MUNICH, January 31 (Stankovic) -- The Belgrade daily "Politika" of January 26 gave prominence to a retraction made by Rolf Gutermuth, member of the editorial board of "Neues Deutschland" and of the East Berlin economic review "Wirtschafts-Wissenschaft".

As is known on January 8 Gutermuth wrote a long article in "Neues Deutschland" claiming that "the building up of socialism had already been completed" not only in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria but even "in PR China, PR Mongolia and PR Korea". However, on January 25 Gutermuth was compelled to publish a retraction following a great number of readers' critical appraisals of his assertions in the January 8 article.

According to "Politika's" East Berlin correspondent Bozidar Dikic, who was not able to hide a rather great amount of Schadenfreude because of Gutermuth's self-criticism, the East Berlin journalist said in his correction the following:

"The above-mentioned Asian countries (i.e. China, Mongolia and North Korea -- Ed.) cannot be included at present among countries in which the building up of socialism is completed because the victory of socialist production relations in them is not yet identical with the victory of socialism".

In other words, Rolf Gutermuth was compelled to take the line maintained by Edvard Kardelj in his book on Chinese deviations published in September 1960 under the title "Socialism and War".

In the conclusion Dikic said: "It is added in the (Gutermuth's) correction that the initial analysis due to 'intricate questions and different conditions in every country of the socialist camp' had failed to see other elements indispensable for the final building up of socialism among which the East German paper lists the level of production relations, the material basis of the economy and the socialist revolution in the spheres of ideology, culture and social life."

All this sounds as if it were quoted from Kardelj's book:

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