

CS Reaction to Soviet Manned Space Flight

As expected, practically all CS radio broadcasts are currently being devoted to yesterday's flight into space by Soviet major Gagarin. Newscasts, commentaries and interviews are being almost exclusively devoted to this subject. Sixty-nine minutes after the first announcement of the major's flight the first poem extolling the feat was broadcast by Radio Prague. Many commentaries are also being devoted to the world's reaction to the flight, including the reaction in the West.

Yugoslav "Drugging" Charge Rejected

Ceteka described yesterday the Yugoslav charges of an act of violence committed on a Yugoslav diplomat in Prague as "pure fabrications". (cf. Situation Report, 12 April). The Ceteka report stated that Mr. Bulat had visited the CS writer Hanus on April 7, bringing with him a bottle of "Rakia" as well as several bottles of wine. The report was quick to add that the Yugoslav diplomat is known to suffer from a heart condition and that he is not averse to drinking. According to the Ceteka report, Bulat drank himself into a stupor at the writer's apartment and Hanus, after several unsuccessful attempts to revive him, had a taxi driver report the incident to the Yugoslav embassy. Ceteka concluded by saying that the fact that Bulat left for Yugoslavia hastily immediately after the incident implied that "he did not have a clear conscience". The Belgrade newspaper "Politika" yesterday connected the case with the attitude of Czechoslovakia and other East European countries toward Yugoslavia after the country's break with the Cominform. It added that the revival of anti-Yugoslav actions as those carried out after 1948 might lead to a virtual break-off of normal relations between Yugoslavia and those countries.

Czechoslovak-Laotian Relations

Ceteka reports that the former Laotian premier, Prince Souvanna Phouma, is scheduled to arrive in Prague today, following an invitation by the CS premier, Viliam Siroky. On April 14 Phouma is scheduled to arrive in Warsaw.

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Item Pouched

Strong anti-Yugoslav attack by Arnost Kolman in the March issue of "Filosoficky Casopis", condemning primarily the allegedly revisionist attitudes of Edvard Kardelj as presented in the latter's book, "Socialism and War".