

# Red PR Effort Fails

OTTAWA (CUP) A Finnish newspaper, the Helsinki Youth News, has come out with an entire edition blasting the communist-sponsored 8th World Youth Festival held at Helsinki in August.

The Festival was boycotted by the Finnish National Student Union and many national unions in the western world. The Finnish Government agreed only under pressure from Moscow to allow the Festival to be held in Finland the paper says.

The Festival, which cost its communist organizers an estimated \$25 million, failed on four counts the Youth News says.

\* it was either unwilling or unable to conceal the oneness of its political criticism.

\* the Finnish people, though realizing the difficult position of its government because of threats by the Soviet Union, responded coldly to the event. Four nights of rioting in protest of the Festival were staged by the "teenage irresponsible element," the paper says.

\* the local Festival organizers, members of communist parties from 15 countries, were prevented by Finnish politicians

from taking the hard line desired by the financial sponsors.

\* Festival organizers were unable to generate continuing enthusiasm beyond the opening day parade. The boredom and inattention were shown in early departures and the statements of what the paper calls "obviously disillusioned" young people.

In another story in the eight-page edition, the paper examines, in detail, the background of the 19 Festival organizers. All are either members of the communist party or active members of communist youth organizations, the paper claims.

Elsewhere the paper says one of the main functions of the Festival, to demonstrate the superiority of the Soviet brand of "peace and friendship" to members of student groups from the newly-developing, uncommitted countries, failed because very few of the 13,000 students attending came from such countries.

The paper claims that the right to free expression was suppressed even on the conference floor itself. It claims that this, as much as anything else, was one of the main causes of dis-

illusionment among the delegates.

"They find it difficult to see where the freedom comes in when thunderous applause greets such anti-Western statements as 'we will soon bury you all,' and 'I don't give any of you more than 20 years of life,' while delegates objecting to such oneness were ruled out of order by meeting chairmen and told to 'shut up and sit down.'"

At least seven and perhaps as many as 30 East German delegates to the 8th World Youth Festival in Helsinki, Finland, fled their delegation to seek political asylum in the West the Helsinki Youth News claims.

The Youth News says the West German Trade Mission in Helsinki confirmed the escape of seven East Germans. The East German delegation totalled 500 members.

Those who did escape did so in the face of tough obstacles, the Youth News said. The East German delegation was one of the most closely guarded at the Festival. No more than one-quarter of the group was allowed to leave the living quarters at one time.

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