

SUBJECT: Directories of the International Communist-front
Organizations and Communist Societies of Friendship
and Cultural Relations. *

I. Purpose

1. Attached is a set of directories of the international Communist-front organizations, as well as various Communist societies of friendship and cultural relations. The directories are intended as a ready reference for background information on these organizations.

2. To the extent that information was available, the directories provide data concerning the headquarters address, executive officers, regional bureaus and officers, official publications, and claimed or estimated membership of the following international Communist-front organizations:

International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)
International Broadcasting Organization (OIR)
International Committee for the Promotion of Trade (ICPT)
International Federation of Resistance Fighters (FIR)
International Organization of Journalists (IOJ)
International Union of Students (IUS)
World Congress of Doctors (WCD)
World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY)
World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW)
Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF)
World Peace Council (WPC)
World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
World Federation of Teachers' Unions (FISE)

3. Additionally, the directories also list the name, address, official publication, and claimed or estimated membership of the various national affiliates or parallel organizations of these international Communist-front organizations, as well as the various Communist societies of friendship and cultural relations.

* Based on data available as of 1 October 1956.

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-2-

II. Information Needs

4. The information contained in the directories is that available as of 1 October 1956. In some cases the data was fragmentary, unknown, or possibly outdated.

5. To enable us to make these directories current and accurate, we would appreciate an indication of any corrections, additions, or deletions that may be necessary for this purpose. As this is a period of considerable stress and strain for the front organizations concerned, and as it may well result in the reorganization, dissolution of some, or the creation of new organizations, we are particularly interested in learning of any such changes that may take place.

6. In a number of cases it was not known whether a listed organization was still in existence, and in other cases it was not certain whether the front organization enjoyed a legal existence or operated underground. At the same time it is possible that there may be formal affiliations of which we are unaware. Clarification of these points would be most helpful.

7. With particular reference to Communist societies of friendship and cultural relations, the directory lists in Section A the Soviet, Chinese, East European satellites, North Korean and North Vietnamese organizations which are known or believed to provide ultimate guidance for the Communist-dominated societies of friendship and cultural relations throughout the world and exploit these societies as vehicles for propaganda. In Section B are listed all the Communist controlled friendship-cultural relations societies known to exist throughout the world.

8. In many parts of the free world, great reliance is placed on these friendship-cultural relations groups by the sponsoring Communist countries for assistance in spreading "peaceful co-existence" propaganda, for supporting the implementation of treaties of friendship between non-Orbit countries and the sponsoring Communist nation, and for promoting trade between the free world and countries of the Soviet/satellite bloc. The continual appearance of new Communist controlled friendship and cultural relations societies attest to their importance at this time in the propaganda programs of the Communist nations.

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- 3 -

9. Additionally, the significance of friendship and cultural relations societies as instruments useful to the intelligence services of the Soviet Union, Communist China, and other Communist countries is confirmed. The Report of the Royal Commission on Espionage, published by the Commonwealth of Australia in August 1955, for example, clarified, how the Australia-Soviet Friendship Society has been used to further the effort of Soviet espionage in that country. Certain key officers of the Society served as intelligence agents performing any task demanded of them, and the membership as a whole was regarded by a Soviet intelligence service as a source of manpower which could be drawn upon to supply operational information. The advantages which these societies offer as channels of communication for intelligence services of countries of the Communist bloc have been noted in other areas. The attached compilation of these "societies" will therefore be of assistance in the performance of counter-intelligence work.

10. Your assistance is solicited in the acquisition of as much data as possible about the controlling organizations, the Soviet All-Union Society for Cultural Relations Abroad (VOKS) and the satellite counterparts which guide, support and exploit the friendship-cultural relations societies. It will be noted that there is particular need for information on the unit of the Czech party-government structure which controls that country's societies of friendship.

11. We have a specific interest in information regarding all cases in which support functions are performed by a friendship or cultural relations society for an intelligence service of one of the Communist countries. Any information showing that intelligence services of the Communist bloc are using these societies for recruitment of agent personnel is of particular interest.

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