

from various civilian bodies dealing with such publications, but by specialists from intelligence and counter-intelligence services as well. The statistical data are arranged in such a way that they are as far from the truth as possible and in general are a deliberate disinformation ploy, targeted mostly at the West.

Moreover, even those responsible for the mentioned "doctoring" of statistics, do not know the truth either. This is because the lower echelons, that is factories and other reporting units, perennially lie before upper echelons.

Let me give the example to this end from the USSR itself.

Thus the daily organ of the Soviet Government Izvestia writes on July 12, 1985 the following:

" ...Annual plan/in the Frunze wood plant of the Kirghiz Republic/ was reported as fulfilled in 103.6 per cent, while in fact was fulfilled in 93.9 per cent only...In 1983 statistical reports on cargo shipments in 925 truck enterprises belonging to 34 ministries were controlled and in 560 of them, that is in 60 per cent of the total, the "pripiski", or upwardly falsified data, were established".

Most naturally, the overall falsification of statistical data cannot be revealed by anything like Izvestia and not only for political reasons, but because there is really nobody in the USSR, or elsewhere in the Soviet Bloc, who truly knows the truth to this end.

The above quoted example is only the tip of the iceberg.

For example, I was told by some very well-informed Bulgarians in 1981 that in 1980 the Bulgarian economy registered no growth whatsoever. Nevertheless, the political decision was to publish the GNP's growth at 5.7 per cent.

Hence I doubt strongly that the performance of East Germany's