 million roubles as compared with 122,000 million, and agricultural production (annual average) by 16,400 million roubles as compared with 10,200 million.

In the eleventh five-year period, the social orientation of balanced development as a whole is much more pronounced, with an increase in the share of the consumption fund in the national income. The change in the share of the consumption fund will entail a sizeable increase in its total volume (more than 20 per cent).

**Major Indicators of Economic Development  
in the USSR in the Eleventh Five-Year Period**  
(per cent)

	Increase for 1976-1980	Planned Increase for 1981-1985
National income going into consumption and accumulation	21	18
Industrial production, total	24	26
including:		
producer goods	26	25.5
consumer goods	21	26.2
Agricultural production (annual average)	9	13
Freight traffic in all types of transport	19	19.4
Investments	18	10.4
Retail trade, state and cooperative	24	23

The pivotal problem behind the rise in living standards is that of increasing the output of consumer goods, improving their quality and extending their range.

**Investments in the Consumer Goods Production  
(Group B Industries)**

(in comparable prices, 1,000 mln. roubles)

	Total for the period	Annual average
1961-1965	11.7	2.3
1966-1970	18.5	3.7
1971-1975	23.8	4.8
1976-1980	27.3	5.4

In the tenth five-year period, more than 500 enterprises producing consumer goods were built across the country.

**Production of Consumer Goods (Group B Industries): Growth Rate (per cent)**

1940	1965	1970	1975	1980	1981
100	437	654	897	1,080	1,121
	100	150	205	247	256
		100	137	165	171
			100	121	125

*Developed socialism is marked by an approximation of Group A (producer goods) and Group B (consumer goods) growth rates.*

Thus, in 1951-1965, the output of producer goods increased 1.6 times faster than that of consumer goods, and in the period from 1966 to 1980, the figure was down to 1.1 times.

**Production of Staple Foods in the USSR**

(annual average, million tons)

	Eleventh five-year period 1981-1985 (plan)	Twelfth five-year period 1986-1990 (plan)
Grain	238-243	250-255
Vegetables, melons and water-melons	33-34	37-39
Fruits and berries	11-12	14-15
Grapes	7.5-8.0	10-11
Potatoes	87-89	90-92
Meat (dead weight)	17.0-17.5	20.0-20.5
Milk	97-99	104-106
Eggs (1,000 mln.)	72	78-79

In 1981-1985, the output of producer goods is to go up by 25.5 per cent, and that of consumer goods by 26.2 per cent.

In formulating its broad programme for the country's social development and improvement of the people's well-being, the 26th Congress of the CPSU stated that the main task was to improve high-quality foods supplies to the population. With this aim in view, a Food Programme for the USSR for the period ending in 1990 has been drawn up as a crucial component of the CPSU's economic strategy for the present decade.

The agro-industrial complex, which includes agriculture together with many other lines of activity connected with production services and the procurement, transportation, storage, primary processing and marketing of farm produce,

**Investments in Soviet Agriculture  
Across the Whole Range of Operations**  
(in comparable prices, 1,000 mln. roubles)

	Total investments	Including:		Share of investments in agriculture across the whole range of operations in the overall volume of investments in the economy (per cent)
		state	collective farm	
1961-1965	48.2	27.6	20.6	20
1966-1970	81.5	48.1	33.4	23
1971-1975	130.5	83.2	47.3	26
1976-1980	171.0	113.4	57.6	27

accounts for 37 per cent of the country's fixed assets, more than 40 per cent of its labour force, and 42 per cent of its national income.

In the eleventh five-year period, a total of 233,000 million roubles is to be invested in the country's agro-industrial complex, including 189,600 million in agriculture.

"In the twelfth five-year period, allocate 33-35 per cent of the total investments in the economy to agriculture and the fishing industry, the food, meat-and-dairy, micro-biological, milling-and-groat, and mixed-feed industries, tractor and agricultural engineering, industries building machines to produce food and mineral fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides, and also to promote the development of trade and consumer cooperation enterprises and organisations, with 27-28 per cent going directly into agriculture."

#### *USSR Food Programme*

In the eighth, ninth and tenth five-year periods, investments in agriculture totalled roughly 400,000 million roubles, or four times more than in all the preceding years of the Soviet power.

Investments in the agro-industrial complex over the five-year periods (1,000 mln. roubles):

1961-1965 - 64.7

1966-1970 - 106.3

1971-1975 - 165.0

1976-1980 - 241.9

1981-1985 - 233.0

(plan)

The state's overall outlays on the development of the agro-industrial complex in the eleventh five-year period are to exceed 720,000 million roubles.



Mechanical engineering alone produces something like 1,700 types of machines and other technical devices for agriculture, and the projected figure is more than 3,000. The embodied labour of the country's industrial work force constitutes almost 60 per cent of the expenditures on the output of the final product in agriculture.

### **Annual Consumption of Staple Foods in the USSR**

(kilograms per head)

	1980	1990
Meat and meat products	58	70
Fish and fish products	17.6	19.0
Milk and dairy products	314	330-340
Eggs	239	260-266
Sugar	44.4	45.5
Vegetable oil	8.8	13.2
Vegetables, water-melons and melons	97	126-135
Fruits and berries	38	66-70

“The food problem—both on the economic and the political plane—is the central problem of the present decade. If it is to be successfully resolved, the annual plans and the plan for the eleventh five-year period as a whole must be fulfilled and overfulfilled.”

### *USSR Food Programme*

Socialist agricultural enterprises play the decisive role in the supply of farm produce, turning out 88 per cent of the total marketable produce in agriculture. Under the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee's Plenary Meeting