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MUN 9 7 FEB 72

TO: DURKEE INFO PETZALL YARROW HOVEY DUNNING REYMAN  
FM: WALTER INFO COOK BEDE BERNARD BROWN KOHAK LYON  
NOWAK PECHACEK/BELLUS ZAHARIEFF

071255:

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 30

1. BULGARIA: NOTHING.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: THE ONLY REALLY NEW DEVELOPMENT TO REPORT IS SATURDAY'S "RUDE PRAVO" EDITORIAL ASCRIBING OCHETTO'S ARREST TO HIS ALLEGED ROLE AS A MESSENGER BETWEEN PELIKAN AND OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA (SEE DS). NOTE THE ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES REGARDING PELIKAN'S STATUS. THE CZECHOSLOVAK BD WILL NOT POLEMICIZE WITH "RUDE PRAVO," BUT WILL CONTINUE FACTUAL REPORTING OF ITALIAN REACTIONS TO THE OCHETTO CASE, AS WELL AS A PELIKAN STATEMENT EXPECTED LATER TODAY.

3. HUNGARY: "WELT AM SONNTAG" OF FEBRUARY 6 PUBLISHED A SAD AGENCY REPORT WHICH SAID THAT TOP-LEVEL VATICAN PRESSURE WAS PUT ON CARDINAL MINDSZENTY TO ABANDON PLANS FOR PUBLICATION OF HIS MEMOIRS. EARLIER LAST YEAR, AS THE REPORT CLAIMS, AGOSTINO CASAROLI, THE "FOREIGN MINISTER" OF THE VATICAN HAD PERSONALLY ASSURED THE HUNGARIAN REGIME THAT ONCE AGROAD, THE CARDINAL WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PUBLISH HIS MEMOIRS. POPE PAUL, ON THE OTHER HAND, TOLD MINDSZENTY THAT HE, THE POPE, DID NOT INTEND TO INTERFERE IN THIS ASPECT OF HIS ACTIVITIES ABROAD. THUS, AS SOON AS HE SETTLED IN VIENNA, THE CARDINAL MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TYPING OF HIS MANUSCRIPT (2000 PAGES) AND INITIAL CONTACTS WERE MADE WITH PUBLISHERS. GETTING WIND OF THIS, THE HUNGARIAN REGIME, ALLEGEDLY, INTIMATED TO CASAROLI THAT AS A RETALIATION, RESTRICTIVE MEASURES WOULD BE USED AGAINST PRIESTS ACTIVE IN PASTORAL WORK IN HUNGARY. ARMED WITH SUCH ARGUMENTS, THE REPORT SAID, CASAROLI WAS FINALLY ABLE TO CONVINCE THE POPE

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TO REVERSE HIMSELF AND WRITE A PERSONAL LETTER TO MINDSZENTY ASKING HIM TO STOP WORKING ON THE PUBLICATION OF HIS MEMOIRS.

THE "WELT AM SONNTAG" REPORT IS NOT BEING USED IN BROADCASTING. OUR PRIVATE INFORMATION CONFIRMS THE EXISTENCE OF INCREASING VATICAN PRESSURE TO "POSTPONE" THE PUBLICATION OF THE MINDSZENTY MEMOIRS, BUT DENIES THE EXISTENCE OF A PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE POPE.

4. POLAND: ONLY LIMITED MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE ON THE LODZ WRITERS CONGRESS THUS FAR, AND NOTHING ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MORE "CONTROVERSIAL" LIBERAL WRITERS, BUT OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT MODERATION PREVAILED ON BOTH SIDES, NEITHER THE WRITERS' COMMUNITY NOR THE PARTY SEEKING ANY KIND OF CONFRONTATION AT THIS JUNCTURE. PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING POINT IS THE APPOINTMENT OF A NINE-MAN COMMISSION (NAMES NOT YET AVAILABLE) TO DRAFT NEW STATUTES FOR THE UNION, REPLACING THOSE FORCED ON THE WRITERS AFTER MARCH 1968 AS A COERCIVE INSTRUMENT AGAINST THE LIBERALS. EERA IS PREPARING A PAPER ON THE CONGRESS.

5. RUMANIA: IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE POLISH SITUATION, THE RUMANIAN PARTY APPEARS STILL TO BE ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE CULTURAL COMMUNITY. AS PART OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WRITERS UNION CONFERENCE, CEAUSESCU HELD A MEETING ON FRIDAY WITH PARTY CC MEMBERS WHO BELONG TO THE UNION, INVOKING PARTY DISCIPLINE AND STRESSING THE NEED FOR AN IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTEED LITERATURE. DOMESTIC MEDIA DID NOT CITE ANY OF THE SPEECHES MADE BY THE WRITERS IN THE DISCUSSION, NOR WAS THERE ANY INDICATION OF THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION. ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IS THE REMOVAL OF STEFAN BANULESCU AS CHIEF EDITOR OF "LUCEAFARUL," A PAPER WHICH HAD BEEN ONE OF THE KEY FOCAL POINTS OF RESISTANCE TO CEAUSESCU'S CULTURAL CAMPAIGN. A SHORT PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT IS BEING PREPARED.

6. OTHER: NOTHING.

END MSG