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ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT DISPLAY MARKS HUNGARIAN
EXHIBIT AT SALONIKA FAIR.

SOURCE ATHENS: RFE News Bureau.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The presence of Hungarian exhibitors at the SALONIKA Fair was announced by the press.

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A display of electronic equipment was the outstanding Hungarian exhibit at the SALONIKA Fair. To the observer who was not permitted to investigate further than visually, the electronic measuring equipment exhibited was up to the fine quality of Hungarian pre-war production. Neatly presented, perfectly finished and well maintained, this equipment rated as "excellent." No figures on production or cost were available.

Among these instruments, all manufactured by "Orion," were a textile moisture meter and moisture in grain meter which showed an advance in design over existing models now currently used in the United States and Canada. Oscilloscopes of all sorts and sizes and for all purposes were on display, again perfectly finished and apparently of somewhat simplified design. A cotton grader was among the other new agricultural electronic machinery.

In addition to the electronic display, there was an exhibit of heavy lathes and drilling machine tools which were on a par with anything produced elsewhere in the world, according to an engineering expert in SALONIKA. Again, to judge by the finish on these lathes, they had been specially selected for exhibition purposes. There was no rough casting surface such as was to be seen on the mass-produced American

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"do-it-yourself" lathes shown in the US pavilion. Obviously, each Hungarian lathe /as was the case for all Iron Curtain machine tool exhibits/ had been specially hand-polished for the occasion. This, however, is considered a negligible point in judging the worth of a machine tool, according to the SALONIKA experts.

The display of laboratory equipment was confined to glass tubing and retorts, but chemical and pharmaceutical products such as dyes and antibiotics were exhibited. Penicillin and streptomycin, manufactured domestically, were displayed, but there was no sign of aureomycin or other side-shoots of the family. In the field of medicine were also displayed a BUDAPEST-made roentgen X-ray apparatus. A doctor present said that this machine was highly mobile but, to judge by appearances and the various operating equipment, not so flexible and multi-purpose as similar X-ray equipment made in Italy. Smaller medical equipment such as hypodermics and scalpels were on display.

In the radio field, also entirely monopolized by "Orion," the two featured models were a five-tube medium and short wave receiver, designed for 110 or 220 volts and sold in Greece for 1,450 drachmae /\$ 49/ and a five-tube medium wave for 110 and 220 volts which was on sale for 1,350 drachmae /\$ 43./ Both these sets were finished in the usual slick German style. Neither played, nor was any request for a text complied with.

"Panonnia" motorcycles of 250 cc capacity were on display, and sales were being pushed by a Greek agent, Dion T. PELARINOS, of ATHENS. Prices in Greece were quoted as 15,000 drachmae /\$ 500/ for the motorcycle, 20,000 drachmae /\$ 666/ for motorcycle and sidecar. The cycles were poorly finished, in comparison with the machine tools and electronic equipment, and the chrome of light solution; imitation leather material used on seats. They appeared to be almost an exact copy of the Italian "Ducati" bike.

National embroideries, carpets and textiles were on display at the Hungarian pavilion, as in nearly all the Iron Curtain exhibits. Again the materials were of poor quality, and one Hungarian exhibition floorwalker almost came to blows with a Greek visitor wishing to feel the samples.

A complete automatic telephone and manually operated plug-in switchboard were on display. Hungarian telephone equipment is considered to be among the best in the world, and Greek agents are at present trying to sell some three million dollars worth of telephone apparatus to the Greek government which, to date, has been buying more expensive German-made

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equipment. The Hungarians are offering telephones at from \$ 5.70 each.

A display of Hungarian smoked ham, Pilsen-type beer and other food and drink completed the exhibit which was, on the whole, well presented, attractive and of interest.

In the outdoor exhibit the Hungarians showed an Ikarus bus, which was ugly in conception and strictly utilitarian in manufacture. No attention whatsoever was paid to passenger comfort. A Csepel heavy truck of the seven-ton variety was shown with a salesman stating it would sell for 264,000 drachmea /\$8.800/ in Greece. In addition, there was a well-finished mobile 4.45 KVA gas-driven generator and stone breakers for road construction.

End.