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State Dept. review completed

Belgrade University Dissidence Spreads to Zagreb

The Zagreb Student Federation last week condemned a student organization within the philosophy faculty at Zagreb University for supporting dissident students and professors at Belgrade University. [redacted]

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A Tanjug commentary condemned the student support in Zagreb and hinted that the students there may have initiated a public demonstration. Labelling the student action as "politically thoughtless," Zagreb authorities have reportedly called on the philosophy students to elect new leaders.

This is both the first indication of support for the Belgrade dissidents from another university and the only recent indication of problems within the philosophy faculty in Zagreb. Party organization in all faculties will now be tasked with preventing the further spread of dissidence, including demonstrations. The party is attempting to isolate the Belgrade dissidents prior to their expected purge from the university rolls. The purge is in line with Tito's drive to cut adrift all those who oppose the party's will.

The party organization at Belgrade University has struggled for nearly a year to remove eight controversial, leftist oriented professors. Their removal has been publicly opposed by some Belgrade philosophy students, but a recent reorganization of the university now gives the party this power. [redacted]

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Prague Assails Solzhenitsyn

A commentator on Prague television claims that in the case of Solzhenitsyn "we are dealing with a man who has lost his reason." The commentator further claims that the Soviet author has also lost his way as far as art is concerned.

In an interview on 4 January, Jan Kliment, a reporter for the party paper Rude Pravo, said that Solzhenitsyn, whom he called "the former Soviet writer," evidently has come to regard himself as something of a savior. Actually, he is inviting the "most terrible fate man can imagine--loneliness and condemnation." Kliment apparently feels that he has exposed Solzhenitsyn by attributing to him the views that

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"Tsarism was a system liberal and full of love for the people in comparison with the Soviet system," that Vlasov was the sole hero among Soviet generals, and that the Nazis were "merciful and lenient toward the Russians and the East European nations."

Although the commentator admits that the appearance of Gulag Archipelago is a "sensation," he attempts to discredit the author by showing that he has misguided supporters and repellent opinions. Kliment alleges that the first Western publications to seize on the story were right-wing papers that back the regimes in Chile, Spain, and Greece. This claim was buttressed by an article in Rude Pravo on 5 January that alleged Solzhenitsyn's new book will serve the interests of those in the US who oppose detente with the Soviet Union.

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Migrant Labor and the Yugoslav Economy

A high-level West German labor ministry delegation arrives in Belgrade today to discuss employment prospects for foreign workers in the Federal Republic in 1974. These discussions assume considerable significance, because Germany is the largest foreign employer of Yugoslav migrant labor.

An expected economic recession in Europe and the recent decision of several countries, including the FRG, to discontinue accepting foreign guest workers have contributed to recent concern that Yugoslav migrant workers and the Yugoslav economy might suffer. For years, Yugoslavia has counted on foreign markets for its labor force to alleviate unemployment problems. In addition, cash remittances from the approximately one million Yugoslav workers abroad have significantly helped the balance of payments. As a result, the loss of this source of hard currency income and the potential return of a substantial number of workers to a labor market already experiencing unemployment could further complicate problems in the Yugoslav economy.

Yugoslav officials have told US diplomats in Belgrade that they expect the European recession to be shortlived and not exceptionally severe. The Yugoslavs thus have expressed confidence that their economy will be able to absorb the returnees and to provide jobs for those who would have sought employment abroad in 1974. If their assessment of the duration and severity of the recession is accurate, there may be cause for optimism. Such optimism is, however, tied to how many migrant workers will be affected by the recession,

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and how many will return to seek employment in their native Yugoslavia. [redacted]

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US-Polish Relations: Improving and Improvable

In its annual yearend assessment, US Embassy Warsaw finds US-Polish relations to be on the upswing and sees good prospects that this trend will continue. The Embassy then goes on to portray the Gierk regime as one with whom the US can deal. It is well entrenched, stable, and "on line" with Moscow. Yet, it also is detente-minded, consumer-oriented and interested in dealing commercially with the West. Its primary goal is to improve the standard of living of the Polish people. Therefore, the regime is somewhat open to US economic, technological and perhaps even political enticement. As a result, says the Embassy, Poland could well wind up "playing the role of an attractive and influential East European window on the West." [redacted]

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Crime in the Hungarian Streets

In moves reminiscent more of large Western cities, Budapest will soon adopt some measures to protect taxi cab drivers against robberies and assaults. Impetus for the actions came from the Christmas slaying of a cabbie. Safety measures envisaged include the use of script to pay fares, the installation of flashing or audio alarm in taxis, and police checks at the Budapest city boundaries.

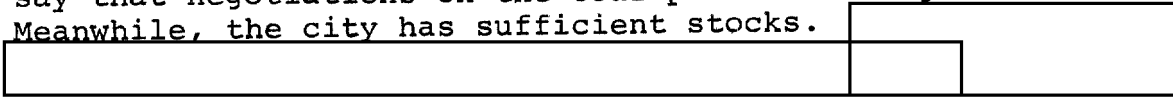
In traditional New York style, cabbies have also become more discriminating in their choice of passengers. A Hungarian journalist reports that he was turned down by one idle cabbie, and secured a ride from another only after he explained that he was going to the taxi enterprise for a press briefing on the cabbies' difficulties. [redacted]

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GDR Raises Price of Coal for West Berlin

East Germany is asking a 17 percent increase in the price of coal that it sells to West Berlin. As of January 1, the price has gone from \$28 a ton to \$34, according to the West German press service. Because the West Berlin authorities will not pay the new price, there have been no coal deliveries so far in the new year. West Berlin officials

say that negotiations on the coal price will begin soon.
Meanwhile, the city has sufficient stocks.



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