

74 - 75 Season

OMAHA

2nd meeting )

on 15 Oct 74

19 members

4 guests

23 Attu Total

Dimce Belovski, Member of the Presidency of League of  
Communists of Yugoslavia

"Current Developments in Yugoslavia's Domestic and Foreign Policies"

Belovski kept his opening remarks extremely brief, essentially expressing Yugoslav national interests as independence, self-management, national equality. He easily captured and held the group's interest the entire evening, even during dinner.

Questions dealt with "how did Yugoslavia survive 1948?" which he viewed as the climax of the struggle for Yugoslavia, not the beginning--through conveying convincingly to Stalin Tito's and the peoples' willingness to fight and struggle; "could you hold out against nukes?" "Yugoslavia" role vis-a-vis the PRC-USSR disputes?" in which Belovski, as he had on the previous question, pointed out the need for all Europe to value the existing balance of power which a sudden change would bring disaster; "ideology is subordinate to politics," he said. "The USSR may want to limit U.S. power but it also has an interest in keeping the U.S. strong, to help manage mutual interests."

There were a variety of questions about the nature of land ownership in Yugoslavia and the expected impact of the energy (particularly oil) questions.

Members generally seemed deeply pleased with Belovski's candor and ability to grasp the meaning of and answer directly to members' questions.

I received many compliments on having had Belovski as a speaker.