

However, as the Russian saying goes: "Even in a good flock there may be one lousy sheep" (parshyvaya outsa). We have such a lousy sheep in our socialist society in the person of Pasternak, who has written his slanderous, so-called novel. He has gladdened our enemies so much that they have bestowed on him--disregarding of course the artistic merits of his trashy book--a Nobel Prize. We have masters of writing, whose works are uncontestable in their artistic merit, but their authors have not been awarded a Noble Prize. However, for slander, for libelling the Soviet system, socialism, and Marxism, Pasternak has been awarded the Nobel Prize.

Pasternak has lived in the socialist country for 41 years. For 41 years he has fed on the bread and salt of the people, who have been building the new on the ruins of the old, who have endured hunger and cold, who have raised the former Russia to a new life, have created from the former Russia a mighty state, which astonishes the minds of all progressive people and strikes fear into the hearts of the enemies of socialism the people who have come through wars, and crushed the fascist hydra. This man has lived in our midst and has been, of course, better provided for than the average worker, who has labored, toiled and fought.

Now this man has decided to spit in the face of our people. What is one to say to this? Sometimes we say of a pig--and incidentally quite without justification--that it is a so and so. (takaya syakaya i rpochaya.) I must tell you that this is unfair to the pig. A pig--all people who have anything to do with this animal know the ways of the pig. It never defiles the place where it eats, never defiles the place where it sleeps. Therefore, if one is to compare Pasternak with a pig it will be obvious that the pig has not done what he (Pasternak--ed.) has done. (Applause) But Pasternak, a man who includes himself among the best representatives of society, has done this. He has defiled the place where he has eaten; he has defiled those by whose toil he lives and breathes. (Applause)

I would like to voice my own opinion on this matter: Why should not this internal emigre try the capitalist air for which he so longs and about which he has written in his work? (Applause) I am certain that our society would welcome this, (Applause) Let him become a real emigre and let him go to his capitalist paradise. I am sure that the society and government will not place any obstacles in his way, but would on the contrary consider that his departure thus from our midst would make our air fresher. (Applause)