Translation!

Report No. 14

Sep 6, 1960

THE THERE AND STREET

From 09.15 till 11.15 hrs I was in the Vatican Museums. Around 10.30 hrs I met a group of Soviet tourists, all men. There were about 50 persons. One could recognize them as Russians from their clothes and shoes. But I heard to one of them said in a rather loud voice: "They could show us here something new every day".

After that I addressed one of them in Russian without any reserve. He made big eyes and, obviously avoiding further conversation, said to me that they were in a great hurry, because they want to see other places in Rome as well. In a word, this was a plain refusal to start a conversation. "If you do not want, I will not insist"—I thought and departed from this group. It seems to me that most persons in this group were workers, not educated people. They were 40 - 50 years old. There was no guide of the Museum with them.

Exactly at 11.00 hrw I met another group of Russians in the museum. There were also about 50 persons, but this time both men and women and of all ages and better dressed than the first ones. They avoided conversations; too. When I asked, where they are from, they answered, that they came from Moscow. "Where they are staying now" I asked. "In some hotel" - was the answer. They left the Museum by elevator.

I met even a third group of Russians, but just at the exit, at a stand with post-cards. There were many women and of different age. One of their guides, who was standing aside, kept them urging all the time: "Girls, make it quicker!". When I asked one of them, if she was a sportsman, she answered unwillingly, that she was a tourist. I left the Museum together with this group. There were already busses waiting for them and they were ready to take their places in these busses. A young Italina girl was distributing religious pamphlets in Russian language among them. Some of the tourists laughed when they saw what it was, others turned the pages of the pamphlet very seriously, but none of them threw the pamphlets away, they took these pamphlets with them.

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I think that there is no sense in trying to appraoch such groups. These groups have not one, but more "supervisors". May be it would be better to look for singel tourists or for small groups of two and three persons. They walk certainly without any "supervisors".

sgnd. A. Simat

Sep 11, 1960

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