

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
23rd November, 1955

NATO SECRET  
DOCUMENT  
AG/52-D/138

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

EFFECTS ON PUBLIC OPINION OF NEW SOVIET MOVES

Memorandum by the German Delegation

German National Football Team in Moscow

The German public took a lively interest in the match. The fairness and discipline of the Soviet players and the friendly reception given the German visitors was widely reported in the German Press. Although many a football fan may have somewhat reviewed the harsh views he held on the Soviet Union, praise for the Soviet hospitality and the appreciation of Soviet sportsmanship did not blind the German visitors to what they saw outside the DYNAMO-Stadium. Reports and interviews on the Moscow trip contain various critical comments on the living conditions in Moscow.

2. Despite the indubitably friendlier atmosphere created by this match and the enhanced belief in the possibility of co-existence many visitors came back from Moscow somewhat disillusioned. Despite all the cordiality and sportsmanship, the Russian capital did not live up to their expectations.

Delegation of German architects in Moscow

3. Three Western German architects - Otto HUELDT, vice-president of the German Architects' Association, Prof. Rudolf HILLEBRECHT, building expert of the Hanover City Council and Friedrich PUTZ, editor of the architectural magazine "Bauen und Leben" - accepted in August 1955 an invitation by the Soviet Architects' Association. Their trip passed rather unnoticed by the Press.

Visit to Moscow by the Munich Chamber Orchestra in September

4. Only the art columns of the German Press mentioned this trip and the friendly reception the Munich musicians were given by the Soviets. Public opinion remained unaware of the visit.

Soviet Delegation at the Congress of Urologists in Hamburg in September

5. Three delegates from the USSR, 2 from Poland, 2 from Czechoslovakia and 1 from Bulgaria attended the Hamburg Congress of urologists. They were led by Professor PEYTEL, director of the Moscow Clinic of Surgery.

6. According to delegates from other countries, these specialists from the Soviet Bloc did not try to discuss politics;

NATO SECRET

they refused to be separated from other members of the Soviet delegation and accepted invitations only en bloc. The standard of their professional lectures was considered well below that of other participating countries.

7. Since only people interested in medicine took notice of the Congress, public opinion did not react to the presence of the Soviet Bloc delegation in Hamburg.

8. In addition to the Russo-German football match, two more sporting events have been of interest as regards contacts with the Soviet Bloc and received some publicity. A strong team represented the USSR at the World weight-lifting Championships in Munich and a German team competed in the World Light Athletics Championships at Bucharest.

9. Visits by members of the hierarchy of the German Evangelic Churches to Iron Curtain countries have, however, made some impression on public opinion.

10. Dean Held of the Evangelic Church in the Rhineland, Prof. IWAND of Bonn and other theologians visited the USSR. Shortly after their return, one of the participants wrote an article in the "Evangelisches Kirchenblatt fur das Rheinland" attacking the behaviour of German soldiers during the march on Leningrad. Veteran's organizations resented this article and commented unfavourably on the attitude of this journal.

11. A visit that received no little notice in the Press was the return visit paid to Bishop DIBELIUS by Professor Dr. HROMADKA and a delegation of the Czechoslovak Evangelic Church. Professor Hromadka bestowed on Bishop Dibelius the Cross of Office of the last president of the German Evangelic Church of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, as a symbol of their friendly relations.

12. The fact that this contact between the Evangelic Churches of Germany and Czechoslovakia was established without any discussion of the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans was taken up by the Congress of German Pastors from the East, held in Cologne, in a resolution which welcomed such contacts but expressed the wish that those directly concerned, namely the representatives of the Churches from these regions, should be heard, too.

13. According to German Evangelic circles, this trip has had a good influence on the Czechoslovak delegation. As far as German public opinion is concerned its interest is limited to the former Sudeten Germans. Their reaction was not hostile, but fears were expressed that many such contacts might lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and Czechoslovakia on the basis of the status quo, i.e. the de facto recognition of the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans.

14. Other contacts of some importance were: the Moscow trip by delegations of workers from the Federal Republic and the

Soviet Zone; German youth delegation on the 38th anniversary of the October Revolution; tour of the Federal Republic by the Prague Philharmonic orchestra, whose concerts were well-attended and well-received.

DECLASSIFIED - PUBLIC DISCLOSURE / DÉCLASSIFIÉ - MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

Palais de Chaillot,  
Paris, XVIe.