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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS
EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY AND THE SOVIET BLOC

Belgian Reply to the Questionnaire

Question 1

Exchanges between Belgium and the countries of the Eastern Bloc are almost exclusively arranged on a private basis, taking the form of tours by Belgian artists in Eastern countries, Eastern cultural events organized in Belgium through private organizations, "Belgian-Soviet Friendship" etc.

Question 2

No permanent or semi-permanent body has been set up to arrange exchanges between Belgium and the countries of the Soviet Bloc.

Question 3

The proposals for exchanges made officially to Belgium by Soviet Bloc countries are examined jointly by the competent Departments (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education). Provided there is no propaganda purpose in the exchanges proposed, assent is generally given.

Questions 4, 5 and 6

No proposals have been made by the Belgian Government to Soviet Bloc officials in connection with East-West exchanges. There is no cultural agreement with the Eastern countries at present in force. The Belgian-Soviet cultural agreement of 25th October, 1956 has never been put into effect.

Question 7

(a) The following official exchanges took place during the second half of 1957 between Belgium and Soviet Bloc countries:

- an exhibition by young Belgian painters in Poland (arranged by the Minister of Education)

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- a Frans Masereel exhibition in Bulgaria (arranged by the town of Liège)

(b) The following official exchanges have been arranged for 1958:

- Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the USSR are to take part in the Brussels 1958 International Exhibition;
- a cultural agreement with Poland will probably be examined; the Belgian Government has not yet been approached on this subject, but various Polish and Czechoslovak officials have mentioned it in letters to their Belgian counterparts;
- planned Belgian book exhibition in Sophia;
- the following cultural events are planned in Brussels in connection with the 1958 Exhibition and the 1958 World Festival under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth:

Ballet: Bolshoi Ballet, Moisseev Company.

Folk dancing: Mazowsze company (Poland)

- Soviet Republics folk dancers
- Ukrainian folk dancers and singers
- Bulgarian folk dancers
- Rumanian folk dancers
- Hungarian folk dancers.

Drama: Warsaw satirical theatre

Music: The Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra.

- the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra
- the Svetchnikov Choral Society
- the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra
- Orchestra and Choir of the Warsaw Philharmonic Society.
- the Enesco Philharmonic Orchestra (Bucharest)

- the Bodrasmiana choir (Bulgaria)
- the Sophia Girls Philharmonic Orchestra

The Moscow Circus

Question 8

Since there are no official cultural exchanges with the Soviet Bloc it is not possible to answer this question.

Questions 9 and 10

The Belgian Government has no objection to reporting periodically any information of value gathered as a result of East-West exchanges, nor to this information being shared with friendly countries.