

40 YEARS / STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
1968 – 2008

Opening speech at the exhibition in Historical Archives of Belgrade
on occasion of 40 years of 'student developments' in 1968

INSTITUTION OF CULTURAL AND IDEOLOGICAL CONJUNCTION

This year, it has been talking a lot about student movements which appeared around the world in 1968, mostly in large university cities: Paris, New York, London, Berlin, Rome, Tokyo, Cairo, Warsaw, Prague, even in Belgrade. In the past years, on that world phenomenon it's been published hundreds of books, number of articles. A large number of literary works, movies and theatre shows have been dedicated to them. Regarding to this development, new scientific and works of art arise. Concluding on great attention of public, we could say it is about historically and to others epochal event. Thus, on the estrada – scene are heard different approaches and judgments, given opposite views and offered different, so final thoughts, often dependable of the actual political and ideological conjunction.

It doesn't suit to one sincere institution as Archives is, to get lost in boiling thoughts and to fall down in front of lasting nature of different conjunction.

It's inappropriate and pretentious also, to accept irrevocable judgments of any kind. For Archive's public reputation, it's quite enough to have archive materials – enough representative and worthy of attention for scientific and other researchers, public institutions and curious citizens.

As Archives of the City of Belgrade, it's reasonable to expect, in its funds to lie at first archive materials regarding Belgrade itself. So the archive materials concerning all - important aspects of development, main participants, varieties and way of its acting, so time dynamic of events. According to available and mostly reliable knowledge, total archive materials represents documents from public and private collections about the incident happened next to the House of Culture in New Belgrade on Jun 2,

1968; (2) students demonstrations on the same day and the day after; (3) Belgrade University strike, June 2 – 9; (4) arising and development of students movement in different varieties, until 1974; (5) Josip Broz Tito's speeches on June 9, in which he abated to them and in later speeches until 1975, in which he calls on confronting this movement and those who 'adulterate youths', (6) conflicts inside the students movement and authorities, (7) performances of an old political left and coming nationalist, political right done together against the new political left, (8) cultural and political conflicts, developed from them students movement for the future, (9) systematic government campaign run during the years, against 'black wave in culture'. At least, it would be useful to possess suitable archive materials for comparative researches.

Educated in different professions and solid equipped archivists, up to this imaginative and dedicated to their call, keeping the reputation and autonomy of themselves and the institution, they are shore capable of making quality archival fund in accordance with norms of modern archivistics and disciplines related to it cooperating with other institutions and competent individuals. Since there is appearance of new documents on compound and important issues, so different interpretation of them, it should find its place in arising, dynamic, archive whole.

Today, when importance of culture and historical memory for survival and development of society and every state becomes clearer, it's being certain of what importance is having the archives solid arranged. Let's remind ourselves one more, it is not about occasional caprice or giving over to conjunction, but about tradition of archives lasting as long as the civilization itself.

I hope, the occasion is being appropriate for this reminding. In fact, in archives as cultural and political institutions, especially those in developed, urban communities, important place always had documents on varied relations between citizens and authorities. Exactly those relations, got to focus of historical happening during developments in 1968. In urban centers as Belgrade itself is, considerable number of citizens, mostly the young ones, enthusiastic about their visions of personal and shared freedom, tried to remove existing limits on freedom of thinking, exposing, and communicating in family, at school, university, community and state, believing there is an alternative on 'forces proportion' regime. Authorities on all levels confronted it, in different ways mostly using violence, but

sometimes abated under powerful impulse of freedom, more often defending regime with all means. In that time developments, freedom and regime expressed its general and distinctive characteristics dependable from different cultural, political and social circumstances.

This exhibition persuasively applies on fortune of archive materials of one complex historical event limited by its structure and time. In front of us is an impressible evidence of creative and professional potentials of Historical Archives of the City of Belgrade to make one worthy public good, resisting trendy, ideological and political conjunction.

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