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INTRODUCTION

At present, the number of scientific and publicistic elaborations concerning problems of structural changes and development tendencies in the ecomomy of the CMEA countries is not abundent. It neither responds to the importance of research problems in economic sciences nor to the interest manifested in this domain not only by scientists and politicians from socialist countries but also, to larger and larger extent, by specialists from the West.

Therefore, there is a great need of intensifying empirical studies on the nature of structural changes which occur under the influence of integration processes in the CMEA countries. Such studies enable, first of all, the observation of defined regularities in the process of structural changes and also an outline of main tendencies in the economic policy within the framework of the socialist community. The aim of such studies is the recognition of real economic processes and formulating upon this synthetic conclusions describing the hitherto existing tendencies of structural changes in the economy of East-European countries.

The proposed scientific instalment publication is a recapitulation of such studies conducted in the Institute of International Economic Relations. It mainly includes the results of former researches concerning chosen problems of changes and development tendencies in economic relations of the CMEA countries. The results of these studies have already enabled the formulation of a number of important ,and formerly insufficiently recognized, evolutionary regularities in the structure and economic policy of socialist countries. It concerns mainly the tendencies in industrial policy which lead to the origin of parallel industrial structures and a low level of advancement in processes of intra-branch specialization of processing industry in the CMEA countries. It also concerns the character of technological transfer and deceleration of innovation of processes in the framwork of the socialist community as well as the phenomenon of asymmetric development of the intra-bloc trade.

We shall also analyse some selected problem of strategy and economic policy in the domain of international economic co-operation of socialist countries, both at the macro-economic level as well as from the point of view of enterprises. The evaluation of government activities evolution and behaviour of enterprises in the process of economic co-operation

of the CMEA countries determines a very important premise in further inference as to explaining the hitherto changes and structural tendencies in the economy of East-European countries. In this way, the scientific purpose of authors' studies, will be at least to diminish the gap which occurred in the domain of empirical studies of structural processes and development tendencies in the contemporary economy of East-European countries.

The reason of publishing in English this collective work by research workers of the Institute of International Economic Realations of the Academy of Economics in Poznań is, moreover, a desire to present and render this scientific output accessible to international specialists, mainly from western countries. Practically, up till now, the only from of popularizing and propagating the results of conducted studies were papers delivered by our research workers participating in some conferences abroad or discussions held during individual visits of foreign guests.

The transfer of scientific knowledge in the form of a book in English gives, at the same time,incomparably bigger chances and possibilities of intensifying international co-operation. It also enables foreign centres to become acquainted with scientific achievement of our workers. This aim ,at the time of contemporary international communication, is treated by the authors of this paper equivalently with the effort of under taking studies and preparing the present elaboration.

Eugeniusz Najlepszy