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ALL COUNTRIES

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR AGRARIAN RIGHTS:

FLORENCE -- 28 MARCH TO 3 APRIL 1954

SOURCE ROME: Regular RFE reporter

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period

EVALUATION COMMENT: This report tells of an important meeting. It is interesting that the Communist nations found it advisable to stay away.

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In closing the celebration of the bicentenary of the Florentine Georgophile Agrarian Academy's foundation -- the oldest scientific agrarian institute -- the first International Congress for Agrarian Right will be held in FLORENCE from 28 March until 3 April 1954. Official delegations of the governments of 45 states of all five continents will take part, in addition to eminent personalities of the legal, national, economic and sociological world and representatives of scientific academies and law institutes of the single universities.

Curriculum of the Congress.

The main subjects to be treated at the Congress will concentrate on the following:

a) The particular physiognomy of agrarian right in its historical development up to present times;

b) A comparison of agrarian legislation and the relations between the doctrine of right in the single states, especially with regard to the realization of the principles expressed by the constitutions of the single states; and finally,

c) On the basis of the results of this comparison, presuppositions will be fixed for a general unitarian theory on property and on land-ownership with practical and doctrinal conclusions, i.e. in the sense of progress in the science of right and to realize a better and better international collaboration, as well as presuppositions for a more perfect evaluation of the particular problems in relation to agrarian work, to agrarian credits and to European and world-wide planning for colonizations. The Congress will also dedicate its

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particular care to the land reforms brought about in various states during the last few years and to the results respectively of the profits gained through them for the national economy of the single countries.

### The Absence of Communist Nations.

In view of the above subjects which will be treated at the International Congress, it is not at all surprising that the Soviet Union and her Satellites will not take part with official delegates, nor as observers, as was hoped until the last moment. In the Soviet Union and Satellites, it is difficult to speak of agrarian right, much less so could they contribute to an international unitarian codification of agrarian right as the Congress will try to do.

The Secretary General of the Preparatory Committee for the First International Congress for Agrarian Right, Professor Giangastone BOLLA, director of the scientific institute for agrarian right at FLORENCE University, declared to the RFE correspondent in this respect: "The Soviet Union and the other Communist states would have had the best chance to show at this Congress, in front of the world's scientific authorities, what profit they have so far gained through their agrarian system, above all for the peasants and consequently also for their states. In other words, what will their absence from the Congress indicate? That -- if they decided not to take part -- it is obvious that their agrarian system, only forcibly imposed on the peasants, cannot have brought any profit to the peasants and their states."

"In this connection it is certainly also interesting to reveal" Professor BOLLA continued, "that some of these states, i.e. the Soviet Union, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, at least officially took part with their own representatives at the first congress organized to celebrate the bicentenary of the Florentine Georgophile Agrarian Academy's foundation, i.e. at the International Congress for Agrarian Schools. But at that Congress, the representatives of these three states were only interested in making propaganda, because after reading their reports they did not take part in the negotiations which followed and much less so in the discussions."

This is what the Secretary General of the First International Congress for Agrarian Right told our correspondent as an introduction for the coming meeting.

### The History of the Academy.

The Florentine Georgophile Agrarian Academy -- (Over)



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which we already said is the world's oldest scientific agrarian institute -- was founded on 4 June 1753 and can boast of having a magnificent scientific tradition. In fact, among its member academicians, there were two presidents of the United States, namely MONROE and JEFFERSON, Minister Robert PEEL, economists with world-wide fame such as Professor William THOMSON, the Englishman Michael FARADAY and many Poles, Russians, Austrians, Belgians, Swedes, Danes, Czechs and others.

According to the Academy's statutes, the regular academicians-members cannot surpass 80 in number, while the member-correspondents may reach a maximum of 200. A number of 40 foreigners are admitted.

End.