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YOUTH PROGRAMS OF THE USSR FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Marie Fainosed in his book "How Russia is Ruled" makes the following statement about the youth in the USSR, "One of the most striking characteristics of modern totalitarianism is the conscious attention which it devotes to the organization and indoctrination of youth. The Soviet dictatorship from its earliest days has carried on such activity at a level of intensity unmatched by its now defunct fascist and Nazi rivals. Through the young Communist League or Komsomol and its junior affiliate, the Pioneers, the leaders of the regime undertake to harness the energy of youth and to prepare its most active and loyal members for Party responsibilities. The membership of the Communist Party today is overwhelming composed of individuals who served their apprenticeship in the young Pioneers and the Komsomol".

The above statement written 10 years ago could be made in 1962 with just as much emphasis and authority. The young Pioneers composed of children from 10-14 years of age number 18,500,000, while the Komsomol now numbers 20,900,000. Here then are 40,000,000 young people being trained for the Soviet man of the future. In the pages that follow, we will describe our impressions of the strength and vitality, organization and scope of these two youth programs. Two other facets of life in the Soviet Union will be described in less detail - that of the Octobrists and the All Union Sports Council.

In as much as the 1962 delegation of three YMCA secretaries was the second exchange group from the United States to exchange with the U.S.S.R., some references will be made to the first delegation's report rather than to repeat the same material. The most recent delegation's findings should be used in conjunction with the earlier report for a complete picture. Naturally, there will be some exceptions in the two delegations' findings. These will be pointed out.

THE COMMITTEE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

The Committee of Youth Organizations, hereafter, referred to as the C.Y.O., is the organization within the Soviet Union responsible for international exchange programs. Hence the personnel of this committee served as our hosts, and provided us with a guide throughout our thirty days in the U.S.S.R.

Both delegations from the United States were informed that the C.Y.O. was the co-ordinating agency of some 40 youth organizations within the Soviet Union, as well as being the committee responsible for establishing contacts with youth abroad. It is a conviction of this delegation that the C.Y.O. has been established for the single purpose of serving as the international arm of the Komsomol Organization. Several factors have led us to this conclusion.

X. In an informal conversation with one of the C.Y.O. officials, our delegation was told that the C.Y.O. had personnel located in six localities of the U.S.S.R. These locations were named as Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Tbilisi, Byelorussia Republic, and Armenia. If these are the locations of the C.Y.O., it would be truly a very difficult task for any co-ordinating activities to take place from these offices. The cities named, obviously are located primarily in the Eastern part of the USSR.

X. While we met a C.Y.O. official in three of the cities named, (Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev), every member of the C.Y.O. staff that we met was concerned in some form or other with international relationships. In Moscow, which is C.Y.O. headquarters, members of the staff are assigned to various countries. For example Yuri Kashlev, a member of the Presidium of the C.Y.O., responsibilities include developing contacts in North and South America. (Mr. Kashlev recently spent two months in the United States becoming acquainted with the life of American youth and negotiating further connections with the leading youth organizations of this country. This work was organized in agreement with the Young Adult ~~Council~~ ^{Council} of the United States).

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A number of hostels and resorts have been constructed by the C.Y.O. and the delegation was able to see three of these. In Moscow we stayed in the Youngest Hotel, which is operated by the C.Y.O. It is a hotel of some 300 or more rooms and we were told that the income from these rooms, as well as the restaurant, belonged to the C.Y.O. for its operational budget. We viewed a similar hotel in Leningrad. While in Yalta, the resort area of the U.S.S.R., we stayed in a hotel called Sputnik. This resort, able to accommodate and feed 100 guests, was also operated by the C.Y.O., and we were told that another similar installation was in ~~Suzdal~~ also on the Black Sea. The fact that all of these hotels and resorts catered to international youth groups is another indication of the international aspect of the C.Y.O.

The first delegation evidently was given a detailed presentation concerning the structure and job of the C.Y.O. It seems rather significant that no such attempt was made to formally describe the operation of the C.Y.O. to the second delegation. Most information we did receive was obtained in informal discussions throughout our trip with the C.S.D. officials who accompanied us. Actually we did meet and talk with the top leadership of the C.Y.O., but the conversation was primarily political in nature rather than in relation to the C.Y.O. (It was only after reflecting on the notes made while in the U.S.S.R. that the delegation realized this omission had taken place. We wish we had requested a formal presentation of the structure and organization of the C.Y.O., since this was our host organization and one with which the East-West Committee of the National Council has the relationship). (We goofed).

At no time did the delegation see any program or hear of any program that was not related either to the Outlets, the Pioneers, the Komsomol, or the Sports Council.

From the above reasons as well as others more subtle and less easily identified, it is the definite conclusion of the Y.M.C.A. delegation that the C.Y.O. is concerned with developing and maintaining international relationships for the purpose of carrying out the Party Plan.

In a meeting with Peter Raschetov, the President of the C.Y.O., and Madame Titova, Vice President of the C.Y.O., and Sergey Pavlov, the first secretary of the Komsomol, it was quite obvious that Comrade Pavlov was the person to whom all the rest looked for direction and who was the source of authority. As a matter of fact, Raschetov and Titova, during the course of a ~~one~~ ^{five} hour discussion, spoke not more than twice each. The entire presentation and ~~discussions~~ ^{adjustments} that followed were carried by Pavlov working through the interpreter.

This limiting scope of the C.Y.O. in no way infers that the C.Y.O. does not have prestige, and indeed power in the structure of the U.S.S.R. There were examples that indicated this was a very well thought of organization in the Soviet Government. For example, the delegation upon entering Moscow proceeded immediately through customs with no checking of luggage or of money. Other American tourists in Russia on the ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ tourist plane spent as much as three hours going through customs.

Another indication of the prestige of the C.Y.O. was in the quality of the seats our delegation received in attending cultural events, ballets, circus, concerts, operettas, etc. These seats were always of the best quality and quite often were procured at a late hour. This is significant only when it is known that at every performance the delegation attended there was a full house.

Still another indication of their prestige could be seen in the priority given the delegation in interviews with top officials of various and sundry organizations. The delegation was always received warmly with advance preparations. One striking example was a visit to the Armory (a museum in Moscow). On one occasion we visited this museum:

The Kremlin
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on a Sunday with only our interpreter accompanying us. We were refused admission to the Armory on the basis that it was crowded with young Pioneers. On the second occasion when we visited the Armory, a member of the G.Y.O. was with us and we were ushered through a rear door and given priority over long lines of waiting tourist. Again, through the angle of the G.Y.O. identification card, at plane and train terminals we were often the first to enter the train or plane, and the first to leave. Since this kind of treatment was not afforded other American tourist when we met in Moscow and Leningrad, it must be assumed that this differential treatment was due to the influence of the G.Y.O.

As one understands the control of the bureaucracy as it is found in the U.S.S.R., the fact that lesser governmental officials in all walks of life are able to recognize the power and authority of the G.Y.O. and of its representatives, is particularly significant. The Soviet people are a disciplined people, and when exceptions are made to the pre-established rules there must be sufficient communication from the top echelon to the lower echelon that the G.Y.O. receives differential and preferential treatment.

FINANCES

The G.Y.O. seems to be exceedingly well financed with the majority of its funds coming from the Komsomol. Other sources of finances which have already been indicated would be the international hostels and resorts that are operated by the G.Y.O.

Office space and the use of large auditoriums and stadiums are conducted in governmental facilities. These are rent free. Perhaps the sufficiency of the financing of the G.Y.O. can be illustrated in this way. The World Youth Festival to be held in Helsinki, Finland this August, 1962, was very much on the minds of the government and the G.Y.O. We were informed that over 20,000,000 rubles or about \$2,000,000 was being spent by the USSR, on this festival.

LEADERSHIP

We were particularly impressed with the high caliber of leadership found within the G.Y.O. They carried out their responsibilities with very efficient methods. They never complained about the long hours that we spent day after day, and seemingly were very dedicated to the work. They were well versed in many fields of endeavor with particular emphasis, of course, being on the political. For the most part these G.Y.O. officials were young, perhaps in their late twenties and early thirties. There does not seem to be any form of specific professional education to prepare one for this particular work in Russia. However, a command of at least one foreign language was found in all G.Y.O. personnel.

THE OCTOBERIST

The delegation was given little opportunity to study in depth, the Octoberist program; however, we did in the course of our travels, see the Octoberist program and of course we asked questions of the G.Y.O. representatives who accompanied us. Everything that we did ascertain concerning the Octoberists and its program tends to substantiate the finding of the 1960 WISA delegation.

The Octoberist program is one for boys and girls from 7 through 9 years of age. Octoberist children are in the first, second, and third grades of school. It is safe to say that nearly 100% of the children in the first through third grades of school belong to the Octoberist Program. The activities are centered in the classrooms with the classroom teacher being the primary organizer for each of the Octoberists' units which are called Starlets. While the teacher is the organizer for the Starlets in her

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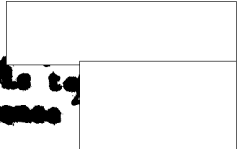
older members of the Pioneer organization participate as junior leaders and give instruction to the special interest groups from each class. Usually there are several special interest groups or Star Units from each Starlet. Some of the goals that seem to be a part of the Octobrist program are:

1. Very active and intense indoctrination to prepare the Octobrist members for membership in the Pioneer Organization. The mere presence of a Pioneer leader with the Star Unit is one very effective way this is carried out.

2. Children are trained in individual work habits. To work and to produce is one of the highest achievements for which the children of the U.S.S.R. are taught to strive. This begins below the Octobrist age in the kindergartens and is intensified in the Octobrist Program. Children help maintain cleanliness of the school and the school grounds.

3. It would be our observation that the glorification of Lenin is really begun in earnest at the Octobrist age. Songs concerning Lenin, poems about Lenin are taught to the children. Pictures and ~~posters~~ dominate the classrooms and the corridors in each school. There seems to be only one national hero - Comrade Lenin.

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4. The fourth goal that would seem to be a ~~subgoal~~ of the Octobrist program is to prepare the citizen of tomorrow for participation in a Communist Society, hence the creation of the "Soviet Man".

Some of the characteristics of the Octobrist Program.

1. ~~Use~~ ^{They} existing facilities. The primary units (Starlets) meet in the school classrooms with occasional meetings in Pioneer Palaces, or Palaces of Culture.

2. Since the teacher is the organizer of the Octobrist Program, there is little chance for a child in the first, second or third grades not to participate.

3. The direct leadership of the special interest units is conducted on a voluntary basis by 12 and 14 year old Pioneers. The delegation agrees with our first YEMA group in evaluating this leadership as being sub-standard. However, as we look at the goals of the Octobrist Program, it would seem that the Pioneers, under the direction of a classroom teacher, would be adequate to fulfill these goals and to achieve the desired results.

4. One characteristic that is very evident is the lack of parental participation in the planning process as well as the lack of parental evaluation of the program. It would seem that the child is turned over to the state for his total education and what influence the parent has would be achieved on week-ends.

5. Since the leadership of the Octobrist Program is voluntary, and since there is no cost involved in the use of the school buildings, Pioneer Palaces and Palaces of Culture, the entire cost of the program is very low.

Summary of our evaluation of this program.

The Octobrist children seem to be a happy group of youngsters enjoying their participation in the activities offered. The teachers who serve as the group leaders, and the Pioneers are dedicated in their work and proud of the association. It would be difficult to compare this to any voluntary program in the United States. It would be a great deal more comparable to a school sponsored activity we find in our schools, i.e., music training, physical education, and recreation.

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Certainly the resulting continuity that is maintained from the Octoberists to the
Pioneers is one that the YMCA could well use as it attempts to carry out the four-front
program.

aspect

LENIN PIONEER ORGANIZATION

"Young Pioneers struggle for the cause of the Communist Party - be ready." The
Pioneer answered - "always ready". Thus the young Russian boy or girl, age category of
10-14, signifies that he is a member of the Pioneer Organization ready to work for the
Communist Party and its program. Our delegation visited many Pioneer Organizations and
Palaces. We had conferences with ~~NIKOLAI~~ Nikitin, Executive Secretary of the All Union
Council of Young Pioneers, and we spent a day in one of the Pioneer resident camps -
Camp Artek. We attended the 40th anniversary celebration of the Pioneer Organization
held in Moscow, and we were spectators at a tremendous parade celebrating this important
event.



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We saw a new Pioneer Palace being constructed in Moscow near Moscow University, and
we talked to young Pioneers of Leningrad, Yalta, Moscow, ~~Ufa~~ and Kiev. In the pages
that follow our impressions of this force within the Soviet Union are described.

Mikhail Nikitin, Executive Secretary of the All Union Council of Young Pioneers,
is 16 years of age. At the age of 16 he was driving an American made tank in World War
II. Today, under his influence are 18,500,000 Pioneer members and 70,000 paid staff
members. Pioneer activities take place at 3,148 Pioneer Palaces and Pioneer Houses;
children's parks are devoted to the use of the Pioneer Organization. 6,000 Pioneer
camps operate with 8,000,000 campers. Also under his guidance, are 24 Pioneer newspapers
and 35 Pioneer magazines.

On his headquarters staff in Moscow is a staff of 15 in addition to the 70,000
full-time and part-time employees within the Pioneer Organization. But most importantly,
he may call upon the Komsomol organization for full financial support and volunteer
leadership. By far the greater part of the leadership provided for the Pioneer Organiza-
tion comes from the Komsomol members.

The first YMCA delegation to visit the U.S.S.R. gave a very excellent description
of the structure and organization of the Pioneers. Rather than duplicate this resource
material, our attempt is to describe some activities and programs of the Pioneers.

facilities

A NEW PIONEER PALACE

The first such description relates to the new Pioneer Palace being constructed in
Moscow. Our delegation visited this complex of structures within a few days after its
completion by Zhuravchev. It is located on approximately 135 acres near the University
of Moscow.

The main building is four stories high with five wings. The entire front wing of
the building is devoted to exhibitions of various kinds. A Lenin Room depicts the early
life and leadership of Lenin, for whom the Pioneer organization was named. There are
many portraits of Lenin and placards telling of his greatness. Other rooms on this front
wing are devoted to scientific displays made by Pioneer Units from all 15 Republics
of the Soviet Union. Another room called the "History Room" traces ~~the~~ *the* forty year history of
the Pioneer organization. There are other rooms on arts and crafts. Another room is
devoted to the international aspect and friendship of the Pioneer Organization with
similar organization in other countries.



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As we began our tour of this building, we ~~learned~~ *learned* that this was not a building
devoted to the use of children, but a monument of the Pioneer Organization around the

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Driving instruction. Each of these activities ^{is} included in circles with a total of approximately 25 activity circles in each camp.

A typical day in camp would seem to look like ^{this:} ~~the following~~

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 7:00 A.M. | Arise |
| 7:15 A.M. | Physical Education |
| 7:30 A.M. | Clean-up Program |
| 8:30 A.M. | Breakfast |
| 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. | Free Time |
| 10:00 - 11:30 A.M. | Sun Bathing and Swim |
| 11:30 - 1:00 P.M. | Lessons in Circles |
| 1:00 P.M. | Lunch |
| 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. | Rest (Silence) |
| 4:15 P.M. | Light Meal |
| 4:30 P.M. | Beach |
| 5:00 P.M. | Team Activities |
| 8:00 P.M. | Supper |
| 8:30 P.M. | All Camp Events |
| 10:00 P.M. | Bed |

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General Impressions of Pioneer Camp Artek

Camp Artek is a very excellent camp facility. The newer buildings are well constructed and offer a pleasant place to live for Pioneer campers. This camp would meet our standards as established by the American Camping Association for facilities and location, and size. The program offered is one of great variety and from what we could see is handled by men and women with skill in their specialities. The Russian people, and particularly this Russian camp seems to ~~conduct~~ ^{conduct} its activity, and in this do a very excellent job.

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The children are well disciplined, and follow a leader's directions with very little wandering of interest. The camp is run with a minimum of personnel by our standards, with one tutor (counsellor) assigned to each 40 children. Actually there are two tutors assigned to each team of 40 children; however, each tutor has every other day off. Two physical education specialists are also assigned to each camp. A camp consists of approximately 400 to 500 children.

Conclusions and implications of the Pioneer Organization.

- # The Pioneer Organization is a well accepted program of the Soviet Union. Children belong to Pioneers with pride and participate enthusiastically. At this point one must remember that for this age child there is no ~~competitive~~ ^{other} program for their time.
- # We were impressed with the leadership of the Pioneer Organization. They seemed to be highly motivated in their work with young people and well trained.
- # The Pioneers had a wide range of activities from which to choose as they participate in basic Pioneer Organization at their school, at a Pioneer Palace or in a Pioneer camp. Virtually every hobby, physical program, and special interest are provided for through the Pioneers.
- # Throughout the Pioneer Organization one can see the positive results of love

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of motherland training and political indoctrination. The children ^{are} well informed about their country and about the past Lenin history. They are extremely loyal and very emotional in demonstrating their love of the Soviet Union.

- 5. The children of the U.S.S.R., through the Pioneer Organization, are well grounded in the glorification of labor. Each child is taught to participate and to produce, not for his own glorification, but for the sake of the motherland and the achievement of the 20 year program, which of course is the achievement of the Communist State.
- 6. As seen in the October Program, the Pioneers continue the separation of the parent and the child. It is difficult to imagine the completeness with which the state has taken over the education, moral training, and leisure time pursuits of the children of the Soviet Union.
- 7. It would be our delegation's belief that the Soviet Union ^{will} be able to achieve many of the goals which they have set for the future. The Pioneer children of today, will be the leaders of the next generation. They will be well conditioned to the superiority of the Communist way of life, they will be hard workers and they will be fiercely loyal and patriotic.

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THE Komsomol

The Komsomol is a political organization for young people 14 through 28 years of age according to Sergy Pavlov, First Secretary of the Komsomol, and recently elected to the Central Committee of the Communist Party. The Komsomol within the Soviet Union now numbers 20,900,000. It works on a territorial organizational principle with the Central Committee in Moscow and a Central Committee in each of the 15 Republics, a district committee around the major cities, and committee organizations through all the factories, theatres, and other state institutions. Approximately every two years the delegates from the various districts elect members to the Komsomol Congress. One delegate is elected for each 5,000 members. It is at this Congress that the First Secretary and other officers are elected. Pavlov has been the First Secretary since 1959.

The administrative work is divided into seven departments. They are:

- 1. Organization
- 2. Propaganda
- 3. School Youth and Student Youth
- 4. Industrial Youth and Agriculture Youth
- 5. Physical Culture and Sports
- 6. Central Council of Pioneers
- 7. The Management or Finance Section.

FINANCE

The Komsomol members support the Komsomol Organization by the payment of fees, which is based on a percentage of their income. While our delegation did not get a break-down of the amount of dues paid by each Komsomol member, the 1960 delegation in their report states that a Komsomol member pays from as little as 25 kopeks per month, to as much as one and one-half percent of their wage. In addition to this source of income, the Komsomol publishing house annually publishes 20,000,000 books. Suffice to say, the Komsomol is adequately, if not amply financially provided for.

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Mr. Pavlov spoke with great conviction concerning the role of the Komsomol in the

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the development of the Soviet State. He said that the Komsomol was the vanguard of the development of the industrial and agricultural programs of the Soviet Union. He said that over 1,000,000 Komsomol members had gone to Siberia, the virgin lands, for the purpose of building hydro-electrical stations, towns, and in fact settling the whole virgin land. We were told that in the agricultural sections that the Komsomol members were the ones responsible for instigating the use of mechanical processes. In the industrial plant and throughout industry, we were informed that the Komsomol members were the pace setters in production and in establishing new methods to improve production. He described this as the new role of the Komsomol, and he said "the days of Stalin have passed and they will not return". He told us that within the Komsomol headquarters, many of the legislative bills that went before the Congress of the Soviet Union were drawn in the very room that we were meeting. He said "not a single document involving the youth is adopted by the state without participation by the Komsomol". Our delegation tried to ascertain the veracity of these statements as we toured for the next 29 days in the Soviet Union.

We met with Komsomol Organizations at all levels in every industrial plant. We talked with the elected Komsomol Secretary in all of the cities and towns in which we stayed. We talked with the Secretary and many of the staff members who carried responsibilities at every secondary school and every institute. At Moscow University, we met and discussed the role of the Komsomol with their elected representatives, and while at the resort area Sputnik, we discussed the total program of the Soviet Union with leaders from the Komsomol Organization from all over the Soviet Union. At this particular camp 150 young adults were present and they obviously were the elite selected members of the Komsomol from their various territories and districts.

From all of these meetings, we definitely reached the conclusion and conviction that the young people of the Soviet Union, through the Komsomol Organization, have indeed an enlarged role. They are filled with enthusiasm concerning the 20 year program, and they are particularly excited about the part that they will have to play in the creation of the future Soviet Union. They feel that they have the freedom to exercise initiative, and they feel that their voice not only will be heard, but will be the voice of authority. STAT

This new found authority and freedom seems to be tied in very closely with the "elimination of the cult of the personality". No longer do they fear reprisal or persecution from showing leadership and initiative. One Komsomol Secretary told us that before the Komsomol was primarily a social organization, but now it was political in nature. STAT
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Techniques of achieving Komsomol goals

In another section of this report, the one dealing with industry in the U.S.S.R., we reported that the Komsomol was very active in the administration of the various plants and industries that we saw. One of the methods that they use in encouraging the members of Komsomol, as well as the members of the plants who are not members of Komsomol, to achieve the planned goals, is through the newspaper and magazine publications in each of these plants.

That worker who exceeds the established goals is treated with great respect through the publications. His picture will be printed along with the story of the particular portion of the work in which he has led. On the other hand, that person who fails to produce according to the goals will also have his picture displayed in the magazines or in the newspapers, or on the wall newspapers. His lack of production will be held up to ridicule and his future personal achievements placed in very grave doubts. Successful Komsomol workers will find that they receive tickets to the resort camps, such as the one we visited in Yalta, with 70% of their expenses paid by a Trade Union or by Komsomol, while those who fail to produce will find that the camps are full.

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The Universality of Komsomol

One of the striking things about the Komsomol Organization is the fact that it is involved in almost every phase of human activity within the Soviet Union. We found the Komsomol to be present in every secondary school that we visited, in every industrial plant, in the higher institutes of education, the collective farms, and even in museums. Wherever there were ten or more young people between the age of 14 and 28 there was a Komsomol Organization.

While the presence of the Komsomol within these various institutions and organizations is not so surprising, it was a real shock for us to learn of the positions occupied by Komsomol. As an example, in the University of Moscow, the leading higher educational institution in the Soviet Union, Komsomol has taken over the role and function of a dean of students. It is the Komsomol which attends to the discipline of a student who is either delinquent in his studies, or who is in some way out of line.

Komsomol representatives are members of academic committees and seemingly have the ability to influence the rectors and proctors of the institutes and universities. We were told of one instance where a member of the Komsomol had been creating a disturbance in the dormitory while under the influence of vodka. He was brought before a Komsomol Committee of the University of Moscow, and was "put on report". This we were told was the lightest sentence that the student could have received. He might have been dismissed from the university had the Komsomol so decided.

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KOMSOMOL LEADERSHIP

The top leadership of the Komsomol Organization, as observed by our delegation, was found to be very capable and quite dynamic. Sergey Pavlov, the First Secretary, was undoubtedly the most dynamic individual that we met in the Soviet Union. Other key members of the Komsomol such as the First Secretary of the Regional Komsomol in Leningrad, a man in his early thirties, and the Second Secretary of the Komsomol in Kiev, a young woman in her late ~~twenties or early thirties~~ ^{twenties} were unmistakably top grade. However, below this top leadership a big gap existed. Without the aid of the C.Y.O. officials many lesser Komsomol officers would not have been able to answer our questions in any intelligent way.

It is our combined impression that these leaders, who hold relatively minor positions in the Komsomol, are not representative of the stronger leadership. In the University we would definitely rate them as the poor students; in the steel plant these Komsomol representatives were definitely of lesser intelligence. The significance of this big gap between the top leadership and the minor leadership is hard for our delegation to understand. Certainly it is obvious that the top leadership of the Komsomol of the future will not come from the minor Komsomol officials of today. However, perhaps this is not a concern of the Communist Party. Undoubtedly they are able to take anyone that they would like to see in top leadership roles in the Komsomol and place them there at their discretion.

Komsomol in the Arts

Another indication of the penetration of Komsomol into the fibre of Soviet life may be found in the ~~prominence~~ ^{prominence} of Komsomol in the performing arts. In one musical comedy, which our delegation viewed in Donetsk, the "Sevastopol Waltz", featured as its heroine a young lady as a First Secretary of the Komsomol in her own city. Throughout the presentation the work of the Komsomol was referred to. At another theatrical song and dance concert by a Kazakh troupe, one sequence of dances and songs was directed toward the Komsomol and their work in

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secting and pioneering in the "virgin lands".

~~Still another example~~ ^{at} in Kiev was found a documentary film studio. We were shown a number of short films which we were told were played in all the major movie theatres of the Soviet Union. These films depicted the Komsomol and the Pioneer Organization in its many forms of activities. To live in the Soviet Union, and not know about the Komsomol or Pioneers would be a virtual impossibility.

Komsomol and Work Projects

There is little doubt, but that the Komsomol is performing many valuable work projects in the Soviet Union. Quite a few of these projects are carried on in a volunteer manner. Komsomol members devote many week-ends to various projects and some portions of their summer vacations. Many examples of this type of volunteer work could be listed, here are several:

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In the agricultural institute, which we visited in Kiev, the soccer stadium we were told, was constructed by the Komsomol members of that institute. Throughout the ~~park~~ area, fruit trees covering hundreds of acres on land that had formerly been unused, we were told were planted by Komsomol members. A recreation and amusement park in Donetsk, which had been destroyed by the Germans in World War II, was rebuilt in large part by volunteer Komsomol members. Much of the work on several Pioneer Palaces, we were told was carried out by Komsomol Organizations. Our first impression of such massive volunteer effort by the Komsomol would indicate that some pressure was used to bring this about. However, we certainly could find very little evidence that this work was performed in any, but a very willing and in fact, enthusiastic way by the members of the Komsomol.

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Komsomol Youth in the USSR

Despite the many pressures brought to bear on the young people in the Soviet Union to belong to Komsomol, our delegation did meet some young men who were not members. Our first meeting with non-Komsomol youth took place in Moscow. As the three of us went for an evening walk, we passed the entrance to a subway. Three young men approached us and asked if we spoke English. When they learned that we were Americans they joined us in our evening stroll. Their English was poor, however, we were able to communicate. They told us that they had taught themselves to speak English with the help of a friend who had taken English in school. We discovered, among other things, that they did not belong to the Komsomol, and said that they would have absolutely nothing to do with it. As a matter of fact, they made a statement that Komsomol was not a good thing and that none of their friends cared to belong.

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They were very interested in America and seem to have some positive information about the country. They made fun of the negative information which is part of the propaganda program of the Communist Party. These young men, typical of older teenagers in America, were very interested in clothing. One of the young men had on a button down collar sport shirt. This was so unusual that we inquired about it, and he said that it was American made. However, he pointed to the missing button on the back of the collar which is found on many of our sport shirts, and indicated that he had cut the button off to conceal the fact that it was an American made shirt. He felt fear of having this fact discovered.

They indicated that they made about 60 roubles per month and on this salary could not purchase the kind of clothing that they wished. They said that a good pair of shoes for instance, would cost 40 roubles and that a good suit, 150 roubles. They were very interested in American music, particularly the twist and seemed to know about the twist and how to do it. They were delighted when we presented them

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with an American album of twist music.

We met this same group of boys, reinforced by one more who speaks better English, on another evening. They evidently had been waiting for us to come out of our hotel, because they very quickly joined us and picked up the conversation. They wanted to know if we were American Communist, because this seemed to be the only Americans that they had met previously.

We asked them how they had learned so much about America, and they indicated that they listened to the "Voice of America" quite often. This was the first indication that we had had that the "Voice of America" was getting through, although we subsequently heard from ~~other sources that they too had listened to the broadcast.~~ This group of young men, undoubtedly are heading for trouble and may become one of the "volunteers" who help develop the "virgin lands". They offered to secure for us, and sell us some Russian Icons and ~~also~~ exchange American money at the black market rates. We later were approached by other young adults, in an amusement park, who made the same offer. From what we could gather, the black market is doing a pretty active business.

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However, as a generalization, we would have to report that by far the majority of the young people of Komsomol age that we met were enthusiastic supporters of the Party program. The only other exception, in any degree, to this acceptance of the program, were with the young adults that we met at the young adult camp in Valta. This group, undoubtedly was representative of the top leadership of the young people of the U.S.S.R. and in many cases represented their intelligentsia. Here, without the influence of the Party or CTO officials, but strictly on a person to person relationship, we discovered a much more open minded attitude concerning us as individuals and the U.S. as a country. (More about this particular experience is in our section pertaining to Relationships.)

We are convinced that the Komsomol Organization will continue to be a very powerful force and a very popular institution in the U.S.S.R. as long as:

- ~~1/~~ The Soviet Government supplies propaganda in the volume that it is being supplied.
- ~~2/~~ As long as the Soviet Government continues to offer incentives for those who are members of Komsomol in terms of financial and political advancements.
- ~~3/~~ As long as the Komsomol leadership is given a vital function to perform in creating the new Soviet Union and the Soviet Man.
- ~~4/~~ The youth of the U.S.S.R. must have one additional factor in order to believe the anti-American propaganda. Soviet Youth must not be permitted to see the effects of Democratic countries such as the U.S. As a matter of fact, they must be prohibited from seeing countries such as Sweden, Denmark, and Norway, etc.

Our delegation feels very strongly that once truth is introduced to a Russian in such a way that it is unmistakable, then and only then will the Communist machinery begin to crumble. For this reason, exchange programs such as the one which took us to the U.S.S.R. and brought Russians to our country, and student exchange programs, must be encouraged to continue and must be enlarged. For this reason also, our delegation feels quite strongly about the expanded exchange of printed material. Books and magazines of the U.S. and of other non-communist countries must be made available in as large a quantity as will be accepted in the U.S.S.R. The "Voice of America" must continue, and any other opportunity seized that would put before young people of the Soviet Union, those ideals which make up the free world.

U.S.S.R. Sports Council

The Sports Council* of the Soviet Union has its headquarters in Moscow. We met with the Executive Secretary, Mikhail Paskiak. He informed us that in each of the 15 Republics there was a Sports Council which coordinated the sports and physical education activities with all other organizations, such as the schools, the youth organizations, the Trade Unions and the universities and the institutes. (Following this section there is a chart showing the organization of the Sports Council.)

Comrade Paskiak told us that physical fitness is the concern of almost every organization within the Soviet Union. Their main task is to coordinate all the various efforts of these various organizations. He lists as his number one problem, the physical education of the younger generation. They, therefore, work very closely with the youth organizations, with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education. They also stay in close contact with the Ministry of Health.

He indicated that there are now 30,000,000 people engaged in physical culture and that they have a goal of 50,000,000 participants by 1965. The paid staff consists of 127,000, most of whom are graduates of physical institutes. They also make great use of voluntary instructors as he named 942,000 in this classification. Another 800,000 are said to volunteer their services as referees and judges. The predominant sports are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Track and field | 4,000,000 |
| Volleyball | 3,500,000 |
| Skiing | 3,200,000 |
| Basketball | 1,600,000 |
| Gymnastics | 780,000 |
| Speed skating | 450,000 |
| Swimming | 760,000 |

referred

Financing

Financing the activities of the Sports Council seems to be no problem. Their income is from the following sources:

- A program fee from each participant.
- Komsomol support (30%)
- Trade Union support (20-30%)
- Income from competitive matches for which attendance income is derived.
- Income from the printing of sports magazines and newspapers.
- Income from the sale of sports equipment.

This last item is very surprising. We were told that the Sports Council operates all of the factories which manufacture sporting goods, some 6 or 7 factories, and that all of the income from these factories comes into the Sports Council budget.

On the subject of swimming, we had quite a lengthy discussion with the Sports Council Executive. We asked him ^{about} the Russian interest in swimming and he indicated that the physical facilities available was one of the handicaps. In Moscow there are only ten indoor swimming pools for a city of 5,000,000 people. (Actually as our delegation toured Moscow and visited some of the most modern facilities, we saw only one indoor swimming pool which was at the University of Moscow. Here they had the one swimming pool for a student body of 30,000).

* (It would seem that the first Y.M.C.A. delegation had a great deal more exposure to the Sports Council and Sports Palaces than we were given. We, therefore, refer the interested parties to the report of the 1960 delegation for additional information on this subject).

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It would appear that the Soviet Union is not going to be a serious competitor in the field of aquatics in the near future. We heard of only one plan for the immediate construction of a swimming pool in the new Pioneer Palace in Moscow. Until the general youth population has a chance to swim daily, there is little likelihood that either the interest or the skill in swimming or diving will be sufficient to meet the standard of this particular sport in the Soviet Union.

We do, however, feel that the Russian people will continue to dominate the woman's athletic field. In all of the schools and universities that we visited, as well as in the Pioneer Palaces and Houses of Culture, we saw that the boys and girls participated in the physical education classes on a good basis. There is very little, if any, differentiation made in physical activities because of sex.

In the factories, we were told that each day two fifteen minute periods are set aside for the employees of the plant to take physical exercise. These exercises are conducted over an intercom system throughout the plant. In a textile plant in Leningrad, the employees of this plant took their exercises standing beside their work benches, so the exercises, of necessity, would be rather limited in scope. We also were told at the young adult camp, Sputnik in Yalta, that every young person at that camp took their exercises at 7:00 A.M. on the beaches. It was our observation, however, that this was far from being the truth. On the mornings that we were on the beaches by 7:00 A.M., there were just a handful of the ~~campers~~ who participated in the exercises.
young adults

On a whole, there was less emphasis on physical fitness within the Soviet Union than we had expected. ~~From what we could observe~~ From what we could observe, the gifted athlete was given every opportunity to excel in his sport. The Russian people are very proud of their participation in the Olympics, and of the excellent rating that they have in international athletics. It is one of the propaganda tools that they use to demonstrate the superiority of the Soviet Man.

An athlete tends to specialize in one sport in the Soviet Union and will devote several hours of practice each day to this particular sport. ~~While we could, of course,~~ While we could, of course, not confirm the "professionalized amateur athletic", the intensity with which a gifted athlete goes about his training certainly is comparable to the training of the professional athlete in the U.S.

Physical Fitness

The culture of any country has a great deal to do with physical fitness of its citizens. The elimination of the family car in the U.S. would, undoubtedly, do much to upgrade the physical fitness of the entire population of our country. This is the circumstance, of course that one finds in the Soviet Union. The people use the public transportation of bus and subways to get to and from their homes and place of business. This, naturally involves a great deal more walking than is found in our "two cars to every family civilization". This condition is not limited to the Soviet Union, but is certainly prevalent throughout Europe.

In the Scandinavian countries, we saw virtually no many bicycles on the streets as we saw automobiles. Therefore, it is very obvious that the solution to any physical fitness problems that we have in the U.S. will not be found by looking toward Europe or the U.S.S.R.

The problems that we face will be solved in the same way that other problems in the U.S. are solved. Through organizations like the Y.M.C.A., we will solve our physical fitness problems based on our own ingenuity and the knowledge of our way of life and our goals.

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Chart of Organization

All Union Sports Council
ALL UNION SPORTS COUNCIL
Staff of 200
Staff of 300

15 Republic Sport Councils
15 Republic Sport Councils

General Republic
General Republic

Trade Unions

Universities and
Institutions of
Higher Education

Field

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