News Background

"BORBA" COMPLAINS OF "LITTLE PUBLICITY" ABOUT BELGRADE NEUTRALIST CONFERENCE IN THE MOSCOW PRESS

Munich, 23 August 1961 (Pejicic) -- The Belgrade daily "Borba" (August 20) complains of the little publicity given by the Moscow press to the forthcoming Belgrade conference of the uncommitted countries. "Borba" said:

"If an observer today, some ten days before the opening of the Belgrade conference of non-aligned countries, had to draw a conclusion about the view of the press here (i.e. in Moscow) on this conference, the basis for this would be more than insufficient. Since the decision that Belgrade should be the seat of the conference, up to this moment, it has been mentioned only four times in the newspapers..."

According to "Borba's" correspondent in Moscow, the Belgrade conference was mentioned:

In a report published by TASS from Cairo that the conference will take place in Belgrade on September 1;

In the joint Soviet Ghanian communiqué, where the Soviet Government "expressed the hope that the Belgrade conference will make a contribution to the consolidation of the cause of peace, to the solution of problems of disarmament and the liquidation of colonialism";

The TASS service in New Delhi quoted a speech in which Premier Nehru spoke about the Belgrade conference;

In an item in "Izvestya" which carries the comment of the American press and noted that the United States will try to influence the conference within the comprehensive campaign which it is carrying out for the purpose of "slandering the Soviet Union and the socialist countries".

"Borba" said further:

"With the exception of the sentence from the Soviet-Ghanian communiqué, an official document of two countries of which one is a participant in the Belgrade conference, not a single report, comment, article or official statement has appeared here (in Moscow) so far, which could be cited and on the basis of which a sure conclusion could be reached about the aims of this important international demonstration." (PTO)
"Borba" concluded:

"However, if there is no publicity, this does not mean that there is no interest in the conference. Precisely that significant disproportion between little publicity and great interest which is felt in Moscow in the conference, effects the forming of different views about that conference."

End