

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

In a letter to the *Slavic Review* (March 1966) Mr. Vladimir V. Alexandrov, Docent at Moscow State University, commented on my bibliography *Soviet Foreign Relations and World Communism* (Princeton University Press, 1965). His chief criticism is to the effect that "the majority of books here are of an anti-Communist character" and that Communist works are, by comparison, neglected.

As an example he cites the section on "Communist Strategy and Tactics," in which, he says, "not a single book by a writer from a socialist country or by a Communist writer from a nonsocialist country is listed." This is not correct. It contains the well-known handbook of the American Communist Party by J. Peters, *The Communist Party: A Manual on Organization*, plus several collections of excerpts from the writings of Communists. More important, the preceding section, entitled "Communist Ideology," lists 70 of the basic works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, and other well-known Communists. It should be obvious that these writings contain a great deal about Communist strategy and tactics.

Since the bibliography was compiled mainly by Americans for the use mainly of Americans, it is not surprising that works in English outnumber those in Russian or any other language. However, Communist authors have not been overlooked. To cite just a few of the possible examples: In the part dealing with the German Communist Party an entire separate subsection of 61 titles is devoted to Party publications. In the section on China since 1949 a special section of works in Russian gives 53 titles, and another section consists entirely of Soviet periodicals on China.

In the sections on Soviet policy toward disarmament and on Soviet policy toward the League of Nations and the U. N., slightly less than one half of the entries are Communist. Communist publications comprise more than half of the listings in the following sections: Afghanistan, Canada, Italy, Outer Mongolia, The Comintern, Comintern Subsidiaries, Communist International Mass Organizations Since 1945, Soviet Military Power and Doctrine, Soviet Foreign Economic Relations, The Organization and Administration of Soviet Foreign Policy, and Collections of Documents.

In the section on Arab Nations 25 out of 31 entries are Communist; in the section on International Law 83 out of 99; in the Czechoslovak section 100 out of 156; and in the Bulgarian section 98 out of 119. Many other sections also contain large numbers of Communist publications.

As far as the *non-Communist* entries are concerned, it would of course be inaccurate to describe all of them as "anti-Communist."

Mr. Alexandrov seems to feel that the editors followed a policy of deliberately limiting the number of Communist works. On the contrary, since we agree with him that one cannot understand communism without reading Communist works, we made special efforts to find and include such literature. For example, an assistant and I spent months poring through hundreds of issues of *Knizhnaia letopis'* in search of Soviet titles. In spite of this, some important Soviet titles doubtless escaped our attention. This might have been avoided if there had been a Soviet bibliography of similar scope and subject matter to assist us. Unfortunately, however, no bibliography comparable with ours has ever been published in the USSR.

Mr. Alexandrov writes that my book is "one of the most complete bibliographies of anti-Communist literature in the capitalist world." In fairness I think he would have to admit that it is also the most complete bibliography of *Communist* literature on its subject in either world.

July 20, 1966

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TO THE EDITOR:

In the June 1966 issue of the *Slavic Review*, in the Round-Table Discussion ("Soviet Economic Performance and Reform"), I am quoted as saying (page 240) that, in a comparison with Western technology, Soviet technology has "reduced the lag a little." This statement, perhaps the result of an error in transcription, does not reflect my view: the lag in Soviet technology has been reduced quite a bit. I should be grateful if you would insert this correction in a subsequent issue.

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