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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

JUSTICE
Show trials
SLANSKY's trial
COMMUNIST PARTY
Foreign relations
Inner life
Personalities
Public relations

PRAGUE-AFTERMATH

SOURCE STOCKHOLM : Swedish and Danish press.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : Current

EVAL. COMMENT : None

The maybe hitherto strongest broadside against the PRAGUE trial is launched by the COPENHAGEN conservative afternoonpaper "Berlingske Aftenavis," which in an editorial says that the trial is "a new proof of the arbitrariness a people is subjected to one the Iron Curtain is let down along its borders. The Krenl-directed Communism is a power and all means are good enough to preserve this power. Human lives and human dignities are no longer recognized, righteousness is brutally trampled upon, the individual citizen is absolutely and unmercifully delivered to the System. He has no possibilities whatever to feel secure, because even if he believes himself to be on the right side, it can happen that the policy is changed quite suddenly or that he is in disgrace because of a whim of some leader.

The paper, however, also says : "All this /the trial and anti-Semitism/ is happening in a country and to a people which until four or five years ago belonged to Western cultural spheres and which - when still part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy as well as independent - feel and thought like any other free European people. It is self-evident that it is not the people that have changed. The Czech people cannot have and do not have their soul agreeing to the outrageous drama, which has been conducted by a Communist court in PRAGUE. What has happened is a

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domestic fight between the powerful men of the country - like the ROHM-revolt in Germany or the struggle between STALIN and TROTSKY in Soviet. The only difference is that the PRAGUE-drama is conducted on orders from abroad. The main characters are, no matter whether they are in the witness box or seated in the jury, puppets in the hand of the Kremlin."

"History repeats itself", says the independent afternoon paper "Information", COPENHAGEN. "The persecution of the Jews has always been the best means for the East European governments to channel away popular attention from mistakes and neither the abuses committed by the Czar nor HITLER's bestiality have deterred the Slav people from this form of barbarisms." "That common and general anti-Semitism now should be hidden behind a verbal trick, putting Sionism instead of Jewry, does not in the least conceal the true conditions. Already now some mistakes have been committed and at the PRAGUE trial the prosecutor spoke, like HITLER, of international Jewry."

Heading its editorial "Another Link in the Chain of Similarities Between Nazism and Communism" the COPENHAGEN radical-liberal afternoon paper "Ekstra Bladet" writes i.a.:

"Anti-Semitic demagoguery celebrated wild triumphs during the PRAGUE trial and the accused described to a shuddering Christianity how TRUMAN, ACHESON and BEN GURION riding on capitalist witch-brooms, held an imperialistic witch-sabbath and decided to let loose the snake into the Communist paradise. At the coming Rumanian trial, it will probably become evident that this snake was PAUKER Anna."

The paper goes on to point out that the new Polish school-books don't even mention of the insurrection in WARSHAW holds some highly unpleasant associations", the paper adds.

The influential liberal GOTHENBURG /Sweden/ paper, "Göteborgs-Posten", strongly rejects the efforts of Western Communist papers to pretend that the trial had an anti-Semitic aspect. Quoting the LONDON "Daily Worker" as having said that the fact that Jewish capitalists played a role in the conspiracy implies that capitalism, not Jewry is accused, the paper says:

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"This is a lie, from beginning to end, a lie which might have been uttered, maybe, with the hope that the readers of such /Communist/ papers, have not studied the material from the trial. From this emerges with all conceivable obviousness that the defendants had been sentenced not only as alleged traitors, spies, saboteurs, etc., but as Jews - or as it might be termed - as Sionists. There are scores of instances in the material and in the final sentences, where the prosecutor and the court quite conspicuously emphasize the Jewish extraction of the defendants or their Jewish relations in order to motivate the alleged crime."

"The attitude of the Communist papers is interesting and easily explained," the "Göteborgs-Posten" continues. "It shows that even the Communists realize that their readers, who are still living with Western ideas, are not yet prepared to accept and understand the intolerance and total lack of humanism now prevailing behind the Iron Curtain. What makes the PRAGUE sentences particularly remarkable is that their pronouncement is the first official deviation from the principles of universality upon which LENIN originally based the Soviet power, principles according to which race, extraction or language were not to constitute any obstacle to becoming a Soviet citizen."

"Things must be bad; very bad indeed, in Czechoslovakia when such means /anti-Semitism/ have to be used to conceal the government's failure to provide somehow tolerable living conditions."