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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

EAST/WEST CULTURAL EXCHANGES DURING THE
FOURTH QUARTER OF 1957

Note by the Italian Delegation

In view of the special efforts the Western Powers have made during recent months to initiate constructive cultural exchanges with the countries of the Communist bloc, the Italian Delegation believes that, although inadequate and incomplete, some value attaches to the present summary report on the exchanges which took place during the fourth quarter of 1957, irrespective of exchanges between Italy and the Communist bloc countries, details of which are regularly reported elsewhere.

2. The Italian Delegation considers it possible to draw conclusions concerning the policy followed hitherto by one side and the other with respect to cultural exchanges and the manner of presenting them to public opinion, from the picture given in this document of the exchanges of this kind which have taken place not only with NATO countries and the countries of the Asian bloc, but also on the wider world-scale.

3. From this point of view, it must be acknowledged that remarkable success has attended the cultural policy of the Soviets. Its success has been particularly noteworthy with the countries outside the Atlantic Alliance more inclined to adopt a passive attitude towards the USSR in cultural matters than to visit that country to get the benefit of Soviet culture.

4. On balance, therefore, the results of this review are disappointing and reveal that faced with the superiority of the highly developed economic techniques perfected and employed throughout the world by Soviet experts, our own efforts are no match for those exerted, in bad faith, by the adversary.

5. This leads the Italian Delegation to the conclusion that it devolves upon us as a duty systematically to reveal the concealed aims of the Soviet cultural policy which under the guise of cultivation of the mind, seeks only to cultivate the seeds of discord.

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIe.

NATO RESTRICTED

1. ALBANIA

United Kingdom, Norway, India

A few British nationals, on their return from a trip to Albania, founded in the United Kingdom, the British-Albanian Association for Friendship and Cultural Co-operation. Similar associations were also set up in Norway and India.

Egypt

A collection of paintings by Albanian painters was sent to Alexandria as the Albanian contribution to the Exhibition of Figurative Arts of the Mediterranean Countries.

France

In September 1957, a delegation from The France-Albania Association visited Tirana, at the invitation of the Albanian Committee for Foreign Relations.

2. BULGARIA

Argentina

On the initiative of the Committee for Bulgarian-Argentine Cultural Relations, which has its headquarters at Buenos-Aires, an exhibition of Argentine graphic art was organized in Sofia, comprising 132 panels painted by about 70 Argentine painters, showing various aspects of the life of the workers in the Argentine.

Egypt

In 1957, Egypt made two scholarships available to Bulgarian students. On 19th October, 1957, Egypt concluded a cultural agreement with Bulgaria providing, inter alia, for an exchange of professors and students between the two countries. Egyptian students will thus be able to obtain a degree in Bulgaria, while Bulgarian professors will lecture at Egyptian universities.

France

A French Book Exhibition comprising 3,359 volumes representing 85 publishing houses, together with a number of reviews and art publications, etc. was inaugurated on 2nd December last at the Sofia University. The exhibition was organized by the French Book Exhibition Standing Committee with the co-operation of the Lecturer in French at Sofia University and the French Legation. Until books published in France can be freely sold in the bookshops of the Bulgarian capital the Bulgarian National Library has subscribed for the purchase of all the books in the

exhibition, while a system of subscriptions for private persons is under study, together with a currency arrangement to be agreed with the Bulgarian National Bank.

Syria

The Syrian Committee for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries decided to hold an exhibition of photographs in Syria, at the end of last Autumn, at which about 58 photographs, diagrams, etc. were shown, the theme being the economic and cultural expansion of the Bulgarian Popular Republic.

In October, 1957, a Delegation of qualified representatives of Syrian culture, including a professor of Sociology and Demography from Damascus University and several journalists, visited Bulgaria. This Delegation was received early in November by Mr. Traitkov, Secretary of the Agrarian Party and Chairman of the Bulgarian Council, and by Mr. Ganev, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. Several articles by these delegates later appeared in the Syrian press. The owner of the paper "Al Ouatan" of Aleppo, for instance, on the subject of the friendship existing between the two popular democracies and the USSR said: "The truth is at last beginning to elbow its way through, even to the Syrian leaders", and went on to say: "The most concrete proof of this is provided by the economic, political and cultural relations which are daily increasing between Syria and the Popular Democracies." These relations, he added, would guarantee to the Syrian Arabs the victory which they desired and would be an example to other Arab peoples who intended to follow in their footsteps.

India

A delegation of Bulgarian writers visited India and, on this occasion, took part in the work of the Fourth Conference of Indian Writers, held on 26th October, 1957 at Baroda.

3. CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Egypt

During the period under review, Czechoslovakia made its presence felt in the cultural and scientific field. A Czech Exhibition of Laboratory Equipment and Technical Appliances was held at Alexandria. In return, during the same quarter of 1957, the Egyptian Minister of Communications visited Prague and a group of Egyptian militant feminists visited Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the Czech Union of Women Communists.

In 1957, Egypt offered two scholarships to Czech students, while Czechoslovakia offered 83 scholarships to Egyptian students, including 33 for technical and 50 scientific studies.

On 19th October, 1957, Czechoslovakia and Egypt signed an agreement on mutual cultural co-operation.

Indonesia

Last November, news was received that during 1957 Czechoslovakia offered a number of scholarships to Indonesian students, who were to attend Czech universities and senior educational establishments for further study in the technical and economic sciences.

Yugoslavia

The Prague National Theatre toured Yugoslavia for two weeks last November; the programme included a Czech and a Yugoslav play as well as Molière's "Don Juan".

France

In return for a visit by a French parliamentary delegation to Czechoslovakia at the same time last year, a Czech delegation, consisting of 12 members of parliament led by Mr. Stoll, former Czech minister of Culture and present Rector of the Prague Institute of Social Sciences, travelled to France last November to visit Paris and other large towns (Lyons, Grenoble, Nice, etc.). Before leaving the country, Mr. Stoll stressed the advantage of increased economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries with a view to strengthening "the ancient ties of friendship between France and Czechoslovakia." After paying tribute to French culture and stating, in particular, that the Soviet-Czech links "were in no way incompatible with the expansion of relations with France", Mr. Stoll was, however, unable to hold out any hope that the French Institute in Prague would be able to resume its former activity in the near future. He concluded by saying: "New forms of co-operation will have to be found, to enable the cultural and friendly relations formerly within the province of the French Institute, to be resumed."

Western music, theatre and literature

Throughout the last few years and particularly during 1957, the Czech public has shown increasing interest, not only in contemporary Czech painting (Dadaism, Cubism Abstract art, and even Post-Impressionism and Post-Fauvism, the latter, some say, drawing its inspiration from the colours of the great cats) which, from 1910 to 1939 had secured for Czechoslovakia a solid reputation abroad, and which since 1945 had been purposely neglected, but also in the contemporary Western theatre, music and literature.

Thus, in 1957, works by British, French and Italian authors were well represented in the programmes of the Prague theatres. Plays by Shakespeare, Goldoni, Racine, etc., were followed by modern plays such as "Filumena Marturano" and

"Questi fantasmi" by De Filippo, "The Lady is not for Burning" by Christopher Fry, plays by T.S. Elliot, Anouilh, etc.

In the musical field, the works selected for concert performances were drawn from the Romantic period (19th Century) or the classical period (17th and 18th Century) but also from modern works by Western contemporary composers ranging from Stravinsky to Malipicro, who until recently had been absent from Czech musical programmes. However, it is not clear on what basis these works were selected nor how they were interpreted.

Finally, the first local translations of Western novels have made their appearance. Last December, two books by Françoise Sagan, Hemingway's "Old Man and the Sea", and books by Faulkner and Simone de Beauvoir were on sale in the Prague bookshops.

4. POPULAR REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Egypt

At the end of October and early in November 1957, an Egyptian cultural mission, headed by the Rector of the University of Alexandria, visited a number of Chinese cultural institutes.

During 1957, the Popular Republic of China offered 10 scholarships to Egyptian students wishing to specialise in the study of the Chinese language and social sciences.

Egypt, for its part, offered the same number of scholarships to Chinese students wishing to terminate their studies in the land of the Pharaohs.

Japan

Last December, a group of Japanese social democrats arrived in Peking with the firm intention of establishing contacts with outstanding political figures of the Popular Republic of China. The aim of this mission was to examine the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations between the two countries and of renewing, on a new basis, Sino-Japanese economic, technical and cultural relations.

Cambodia

A Cambodian cultural and artistic mission visited Peking, travelling via Hong-Kong and Canton, where it arrived on 29th September, 1957. This mission included the two young sons of Prince Sihanouk, Mr. Poug-Peng-Tcheng, Secretary of State for National Education, who is of Chinese origin, and all the members of the royal orchestra. In Canton, the mission was received by representatives of the Chinese Government and by the head of the Cambodian economic mission in Peking. The leaders of the visiting

Cambodian mission attended a gala performance of the Chinese Theatre in the Chinese capital.

According to the Phnom-Penh newspapers, this visit will serve to introduce Khmer art not only to China, but also to the West through the contacts the Cambodian artistes made in Peking with various European missions in that city. The same newspapers remarked that the Cambodia Government had sent no representatives to the World Youth Festival in Moscow, "which had been attended by only a few Cambodian students resident in Paris already won over to the Marxist creed, who went there in a purely personal capacity.

United States

The 42 American students who, in spite of the State Department ban, visited China, returned to the United States in small groups during September and October 1957. During their stay, these students were warmly welcomed by the Chinese authorities and obtained permission to visit Peking as well as Tien-Tsin, Dairen, the industrial area of north-east China, Shanghai, Nankin and Canton.

While in Peking, the American students were received by Mr. Tchou-en-Lai, who reaffirmed the Chinese peoples' desire for friendship with the people of America. The majority of the students, i.e. 36, signed a statement expressing the hope that free exchanges would soon be possible between China and the United States, and as a reward were allowed to prolong their stay in China in order to be present at the national celebrations on 1st October.

The problem of the athletes which the Popular Republic of China is to send to California in 1960 for the Winter Olympic Games, has been solved, the State Department having stated on 17th September last that the United States would not object, on political grounds, to athletes representing Communist China entering the United States, meaning that the United States authorities would ignore the fact that the passports delivered by the Peking authorities are not recognised by the Government of the United States. Furthermore, the taking of finger prints, compulsory under American law for all foreigners who wish to enter the United States, will be waived for athletes from beyond the Iron Curtain who are to take part in the Olympic Games.

Yugoslavia

At a concert recently given at the Tien-Tschiao Theatre in Peking and attended, among other well-known people, by the Vice-President of the National Congress of Popular China, and the two Vice-Ministers of Culture, the Yugoslav violinist Rupel, the pianist Lipovsek and the clarinetist Brun were warmly applauded.

5. POLAND

Egypt

In 1957, Poland offered about 20 uninominal scholarships to Egyptian students wishing to follow specialised studies at Polish Universities for the diploma of naval engineer and port administrator. In return, Egypt made a similar number of scholarships available to 20 Polish students. During the 4th quarter of 1957, the Egyptian-Polish Association was set up in Cairo to develop cultural relations between the two countries. An exhibition of Polish art was also organized in Cairo.

United Kingdom

Various delegations from United Kingdom Universities travelled to Poland to establish and develop cultural relations with the Polish University centres, particularly between the Universities of London and Warsaw. The main delegation issued a report which stressed that wider interest was being taken by Polish university students in the English language. In its conclusions, the report drew attention to the three following points:

- (1) the desirability of appointing a lecturer in English at the Cracow university;
- (2) the desirability of sending a larger number of British technical reviews to Polish university libraries;
- (3) the desirability of encouraging individual and group exchanges of British and Polish students.

After reading this report, the Committee of Rectors of the United Kingdom Universities, expressed the wish that a delegation of Polish students should be invited to visit the United Kingdom.

It is learnt from Warsaw that a delegation of Warsaw University students will go to England in March 1958 to visit their British colleagues.

In October 1957, Mr. Bienkowski, Polish Minister of National Education, paid an official visit to London. He was the first Polish Minister to visit England for some years. His purpose was to look over British schools, meet his counterpart in London and establish direct contacts with British cultural circles.

France

Pursuant to the Franco-Polish "cultural declaration" signed on 9th July 1957 in Paris, an agreement was drawn up in Warsaw at the end of October, 1957, under which an exchange is to be arranged between members of the Polish Academy of Science and of the French National Centre for Scientific Research. Under the terms of this agreement, Polish scientists will follow courses in France during the academic year 1957-1958, while a number of French professors will go to Poland.

6. SOVIET OCCUPIED ZONE OF GERMANY

Egypt

During 1957, 52 Egyptian scholarship-holders, professors or students, left for East Germany to continue their studies in that country's universities. According to our information, 44 scholarships were offered by East Germany in 1957, half of these being assigned for specialised courses at the Leipzig Academy of Athletics.

Last October, an East German Film Festival was organized in Cairo.

German Federal Republic

In spite of the absence of diplomatic relations between the two Germanys, East Germany in 1957 promoted non-official cultural contacts with the German Federal Republic, on a fairly large scale. For instance, the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra, the "Staatskapelle" of the same town, and the "Gewandhaus" Orchestra from Leipzig took part in October and November last in concerts at Stuttgart and Munich, organized through the East German musical societies.

7. HUNGARY

Egypt

In 1957 Hungary offered 25 scholarships to Egyptian students, to enable them to finish their studies at Hungarian universities.

8. ROUMANIA

France

On 12th September, 1957, a French Book Exhibition was opened in Bucharest. This was organized by the Roumanian Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations, in co-operation with the Permanent Committee of the French Book and Graphic Arts Exhibition. About 1,800 books were on show.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Roumanian Vice-Minister of Education and Culture, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, a number of Roumanian members of the Academy and artists as well as by the Academician Ralca, Chairman of the Institute of Cultural Relations. The exhibition occupied nine rooms in one of the wings of the former Royal Palace in Bucharest and consisted mainly of works of a technical and scientific nature (text books on mechanics, chemistry, medicine and surgery). Classical and modern literary works were also largely represented, particularly works by Cocteau, Francis Carco, Eluard, Giono, Malraux, André Maurois, Henry de Montherlant, Françoise Sagan, Saint-Exupéry, etc. There were also a large number of periodical and scientific, literary and artistic reviews. In an opening speech, Mr. Ralca, a member of the Academy, underlined that this event was the first of its kind in Roumania and that it reflected the country's genuine desire for peaceful co-existence and cultural co-operation with all peoples.

Over a fortnight, this exhibition was visited by professors, intellectuals and students, who showed the greatest interest in the various stalls and often waited hours for their turn to come round.

Last November, a French Film Week was held in Bucharest, in which a delegation of French actors and scenaria writers took part under the leadership of the delegate-general of Unifrance-Film. During their stay in Roumania, the members of the French delegation visited Roumanian cultural and film production centres, and were received by the Roumanian Minister of Education and Culture.

Last October, a delegation of Roumanian Members of Parliament came to France, visiting Paris, Lyons, Grenoble and Marseilles. This ten-member Delegation was headed by the Vice-President of the Parliamentary Group for Roumanian-French Friendship and was received by various prominent French political figures, including M. Pineau, M.L. Béguin, M. Castellane and M. Le Troquer, presidents of the Parliamentary Group for French-Roumanian Friendship in the National Assembly and in the Council of the Republic.

In a statement to the newspaper "Combat", the Head of the Roumanian Delegation made a point of paying indirect tribute to French culture by recalling that French was taught in all Roumanian schools. He naturally expressed the hope that Committees for developing Franco-Roumanian relations would be set up in both countries.

Finally, on 5th December, 1957, the Roumanian Minister in Paris conferred honorary degrees of the Roumanian Academy on several Frenchmen well known in cultural and scientific circles, including Prince Louis de Broglie, member of the French Academy.

United Kingdom

At the invitation of the Roumanian Academy, a group of seven British Professors of Chemistry, Microbiology, Geology, Mathematics, etc. visited Roumania during the second fortnight of September, and while there, went over the Roumanian Scientific Institutes; their aim was to establish and develop relations between the cultural and scientific institutes of the two countries.

Switzerland

In November 1957, an exhibition of Swiss Publicity Posters was held in the Bucharest Central Library. The exhibition lasted a fortnight and was organized by the Roumanian Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations, in co-operation with the Zurich Pro-Swiss Foundation. The opening ceremony was attended by the Swiss Minister in Bucharest and by the President of the Roumanian Institute, Mr. Relea, Member of the Academy.

Mexico, Bolivia, Uruguay

During October and November, several well-known people from these countries visited Roumania for cultural reasons.

They included:

- Mr. Raoul Cordero Amador, Professor of Literature and Pedagogy at the Mexican Independent University, and Adviser to the Mexican Ministry of National Education.
- Mr. René Recabado Alcocer, Professor of Economics at the University of Cochabamba, editor of the Bolivian newspapers "El País" and "Hultima Hora", and member of the Management Board of the Bolivian-Roumanian Cultural Centre.
- An artistic and cultural delegation from Uruguay, consisting of a violinist, Francisco Musetti, the soloist Sodre, an art critic on the staff of the paper "El Popular", a poet, Abad Zuberthi and Professor Marino Burghi.

India, Ceylon, Burma

A Roumanian company which included a composer, several actors and a folklore group, began a tour of two or three months in December 1957, with the intention of giving a series of performances in India, at New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, and later in Ceylon and Burma. The Company arrived in Colombo (Ceylon) on 2nd January 1958, and during the next few days gave a number of performances, consisting mostly of folk dances, followed with great interest by the spectators, particularly since they were able to note a certain resemblance between the Roumanian dances and their own. These performances raised funds for the relief of victims of the floods which occurred in Ceylon about that time.

Syria

On 9th December 1957, a cultural agreement was signed between Roumania and Syria. It covers, inter-alia, exchanges of documents, information, scientific and literary publications, delegations and scientific, artistic and sports personalities, as well as the organization of popular and liberal arts exhibitions in the two countries.

Egypt

In 1957, Roumania offered about ten scholarships to Egyptian students wishing to specialise in oil research and technology, medicine and engineering.

Yugoslavia

On 20th December 1957, a plan for cultural co-operation in 1958 between Roumania and Yugoslavia was signed in Bucharest, under the provisions of the cultural agreement in force between the two countries.

The new plan provides, among other things, for broader contacts between the Scientific Academies and Universities of the two countries, and for the exchange of solo performances and musical companies, the institution of scholarships at Roumanian and Yugoslav universities and greater co-operation in the fields of broadcasting and art (Exhibitions, Festivals, etc.)

Early in January, an exhibition opened in Bucharest, under the auspices of the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations, entitled "A Photographic Review of Socialist Yugoslavia". It consisted of numerous photographs illustrating the Yugoslav struggle for independence and various aspects of the country's recent industrial, agricultural and cultural expansion.

10. USSR

United States

We have received information from Washington to the effect that the US Soviet cultural negotiations which opened there in October 1957, closed on 27th January, 1958, with the publication of a joint communiqué announcing, inter alia, the possibility of weekly air services between New York and Moscow in the not-too-distant future. There was also an exchange of letters and the text of the agreement reached between the United States and the USSR with regard to cultural exchanges was drafted. This agreement, signed by Mr. Foster Dulles, the Secretary of State, and by Mr. Zarubin, Soviet Ambassador to Washington, covers two years.

Generally speaking, the results appear unsubstantial, since none of the basic proposals put forward by the Americans was accepted by the Russians. The purpose of these proposals was to open a window giving on to the other side of the Iron Curtain by such means as modification of the dollar-rouble rate of exchange, the interchange of newspapers, non-technical publications, literary periodicals and the like between the US and the USSR, the opening of American reading rooms in the USSR and vice-versa, cessation of the jamming of radio programmes and the lifting of the censorship of reports by American newspaper correspondents in the USSR.

In short, the USA-USSR agreement, with the exception of exchanges of radio programmes, only covers exchanges strictly restricted to sporting, technical or cultural activities (exchange visits of students, teachers, technicians, doctors, sports teams, artists, exhibitors, scenario writers).

France

The Franco-Soviet negotiations for cultural exchanges which took place in Paris between 30th September and 9th October 1957, while not entirely successful since no reconciliation was possible between the points of view of the two delegations as regards renewal of the present agreement between France and the USSR, was not, however, entirely without results. It appears, for instance, that the two parties have agreed to set up a joint committee for reporting new measures being considered by both parties in the field of cultural and technical relations and in which periodical discussions could take place on longer-term Franco-Soviet cultural relations, through exchanges affording an opportunity for the two countries to become better acquainted, and for gaining a real insight into French culture.

Another result of these negotiations was the agreement on scientific, artistic and cultural exchanges between French and Soviet universities (the establishment of three Russian readerships in France and three French readerships in the USSR,) the exchange of scientists, particularly nuclear physicists, doctors, teachers and the like.

Belgium.

A delegation from the Association for Soviet Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (VOKS) visited Belgium last October at the invitation of the "Belgian-Soviet Friendship Association", the purpose being to establish cultural contacts between the Soviets and Belgium. One of the wishes expressed by the Chairman of the Soviet Delegation was for effect to be given to the Soviet-Belgian cultural agreement concluded in October 1956 and "shelved" in October of the same year following the disturbances in Hungary.

Sweden

Concurrently with an exhibition of Soviet books organized in Stockholm, an exhibition of about 800 Swedish books on scientific, literary and classical subjects was held at the Lenin State Library in Moscow on the initiative of the Stockholm Central Library. At the close of the exhibition, which lasted for three weeks and ended early in November 1957, the exhibits were presented to the Soviet library.

Turkey

On 14th January, 1958, the Soviet Consulate-General in Istanbul organized an evening film show at which the following were shown:

- (1) a documentary film on the "Sputnik" of some scientific interest;
- (2) documentary cartoons on agricultural production in the USSR;
- (3) allegorical cartoons on China;
- (4) the colour film: "Don Quixote".

Ceylon

A Soviet artistic company of 17 people and led by Madame Kazantzeva, the "Peoples' Singer", visited Colombo during the second half of November 1957, and gave free performances of folk-dancing and choral singing in one of the city parks. This event was organized by the Association for Soviet-Cingalese Friendship.

The Ethnographical Institute of the Moscow Academy of Sciences recently published an ethnographical atlas of Ceylon, Pakistan and India. A special ethnographical study of the Cingalese population is apparently being made by the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies. It has furthermore been reported that the programme of the Soviet Academy of Sciences includes a number of archaeological surveys in the interior of the island.

Last October a festival of Soviet films was held in Colombo.

Afghanistan

Two Afghan Delegations visited Moscow last November. The first attended the 14th session of the Congress on Phyto-Pathology and the second, a "cultural" delegation, consisting of a Ministry of National Education consultant and two editors of

Afghan periodicals, attended the ceremonies held to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

Pakistan

On the occasion of a visit to the USSR last autumn of a group of Pakistani scientists, the Soviet authorities offered a certain number of scholarships for young Pakistani students wishing to continue their scientific and technical training in Soviet universities and other Soviet scientific institutions. The Soviet authorities also offered the Karachi Government other facilities, of which there are no details, for improving Pakistani technico-scientific training. Another item of interest is the report that the Pakistani Minister of Public Works attended the ceremonies held to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution in return for a previous visit paid by Mr. Mikoyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Union to Pakistan to attend the ceremonies commemorating the anniversary of the proclamation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Cambodia

An agreement on cultural collaboration between the USSR and Cambodia, concluded at Pnom-Penh on 31st May, 1957, was ratified by the Supreme Soviet on 28th September of that year.

India

An association was set up in India at the beginning of 1958 for the development of Soviet-Indian cultural relations. At the same time, a four-man Soviet exhibition of paintings inspired by Indian themes was inaugurated in Delhi.

Sudan

According to a report from Khartoum published in "The Times" towards the end of last February, the Sudanese police acting on instructions from the local government arrested the Sudanese who took part in the World Festival of Youth in Moscow and searched their homes for Communist propaganda. In spite of the ban placed on the Festival by the Sudanese Government, about 140 young Sudanese are thought to have visited Moscow, mainly from London, where they are completing their studies.

Egypt

A number of Egyptian technical and scientific missions visited the USSR during 1957, mainly for the purpose of familiarising themselves with the new installation techniques. It would appear, on the other hand, that little progress has been made in the negotiations for exchanges of Egyptian and Soviet students.

Mention must be made of the following developments in the educational field:

- (1) On the 1st August, 1957, 25 Egyptian musicians left for the Soviet Union where they are to attend advanced courses at the Moscow Conservatory for periods varying between three and five years.
- (2) A number of Egyptian technicians are said to have made considerable progress in the field of nuclear physics. It is reported that the Soviet Union had been supplying parts, since November 1957 for an atomic reactor which is to be built in Egypt shortly.
- (3) A hundred Egyptian students are said to have gone to the Soviet Black Sea summer camps.
- (4) Russian language summer courses were held at the following centres: Alexandria Peoples University (80 participants), Cairo University (35 participants), Egyptian School of Languages (200 participants).

It is nevertheless believed that, generally speaking, the study of the Russian language in Egypt is far from attaining the popularity of English, French, Italian and even German, and that the Czech language is studied even less than Russian. Furthermore, the study of German is increasing steadily as a result of organizational and cultural West German activities in Egypt.

There were many exchanges of members of cultural and artistic groups, committees and so on, between the USSR and Egypt in 1957. The following were among the more important cultural events:

- Founding of the Association for Egyptian-Soviet Cultural Relations.
- Soviet film festival in Egypt.
- Showing of Soviet documentary films on Egyptian history presented by the Soviet Ministry of Culture.
- Visit to Egypt of Mr. Moziev, Director of Soviet Folk Dancing, for the drafting of the statutes of the Institute of Egyptian Ballet and the organizing of performances of Russian folk dancing.
- A number of Soviet scientific and cultural missions, some of them archaeological, astronomical, medical (tropical medicine), biological, ethnological and agricultural, visited Egypt in 1957.
- A delegation from the Russian workers' associations visited Egypt in December 1957 at the invitation of the Egyptian Trade Unions.
- Mustapha Kamil, Egyptian Minister of Communications, visited the USSR in September 1957.

- A delegation from the Egyptian radio and television service led by the Minister for National Guidance, visited the Soviet Union for discussions on Soviet-Egyptian collaboration in the field of television.
- An Egyptian trade union delegation visited the Soviet Union to attend the ceremonies marking the 40th Anniversary of the Soviet Workers' Federation.
- Mr. Abd-el-Fattah el-Bindari, Governor of Cairo, visited the USSR.
- Mr. Mohammed El-Bindari, former Egyptian Ambassador to Moscow, known as the "Red Pasha", was among those who attended the Peace Congress held in Moscow.
- Six hundred and fifty Egyptian tourists who travelled to the USSR on the steamer "Krim", received the special treatment reserved for university students and members of scientific, artistic and cinema delegations.

On 10th December, 1957, "Pravda" published a communiqué signed by Mr. Mikhailov, Minister of Russian Culture, and Mr. Fathi Radvan, Minister of Egyptian National Guidance, outlining the future development of cultural relations between the two countries. This communiqué was drawn up to mark the end of a visit to the Soviet Union by an Egyptian cultural delegation. During this visit, Mr. Fathi Radvan made a speech over the Moscow radio and television network extolling Soviet/Egyptian friendship and emphasising the assistance at present being given by the Soviet Union towards the freeing of the small nations of the Middle East and Africa. As might be expected, the Egyptian Minister did not fail to refer, on concluding his broadcast, to the present Soviet "successes" in every field, including culture and art. "There can be no doubt", he said, in speaking of the Russian people, "that a nation which loves beautiful pictures, sculpture, the theatre and symphonies must also love its fellow men and want them to be happy."

Yugoslavia

Under the Soviet-Yugoslav cultural agreement signed in Belgrade in the spring of 1956, negotiations, which ended in Moscow on 7th January, 1958, took place between the two countries to establish the new 1958 programme of cultural collaboration. This programme, inter alia, lists the Yugoslav and Soviet bodies which are to contact each other direct for the implementation of different cultural schemes. Specific contacts for the establishment of scientific collaboration in the field of medicine are also planned and a special additional agreement covers the exchange of scientific publications between the two countries.

As regards the theatre and music, an exchange of tours by the Leningrad Ballet Company and Russian Musical Group on the one hand and performances by the Yugoslav Armed Forces choirs, orchestra conductors and Yugoslav soloists on the other hand, has

been programmed for 1958. As for art and printing, exhibitions dealing with these two subjects have been planned in the two countries.

With respect to the cinema, official "first nights" will be organized both in Yugoslavia and the USSR to launch new films of the two countries. Collaboration in broadcasting has also been envisaged.

Finally, in the field of teaching, arrangements have been made for a series of exchange visits between teachers, technicians and the like.

As regards collaboration in training in advanced techniques, the USSR has granted entry permits to thirty Yugoslav technicians to allow them to visit the USSR and continue their education at the Soviet higher technical institutions with expenses paid by the Yugoslav exchequer. Special visiting and study facilities will be offered to these technicians. Plans have also been made for an exchange of scholarships for university students; 16 will be available for Yugoslav students going to the USSR and 10 for Russian students going to Yugoslavia.

11. YUGOSLAVIA

In 1957, Yugoslavia concluded the following cultural agreements with other countries.

(1) Soviet bloc countries

- an agreement with Poland covering collaboration between different students' associations and organizations (sports and travel sectors). This agreement was signed in January 1957.
- a cultural agreement with the USSR signed 7th January 1958 (see USSR above).
- a plan for cultural collaboration with Roumania (signed 20th December, 1957).

During the period under review, Yugoslavia took a certain number of measures with regard to cultural activities abroad. For example, a tour of Yugoslav soloists was organized in the People's Republic of China and an exhibition entitled "Socialist Yugoslavia in Photographs" was shown in Bucharest.

(2) Other Countries

- programme of cultural collaboration with Egypt, (signed 21st December 1957).