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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

CONTACTS WITH COUNTRIES OF THE SOVIET BLOC

(January to June 1956)

Note by the French Delegation

I. IN THE USSR

Visits of political leaders and parliamentary groups. The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the invitation of the Soviet Government, visited MOSCOW in May. Mr. MOLLET only remained there four days, Mr. PINEAU returning after a 10-day stay.

A Socialist Party delegation had visited the USSR a short time previously.

Cultural contacts. On 23rd February, showing in MOSCOW of Christian JAQUE's film "Si tous les gars du monde".

The "Comité du Film Ethnographique" and the "Musée de l'Homme" lent the LENINGRAD Ethnological Museum films on Africa.

An exhibition of French books opened in MOSCOW, inaugurated by Mr. Guy MOLLET and Mr. PINEAU. The exhibition was later transferred to KIEV and PETROGRAD.

During the first fortnight in May, Samson FRANCOIS, the pianist, went to the USSR for a series of recitals.

The visit of Mr. MOLLET and Mr. PINEAU was the occasion for what amounted to a "French cinema week".

Mr. MAZON, Member of the French Institute, proceeded to the USSR for the Congress of Students of the Slavonic Languages held in May.

Technical contacts. At the invitation of the MOSCOW Academy of Science, a group of French physicists participated, in the USSR, in the "nuclear physics conference on particles containing a high energy potential" which was held from 14th to 20th May.

A physicist of the GRENOBLE Science Faculty, Professor WELL attended a conference on magnetism held in SVORDLOSK from 23rd to 29th May.

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A delegation from the "Gaz de France" visited Soviet installations for the production, conveyance and distribution of town gas.

A technical adviser of the French national radio visited the USSR.

Tourist contacts. Among the cruises organized in April and May, mention should be made of the Black Sea and Baltic cruises arranged by the "Compagnie Française de Tourisme".

## II. IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE SOVIET BLOC

Hungary. Pierre SANCAN, the French pianist, toured Hungary during February.

In April, Sartre's play "NEKRASSOV" was being given in BUDAPEST.

A delegation representing the French cinema industry went to BUDAPEST to attend the presentation of the film "Le Rouge et le Noir" (early June).

BUDAPEST received the visit of a French football team for the France-Hungary match played during the first quarter of the year.

Czechoslovakia. An exhibition of French engravings and drawings was held in PRAGUE from 20th January to 29th February.

Roumania. A French team took part in a Rugby championship in BUCHAREST in May.

A delegation from the French Academy of Science attended the Fourth Congress of Roumanian Mathematicians held in BUCHAREST in May.

Bulgaria. Between 14th and 30th January, Lazare LEVY, professor at the Paris Conservatoire, gave 4 recitals in Bulgaria.

Pierre SANCAN, the French pianist, gave a series of recitals during a tour in April.

Starting 12th March, the SOFIA cinemas showed the French films "Crainquebille" and "La Beauté du Diable".

A French delegation attended the Sixth Congress of Roumanian Mathematicians held in Bucharest in May.

Poland. An international scientific session of the WARSAW Academy of Science, held from 17th to 23rd April, was attended by four University professors representing France.

## III. FROM THE USSR TO FRANCE

Cultural contacts. An exhibition of the works of the pupils of the Leningrad REPINE Art School opened on 24th March in the GOYA Museum at CASTRES.

The violinist D. OISTRAKH and the pianist E. GUILHELS gave recitals in PARIS.

A Soviet delegation participated in the CANNES International Film Festival. (April).

In April, the MOSCOW Circus gave a series of shows in PARIS.

In April and May a group of ten Soviet journalists, including PALGOUNOV, director of the TASS Agency, and BIFIMOV, editor of "PRAVDA" visited France.

A Russian folklore group took part in an important international cultural festival in LILLE. (May).

An exhibition of Soviet books opened in PARIS on 5th May and was later transferred to BORDEAUX and LYONS.

The USSR Federation of Popular Music sent representatives to the choral singing "olympiads" held in Paris from 7th to 10th June.

The corps de ballet of the State Lyrical Theatre KS STANISLASKY, MOSCOW, are to give a series of performances in PARIS between 11th June and 11th July.

Following the visit in 1955 of representatives of the French youth movements, a delegation of Soviet youth visited France early in June.

Technical contacts. A Soviet mission visited France in connection with social medicine.

On its return from the United States, a Soviet mission for poliomyelitis stopped in PARIS for technical contacts.

Within the framework of technical exchanges, a delegation from the Soviet Ministry for Iron and Steel, headed by Mr. CHEREMEN-TIEV, the Minister, arrived in PARIS. (March).

From 21st to 26th May, Soviet scientists took part in PARIS in international talks on the luminescence of inorganic crystalline bodies.

A railway mission visited France.

A delegation of Soviet metallurgical specialists arrived in PARIS on 3rd April and stayed two weeks.

Members of the USSR Academy of Science arrived in April to visit the physics laboratory of the "Ecole Normale Supérieure".

Two executives of the French section of Radio Moscow arrived to take contact with the directors of the French State Radio. (May).

Mr. KARTACHEV, director of rural economy of the USSR Economic Planning Department visited France.

Tourist contacts. The passengers of a Soviet cruiser called at LE HAVRE in June.

IV. FROM THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE SOVIET BLOC TO FRANCE

Cultural contacts

Hungary. A Hungarian delegation visited the Cannes Festival for the first time. (April).

Czechoslovakia. The "Slovak" Ballet Company gave a series of performances in Paris in March.

The troupe of the PRAGUE National Theatre visited France to participate in the International Festival of Dramatic Art organized by the city of Paris. (April).

Czechoslovakia took part in the Paris Fair (May).

Roumania. A delegation of Roumanian musicians visited PARIS to take contact with French musical circles (April).

A group of Roumanian students visited the faculties of PARIS, NANCY and GRENOBLE during April.

A pediatric mission remained in France from 9th to 29th February.

Poland. Poland took part in the Cannes International Film Festival. The Polish cinema industry presented three films.

On 15th June, an exhibition of French XIXth century paintings opened in WARSAW.

Palais de Chaillot,  
Paris, XVIIe.