

seemed significant that on the final morning in Moscow, when the group was being taken to the airport by the head of the Education Department in the Ministry of Culture and the liaison officer with the United States (Mrs. Butrova, also from the Ministry of Culture), that Mrs. Ilyena, Head of the Education Department, said: "We have done our best to show you everything you asked to see. Now, what we need to know is your opinion of what we are trying to do in our arts in education program. This is why we would like to have you here longer. In lieu of this, however, we would like to suggest a reciprocal delegation to your country, if possible during the spring of 1961."

As in many countries of the world, and as contrasted with the United States, the system of education in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is highly centralized. While each of the fifteen Republics in the Soviet Union has a Ministry of Education and a Ministry of Culture, there is a standardized curriculum for general education, as well as for the arts in education program. Therefore, perhaps, some of the facts, statistics, and observations in the report will serve as a basis for understanding the total program of education in the arts throughout this very large country in the Eastern world and among the diversified ethnic groups in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

EDUCATION in all its aspects is of paramount interest in the Soviet Union. A word about recent developments in education might be helpful at this point. Up to 1940 only the four-year program of education was compulsory. In the period between 1940 and 1950 the seven-year program became mandatory. About four years ago there began the program of eight years of compulsory education. From the standpoint of the arts, it was learned that in general schools there is offered one forty-five minute period each per week for music and art. In addition, however, there are special lectures to which the students are obligated to go and questions pertaining to these lectures are given in the regular examinations. Another interest-