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HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

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19 November 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Operations, DDP

SUBJECT : History of the Dr. Zhivago Manuscript

- Oct 24 New York Times Article*  
*an article in the NY Times*
1. According to ~~reports~~ based upon ~~various~~ interviews with PASTERNAK, the author completed the manuscript for Dr. Zhivago in 1954. Dr. Zhivago was first mentioned in the Soviet press in 1954 when the organization of the Soviet Union of Writers, Znamya, published ten poems intended as an appendix to the novel. In an introductory note, PASTERNAK said that the novel would be completed that summer.
  2. The author submitted the manuscript to the State Publishing House shortly after the 20th Party Congress in 1956. The manuscript was accepted and allegedly scheduled for publication at the end of 1956.
  3. During the summer of 1956 the author received a letter from the Union of Writers of the USSR, signed by the First Secretary, Alexsej SURKOV, and a number of prominent writers, refusing publication and accusing him of using his "great gift" to "resuscitate in the soul of our people ideals which have been dead for a long time."
  4. In June 1956 PASTERNAK gave a copy of the manuscript to a representative of the Italian Communist publisher Giangiacomo FELTRINELLI and to two other visitors from abroad. Later, PASTERNAK wrote to FELTRINELLI and accepted the latter's proposal to act as agent for the publication of all translations of the novel. PASTERNAK also

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informed his foreign publishers that they should ignore any letter he might write under duress requesting that the manuscript not be published.

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