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COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
Twentieth session, 9 May 1961
New York

STATISTICS OF THE CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES

Czechoslovakia

The following communication has been addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions by the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations:

25 May 1961

"Upon the instructions of my Government I am sending you the following comments on your letter FI 313/1(1)PP of 19 May 1961:

There are certain basic differences in the methods used in many countries for the computation of national income and, for the purposes of establishing a comparative scale of assessments, an adjustment of certain national incomes is necessary to obtain a comparable basis.

My Government studied carefully the percentage relationship between the two basic concepts of national product [contained in the annex to your letter], and is of the opinion that in the case of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the increase of nearly 20 % over the net material product to obtain the United Nations definition of the national product is too extensive for the following reasons:

- (1) The material part of all services in my country [as e.g. medicines in the health and medical services, textbooks and other school supplies in educational services etc.] are already included in the net material product and should not be added once more in the form of services;
- (2) The national income in other than centrally planned economies is decreased by the value of technical services [such as bank interest] because they are considered as part of costs of production. This is not the case in my country, which means that our national income in your calculation is comparatively increased by value of these services.

In view of various factors, inter alia the very complicated problems connected with different principles applied in the formation of prices in my country and in this connection also complicated currency rates to be applied, it is the view of my Government, that the present contribution of Czechoslovakia of 0.86 % was overestimated in the past and that only at present time our economy has grown sufficiently enough to justify the present contribution.

According to the facts known to me the share of industrial production in national income was at constant prices approximately 67 per cent in 1957. However, also in this case the computation in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is substantially different from other countries."

(Signed) Karel Kurka
