

press review

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OLD NAZI ART IN THE SERVICE OF NEW NAZISM

«DRITA» — organ of the Writers and Artists' League of Albania

Not without publicity the American press reports about a «gesture of friendship» on the part of the USA towards West Germany: the return of four paintings by Adolph Hitler and more than 6,000 works of art which more or less glorify the incursions of the nazi armies in Europe and North Africa.

Following the capitulation of nazi Germany, the Great Powers — the Soviet Union, the USA, Britain and France, signed an agreement on finding, confiscating and destroying all nazi-inspired works of art in order «to block the way to the revival of nazism». However, in flagrant violation of the spirit of this agreement, the US forces in Germany secretly sent to Washington everything of the kind they found in Germany. These

«works» were carefully preserved and displayed, up till recently, in American military and state institutions, military bases, even in the Capitol and the Pentagon. The nazis themselves could not have found a better place to preserve them!

The return of the nazi paintings to their «homeland» and the timing of this gesture are by no means accidental. Thirty-six years have gone by from the time the Third Reich was defeated, but the outcries of the nazis are becoming ever more vehement in West Germany. The forces which represent this black plague of mankind have now regained the right of citizenship in West-German life. Bent on their revanchist course, they are demanding, among other things, assistance

from the old nazi culture and art. These have been publicized and exhibited in a number of art fairs, such as the one organized in Munich, in which among other «works» three water colours by Hitler were shown. In another city — Heidelberg, a play, based on a novel entitled «Michael — the Fate of a German through His Diary», by one of the principal ideologists of nazism, Goebbels, was produced. The play is an attempt at immortalizing the Hitlerite order, at evoking the work of the nazis, at arousing the nostalgia of a sinister past. The publicity given to the recent two events in the nazi «cultural» life has nothing fortuitous about it, neither is it inspired by «artistic values» of Hitler's water colours. All this is part of the efforts to

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evoked, through the history of culture and art, the Hitlerite past and its men, to bring it closer to present events, to make it serve the aims of the old and new nazi forces — German revanchism.

In order to spread and publicize this nazi atmosphere as widely as possible a tremendous propaganda arsenal is working full tilt in West Germany. Everything is done openly and in a well-organized manner in all fields in all directions. The fascist parties, organizations and groups have their own press and means of information. Today in the German Federal Republic are printed 121 pro-nazi press or-

gans with a total circulation of 1,600,000 copies. To this must be added over one million books which glorify the Third Reich, the strength of the Hitlerite war machine, the atrocities of the nazi criminals. Of course, «Main Kampf» of Hitler, the memoirs of Goebbels, Goering, etc have pride of place in West-German bookstores. This setting is made more complete through the propaganda of Hitlerite music, those marches which accompanied the nazi armies in their criminal aggression against the peoples. There are big record companies specialized in the production of records with «Music for the SS-men».

In this context, it is obvious that the return of an entire gallery of nazi works of art is a source of great satisfaction for the nazis in the Bonn government. And they are quite right. In this manner, a new boosting was given to the propaganda of the old and new nazis.

As for the «generosity» of Washington, there is nothing surprising about it. Fascism, whether inside the USA, or in its allied countries, is the reserve weapon, always ready to be put in action in favour of the bourgeoisie, the more so when the question is about keeping ferocious nazism alive and virulent.