

SECRET

Report of Interrogation: No. 5876

16 November 1945
I/O: Capt. Halle

P/W: HILGER, Gustav
Rank: Counsellor of Embassy
Unit: Foreign Office
Capt'd: 19 May 1945, Salzburg

Veracity: Believed reliable.

Report: Answer to Periodic Intelligence Questionnaire, MIS Sep-Oct 1945.

Question USSR #11: Has there been any discussion of holding new elections and of liberalization of election procedure?

Answer #11: In P/W's report on the constitution of the USSR on 1 November 1945, P/W treated of the Soviet election system and showed that a general, free, direct, and secret vote in the Soviet Union is only a fiction, as the list of candidates comes from the only party allowed in the USSR, the Communist Party, in conjunction with associations associated with and controlled by it. Thus no one can be elected who has not been suggested or approved by the Party.

The new election of delegates to the highest council of the USSR is to take place in February 1946.

There has been no talk of any plen on the part of the Soviet government to make any changes in the election system as it is set down in the constitution. Nor have there been any such indications. In his speech of 6 November 1945, Molotov praised and emphasized the advantages of Soviet democracy, saying that, "in contrast to parliamentary democracies, the Soviet democracy is the only true democracy". In reference to the coming election to the highest Soviet of the U.S.S.R., Molotov said: "The Bolshevik Party together with large circles of persons who do not belong to the Party is looking forward to these elections, which will be seen as an important manifestation of Soviet democracy and as an additional and powerful means for emphasizing the unity of our peoples and the further consolidation of the Soviet state".

Thus in this speech too there is no indication that the Soviet government has any intention of departing from the present system.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy

(2)(B) Methods/Sources

(2)(G) Foreign Relations

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