

URGENT

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

COMMUNIST PARTY

Foreign Relations
Inner Life
Personalities
Criminal Activities

JUSTICE

Show Trials
SLANSKY's Trial

The PRAGUE Round-Up.

SOURCE STOCKHOLM : Own correspondent.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : 26 November 1952.

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The STOCKHOLM Foreign Office is urgently interested in receiving the official records from the PRAGUE trial to study, word by word, the accusations launched by MARGOLIUS Rudolf against the former Swedish minister to Czechoslovakia, WINTHER Wilhelm Otto, usually well-informed Swedish political circles declare. In the meantime, Mr. UNDEN Osten, Sweden's foreign minister, issued a short communique in which he agrees with Mr. WINTHER's earlier statement that the accusations are "absurd and groundless."

In conjunction with MARGOLIUS' professions that he sabotaged Czechoslovakia's trade agreements with the Scandinavian countries, it is pointed out in COPENHAGEN that MARGOLIUS was Minister of Trade in 1951, the very year when no trade agreement was signed between Denmark and Czechoslovakia. The reason for this was MARGOLIUS definite demands for certain raw materials, i.e. various kinds of metals, which Denmark was and is not in a position to deliver.

Recalling this particular aspect of MARGOLIUS "sabotage", Danish commercial circles note with great satis-

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faction the complete and utter exposure of Communist lies which were thus brought to light.

The great liberal "Dagens Nyheter" of STOCKHOLM devotes an editorial today to the MARGOLIUS part of the trial.

"It is a common feature in Communist heretic trials to compel the accused to confess that they were involved in criminal conspiracies with exactly such persons whom they really met at one time or other on a routine errand. When the investigator is to bring forth the necessary confessions, it has been opportune that the victim should not be wholly unacquainted with the "accomplice," that he cannot really deny ever to have met him.

"This is probably the psychological background to the phantastic "confession" of MARGOLIUS Rudolf in the PRAGUE court on Monday. Like the rest of the defendants, MARGOLIUS just repeated his confession as though it were a lesson learnt by heart - his "preparation" in prison had shown results."

"Even if the most important goal was to crush MARGOLIUS, it is quite obvious that PRAGUE is eager to compromise Sweden," "Dagens Nyheter" continues. "It is well-known that the standard of living in Czechoslovakia has of late sunk considerably and that social care deteriorated, thereby creating wide discontent. It is possible that it, therefore, has been considered suitable to black-paint a country which, at least in certain Czech circles, was known and appreciated for its high standard, social care, etc. It might also be that MOSCOW has hinted at the advisability to deal Sweden a kick at the PRAGUE trials. How disgusting this whole affair is and how absurd the so-called confessions might be, it is perfectly obvious that the Foreign Office cannot silently agree to this dirt-throwing at Sweden of which PRAGUE is being guilty."

The Norwegian press today (26 November) showed its feeling in a very poignant fashion. It is today exactly ten years since the Germans deported the last 1,000 Jews remaining in Norway. Only three of them returned after the end of the war. All Norwegian papers agree that this was the worst outrage in the entire history of the country. Some papers point out the similarities between this outrage and the trial in PRAGUE just now. Other papers content themselves with putting the article in commemoration of the deportation of the Jews next to

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reports from PRAGUE, leaving it to the readers to draw conclusions.

The anti-Semitic angle of the trial is also stressed by the GOTTENBURG Socialist paper "Arbete," which says that the proceedings against SLANSKY clearly bear witness of the fact that the Bolshevik governments inherited the disgusting enmity against the Jews and the aggressive anti-Semitism.

"There could be several reasons for the trial and its anti-Semitic aspects," the paper says. "Either these peculiar manifestations can be explained by what explained earlier pogroms: that failures are being hidden by placing collective victims in the witness box. Or else the frightening wave of Bolshevistic anti-Semitism just now can be explained by a conscious endeavor on the part of the Soviets to facilitate relations to the Arab world. However this may be, the PRAGUE trials emphasize once more that totalitarian despotism does not change," the paper says in conclusion.

EVAL.COMMENT: This whole Item is in line with PRAGUE's recent trial of SLANSKY's group. The subject will be of considerable help to the editor.
The top copy was sent to the central Newsroom.