Ten year Soviet program reverses to policy of 1958

(Continued from Page 5)

Tended from ten years to eleven with an emphasis on technical study, admission requirements for higher education were raised, and two year practical experience before college was required. Eighty percent of college freshmen were supposed to be admitted on the basis of practical experience. This seriously hampered advanced studies and proved unworkable.

Ten-year program

The 1956 policy reverted to pre-1958 premises. New high school graduates take different entrance exams than those with two years experience and are admitted on a different basis. An unusual consequence of reverting to a ten-year high school education is that there will be two graduating classes in 1966, a difficult administrative problem.

The nature of a centrally administered educational system creates difficulties in manpower-planning to set quotas for different fields. For example, an average student will know high school at 18, work until 25, and go to college until 26, work until 37, and receive his graduate education until 40. The long span of years creates difficulties in projecting accurately the number of computer technicians needed in a few years because they must start their education at the present.

Limited view

In summary, Prof. Korot and Prof. Dzhebel put their observations into proper perspective. Their short visit limited the number of schools they could see, and it is hard to judge anything on less than a one percent sampling.

This sampling was not arbitrary, but they were the only SSSR students to see, and it is hard to judge anything on less than a one percent sampling.

The fact that there is a national course for all subjects in all schools, a standard number of class hours, and uniform admission requirements makes it much easier to study the Soviet system, however, than the non-uniform system of the United States.

Revolutionary change

In contrast, it is interesting to note the evolution in each country's educational process. The USSR began overspecialized and today is consolidating while the US is drawing towards specialization.

Both countries, it may be said, are the most dedicated in the world toward education for all, even though their methods are not the same. As Prof. Dzhebel said, "The Russian system is an intelligent, bureaucratic attempt."

Kites displayed

Pictured above is the kite exhibition which the MIT Chinese Students' Club is displaying in the Main Lobby of the Student Center. The kites are from Taiwan, and form a colorful display of traditional Chinese Culture. Also in the Student Center, tomorrow, the Chinese Students' Club will hold its Annual Chinese New Year Ball.

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