

AH /B
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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

COMMUNIST PARTY
Public Relations

PROPAGANDA
Peace

JUSTICE
Show trials
SLANSKY Trial

FELLOW TRAVELLERS

COMMUNIST SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS

"Pinkish" Norwegian Peace Fighters
Protest In PRAGUE.

SOURCE STOCKHOLM: OSLO "Arbeiderbladet"

DATE OF OBSERVATION: current

EVAL. COMMENT: none

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Quite unobtrusively the Norwegian "Peace Council" and "Popular Movement Against War," hitherto known assistant supporters of the Communist "peace" drive, have launched a protest against the death-sentences in PRAGUE. In a cable to the Czech Government, the two Norwegian organizations termed the execution of the SLANSKY-group as "a crime against humanity."

This fact did not come into light before the organizations were directly approached by the "Arbeiderbladet," the mouthpiece of the Norwegian social democratic Government party. The paper, pointing out that the organizations were always very quick to protest in the name of humanitarianism, asked why they had remained silent in the face of the Czech trials.

This direct question forced the chairman of the "Peace Council," SÖRLI Erling, into the open which he had shunned so much. A bit shamefacedly, SÖRLI had to inform the paper that the "Peace Council" had launched the following appeal to PRAGUE already on December 2nd, 1952:

"Considering the basic principles in the declaration of human rights - and in the first place the right to live - the Norwegian Peace Council appeals to the Czech Government not to execute the death sentences recently pronounced in the PRAGUE trial. It is our unshakable opinion that each Government that avails itself of capital punishment thereby commits a crime against the people it governs and against the conceptions of human rights."

The "Popular Movement Against War" had, equally unobtrusively, appealed to the VIENNA Congress to reject application of capital punishment against political opponents.