

Increase in Party Membership

Radio Warsaw reported yesterday that the ranks of the PUWP had increased by 127,241 members in the first half of 1961. Total Party membership now numbers some 1,269,340. The Party had 1,442,000 members in 1948, a figure which dropped to 1,018,000 toward the end of 1959 after a period in which a considerable number of lax and unenthusiastic members were purged. Since then Party membership has been creeping upward at a deliberate but regular pace.

Some other details:

23,000 of the new members are peasants -

Workers comprise 46 per cent of the new members -

White-collar workers comprise 33 per cent -

23,000 peasants were admitted into Party ranks in the first half of the year (about 21 per cent of the new members)

Gromada Party committees exist now in 76 per cent of all gromadas -

The number of Party organizations rose by 1,573 during the first six months of 1961; Party organizations now total more than 58,000 -

The increase in Party affiliation over the past half year amounts to circa 10 per cent; slightly more than four per cent of the population are now Communists.

Comecon Agricultural Machinery Conference in Bulgaria

Radio Sofia reported today that a conference of the agricultural machines section attached to the Comecon Commission for machine building opened Wednesday in Ruse, Bulgaria. Representatives of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany, Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria are attending the conference. There was no mention of Albanian participation in the broadcast. The first day of the conference dealt with problems concerning the specialization of production of agricultural machines and coordination of plants building agricultural machinery.

Sent in Clear

Note paper on cancellation of "Orbis" tours to Albania.