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WRT- News Background - (A)

ALBANIAN COLLECTIVIZATION PROGRESSING MORE ON
MOBILIZATION OF "VOLUNTARY" LABOR

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MUNICH, November 11, (Collins)... The number of collective farms in Albania increased from 318 to 1,935 from January 1956 to November 1958 and now encompass 74.9 % of the arable land, according to an Albanian Telegraphic Agency dispatch today.

The dispatch stated that the above achievements in the "socialist transformation of the countryside" were only possible because the Albanian Workers (Communist) Party had previously laid the necessary foundation (from 1945 to 1955) for an "accelerated pace of collectivization." ATA said that the Albanian regime had first created the necessary "technical basis and qualified personnel" plus the fact that the "conscience of the laboring peasantry has been strengthened."

The clear superiority of collective farming over individual farming has been demonstrated in Albania, ATA declared.

The dispatch said that seven out of the 27 districts in Albania have been fully collectivized and that the transformation of the valleys is almost complete. Efforts to collectivize the mountainous areas have just begun, it said.

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It becomes apparent from the statistics released by ATA that the Albanian regime has been relentlessly pursuing a collectivization campaign during the last three years which has shown a net gain in arable land for the socialist sector of over 30 % per year. Thus the smallest Soviet satellite and one of the most stalinist of all is only second to Bulgaria in the area of arable land in the socialist sector. Bulgaria has over 90 % of the land collectivized and Czechoslovakia has now approximately 72% of the land under the control of state farms or collectives.

The three countries mentioned above have made considerably more progress in this sector than have either Poland, Hungary and East Germany. In Poland the socialist sector encompasses only 13% of the arable land, in Hungary 18% (all types) and in East Germany around 30%. Rumania is in the middle between the two groups of countries mentioned with just over 50% of the land collectivized.

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In view of the recent Albanian Central Committee Decree ordering Party functionaries to work manually at least one month a year in order to "come closer to life and to strengthen the links with the masses," the Albanian Party's recent successes in the agrarian sector would seem to bring it closer, to its newly chosen model in this respect, Communist China. Although lagging behind the Chinese in tempo of collectivization, the Albanian Party needs only one more year at its present pace to complete the total collectivization of the countryside.

The Chinese completed the socialization of the Chinese countryside, in the main, in about two years. In the fall of this year the Chinese Communist Party inaugurated a massive campaign for the establishment of the so-called People's Communes which are publicly proclaimed as a measure which will enable the Chinese masses to "leap forward" to Communism.

Other than emulating China as regards detailing Party functionaries and state bureaucratic officials for one month tours of manual labor, there is no evidence to date that Albania or any other European socialist country contemplate setting up something like People's Communes. In Bulgaria, however, there is a strong and apparently successful movement for merging of collective farms into larger ones. Strictly speaking, this is how the movement for establishing of People's Communes began in China. In fact the press of the Soviet Union specifically refers to the People's Communes in China as merged collective farms which have taken over the local state administration and branches of local industry located in the designated districts.

But in both Bulgaria and Albania there are "mobilization movements" of labor afoot which are designed to bring large numbers of workers, peasants and youth together for non-compensated work on special projects. This "voluntary" labor is of course a net gain for the regime and exploitation pure and simple.

Mass mobilization of labor is not a new feature in the socialist camp but seems to be becoming increasingly to the fore in Albania, Bulgaria and Rumania and to a lesser extent in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. In the latter two countries the measures to date affect largely the youth. An East German version of the "mobilization movement" and "renewing ties with the working class" are measures requiring students planning to study on the university level to work at least a year either in industry or in agriculture before they are allowed to matriculate. Also student and teachers in the middle schools must now contribute a certain number of days a month to selected industrial or agricultural enterprises in the school districts. These measures affecting students are also common to the Soviet Union and China. Whereas in the Soviet Union the motivation for such a policy is almost purely economic, in China (and in Albania) such measures are largely ideological. In East Germany both ideological and economic

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factors prompted the regime to take such action. The East German regime has both to fight against "bourgeois influences" on the youth and is in desperate need of labor due to the continuous flight of East German manpower to the West.

Stalinist Albania has started on a significant course, one which may not be without impact on the other countries of the European socialist camp. This present course is plainly patterned after Mao's China. To date only one other member of the socialist camp - Hungary - has mentioned the new Albanian measure affecting the Party and state bureaucracy. (Radio Kossuth, Nov. 8)

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