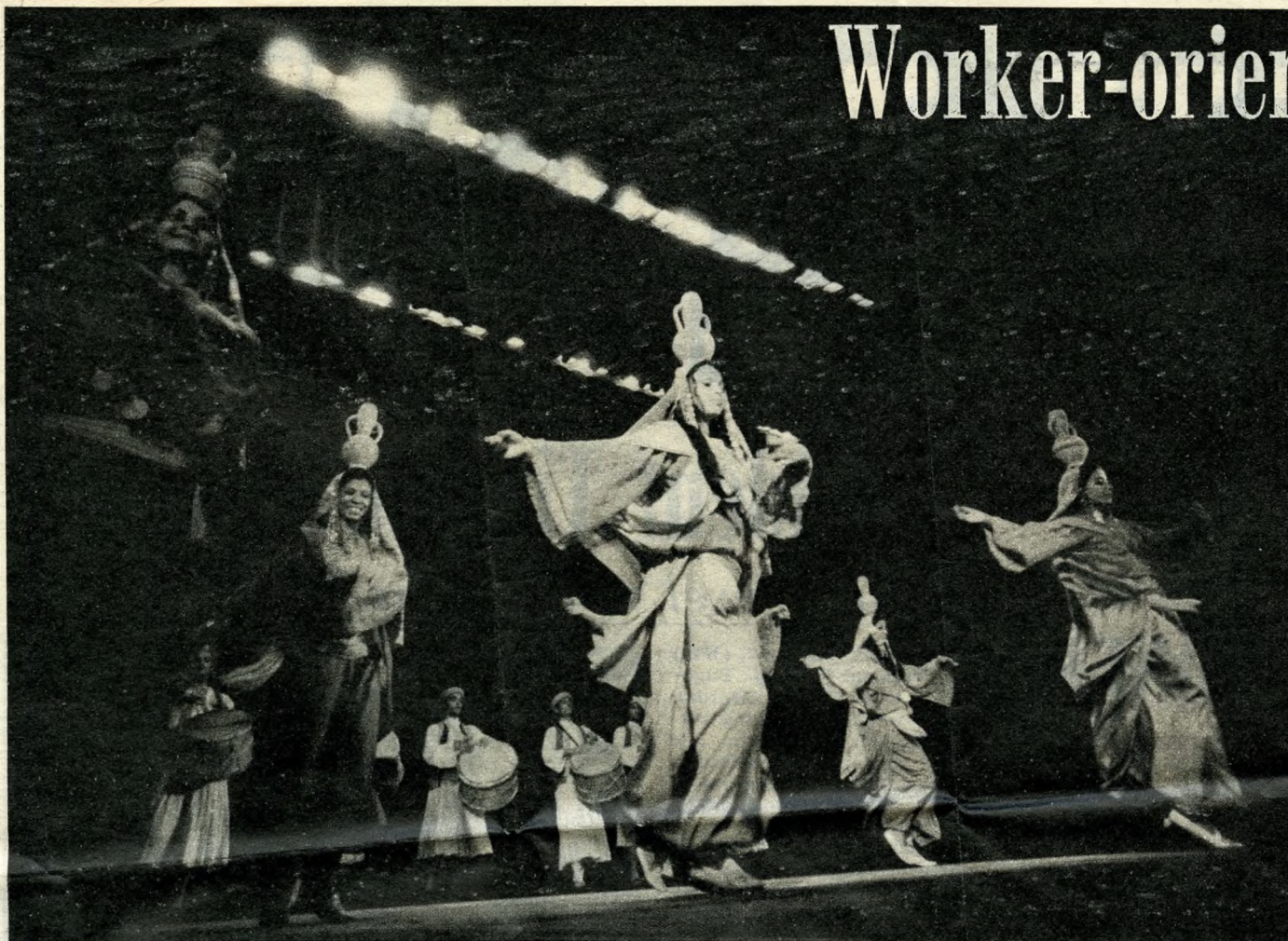


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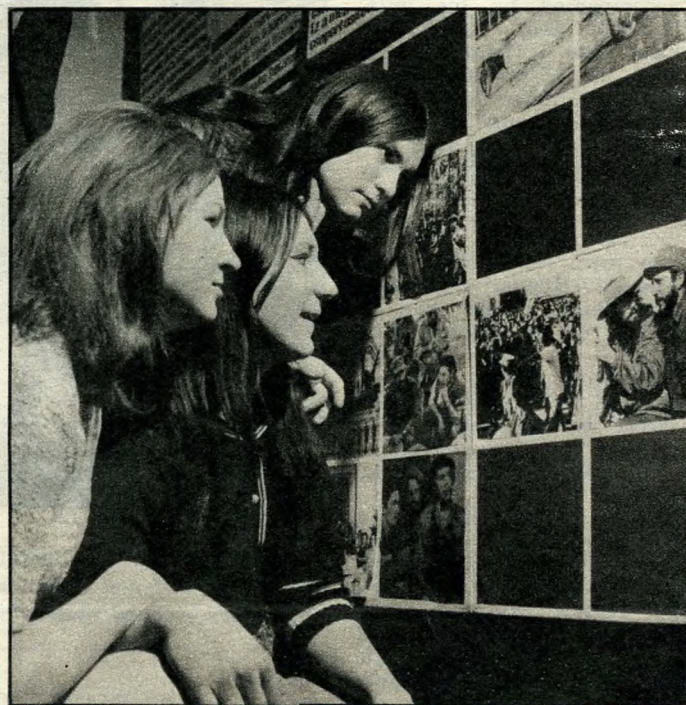
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Worker-oriented Cultural Centre



Performance by a visiting foreign dance groupe



PHOTOS MTI — E. MOLNÁR AND E. FRIEDMAN

Visitors to the Centre see an exhibition of documentary photos

was among the first to meet this worthy challenge, having set an example of how to translate the content of the resolution into practice.

"Even before the resolution came out, we have signed—what we call—'socialist contracts' with most of the 27 factories of the district. The educational and cultural development of the socialist labour brigades had been in the focus of our attention," Mr. Péter Bosnyák a senior official of the Centre said. "In accordance with the contracts, we organize social clubs for the socialist brigades of the various factories and also provide educational and cultural programmes for them.

"In addition, we have organized here at the Cultural Centre a club for socialist brigade leaders of all the factories belonging to this district. This serves as an ideal forum for them to exchange ideas, carry on debates, and pick up information on political, cultural etc. subjects that they might well utilize in their everyday work at the factory. We invite journalists, politicians, lecturers on special subjects for these club meetings, and so far they fared remarkably well."

The Budapest Cultural Centre has, among the multitude of its programmes (film shows, beat concerts, pantomime plays), a wide range of language courses. In accordance with the Party resolution, these latter courses will also be involved in the new moves to develop the workers' cultural standards.

Mr. Bosnyák said: "We are going to run German and English language courses, as well as dress-making and needlework courses, in the factories themselves. We feel that—

although we may have much better facilities here at the Centre for all these activities—workers are more willing to attend these courses at their working places when the shift is over. Similarly, they prefer to take part in club activities on "home grounds", that is on the familiar premises of their factory. As a matter of fact, I feel that for some years we have rather neglected the factories as venues for such cultural activities. We regarded them as were places of production and failed to help creating a proper atmosphere there for making workers to stay on after work. If workers feel they are being looked after, if facilities for culture, education, leisure time and club activities are made available for them on the premises, they will be more attracted to their working places, and will not easily migrate from one factory to another in search of a few more pennies."

Another form of the Centre's worker-oriented approach is the compiling of cultural programmes for workers' hostels. A sound innovation is that not only professionals but the Centre's own amateur artists are among the groups visiting and entertaining the workers living at hostels.

The Centre now faces an additional but flattering assignment: They will place the experiences of these cultural and educational activities among workers at the disposal of other cultural centres and clubs all over Budapest.

Pál Herskovits

There are few places of culture where so much is being done for the education and cultural development of workers than at the Metropolitan Cultural Centre in Budapest. Maintained by the Budapest Council of Trade Unions and the Budapest City Council, the Centre, situated in the 11th district of Budapest, looks after the cultural, educational and entertainment needs of at least 200,000 people, among them about 100,000 workers of 27 large factories.

Folklore shows, intensive language courses, ballet for children, exhibitions and hobby circles are among the many activities of the Centre. However, after the resolutions of the Central Committee of the HSWP on public educational and cultural facilities were published last March, the Centre