

Albanian Ambassador Leaves

Hassan Ali Merko, Albania's ambassador to Bucharest since 21 April 1958, yesterday bade his official farewell to regime president Maurer preparatory to leaving his post. Since Merko's tour of duty in the Rumanian capital was of nearly three years' duration, no particular significance is seen in his recall to Tirana.

Bulgarian Leaders Tour Country

Todor Zhivkov, Ganev and Yugov, who have been on a visit to the RPR since January 13, were reported by Radio Bucharest to be now touring various industrial plants of Northeastern Rumania. Coverage of the visit in the media of both countries involved continues to be confined to brief, factual news reports of their activities.

Austrian Industrial Delegation

The delegation from the Linz Voest Steelworks now in the RPR was yesterday received by Gaston-Marin, Chairman of the regime planning commission in Bucharest. In connection with this, see the RFE/Vienna special, pouched October 20, 1960, on the visit Gaston-Marin paid to Austria when he met Gheorghiu-Dej, returning from the UN session in New York, in the Danube republic.

Collectivization Statistics

In a program which discussed the creation of the economic bases of socialism, Radio Bucharest yesterday stated that the socialization of agriculture in the RPR is now virtually completed, that over 83.5 per cent of the country's arable land is now in the socialized sector, and that from now on Rumanian agriculture can be regarded as having entered upon the road to total socialization.

New Trade Protocol with Turkey

Turkey and the RPR yesterday signed a trade protocol on goods exchange during 1961 which provides for an "important increase" over 1960 totals, Agerpress reported. According to this protocol, Rumania will export machines, equipment, chemical and pharmaceutical products, mineral oils, timber items, window glass

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and glassware and other goods. The RPR will import from Turkey: cotton, wool, mohair, hides, citrus and other tropical fruits, ores and other goods.

Item Pouched Today

A background report entitled "Labor Organization Still a Problem in Rumania's Collective Farms", based on an article which appeared in the December issue of the Party's theoretical monthly, "Lupta de Clasa" on the continuing unsatisfactory situation in the system of work on the RPR collective farms.