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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' UNION

Note by the Italian Delegation

The International Students' Union met in congress in Prague from 26th August to 3rd September, 1956. According to the Czechoslovak press, this congress was attended by 600 students representing about 80 countries.

2. The delegates of the various organizations affiliated to the Union were not the only ones present, for other students, mainly belonging to "COSEC" (Co-ordination Secretariat), as well as Italian, United Kingdom and other representatives attended the congress as mere observers without the right to vote.

3. As was to be expected, the congress agenda dealt principally with the following two points:

- (a) choice of a course of action for unifying all the existing students' organizations;
- (b) stiffening of the attitude of the International Students' Union towards colonialism, which it strongly opposes in all its forms.

4. No decision or firm agreement seems to have been reached on item (a). Item (b) chiefly afforded a pretext for noisy manifestations of sympathy towards the Egyptian, Cypriot and other students, but also gave rise to a number of diatribes aimed at the representatives of the western countries.

5. For instance, when a Canadian student, wishing to remind the members of the congress of the need for realism, stated among other things that students should not deal directly with political questions, several of the representatives sharply rebuffed him.

6. Among the Italians, representatives of "UNURI", students from Turin and Messina universities, attended the congress. They invited the students taking part in the proceedings to attend the International Conference of the Students' Press to be held at Messina in 1957 under the sponsorship of the journal "Ateneo Messinese".

7. At the final session, the congress of the International Students' Union elected its officers. Mr. Georges PELIKAN, a Czechoslovak, was re-elected President of the Union. A representative of Ecuador, a representative of the Sudan (still to be nominated), Mme. Zoia TUTANOVA, of Soviet origin, and

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Mr. Yuzo TANAKA, a Japanese national, were appointed Vice-Presidents of the Union. The secretaries were chosen from delegates of the following countries: India, Bulgaria, Continental China, Iran, Bolivia, as well as from African students in France and Tunisians. Mr. Werner, a national of the German Democratic Republic, was elected Treasurer of the Union.

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