Khrushchev and Novotny Speeches at the Opening of CS Exhibit in Moscow

The two speeches were delivered yesterday at the opening of the CS exhibition in Moscow in connection with the celebration of the 15th anniversary of what the regime officially calls the liberation of CS by Soviet troops. Both speeches -- rather routine -- abound in expressions of fraternal friendship and mutual admiration. Khrushchev being more ebullient by nature than Novotny used such phrases as "our dear friend Novotny" to describe his guest -- who has been a frequent visitor in Moscow, four times in 1959-60 period -- and referring to the CS people as "gifted" called them "a skillful people who have, indeed, working hands of gold".

Novotny, much more restrained started his introductory remarks in Russian and then continued in Czech with expressions of pleasure with which CS people show the Soviet people the result of their work, affirming that the exhibition is a symbol of the firm friendship between the people of CSR and the Soviet Union. He later adds that these successes were the result of hard work of the people of CSR, thus giving credit where credit is due. Novotny then proceeds to give a very detailed statistical account illustrating CS growth, especially planned growth in the next five years, which must have taxed his audience. He made only remark in all his praise of CS progress worthy of mention: In speaking about collectivization, he boasted that 86.2% of "all agricultural land" is in agricultural cooperatives or other socialist agricultural undertakings, "We attach importance to the fact that our agricultural output has not declined but, on the contrary, has risen in some branches during the process of introducing cooperatives." An unusual boast. The figure given by Novotny, 86.2% is 1.8% higher than the one given on 21 January by Radio Prague (which also spoke of "agricultural land" rather than "arable" correcting error made in Jan. 21 Situation Report).

In referring to the draft of the CS constitution, Novotny is proud to announce that "it is already a socialist constitution which consolidates the historic victory won by the CS workers under the guidance of the CPCS, creatively applying Leninism." He spoke of the constitution also as a program for further development of socialist CSR and that the people of CSR...
are adopting the constitution with pride, following the great example of the Soviet Union. It should be mentioned in this connection that the 1936 Stalin constitution is, on paper, much more humanistic than the CS draft.

While it is also the 15th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany, and both Novotny and Khrushchev mention this fact, however, only Novotny attacks West German revanchisme. Khrushchev did not use the occasion to make some statement on the forthcoming summit meeting.

In referring to CS industrial advances, Khrushchev contradicted himself in his speech. At first he mentioned Czechoslovakia's industrialization under capitalism, admitting that CS was "bequeathed with a fairly well developed industry and agriculture" but later on spoke of CS industrial advances as result of "the new social system," adding that no capitalist country can compare with the increased industrial output of CSR.  

Former Social Democrats Receive May Day Awards

A UPI dispatch of May 2 refers to 10 former Social Democrats who were honored in Prague in connection with May Day ceremonies. The dispatch mentions Jiri Hajek, the present Deputy Foreign Minister as having received the Order of the Republic. On receipt of the RUDE PRAVO of 30 April it is not clear whether it was this Hajek who was meant. There is a Jiri Hajek who is now editor-in-chief of PLAMEN, the new organ of CS writers. Jiri S. Hajek, the present Deputy Foreign Minister was a left-wing Social Democratic Party ideologist in the formal Social Democratic Party which was amalgamated with the Communist Party in June 1948. Frantisek Tymes also received the Order of the Republic; he was deputy Prime Minister in Autumn 1947 replacing former Social Democratic Chairman and Deputy Premier Zdenek Fierlinger. Other Social Democrats were honored, receiving Order of Labor. Among these Stanislav Posusta is of interest since he was purged in 1952. His reward, indeed, the rewards of the former Social Democrats honored this time is probably for the work they did as left-wing Social Democrats in helping the CP into power, aid which the CP appreciated and wishes to reward perhaps in connection with the regime celebrations of the 15th anniversary of liberation.
Items Sent in Clear

New Trends in the Renumeration of Kolkhoz Members

The organ of the CS Academy of Agriculture in its April issue published an article by Ladislav Kursky criticising the present system of renumeration in collectives, especially the work unit which because of its fluctuation gives rise to shortcomings one of which is that it drives kolkhoz farmers to turn to private plots. While none of the ideas presented in this article are new, it is a good review of the problems facing collective farms. The article gives further indication that the regime is planning a wage revision in the cooperatives.

A Nun Sentenced to Two and a Half Years of Imprisonment

A Catholic nun was sentenced for teaching anti-regime ideas to young girls, according to an article in the local Hradec Kralove newspaper, POCHOĐEN (March 19, 1960). Nun Pia advised the girls that it would be better if no cooperative was started in the village where they lived.