

ITEM No 8621/56

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Sept 7
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CAPTIVE COUNTRIES

FOREIGN RELATIONS /1500/
Congresses /1505/

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LIBRARIANS MEETS IN MUNICH.

SOURCE MUNICH: RFE News Bureau.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 2-4 1956.

POLISH EVALUATION COMMENT: None.

HUNGARIAN EVALUATION COMMENT: None.

CZECHOSLOVAK EVALUATION COMMENT: None.

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The 22nd session of the IFLA council /International Federation of the Association of Librarians/ took place in MUNICH on September 2-4 1956. 120 delegates from various countries attended the meetings in MUNICH's Technical Academy. Among the delegates were two Poles from WARSAW and several Yugoslavs from ZAGREB /the complete list of participants is attached to the original copy of this report./

On the last day of the Conference the Polish delegates suggested that the next session be held in WARSAW. This proposal was politely rejected by the council because France has been waiting for her turn for almost 20 years. The next Congress will, therefore, be held in France. When during the discussions somebody mentioned the "countries behind the Iron Curtain" the Polish delegate Mrs. I. MOR-SZTYNKIEWICZ objected, saying: "there is no Iron Curtain and no countries behind the Iron Curtain -- there are only countries of Eastern Europe..."

The Hungarian delegation consisting of A. HENCZ, director of the SZEGED University library and Dr. VARYAS Sandor, director of the University in BUDAPEST, called "SZECHENYI," failed to appear.

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The Rumanian delegation gave notice from East BERLIN that they could not come to MUNICH because of visa difficulties.

The Polish delegation arrived by train via SCHIRNDING and the two delegates live in a pension on Amalienstrasse.

Monday night /September 3 1956/ the Poles participated in a reception given by the Bavarian State Government in honor of the delegates. After the reception the delegates proceeded to MUNICH's traditional beer center, the Hofbräuhaus. Mrs. MORSZTYNKIEWICZ did not like the proletarian atmosphere in the great hall beneath the restaurant. "It is dirty," she said, "just look at the vulgar mob..."

Mr. C. KOZIOL, the other Polish delegate, is 40 years old and in Germany for the first time. He told our reporter that he was very favorably impressed and surprised to see so many friendly faces. "I thought all Germans were Hitlerites."

End.