

## Agriculture by Marcia Merry

### Gorbachov wants Minnesota grain

*The Soviet leader plans a "tourist excursion" to Minnesota—but he doesn't have anyone fooled.*

The U.S. media on May 15 were full of headlines about how Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov will "turn tourist" after his summit meeting in Washington, D.C. May 30 to June 3. A U.S. official said that Gorbachov "expressed a desire to travel beyond Washington." San Francisco and Minneapolis were mentioned for June 3 and 4, but "nothing has been finalized, so this is just a tentative indication of his plans."

This is like saying that the Big Bad Wolf decided to visit Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother's house because he needed a vacation.

The Russian bear is making a "tour stop" to Minnesota for the purpose of checking up on the U.S. grain supply to the Soviet Union. Gorbachov has already said that he plans to sign a Long Term Agreement on U.S.-U.S.S.R. grain trade, in which Washington will pledge at least 50 million tons of grain to Russia for the next five years, and, more likely, plan to send 100 million tons—about equal to a whole year's total world grain trade.

Meeting these commitments will not be a simple matter for the United States, since soybean carryover stocks are next to zero, wheat stocks are at the lowest level since the early 1970s, and corn carryover stocks will be very low even if there is perfect growing weather this summer.

There is a severe food shortage in the Soviet Union. The Soviet economy is in a shambles after years of mismanagement and concentration of resources into a colossal armaments buildup.

Minneapolis is the policymaking

center for much of the North American operations of the international cartel of companies that dominate the world grain trade (the Minnesota-based Cargill, Continental, Bunge, Louis Dreyfus, Archer Daniels Midland, André/Garnac, and others).

These cartel companies in turn represent a commodities "front group" for old-time political and financial interests in the Western world, mostly based in Europe, that have attempted to dominate a détente with Russia—whether communist, czarist, or anything else.

Early in the 1980s, Cargill and others funded the creation of the Hubert Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, attached to the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, which specialized in computerized studies of impending world food shortages, and calculated which people around the world would be fed, and which would go hungry and die.

The food cartel companies have committed millions of tons of U.S. taxpayer-subsidized grain to Moscow in the last few years, as well as butter, soybean products, and other necessities. But now, due to the deepening Depression in the West, the food is becoming scarce.

Dwayne Andreas and his company Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) and the Winrock Foundation (named for Winthrop Rockefeller) in Arkansas are recommending that the West will have to "change its eating habits"—give up meat and dairy products, switch to soy milk, "fake fat," and other such products, in order to make good on food commitments to the Soviet Union.

In addition to the food shortage problem, Moscow has a cash shortage. The Soviets have run out of hard currency to pay for food imports.

For at least three months, two of the biggest cartel companies, Cargill and Continental, have reportedly set contracts with Russia only through Japanese intermediary financing houses. This cannot last for long.

In March, Dwayne Andreas called a press conference to announce a new barter deal. His company, ADM, will ship soybeans and other feed and foodstuffs to the U.S.S.R. in exchange for Soviet-built ocean freighters—all the more to consolidate ADM's position in world food control.

Andreas is the big booster for the Soviet Union in the Western business world. He heads up the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Trade and Economic Council, and shuttles back and forth between Moscow and Washington.

Andreas is cited as a key figure in facilitating Gorbachov's trip to the grain belt. When the announcement of Gorbachov's visit was made, the Minneapolis area media and public figures followed the scripts they had been given to extend the red carpet.

Gov. Rudy Perpich gushed, "It's almost too good to be true. I didn't believe it at first. The Russians are coming. Can you imagine? I think it's bigger than the Super Bowl."

The *Minneapolis Tribune* opined that emigré groups in the city were not upset at Gorbachov's coming.

Steven Feinstein, speaking for the Minnesota-Dakota Action Committee for Soviet Jewry, said that Gorbachov has done more for Soviet Jews than any other leader. This is the view promulgated by the Anti-Defamation League, one of whose major funders is Dwayne Andreas.

If you're a tourist, you don't go to Minnesota for the beaches.