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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

POLICY FOLLOWED BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS EXCHANGES
WITH THE SOVIET BLOC

Note by the Belgian Delegation

The Belgian Government's present policy for contacts with the U. S. S. R. and satellite countries may be summarised as follows:

- (1) With the U. S. S. R. :
 - (a) The Belgian Government is not at present applying the terms of the Belgo-Soviet cultural agreement, signed on 29th August, 1956.
 - (b) It has decided to refrain for an indefinite period from participation in any cultural exchanges of an official nature.
 - (c) Exchanges of a private nature are as far as possible discouraged; they are not definitely banned, however, unless they are obviously being arranged for purposes of political propaganda.
- (2) The Belgian Government encourages cultural exchanges with Poland.
- (3) Hungary: The Belgian Government has decided to refrain for the time being from any official cultural exchanges with Hungary. Any private cultural events which Hungarian artists may wish to organise in Belgium must first receive the approval of the Government.
- (4) The Belgian Government is proceeding cautiously with regard to cultural exchanges with Czecho-Slovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria. Each specific case is carefully considered; the Belgian Government refrains from taking part in any official or highly spectacular manifestations.

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