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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

EXCHANGES BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE SOVIET BLOC
JUNE-OCTOBER, 1956

Note by the Norwegian Delegation

A. EXCHANGES WITH THE SOVIET UNION

1. Exchanges of politicians

A delegation of Norwegian parliamentarians visited Soviet Russia about 1st September. The duration of the visit was about 3 weeks.

2. Cultural exchanges

(a) A cultural agreement was signed on 12th October between Norway and Soviet Russia.

(b) Three journalists representing the labour press visited Soviet Russia in September.

(c) 16 Norwegian musicians and dancers performed in public parks in Soviet Russia throughout July and August.

(d) Soviet Russia was represented at an exhibition of books for children in Oslo in August.

(e) Three Norwegian students of medicine participated in an international seminar in Leningrad in July.

(f) Six Norwegian newspaper editors visited Soviet Russia in September, on the invitation of TASS.

(g) A representative of the Norwegian State Broadcasting Corporation travelled in Soviet Russia for reporting purposes in the beginning of October.

(h) The Association for Norwegian-Soviet relations sent a cultural delegation of six representatives to Soviet Russia in September.

(i) 18 Soviet variety artists visited Norway in August.

(j) The State Council for Youth dispatched a delegation of 17 representatives to Soviet Russia in October, on the invitation of the Anti-fascist Committee in Moscow.

(k) A Norwegian meteorologist participated in the Soviet ship "Obs"s voyage to the Arctic in the summer and autumn.

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(l) A Norwegian mathematician participated in a congress in Moscow 24th June-6th July.

(m) Two representatives of the "Open Door International" participated in an international seminar in Moscow in September.

(n) A Soviet delegation of 5 persons visited Norway in October on the invitation of the Association for Norwegian-Soviet relations.

3. Exchanges in the technical field

(a) A delegation headed by the Norwegian Minister for Commerce visited Soviet Russia in August/September.

(b) A delegation of Soviet agricultural experts visited Norway in August/September on the invitation of the Norwegian Minister for Agriculture.

(c) Representatives of the Norwegian co-operative association participated in an international congress in Moscow in August/September.

(d) A delegation of Soviet engineers of the food processing industry visited Norway in August.

(e) The Association of Norwegian municipal workers sent a delegation of 5 representatives to Soviet Russia in September.

(f) A Soviet Trade Union delegation consisting of 6 representatives visited Norway in September on the invitation of the Norwegian Congress of Trade Unions.

(g) Two representatives from Soviet Russia were invited to the annual conference of the Norwegian Forest and Agricultural Workers' Union in October.

(h) In the period 8th-12th August naval visits were exchanged in Oslo and Leningrad.

(i) On the 1st October there were discussions in Moscow between leaders for the Communist Parties of Soviet Russia and Norway.

4. Sport exchanges

(a) The Norwegian Athletic Association was represented at the "Spartakiade" in Moscow 5th-16th August.

(b) Norway was represented at the Olympic Chess Games in Moscow in September.

(c) Soviet Russia has been represented at several athletic competitions in Norway throughout the summer and autumn.

(d) A Soviet soccer team visited Norway in September.

5. Tourist exchanges

(a) 20 Soviet children stayed in Norway from 23rd June-6th July on the invitation of the Young Workers' Association.

(b) Six Russian tourist groups have visited Norway in the course of the summer and autumn. The total number of participants was 99.

(c) A group of Norwegian tourists, consisting of 77 participants, has visited Soviet Russia.

Following the recent events in Hungary a number of Norwegian delegations visited Soviet Russia have interrupted their visits there. A number of planned visits have likewise been cancelled. At the present time it is difficult to indicate to what extent recent developments within the Soviet Bloc will affect exchanges of visits and delegations between Norway and Soviet Russia.

B. EXCHANGES WITH THE SATELLITE COUNTRIES

1. Exchanges between Norway and China

(a) A Norwegian expert on Ibsen visited Peking in June-July.

(b) Two Norwegian literary experts visited the Ibsen Festival in China in July.

(c) A delegation of students visited China in September/October.

(d) A delegation of the Norwegian Communist Party participated in the Chinese Party Congress in September.

2. Exchanges between Norway and Poland

(a) 144 Polish tourists visited Norway on a cruise in July.

(b) A Norwegian delegation participated in a radio technological meeting of the International Telegraph Union in Warsaw in August.

(c) The Norwegian national soccer team played in Poland in October.

(d) A Norwegian delegation of Trade Union representatives visited Poland in July.

3. Exchanges between Norway and Roumania

(a) The Norwegian national soccer team played in Roumania during the summer.

(b) The Norwegian national athletics team participated in competitions in Reumania in October.

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4. Exchanges between Norway and East Germany

(a) The Norwegian Communist Party sent participants to a camp for communist youth near Rostock during the summer.

(b) A school band from Oslo visited East Germany in July on the invitation of "Freie Deutsche Jugend".

(c) An East German athletics team visited Oslo in July.

(d) Norway was represented at the international swimming competitions at Rostock in October.

(e) A Norwegian Trade Union delegation visited East Germany in October for two weeks.

It is difficult to indicate to what extent recent events in the Soviet Bloc will affect future exchanges between Norway and these countries.

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