Ten Students Participate

Russian Dorm Set Up In Atkinson

Ten second year Russian students have formed the first language dormitory at MIT on third floor Atkinson. The development of fluency in verbal Russian is aided by their faculty advisor, Mr. David Perlmutter.

Almost in Russia

The purpose of the group is "to live in Russian." In the dormitory, participants converse and joke in Russian. Daily Mr. Perlmutter places dialogues of important conversational idioms in certain unavoidable places. Most of the signs, maps, and wall decorations are in Russian or concern Russian culture.

Like many serious language students, they have a keen desire to visit the country in which the language is spoken. Most of the members have tentative plans to visit Russia in the near future. One of the ultimate goals of the language dorm is an exchange studentship with Russia. A student exchange program of this type is already in effect at Harvard and Columbia.

This is the first year that MIT has had a language dormitory, and as such it is somewhat of an experiment. The group hopes that it will be able to continue and expand the program next year. There is a definite possibility that language living groups in other languages will be formed in the near future.

The students have developed a keen interest in everything Russian. One of their favorite pastimes is singing Russian folk-songs to the accompaniment of a guitar. Some of the students have even obtained records of Russian folk-songs.

Recently Miss Joan Barth spoke informally to the group on her experiences in Russia. Miss Barth, a participant in the 1959 American Exhibition to Russia, was accused by the Soviets of having recruited Russian youths as American spies.

Houser Gets Life

Theodore V. Houser, retired chairman of the board of Sears, Roebuck and Company, has been appointed a Life Member of the Corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Houser is joining a group of distinguished national leaders in business, industry, and education who are serving as Life Members.

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