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YUGOSLAVS TOLD OF NEW SPIRIT IN POLISH THEATER

News Background

MUNICH, July 15, (STANKOVIC) -- The chief characteristic of contemporary Polish literature is its "settling of accounts with the past", stated Kazimierz DEJMEK, director of the "New Theater" in LODZ.

In a talk with the BELGRADE newspaper "Politika" of July 11 DEJMEK, who is at present touring Yugoslavia, also said that "theatrical life in Poland is chaotic". As the reason for this DEJMEK quoted "structural reorganization of the theater both in its economic and cultural aspects".

"The second reason for this unnatural state of affairs", DEJMEK said, "is the enthusiasm in Poland of everything written in the West. Every PARIS novelty, even if ten years old, is accepted in Poland as a sensation. This is pretty understandable because we had no idea of what was being created there in the field of culture and art. Now, however, one must add that this enthusiasm is waning somewhat."

Speaking of the role played by artists in the October events, DEJMEK said that "the October events were preceded by the development of the whole movement initiated by the progressive forces in 1952 and 1953". He added that "features of this movement began to find expression in the press (reportage, articles, notes, etc.) in 1954. I am not trying to boast when I mention that our theater in LODZ presented Mayakovsky's 'Cold Shower' three years ago. This was a definite reflection of that broad movement among the intellectuals and artists which was criticizing life as it then was, and demanding that it be changed. These efforts were not aimed at fighting socialism but were only against the suppression of free speech, against existing practices in economics and the like..."

In conclusion DEJMEK said that it was a "strange thing" that the well-known leftist playwright Arthur MILLER has not given his approval for his works to be played in Poland, though Tennessee WILLIAMS has given such permission.

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End.