

Penn Ag Conference Hears Soviet Expert

BY MARGIE FUSCO
Cambria Co. Staff Correspondent
 Agricultural issues will play a major role in the future of the Soviet Union according to Dr. Vladimir Sakharov, keynote speaker at the close of the three-day 108th PennAg Industries conference at Seven Springs resort.

Speaking at the September 9 banquet, Dr. Sakharov told the audience of 250 that the primary control over Soviet agriculture today rests in the hands of Moslems who live in the nation's "sun belt" districts such as Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. According to Dr. Sakharov, the key to the Soviet future lies in the effect of Moslem-controlled resources. He feels that Americans need to invest more study into the Moslem problem in the Soviet Union to better predict and control future relations.

Dr. Sakharov, a former member of the Soviet diplomatic corps and an expert in Middle Eastern affairs, defected from the Soviet Union in 1971 and is currently a visiting professor in international affairs at the University of Arizona. He is no relation to dissident professor Andrei Sakharov or U.N. employee Genadiy F. Zakharov recently involved in the exchange for U.S. journalist Michael Daniloff.

In a private interview following his speech, Dr. Sakharov elaborated on the state Soviet agriculture. "The system destroyed the agricultural class."

He explained that the current Soviet agricultural system is not functioning according to Bolshevism at all. "It was set in 1929 by Stalin. There was a fight at that time between Stalin and

another, at that time more important, revolutionary named Bukharin. Bukharin was for an economy policy that would have a private sector in agricultural, a private sector in industry, which would work together with the state-owned enterprises. That was Bolshevism originally, and that was the development of the Soviet Union originally," Dr. Sakharov said.

"Then crazy Stalin comes in and collectivizes everyone. On top of that, he issued a law about domestic passports which set agricultural workers apart from city people. So to be an agricultural worker from that moment on became a very dirty title, a very meaningless profession. That was Stalinism, and the Soviet Union is still trying to deal with traces of Stalinism today."

He questioned whether the Soviets could successfully redeem their agricultural program. "It's beyond repair. There's no way they can rebuild it on the same premise. They have to change it totally, and that would be a revolutionary thing for Russia to do. Is Gorbachev courageous enough to fight it? Or can he? Or does he want to? We may never know."

Dr. Sakharov's appearance at the conference was sponsored by Texasgulf Chemical Co. of North Carolina.

Ben Zechman, a Northumberland County flour miller, said, "This has been wonderful. We couldn't have had a better time." He echoed the sentiments of the 250 others attending the 108th PennAg Industries conference at Seven Springs.

The conference segments were a

blend of business and fun. As PennAg services director Sam Sherk noted, "We found out several years ago that people come to a conference more readily if we're offering something more than business. We try to provide interesting speakers and unusual programs in addition to traditional work."

In addition to keynote speaker Dr. Vladimir Sakharov speaking on Soviet affairs, participants were treated to a vigorous workout during the stress reduction seminar taught by Leroy Dillard, a trainer with the Pittsburgh Steelers. They also enjoyed some healthy competition in tennis, golf, and basketball throwing. For the less active, there was miniature golf. And lest anyone starve, there was a western barbecue one evening and a sumptuous presidential reception and banquet on the closing night.

In regular program sessions, Dr. Joan Slavin of the University of Minnesota spoke on human nutrition. Steve Kopperud, vice president of legislation for the American Feed Industry Association, discussed animal welfare issues in a conference session. Dr. Frederick Chien spoke on agricultural world trade as it relates to China. Dr. Chien is a representative of the Coordination Council for North American Affairs and a graduate of the Yale School of International Affairs.

Dr. Richard Grubb, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture,

discussed Pennsylvania agriculture today. Other agricultural issues were tackled by Dr. Tom Brewer, an extension economist for the Pennsylvania State University, who talked about agricultural trends, and Rich Pennell, executive vice president of the National Grain and Feed Association, who discussed agricultural legislation.

The Tuesday luncheon speaker

was Earl M. Baker, Pennsylvania committee chairman of the Republican party, who spoke on the upcoming 1986 elections.

The next PennAg convention has been set for Toftrees Resort in State College on September 13-15, 1987. Among the speakers at the next convention will be journalist/correspondent Daniel Schorr and former CIA director William Colby.

Matching Funds Deadline

Set For October 13

HARRISBURG — Local dairy promotion groups have until Oct. 13 to apply for matching funds for 1987 January through June promotions, it has been announced by the Advisory Board of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program.

Board Chairman Don Duncan of Robesonia reported that \$35,000 in matching money has been budgeted for the first six months of 1987, and an equal amount for the second half.

"New guidelines also have been adopted for 1987 due to overwhelming demand," Duncan advised. He said grants will be limited to dairy promotion organizations and local non-profit groups supervised by dairy farmers.

All funds will be awarded on a 50-

50 matching basis, including capital investments. "Profits from such investments must be used for future dairy promotions," Duncan said.

In 1986, 52 local groups received over \$62,000 in matching funds from the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program.

Participating organizations will be mailed copies of the new funding guidelines.

"I'd advise anyone interested in holding a local dairy promotion next year to write or call us immediately about the new guidelines," Duncan said.

The person to contact is Cindy Weimer, Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-9408. The telephone number is 717-787-6903.



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