

ITEM NO. 9233/56

JU  
Sept 29  
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CAPTIVE COUNTRIES

FOREIGN RELATIONS (1500)  
Congresses (1504)

CAPTIVE COUNTRY DELEGATES ATTEND INTERNATIONAL WRITERS  
CONGRESS IN HAMBURG.

SOURCE HAMBURG: Own report, congress releases, etc.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 17 1956.

GENERAL DESK EVALUATION COMMENT: None.

POLISH EVALUATION COMMENT: The Polish members are well known authors.

CZECH EVALUATION COMMENT: The names given except for Gaston HALLA, Julius KALLS and Jiri NOVOTNY are confirmed here.

HUNGARIAN EVALUATION COMMENT: MIHALY is a known composer and one of the Regime's leading music personalities. VASVARI's name is not listed in our files.

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The 19th Congress of the C.I.S.A.C. (Confédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Auteurs et Compositeurs) opened on September 17 in HAMBURG. This is the first time for twenty years that this Congress has been held in Germany. At the same time it is the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of this international body for the protection of the rights of authors and musicians. It is being attended by over 160 delegates from 26 different countries both from Europe and overseas. Among these are representatives from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the USSR. The Iron Curtain delegates

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are listed below:

Czechoslovakia -	Iadislav LUKNAR	)	DILIA (Ceskoslovenske
	Bohumil POLACH	)	divadelni a literarni
	Dr. Vojtech STRNAD	)	jednatekstvi)
	Gejza DUSIK	)	
	Gaston HALLA	)	OSA (Ochranny Svaz Autor-
	Dr. Julius KALLS	)	sky, PRAHA)
	Dr. Jiri NOVOTNY	)	
	Jiri PAUER	)	
Hungary -	Andras MIHALY	)	ARTISJUS (Bureau Hongrois
	Tibor VASVARI	)	pour la Protection des
		)	Droits d'Auteurs)
Poland -	Jan BRZECZWA	)	ZAIS (Stowarzysze-
	Jarosław IWASZKIEWICZ	)	nie Autorów,) WARSZA-
	Wawrzyniec ZULAWSKI	)	WA
USSR -	SIMINOW (writer)		
	BELIJ (compositor)		
Yugoslavia -	Ivan DEMETER	)	ZAMP (Zavod Zastitu
	Zivan RADOJKOVIC	)	Autorskih Malih Prava)
	Milenko ZIVKOVIC	)	BEOGRAD

The two Soviet representatives are late arrivals, as the Soviet Union had not notified her intention of attending the Congress. One of the first tasks of the Congress will be to elect a new President in place of the recently deceased Swiss composer Arthur HONEGGER.

It was stressed at the opening ceremony that the Congress would avoid all political and religious questions during sessions. It is, however, difficult to see how the political aspect can be left out in view of the numerous refusals of the Iron Curtain countries to abide by the normally accepted rules for the protection of authors and composers. It will be interesting to see what conclusions are arrived at in the course of the meetings which will continue until September 22 during which an attempt will be made to straighten out the differences

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of opinion regarding the payment of royalties existing between East and West Europe. Strangely enough, in spite of the decision of the Congress to avoid political themes, one of the first statements made by a member of the Congress at the press conference held before the opening, delivered an attack on the United States Armed Forces for their alleged abuse of copyright and swamping of the European wavelength system. It is not understood whether an indirect attack was intended on RFE through these remarks. They were made by the Icelandic composer Ion LEIFS. No doubt Mr. LEIFS will find support for his allegations against the American radio stations from his Iron Curtain colleagues. A summary of his speech was as follows:

"I am convinced that one of the reasons for the cancellation of the Defense Pact between Iceland and the United States on the part of the Icelandic Parliament lies in the continued lack of responsibility shown by American Armed Forces for cultural rights. We Icelanders look upon culture as the corner stone of our national existence. The American Armed Forces straight away constructed their own radio station near our capital in the year 1951 and since then have been relaying day and night their programs which consist of protected music, without the permission of the author or his legal representatives. In eight other countries and their colonies Americans have also been active in the same way. Many discussions have been held with them concerning this subject requesting a just payment for the works they had performed, all, however, without success. For this reason court applications have been made for their continued failure to pay royalties. The Icelandic Authors' Protection Society was the first to take such legal steps. It is hoped that a judgment can be pronounced during this month.

"The most important reason for my presence at this Congress is to correlate any steps being taken by the Authors' Protection Society of various countries against the excesses of the American Armed Forces. The following countries are also affected:

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Germany -	seven American Radio Stations
Denmark -	Radio Station in Greenland
France -	Station in MAROCCO
Great Britain -	together with Canada etc.
Iceland	
Italy -	Radio LIVORNO
Portugal -	Azores
Austria -	American Radio Network."

A copy of the statutes of the CISAC Confederation is attached together with a program of the proceedings and two other background notes. Further reports will follow on the Congress as it proceeds.

End.