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Curt - Collectivization Drive in (A)

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+20 Munich, October 26 -- (GENERAL DESK) -- The number of agricultural co-operatives in Albania was raised to 810 "as a result of the great efforts by our peasantry", according to yesterday's ZERI I POPULLIT, organ of the Albanian Workers' (Communist) Party. In an editorial entitled "Autumn is the Proper Period for the Establishment of New Agricultural Co-operatives" the Albanian Communist paper also said that "many districts failed in their collectivization drive" because "the problem of collectivization has not been properly understood everywhere and Party organizations have neglected their tasks in regard to this important question... Regions and districts are forgetting all about this problem. Moreover, the existing collectives are deteriorating..."


A summary of the article follows:

"The December 1955 Plenary Session of the Party Central Committee asked the Albanian peasantry to double the number of the existing agricultural co-operatives during the current year of 1956. This party directive was fulfilled and even over-fulfilled last May.

"As a result of the great efforts by our peasantry, the number of agricultural co-operatives was raised to eight hundred ten. The establishment of agricultural co-operatives is not a matter of a brief campaign. On the contrary it demands patience, persistence, and intense labor. Furthermore, farmers must be taught about the benefit they may get from collectivization. Party agitation and propaganda should be further concentrated on the establishment of new co-operatives in Albania."

Many Party organizations, the paper further said, such as those in Ifer and Lushnje districts, have obtained excellent results in collectivization. However, "many others failed in their collectivization drive." For example, the Korce district established only five agricultural co-operatives, the Kukes and Tropoje districts none, and the Durres district only four since the convening of the Third Congress of the Albanian Workers' Party.

Therefore, "the problem of collectivization has not



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been properly understood everywhere and Party organizations have neglected their tasks in regard to this important question. (H/61)

"Autumn is the proper period for the establishment of new agricultural co-operatives."

The establishment of agricultural and livestock collectives should be carried out parallel with the creation of agricultural co-operatives. However, this task has not been taken into consideration. "Regions and districts are forgetting all about this problem. Moreover, the existing collectives are deteriorating. Party organizations are not taking measures to strengthen agricultural and livestock collectives in order to transform them later into co-operatives."

The problem relating to the increased number of co-operative members should be the concern of Party Committees, Executive Committees in regions and districts, and basic Party organizations. They should not be satisfied with the existing number of agricultural co-operatives and co-operative members.

In conclusion the paper said that the Albanian peasantry should speed up collectivization of agriculture in order to fulfill the directives for further agricultural development entrusted to basic Party organizations, State organs, Communists, and village people by the Third Congress of the Albanian Workers' Party.

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GENERAL DESK COMMENT: On August 7, 1956, the Albanian Statistical Directorate published a communiqué on the fulfillment of the 1956 half-year plan. The communiqué said that "during the first half of 1956 the tempo of agricultural collectivization advanced rapidly. The workers of the countryside, realizing the great advantage of collectivized agriculture, are constantly joining agricultural co-operatives. By the end of the first half of this year (i.e. on July 31, 1956) the number of agricultural co-operatives reached 218 per cent" (i.e. from 318 agricultural co-operatives by the end of 1955 to 694 on July 31 1956.)

According to Mehmet Shehu, Albanian Prime Minister,

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who spoke at the Third Party Congress held in Tirana between
X May 25 and June 3 1956, there will be 1,800 agricultural co-
-operatives covering about 70 per cent of the land by 1960. C/66

+20 During the last quarter of 1955 alone, as many kolkhozes (318)
were set up as in the whole period from 1946 to 1954 and since
the beginning of this year their number was raised to 810. (sl.st.)

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