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News Background

FRONTIER POLEMICS WITH BULGARIANS, ROMANIANS AND HUNGARIANS

MUNICH, July 16 (Stankovic) -- Three leading Yugoslav papers ("Borba", "Politika" and "Komunist") have yesterday and today entered into sharp polemics with the Bulgarians, Romanians and Hungarians. As in the past the aim of the polemics has been to give evidence on how correct the Yugoslav way of life is, despite the "unprincipled" criticisms coming from the Soviet Bloc.

Bulgarian Writer Attacks

"Borba" of July 15 published an article by the well-known author and Director of the Belgrade National Theater, Milan Bogdanovic, in which the Bulgarian writer Dejan Pavlov was sharply attacked for his anti-Yugoslav attitude.

Writing under the title "The Soul-Savers", Bogdanovic polemized with Pavlov, whose article "On Aesthetic Revisionism and Its Literary Harvest in Yugoslavia", was published in the No. 1 issue of the periodical "Literaturna Misl", organ of the Institute for Bulgarian Literature of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Bogdanovic ridiculed all "soul-savers" throughout the Soviet Bloc who have been at pains to prove that in Yugoslavia writers were not free. In this connection Bogdanovic said: "The revisionist heresy" Yugoslavia is from day to day becoming to an even greater extent a subject of solicitude for a great number of soul-savers who attempt to stop the Yugoslav singer from going to the dogs at break-neck speed. Of course, this is nothing new because it is not happening for the first time. Therefore it has not surprised us at all because the song of the soul-savers, always with the same intonation, has been sung for so long time that we have hardened ourselves in listening to it".

Bogdanovic added that what he was surprised about was the fact that "this angelic choir of true believers has been joined by the writers" one of them being the Bulgarian author Dejan Pavlov. Bogdanovic said that he was not surprised "by the many false and incorrect assertions as well as by the calumnious insinuations and arbitrariness" included in Pavlov's article, but rather by the fact that Pavlov "as a writer has turned into a parrot". Bogdanovic asked Pavlov, who accused the Yugoslavs of rejecting "socialist realism" in literature, "what connection at all has 'socialist realism' with Marxism and what that fiction (i.e. socialist realism) means at all, and whether the author of this soul-saving lesson

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directed at "revisionist" Yugoslav literature has known at all that in Yugoslav literature there has never been anything like "socialist realism" because it has never been accepted?"

Bogdanovic further said that an "odd confusion" has prevailed in Pavlov's mind on Yugoslav literature. Bogdanovic ridiculed Pavlov for having "classified" the Yugoslav writers in various groups calling them "enemies of the proletarian ideology and socialist realism".

### Yugoslav Writers So "Officials"

Bogdanovic was especially angered by Pavlov's claim that in the "Yugoslav literature there has been no freedom whatever and that there is in the world hardly any literature and art so dependent on the ruling clique" as the Yugoslav literature. This is why, Pavlov added, Yugoslav literature "has turned into the apology of death". Bogdanovic commented on Pavlov's statements by saying that "one must heartily laugh to everything we have quoted" from Pavlov's article. In it "there is nothing which could provide any serious, essential astonishment; all this is in fact an "old song" as if played on a scratchy gramophone record which revolves ad infinitum on a Peking-Prague-Tirana axis. All this is a farago and confusion in which one's own head is the least active and one's own conscience sleeps. And when a writer starts repeating foreign melodies, patterned motives and schematic formulas, then his own thought is under a cover and his conscience behind the curtain!" Addressing Pavlov personally, Bogdanovic said that "a writer who uses patterns and models, and listens to one's other motives, such a writer must lose in himself the feeling of the dignity that he is a writer! There is nothing that can kill what is creative in a writer... as a calculated intention to turn him into an angel".

Bogdanovic then quoted the statement of an unnamed Soviet bloc delegate at the recent Eighth Congress of the International Theatrical Institute in Helsinki who attacked the idea of "avant-gardism" in literature as follows: "We all were avant-gardists when it was necessary to struggle for great causes. And when great causes had won and become official, we also had become official!" To this Bogdanovic said:

"Having heard this I blushed to my roots and I was not ashamed that other delegates noticed my blushing. Because the problem is just in this, comrade Pavlov: we, Yugoslav writers, remaining with all our artistic and human essence devoted to socialism and to its social and life postulates, are not official, even at the price of being in your eyes "revisionists".

Against Hungarian Anti-Yugoslav Propaganda F-106

The Belgrade Daily "Politika" of July 15 carried an attack against a pamphlet published recently in Budapest under the title "Manual For Participants in the Sweeping Party Courses". "Politika" said that in this Hungarian "Manual" Yugoslavia and her Communists are mentioned and asked "for whom is it necessary to mobilize one's own Party members against a neighboring country which has done nothing from what one might conclude that Yugoslavia does not want good relations with Hungary."

"Politika" quoted a few sentences from the "Manual" in which it is claimed that the Yugoslav Party Program was published "in order to enable the proletariat of the capitalist countries to develop 'socialist tendencies' among the capitalists without throwing down the bourgeoisie." "Politika" said that the Yugoslav Communists have never claimed anything like this, as it is untrue that they had ever asserted that the Communist Party must be turned "from a revolutionary organization of the leading force of the working class into a debating club." All such claims, in "Politika's" opinion, "show unambiguously that a fear exists against everything new being brought by the life and what is in opposition to the old schemes." "Politika" then quoted the "Manual" in which it was claimed the following:

"The leaders of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia talk with great respect about American imperialism and about the foreign and internal policies of imperialist states. Simultaneously they (i.e. the Yugoslav leaders - Ed.) have perverted the consistent peace policy being conducted by socialist countries."

Hungarian Party Periodical Attacked

Today's "Kommunist" (July 15 -- see also CNE item F-23) joined the criticisms of some other Yugoslav papers of the Hungarian Party periodical "Társadalmi Szemle" in which the Yugoslav agricultural system was attacked. Contrary to "Társadalmi Szemle's" assertion that the Yugoslav agricultural production is on the pre-war level, "Kommunist" claimed that "while in 1957 Yugoslavia had surpassed her pre-war production level, the Hungarian agricultural production was by 12 per cent below that of the pre-war period."

"Kommunist" -- as mentioned from Radio Zagreb last night -- said that the "average annual production of wheat in Hungary in the period between 1934 and 1938 amounted to 232,000 cart-loads, and in Yugoslavia 244,000 cart-loads. In 1958 Hungary produced 149,000 cart-loads of wheat, whereas Yugoslavia collected 245,000 cart-loads, despite the fact that Hungarian investments were considerably higher."

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In the conclusion "Economist" said: "This year gives the most convincing answer to the authors of the article in the Hungarian periodical and to all people who stubbornly are repeating various assertions about grave consequences of the Yugoslav revisionist policy in the countryside."

End

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