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EAST EUROPEAN DELEGATES TO 30th PEN CONGRESS

The following are the delegates from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria who will be attending the 30th PEN-Club Congress to open in Frankfurt/Main on July 16.

POLAND

Jan PARANDOWSKI, born in 1895, Poland's leading Hellenist, a novelist and essayist of pre-war standing. President of the Polish PEN-Club since before the war. Never a follower of the regime's cultural policy, P. managed to maintain an independent position in Poland's cultural life. At some of PEN-Club congresses after the war, he spoke mildly in favor of "peace" slogans.

Michal RUSINEK, born in 1904, a writer of pre-war standing, secretary of the Polish PEN-Club since 1956. In an interview granted to the COPENHAGEN "Informationen" (on 16 June 1959) he defended the regime, claiming that "he himself and his senior colleagues write according to their conscience and they have never had any trouble with the authorities". He might be a regime man on the delegation.

Maria DABROWSKA, born in 1889. She is Poland's leading authoress and enjoys considerable standing also as a moral authority. D. has always been of independent mind, and also at present shows a considerable degree of independence as regards the regime's cultural policy.

Jaroslaw IWASZKIEWICZ, born in 1894, a poet, novelist, playwright and essayist, Sejm deputy, chief editor of the literary monthly "Tworczosc", and a writer of pre-war standing. His degree of independence from the regime is perhaps lesser than that of DABROWSKA or PARANDOWSKI. He is a regime man, but still acceptable to other writers.

Wojciech NATANSON, over 60, a literary critic and essayist. Co-opted in 1957 to the Qualification Committee of the Polish Writers' Association. Even during the Stalinist period, N. never exposed himself as a follower of the regime's cultural policy methods.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Dr. Adolf HOFFMEISTER, chief of the CSR delegation and president of the CSR national PEN-Club. H. is a well-known

essayist, author of features and a gifted caricaturist who has published many books.

Born in 1907 as the son of a PRAGUE lawyer, H. studied law and practiced as a lawyer for some time. Already before the war he belonged to a group of left-wing intellectuals and Communist fellow-travellers. He fled to PARIS in 1939 when the country was occupied by the Germans and later went to the US. After 1945 he returned to PRAGUE and was employed in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After the Communist coup d'etat in early 1948 he was appointed ambassador to France from where he was recalled in October 1951 at the time of the SLANSKY crisis. H. was subsequently expelled from the service of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and has been a professor at the PRAGUE Academy for Applied Arts ever since.

Since 1956 he has been again active as a regime representative in the field of international cultural relations. Charged with various representation duties, he visited PARIS, BRUSSELS and other Western capitals. He was a CSR delegate to the XXIX PEN-Congress in TOKIO/Japan.

Alena BERNASKOVA, member of the CSR delegation, was born in 1920. She studied at a dramatic school, gained a name as the author of short stories and after the war wrote literary contributions for the PERCUTKA paper "Lidove Noviny". In 1945 she was elected Secretary of the International Journalists' Society in PRAGUE.

After the uprising in 1948 she joined the Communists and received the State Prize for Literature in 1951. BERNASKOVA is a presidium member of the CSR "Peace Committee", Secretary of the literary section in the CSR Writers' Association and a deputy of the "Peoples Parliament" since November 1956.

BERNASKOVA is the author of many short stories, novels, stage and radio plays.

Dr. Eduard GOLDSTÜCKER, the third member of the CSR delegation is certainly the most remarkable figure of the team. Born in 1913, a son of Jewish parents, he escaped to LONDON before the nazis marched into Czechoslovakia. In 1944 he was appointed Cultural Attaché to the PARIS embassy and went to PRAGUE in 1945 as an employee of the Foreign Affairs' Ministry. In 1947 he was appointed counsellor to the CSR embassy in LONDON and in August 1949 envoy to Israel. In February 1951 he was recalled to PRAGUE under the pretext of a new appointment as ambassador to Sweden.

After his arrival in PRAGUE he was arrested, used as a witness against SLANSKY and sentenced to life imprisonment in 26 May 1953. G. was charged with and confessed to the following "crimes":

1. having been appointed to LONDON 1947 by Slansky for the purpose of delivering spy reports to ZILLIACUS;

2. appointment by "Slansky & Co." to the envoy post in Israel with the mission to maintain liaison with the British Intelligence Service for the Slansky group (Geminder);

3. appointment to his job with the PARIS embassy in 1944 upon the recommendation of Hubert RIPKA, who at that time was BENES Party's Minister.

GOLDSTÜCKER was released from prison sometime in the spring of 1956 and appointed lecturer on German literature at the Charles University in PRAGUE. He is a well-known expert and author of many books on German literature.

HUNGARY

Gyorgy BOLONI, President of the Hungarian PEN-Club since 1953. Now chief editor of the literary weekly "Elet es Irodalom" and president of the Literary Council formed after the revolution.

During the two wars, BOLONI lived as an exile in PARIS. (His wife was the secretary of Anatole France.) In 1945 he returned to Hungary and was soon appointed Hungarian minister in THE HAGUE. After having been at his post for one or two years, he returned to Hungary, where he wrote literary studies. Though he served the RAKOSI regime, he cannot be considered the ace-writer of this regime. In 1955 he was awarded the Kossuth prize. In September 1956 (in the era of the writers' revolution and the liberalization process) he was ousted from the presidency of the Writers Federation. After the revolution, he immediately took a stand for KADAR and since then, has tried to enforce Party policy in literary life. He is 77 years old, rather senile, an opportunist.

Laszlo GERECHYES. He is the recently (14 July 1959) appointed manager of the PARIS Hungarian Institute. Previously he was the editor of the literary periodical "Nagy Vilag" and secretary general of the Hungarian PEN-Club.

He emigrated to PARIS in the late thirties and took part in the French resistance. He returned home in 1945. His literary work was chiefly limited to French translations and studies on French literature. (He also wrote a few bad poems.)

After the revolution he became the editor of "Nagyvilag" which has a rather good standard and publishes quite good excerpts from world literary works. He took part repeatedly in writer's meetings abroad.

Laszlo KERI is the literary critic of the Party organ "Nepszabadsag", a hard core dogmatic Communist and watchdog on free thinkers.

Laszlo KARDOS, University professor and Kossuth prize winner. He published many books on literature, translated plays and novels into Hungarian. In addition he is a convinced Communist and holder of many posts: member of the editorial board of the literary review "Valosag" and the monthly "Elet es Irodalmi" (Literature and Life); member of the Hungarian Academy of Science; Presidium member of the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship Society; President of the "Society for the dissemination of political and scientific news".

BULGARIA

Dora GABE, born in 1888, well-known as a poetess prior to 1944, wrote poems praising the royal family and on several occasions represented the PEN-Club abroad. From about 1951 to about 1954 she was cultural attaché at the Bulgarian Embassy in WARSAW; she is a member of the Presidium of the Bulgarian Union of Writers and member of the National Peace Committee; in July of 1958, on the occasion of her 70th and for 50 years of literary activity, she was decorated with the order of "Narodna Republika Balgaria", 1th degree; and

Emil PETROV, writer, member of the Presidium of the Bulgarian Union of Writers and of the board of editors of the literary weekly "Literaturen Front".

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