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yugoslavia

1. TITO STATES VIEWS TO FRENCH LEADERS

[REDACTED]
10, 11 May 56

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Yugoslav president Tito reiterated to French government leaders in Paris his view that a real change is now taking place in the USSR. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the director of political and economic affairs in the French Foreign Ministry, Roland de Margerie, said he was considerably impressed by the strong anti-Soviet feeling of Tito's party, particularly among the military men, but also including Foreign Minister Popovic.

Tito said he believed the Soviet developments constitute a completely irreversible trend despite the fact that incidents may occur which might be interpreted as a backsliding toward Stalinism. He said the evolution would take a long time since the Soviet bureaucracy is still filled with Stalinists. Tito cautioned against any Western actions toward the Satellites that would either alarm the Soviet leaders or incite "foolish actions" in the Satellites, since in either case the USSR would again tighten the grip it now seems to be relaxing.

French premier Mollet responded to these views cautiously, saying that France was following the Soviet developments with interest, but not too much optimism.

13 May 56

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5. TITO REPORTED CONCERNED OVER FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN USSR

22 June 56

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Yugoslav president Tito has considerable doubts as to the future course of events in the USSR, [redacted]

[redacted] that Tito had said [redacted] near the end of his Soviet visit he is by no means sure the "younger generation in party leaders, such as Shepilov, Suslov, Saburov and others" are serious in their intention to continue the present course of liberalization in Soviet internal and foreign policy.

Tito fears that when they supplant the older members of the Soviet presidium, who he feels are sincere in changing Stalin's policies, they may "perhaps unconsciously revert more to the Stalinist methods in which they have been uniquely trained."

[redacted] believes Soviet attempts during the visit to present Yugoslav relations, particularly in the military field, as closer than they actually were had been represented by the Yugoslavs and that Tito was concerned by the possible effect his visit would have on his relations with the United States. He felt Tito on his return to Belgrade would go out of his way to make some statement critical of the Soviets and express his continued desire to maintain good relations with the West.

Comment

Tito has often disclosed [redacted] with Westerners his suspicions regarding the intentions of certain unnamed members of the Soviet hierarchy. He has emphasized, however, the need to encourage the present Soviet policy changes, maintaining that any strong public criticism would only strengthen the Stalinist faction in the Soviet leadership.

24 June 56

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