

tional authorities of the Soviet Union are de-emphasizing education in the arts in order to carry on an accelerated program of science and mathematics education. Assurance was immediately forthcoming that under no circumstances is the program of education in the arts being neglected, de-emphasized or curtailed in favor of an accelerated program in any other part of the curriculum. If there is acceleration it would seem that it is in the direction of more and more time being devoted to educational pursuits in all fields.

Indeed, all of the experiences during the month-long period indicated that the arts are increasingly regarded as part of the daily lives of all of the people. It was reassuring and of more than passing significance to have the specific answer from the Minister of Culture under whose jurisdiction the entire arts program in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is operated. For, the informed reader will recall, the jurisdiction embraces not alone the formal education in Conservatories, Special Schools of Music, Institutes of Fine Arts, the Ballet Schools, the Circus School, Theater Schools, but also the enormous professional productions such as the Ballet, the Symphony Orchestras, Opera, Theater.

It is apparent that in the Soviet Union, as in many other countries, there is official patronage of the arts, and, as a consequence, great national respect for the arts. In the Soviet Union the emphasis on political and economic growth is of great importance, to be sure, but emphasis on cultural growth and activities and support of cultural activities is of equal importance. A career in the arts is regarded as of the same importance as a career in politics, economics, science or other professions. Therefore, the most careful attention is given to the education of artists in all fields. Official support of the arts does not end with the education of the artists. Support of the arts as an intrinsic part of the life in the Soviet Union provides widespread opportunities for education in the arts for Soviet youth as well as the adult population.