

EXEMPLAIRE

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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

CONTACTS BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE SOVIET BLOC,
JUNE TO DECEMBER, 1956

Note by the Belgian Delegation.

A. SPORT

1. Visits of Belgian sportsmen to the Soviet Bloc countries

Poland: From 4th to 10th June, 1956: a team of amateur cyclists took part in the rally of Warnie and of the Mazury.

USSR: From 6th to 12th June, 1956: a team of amateur cyclists took part in a rally organized in Moscow.

2. Visits of sportsmen from Soviet Bloc countries to Belgium

Hungary: 5th June, 1956: Belgium-Hungary football match in Brussels.

11th November, 1956: Beerschot-Honved and Lidze-Voroslobogo football matches. As the two Hungarian teams had succeeded in getting away from Hungary during the revolt, these matches were played for the benefit of the Hungarian refugee assistance fund.

Poland: 15th December, 1956: International basket ball match between Belgium and Poland (both men and women) in Brussels.

Rumania: 1st November, 1956: football match between Sélection Anversoise and Energia Ploiesti, at Antwerp.

Czechoslovakia: 13th October, 1956: international basket ball match between Belgium and Czechoslovakia (both men and women) in Brussels.

USSR: Because of the events in Hungary, the football match between Anderlecht and the Moscow Dynamos, scheduled for the beginning of November, was cancelled.

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Eastern Germany

Poland:

On 18th October a large international sports rally was organized in Brussels, in which sportsmen from Eastern Germany and Poland took part.

B. CULTURAL EXCHANGES

1. Cultural events organized by Belgium in the Soviet Bloc countries.

Hungary:

September: Mr. Cuvelier, President of the Belgian Philharmonic Society, and Mr. Rogatchewsky, Director of the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, were invited to the Liszt musical contest.

Rumania:

28th October: Mr. Rogatchewsky visited Bucarest to attend the performance of the opera "Oedipus".

Czechoslovakia:

July: the Belgian Delegation attended the 9th Film Festival at Karlovy-Vary.

October: Professor Clausse represented Belgium at the international conference of professors of Educational Methods in Prague.

November: musical scores were exchanged by the Belgian Conservatoire and the Musical Conservatoire of Ostrawa-Mariansk-Hory.

USSR:

July: Festival of Belgian films in the USSR.

October: concert tour by Carlo Van Neste, violinist, and Naum Sluszny, pianist.

October/November: exhibition of painting "From Constantin Mounier to Permeke", in Moscow and Leningrad.

2. Cultural events organized by Soviet Bloc countries in Belgium

Bulgaria:

End December, 1956: the State Song and Dance Company of Bulgaria will give performances in Brussels.

Hungary:

December: piano recital by T. Vassary, prizewinner in the Queen Elizabeth musical contest.

- Poland: June/September: the Warsaw Central Museum Board contributed to the Antwerp exhibition of drawings by Rubens.
- October: the Slansk Group, in Brussels and in the provinces.
- November: recital by the pianist A. Czajkowski.
- Rumania: October: a lecture was given by the Rumanian writer, D. Botez, at the International Book Week held in Ghent.
- Czechoslovakia: September: exhibition of popular art of Czechoslovakia in the reception rooms of the Central Station in Brussels.
- USSR: June/September: the Hermitage Museum of Leningrad contributed to the Antwerp exhibition of drawings by Rubens.
- October: a Soviet stand was included in the exhibition of the International Book Week in Ghent.
- November: The planned events for the Belgo-Soviet Friendship Month in Belgium were cancelled or postponed because of the situation in Hungary.

C. VISITS OF PROMINENT OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS

Visits to the Soviet Bloc countries by prominent Belgian officials and politicians

- Visit by Mr. Collard, Minister of Education, to the USSR from 9th to 30th August.
- Visit by Mr. Brunfaut, Vice President of the House of Representatives, to Bucarest and Prague from 13th August to 4th September.
- Visit by Mr. Leburton, Minister of Agriculture, from 27th August to 15th September, to Prague and Moscow.
- Visit by the Belgian Communist Party Bureau to Moscow, from 30th June to 12th July.
- Visit by Mr. Huyemans, President of the House of Representatives, and by a parliamentary delegation to Peking, via Prague, Warsaw and Moscow, from 15th September to 20th October.
- Visit by Mr. Van Acker, Prime Minister, and Mr. Spaak, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Moscow, from 20th October to 2nd November.

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