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NATO CONFIDENTIAL  
DOCUMENT  
AC/52-D/182

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION & CULTURAL RELATIONS

CONTACTS WITH SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES

Note by the German Delegation

Attached is a list of nationals of Eastern Bloc countries who obtained a visa to enter the German Federal Republic during May and June, 1956.

2. The following comments are made on the first group of Soviet nationals who visited the Federal Republic during June.

3. The group consisted of about 30 people who had all studied at Universities; they included professors, writers, translators etc. They had paid the travel agency in Moscow, Intourist, 2,140 roubles for their 11 days tour of the Federal Republic.

4. The tour covered the following route; Berlin, Hamburg, Hanover, Cologne, Frankfurt-on-Main, Wiesbaden, Mannheim, Heidelberg, Dinkelsbühl, Rothenburg o.d.T., Nuremberg, Bayreuth, Berlin.

5. In view of their professional activities, the group was mainly interested in works of art and cultural establishments. They were very appreciative of the cordial reception extended to them everywhere in the Federal Republic, particularly in Berlin. They made no attempt to indulge in political propaganda, except insofar as they described their tour as a means of restoring "peace and friendship" between peoples.

6. At Frankfurt-on-Main, a few Russian émigrés attempted to hand pamphlets to the Soviet visitors. There were no incidents.

7. The Soviet tourists were surprised at the extent of the war damage of which they could still see evidence in many towns, though most of it has been repaired since the German collapse. They admired the speed of the reconstruction work. They appeared deeply disappointed at the absence of romanticism in the "country of poets and thinkers". On the other hand, they were greatly surprised at the high standard of living, even among the poorer classes of the population.

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8. On leaving Berlin they expressed regret at the continued partition both of that city and of our whole country and said they hoped there would soon be a United Germany.

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Palais de Chaillot,  
Paris, XVIe.

NE. The figures in brackets indicate the number of government officials (since 1st June).

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AC/52-D/182

	U. S. S. R.		POLAND		CZECHOSLOVAKIA		HUNGARY		RUMANIA		BULGARIA		COMMUNIST CHINA	
	May 1956	June	May 1956	June	May 1956	June	May 1956	June	May 1956	June	May 1956	June	May 1956	June
Political leaders and parliamentary groups	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cultural representatives	9	121	2	6	21	14	2	8	-	2	-	-	-	5
Technicians	6	26	14	13	21	62(11)	1	16(2)	-	2	-	-	-	-
Business people	5	2	2	3	81	55(11)	18	13(2)	1	1	-	6	3	-
Participants in sporting events	3	-	24	11	13	17	61	41	7	20	-	-	-	-
Tourists	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local authorities (Mayors etc.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trade Union Members	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Representatives of Youth Organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>159(22)</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>81(4)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
		<b>201</b>		<b>75</b>		<b>295(22)</b>		<b>163(4)</b>		<b>32</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>8</b>