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July 7
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CAPTIVE COUNTRIES

FOREIGN RELATIONS (1500)
Diplomatic Services (1502)

EAST BLOC LEGATIONS IN SWEDEN ARRANGING CONTACTS
FOR ARAB BLOC

SOURCE STOCKHOLM: Confidential source.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

RUMANIAN EVALUATION COMMENT: The MOSCOW-controlled captive countries' legations in the non-committed Western countries finance the local friendship societies and, therefore, should be in a position to use the representatives of these associations for any support (and infiltration) of the relations between these neutral countries and the countries of the BANDOENG bloc; a very interesting development which is reported for the first time to us.

BULGARIAN EVALUATION COMMENT: It may be assumed that similar activities are carried out by other Bulgarian diplomatic missions abroad, the numerous personnel of which could not be needed only for the taking care of Bulgarian interests.

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Each of the East bloc legations in STOCKHOLM has a certain number of "special jobs" over and above their direct duties.

Thus the Rumanian Legation, which has managed to develop sports relations between Sweden and Rumania, has been entrusted with the assignment to do the same for Egypt. Lennart BIGANDER, Secretary of the Swedish-Rumanian Society and likewise secretary of the Communist-dominated Swedish Boxing Union (although he has never boxed in his life) has been delegated to attend to this job, and the Rumanian Legation pays his representation expenses - cigarettes, liquor, etc. - in connection with it. The Egyptians are considered not to have enough contacts in Sweden, and in addition to BIGANDER the Rumanian Legation has also put Sven HOLMBERG,

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a prominent local Communist connected with the Swedish-Rumanian Society, at their disposal to arrange for contacts.

These efforts have met with considerable success so far. BIGANDER arranged for the Egyptian boxers, on their way from HELSINKI to West Germany a couple of weeks ago, to stay in STOCKHOLM for two days at the expense of the Swedish Boxing Union, accompanying a match with the Swedes. Parties were arranged for them, at the Egyptian Legation, where BIGANDER is a particular friend of the new secretary Hussein EL GHAMRAWI, as well as at BIGANDER's home. Likewise, he received at his home the Egyptian, Syrian and Lebanese delegates from the "International Meeting of Journalists" in HELSINKI on June 10-15, when they passed through Sweden on their return to their countries.

The original contact of the Egyptians among the East bloc legations was the Bulgarian mission, but it was understaffed and the results of the cooperation were not very satisfactory. The Bulgarian chargé d'affaires, Lubomir PENTIEV, who handles the political and propaganda work of the legation, is overworked and Tsvetko GRIGOROV, the head of the trade department, has shown much less interest in politics than his predecessor, Asparouh MLADENOV. Therefore, the job was transferred to the Rumanians who avoided being overburdened by passing it on to the Swedish-Rumanian Society and its moving spirits, Lennart BIGANDER and Sven HOLMBERG.

The same source states that the job of the Hungarian Legation is to work on Iceland.

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