

SATELLITE COUNTRIES

Open Letter Addressed To All Participants
Of The World Youth And Students' Congresses

SOURCE: LONDON

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period

EVAL. COMMENT. None. Documentary information.

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On the occasion of the Communist organized World Congress of Youth (BUCHAREST, 2 to 16 August 1953) and the Third World Student Congress (WARSAW, 27 August to 3 September 1953) the following open letter is being addressed to all participants by the Free Association of Students of the following nationalities from behind the IRON Curtain in LONDON: Poles, Czechoslovaks, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Hungarians and Ukrainians.

The above Associations have agreed to consider this letter as their joint appeal during a meeting held in the Polish Student Club in LONDON. It is expected that other national associations (Rumanians, Bulgarians) will also sign the letter.

Dear Fellow Countrymen,

On the occasion of the Communist so-called Fourth World Congress of Youth which is to be held in BUCHAREST between 2 and 16 August of this year, and on the occasion of the so-called Third World Student Congress which is to be held in WARSAW between 27 August and 3 September of this year, we have met in LONDON to discuss, freely and unhampered by political doctrines or directives of any kind, both these congresses, their programs and aims.

This is our only means of communicating to you our observations, the true conditions and aspirations of students and young people in the free countries of the world, and also our and their attitude to both congresses.

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From the official program of the BUCHAREST Fourth World Congress of Youth we know that the Communists' purpose in calling this congress has been to make capital out of the fact that the free countries of the West are now fast rearming, so that they might meet the Communist threat all over the world - not expecting our own countries. We know what Comrade DENIS - the General Secretary of the BUCHAREST World Congress - meant and implied when he said on MOSCOW radio on 5 July that "In many countries, particularly colonial and dependent countries, youth sees with alarm the foreign troops stationed on their territories; the airfields, barracks and target ranges being built there; the famine and poverty caused by them to strangle the people," and then went on to define the congress' aim in the following three questions:

- 1) How was this interference to be opposed?
- 2) How was national independence to be defended?
- 3) How were the rights of the young generation in various countries to be assured.

He meant and intended by thus turning the argument to confuse you, us, and the youth of the free countries of the world and to deflect public attention from the true conditions obtaining in our countries, which are now suffering under Soviet domination, occupation and exploitation in the exact way in which he said that the so-called colonial and dependent countries are suffering. We expose his statement as a cynical and hypocritical misrepresentation and concealment of facts, and as a slanderous attack on everybody who dares to think otherwise than how the bosses of the Kremlin have decreed that they should think. We see in it also a sign of weakness on the part of the Communists who are so short of arguments that they embark on such ironically double-edged accusations. We know that you see their words and actions in the same way as we do, and that you will not fail to compare their bogus accusations with the reality around you and with the true positions of our countries - subjugated by Soviet imperialism.

We further inform you that the Communists' tactics have not deceived the youth and students of the free countries who will not take part in both these Communist congresses. The so-called delegates will not be representative of anybody except themselves and the local Communist parties. The truly national and representative youth and student organizations of the free countries of the world have refused to have anything to do with both

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these congresses. We inform you of this so that you will not be misled by the boasts of the Communists. The so-called "Western Delegates" which the Communists will produce both in BUCHAREST and in WARSAW will be their creatures - especially groomed to play the part of national youth and student delegates from the West. They are imposters, and we expose them as such.

In WARSAW, at the so-called Third World Student Congress the "discussions" will center on what the Communists have called "The Problems facing students today, and the tasks of the International Union of Students and Student Organizations for the satisfaction of student needs and interests." There will also take place elections to the so-called Council of the International Union of Students.

It is well-known fact, and the British, American, and many other National Unions of Students of the Free Countries of the world have exposed it already on more than one occasion, that these elections will be rigged if only because of the very procedure by which they will be conducted. According to the constitution of the International Union of Students a World Student Congress is the constituent body of the International Union, and only full, national members can be allowed to participate in such congresses with full speaking and voting rights. However, since the Communists know only too well that the International Union of Students has lost its international character long ago - when practically all the students unions of the world disaffiliated from it, and organized themselves anew in the International Student Coordinating Secretariat which was set up in 1951 and has its headquarters at the University of LEIDEN in Holland - they have invited to the congress which do not represent anybody except themselves and their Communist dictators. Thus, the so-called delegates you will see in WARSAW will not be delegates of the National Unions of Students of the free countries of the world, but only imposters claiming to speak and vote in the name of youth and students who have repudiated them from the start.

As for the problems which face students today, and the tasks of the International Union of Students, they are self-evident. Students all over the world strive for efficient cooperation which will lead to closer relations and better mutual understanding. They have discovered long ago that the International Union of Students stands in the way of these aspirations and have therefore

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left the International Union of Students and have united themselves internationally in the Coordinating Secretariat which has its headquarters in the University of LEIDEN in Holland. No less than 35 National Unions of Students of the free countries of the world - representing the vast majority of this Coordinating Secretariat, and have already progressed - are progressing steadily - in the implementation of their ideals. This has had the effect of exposing the Communist International Union of Students as a rump organization which does not in fact represent anybody except the Communist bosses of the Soviet-dominated countries. This the Communists realize, and are desperately trying to undo. They will fail - and, indeed, have failed already. The Youth and Students of the free countries of the world have seen through the Communist game, and have reacted against it. Without complimenting ourselves unduly, we yet must point out that our own activities in the free countries of the world have done much to enlighten the youth and students of the free countries of the world on this subject.

In conclusion we take the liberty and opportunity to acquaint you with our position as political emigres, and with our attitude to you and to both congresses.

We should like to remind you of the fact, so carefully obscured by Communist propaganda - that we are your equals not only in age, but also in social origin; we represent the same cross-section of the community as you do. We are here to give expression, freely and without restraint or constraint of any kind, to what we know to be your rights as well as ours, and your thoughts as well as ours.

We know that neither the BUCHAREST Congress, nor the WARSAW Congress, is a spontaneous gathering - and that both were arranged and called as an instrument of high Communist policy; at the same time we inform you - on the most reliable authority - that the so-called delegates from the West to both these congresses do not represent the youth and students of their countries of origin, but only themselves and their own misguided ideas.

We know that you will have no freedom in discussing the propositions and resolutions placed before you by the organizers of both congresses. Nevertheless, we also know and believe that you will give thoughts to what we have set out above - although we want to make it clear that we do not wish to encourage you to do anything which might lead to unnecessary persecution. All we do expect from

you is that you will confront in your minds what we have told you with what the Communists tell you - and draw your own conclusions.

We shall never cease to believe that the principles which both you and we cherish in our hearts will find expression when freedom once more reigns in our countries.