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MINISTERIE VAN BINNENLANDSE ZAKEN

B.V.D.

Aan Zijne Excellentie  
de Minister-President,  
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te  
'S-GRAVENHAGE.

M.P.  
S.G.V.  
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Adm B

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Artikel voorzitter USSR-  
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revolutie.

's-Gravenhege, 23 okt. 1967  
President Kennedylaan 25  
VERTROUWELIJK

Hierbij moge ik de aandacht van Uwe Excellentie vestigen op een artikel van de hand van de Russische schaakgrootmeester Ir. M. Botwinnik, voorzitter van de vereniging USSR-Nederland, dat werd gepubliceerd in het - met grote vertraging binnengekomen - augustus-nummer van het maandblad "Culture and Life" (orgaan van de Unie van Sowjet-verenigingen voor vriendschap en culturele betrekkingen met het buitenland, Engelse uitgave). Een afdruk van het artikel gelieve U hierbij aan te treffen.

De belangrijkste passages van het artikel behelzen aankondigingen van:

een feestelijke bijeenkomst te organiseren door de vereniging USSR-Nederland in Moskou ter gelegenheid van de 50e herdenking van de Oktoberrevolutie;

publicaties bestemd voor de Nederlandse pers over de verworvenheden van 50 jaar Sowjet-bewind;

VERTROUWELIJK

de uitzending naar Nederland van een delegatie van de Unie van Sowjet-verenigingen en de vereniging USSR-Nederland en van Russische artisten, ter deelneming aan door de Vereniging "Nederland-USSR" te organiseren feestelijkheden ter herdenking van de Oktober-revolutie.

Typerend voor de wijze, waarop van Russische zijde telkens opnieuw wordt gesuggereerd dat de Vereniging "Nederland-USSR" een centrale plaats inneemt op het terrein van de culturele uitwisseling tussen Nederland en de Sowjet-Unie, is de eerste alinea van het artikel. Hierin stelt de schrijver - geheel en al ten onrechte - dat Nederlandse parlementsleden, vooraanstaande mensen uit het openbare leven, studenten en hoogleraren enz., die de laatste jaren een bezoek hebben gebracht aan de Sowjet-Unie, lid zouden zijn - actief lid zelfs - van de Vereniging "Nederland-USSR". Hierbij zij overigens aangetekend, dat het wèl zo is, dat het door de vereniging geëxploiteerde reisbureau - VERNU - de laatste twee jaar een aanzienlijk aandeel heeft gekregen in de organisatie van reizen van Nederlanders naar de Sowjet-Unie. De verdienste daarvan kan wel degelijk worden toegerekend aan de Vereniging "Nederland-USSR".

Een brief van gelijke inhoud zond ik aan de Ministers van Binnenlandse Zaken en van Buitenlandse Zaken.

HET HOOFD VAN DE DIENST



Drs. A. Kuipers.

# U.S.S.R.—NETHERLANDS

By MIKHAIL BOTVINNIK,

Former World Chess Champion, Chairman of the Board  
of the U.S.S.R.-Netherlands Society

Many active members of the Netherlands-U.S.S.R. Society visited the Soviet Union during the last two years. They included MPs, prominent public figures, university students and professors, floriculturists, footballers and chess players. Our Society co-operates with many Dutch progressive organisations, such as the Dutch Floriculturists' Association, the Royal Chess Union of Holland, and the Institute of Social History. We are willing to establish contacts with all Dutch organisations which champion the development of friendship and co-operation with the Soviet Union.

During their stay in our country, a large group of students of economics from Groningen University and students and professors from Amsterdam University met Soviet economists and leading workers of Soviet planning organisations

The staff of the Botanical Gardens of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, also a collective member of our Society, have established close contacts with their Dutch counterparts. Professor P. I. Lapin, who is one of the managers of the Gardens, is Vice-President of the U.S.S.R.-Netherlands Society.

Every year Dutch floriculturists visit the Soviet Union. They bring with them beautiful tulips which can now be seen growing in many Soviet cities. On April 13, this year, the Botanical Gardens held an evening: "The Leiden Botanical Gardens Is 380 Years Old", for which the Leiden Botanical Gardens sent slides and photographs.

Our active members include factory workers, engineers, prominent literary critics, linguists and experts in the history of the Netherlands. S. A. Mironov, a young linguist, is the author of a number of works on the Dutch language. He is a co-author of "The Dutch Language", a Dutch-Russian dictionary, and of the monograph "Dutch Noun Morphology". The prominent literary scholar I. V. Volevich and the translator A. I. Kobetskaya translated several works of Dutch literature into Russian.

Last year a party of active members of our Society visited Holland. They stayed in Rotterdam, Amsterdam, The Hague,

and research institutes. Our Society received psychology students from Amsterdam University, Dutch motor-transport specialists, artists and many parties of tourists.

To enable our public to learn more about Dutch culture and life in Holland our Society regularly arranges evenings and meetings devoted to anniversaries in the country's political and public life. Friendship House in Moscow and the clubs of factories and educational establishments, which are collective members of the Society, show Dutch films: "Man Rebuffs the Sea", "Rembrandt", a film about Van Gogh, "Gateway to Europe", "Delta-Phase No. 1", and "Through Holland".

A large group of Dutch tourists attended a meeting of Soviet-Dutch friendship which our Society arranges annually on May 3 to mark the Dutch national holiday—Liberation Day.

Soviet sportsmen, who go to Holland to take part in international contests, share impressions of their visit with Soviet people. Thus, young people of the Tomilino Poultry Farm and the Moscow Electrical Engineering Institute—collective members of our Society—were addressed by leading Soviet chess players—Grand Masters Boris Spassky, Salo Flohr, and Lev Polugayevsky and Chess Master Alla Kushnir.

Zaandam, Haarlem, and Utrecht, took part in a Russian Culture Week held by the Unitas, a student organisation in Utrecht, acquainted themselves with Dutch architecture and the treasures of Flemish and Dutch painting. They brought back with them many photographs and sketches of architecture, old and new. The Netherlands-U.S.S.R. Society arranged for Soviet tourists a visit to the Island of Texel, where a group of Soviet prisoners of war (the "Georgian battalion") excited a rebellion in April 1945.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution we plan to hold in Moscow a jubilee meeting of the Central Board of the U.S.S.R.-Netherlands Society. Meanwhile Soviet public figures, workers in culture and scholars are preparing articles and various publications for the Dutch press on the achievements scored by our people during the years of Soviet government.

Friends of the Soviet Union in Holland will also hold jubilee celebrations, in which a delegation of the Soviet Friendship Union, of the U.S.S.R.-Netherlands Society and Soviet artists are expected to take part.

We hope that the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Soviet rule will serve to strengthen contacts between the Dutch and Soviet peoples.