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REPORT ON MEETING OF COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL UNION OF  
 DEMOCRATIC JURISTS IN PRAGUE

OFFICERS OF THE MSDP ARRIVE AT RUZYNE AIRFIELD -- Prague, Prace, 8 Apr 53

The following officers and members of the Council of the MSDP-(Mezinarodni Sdruzeni Demokratickych Pravniku, International Union Democratic Jurists) arrived in Prague by air on Monday, 6 April: D. N. Pritt, president; Joe Nordmann, secretary-general; and Jean Fontayne, member. They were welcomed at the airfield by members of the Prague unit of the MSDP.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE MSDP ARRIVE -- Prague, Rude Pravo, 8 Apr 53

The following participants in the democratic jurists conference arrived in Prague on Tuesday, 7 April: Ye. L. Zeydin, vice-president of the MSDP and deputy to the president of the USSR Supreme Court; and General R. A. Rudenko and Pai Nien, members. Among those at the airfield to welcome the distinguished guests were: I. M. Ryabov, representative of the Soviet Association for Cultural Contacts with Foreign Countries; Ch'en Chi-chi, first secretary of the Chinese Embassy in Prague; Dr O. Heraf, deputy to the Czechoslovak Minister of Justice; Dr I. Kopecky, chairman of the USSR Division of Foreign Affairs; and members of the Czechoslovak unit of the MSDP.

Just prior to the arrival of the USSR and Chinese delegations, Hungarian delegates Istvan Kovacs, secretary-general of the MSDP, and Kalman Csako, a member of the council, had arrived in Prague.

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MSDP OPENS ITS SESSION TODAY -- Rude Pravo, 9 Apr 53

The Council of the MSDP will open its session in Prague today. Among the additional delegates who have arrived for this meeting are: Prof Dr Jedlowski and Prof Dr M. Muszkat, attorneys from Poland; Mme Dr H. Benjamin, deputy to the president of the Supreme Court of the GDR; M. Porfyrogenis, a statesman from Greece; and J. Elton, president of the Haldane Society in Great Britain.

Prague, Rude Pravo, 10 Apr 53

The opening session of the Council of the MSDP was held on Thursday, 9 April. The gathering was addressed by J. Kovacik, president of the Czechoslovak unit of the MSDP, who welcomed the delegates. He assured them of the utmost assistance of the Czechoslovak unit in their most noble battle for high humane ideals, democracy, and lasting peace.

D. N. Pritt, president of the MSDP, spoke about the importance of the democratic jurists association. Joe Nordmann, secretary-general, then presented his report covering the activities of the association since its last meeting. This report concluded the morning session.

DISCUSS FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA -- Rude Pravo, 11 Apr 53

Friday's session of the Council of the MSDP continued the discussion begun on the previous afternoon. The speakers were: Ye. L. Zeydin, USSR; M. Muszkat, Poland; J. Elton, Great Britain; Mme Dr H. Benjamin, GDR; I. Kovacs, Hungary; M. Porfyrogenis, Greece; S. Nitulescu, Rumania; R. Weyl, France; A. Lordi, Italy; H. Brandweiner, Austria; F. Boura, Czechoslovakia; J. Uitto, Finland, and another [unnamed] GDR delegate.

Most of the discussion centered around the suppression of democratic liberties in the capitalistic countries, especially in the colonies and dependencies. The USSR delegate, Ye. L. Zeydin, proposed that the MSDP call an international congress of jurists for the defense of democratic liberties.

The second point on the agenda, the legal rights of women and mothers, also was considered.

CONCLUDING SESSION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING IS HELD -- Rude Pravo, 12 Apr 53

The following resolutions were adopted by the Council of the MSDP in its concluding session, held on Friday, 10 April:

Resolution Calling for a World Conference

The council unanimously adopted a resolution that the MSDP invite jurists of the entire world regardless of their political or religious affiliations, race, or nationality, to join in one body for the defense of democratic liberties and to attend a world conference. [Date not given.]

Resolution on Korea

The MSDP adopted a resolution calling upon the jurists of the entire world to support an immediate truce in Korea, to insist upon the renewal and observance of international law in the treatment of war prisoners and in their repatriation, and to take a firm stand against aggression, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, particularly the crime of genocide or use of mass annihilation, such as the use of bacteriological weapons.

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Resolution Regarding Preparations for the International Conference for the Defense of Democratic Liberties

The council took cognizance of the fact that delegate Giuseppe Nitti, Italy, has appointed a committee to make preparations for calling the International Conference of Democratic Jurists. Among the outstanding jurists who have become members of this committee are: Brigante, formerly chief justice of the Italian Court of Appeals; Occhinto, formerly chief prosecutor of the Italian Supreme Court; S'hen Chun-ju, president of the Supreme Court of the Chinese People's Republic; Prof F. Mitchell, US; D. N. Pritt, Crown Counsel, London, England, and president of the MSDP; J. Nordmann, secretary-general of the MSDP; Prof Naye, rector of the Berlin University; Prof Gerard Lyon-Caen, France; Prof Lambert, France; F. J. Muller, Wiesbaden, West Germany; attorney Lafiti, Bombay, India; attorney Saran, Madras, India; Dr Gaermon, Brazil; A. Fischer, Crown Counsel, Johannesburg, South Africa; J. Helmi, Egypt; Frontini, Argentina; and Prof I. Eisenstadt, Israel.

The council asked all the units of the MSDP to gather the necessary material for the world-wide conference, to name their delegates to the preparatory committee, to take part actively in the work of the local committees, and to establish local committees wherever they are needed.

Resolution Regarding the Legal Status of Women and Mothers

The council asked its members to study carefully the laws of their own countries regarding the legal rights of women, wives, and mothers; and to promulgate legislation for the removal of any discriminatory statutes now in existence.

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