

BULGARIA

Date of Elections: June 27, 1971

Reason for Elections

The Bulgarian National Assembly having reached, in 1971, the term of its mandate which should have expired in 1970 but which was extended for one year in 1969 *, the Bulgarian people were asked to elect new representatives on June 27.

Characteristics of Parliament

The new Bulgarian Constitution adopted in May 1971 ** established that the unicameral Bulgarian Parliament, the National Assembly, be made up of 400 members (the 1947 Constitution made provision for 1 deputy per 20,000 inhabitants) elected for 5 years (4 years formerly).

Electoral System

All Bulgarian citizens of either sex are entitled to vote provided they are at least 18 years old and have not been deprived of their civic rights by court decision. They must be registered on electoral lists established by the executive committees of the urban or rural People's Councils, and in towns divided into districts by the executive committees of the district People's Councils. The lists are posted in public places 30 days before the elections. Voting is not compulsory.

All electors are eligible. A parliamentary mandate is not incompatible with other appointments.

The 400 deputies are elected in single-member constituencies by simple plurality of vote.

Should a seat fall vacant during a legislature, a by-election is held.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The electoral campaign opened after the constitutional referendum of May 16, 1971. At the end of a broad debate in the various social, political and professional organizations, the Bulgarian Patriotic Front had retained as

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections IV* (1969-1970), p. 14.

** See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 12.

candidates 268 members of the Bulgarian Communist Party, 100 representatives of the Agrarian Union, and 32 names without affiliation — namely, one candidate per constituency.

The electoral platform of the Patriotic Front was based on the programme of the Bulgarian Communist Party Congress established the previous April, before the adoption of the new Constitution. The electoral campaign was without incident.

The new Assembly met on July 7 and 8, 1971, and elected a new Council of Ministers. Mr. Stanko Todorov was thus elected Prime Minister in place of Mr. Todor Zhivkov.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in National Assembly

Number of registered voters.	6,168,931
Voters.	6,159,942 (99.85 %)
Blank or void ballot papers.	4,373
Valid votes.	6,155,569
<i>Votes cast for candidates of the Bulgarian</i>	
<i>Patriotic Front.</i>	6,154,082

Political formation	Number of candidates	Number of Seats in National Assembly-	Number of Seats in Previous Legislature
Bulgarian Communist Party.	268	268	281
Agrarian Union	100	100	100
Unaffiliated	32	<u>32</u>	35
	400	400	416

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

State, party and public officers.	217
Workers in agriculture, industry, construction and transport	101
Scientists, artists.	48
Other.	34
	400

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men325
Women75
	400

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

Between 18-30	43
31-40	38
41-50	126
51-60	113
61-70	56
71-80	20
81-90	3
91-100	1
	400