

munism in Hungary. The formerly unimaginable event happened with the communists' self-abolition at a party congress, and now, with honest elections expected, it is coming to fulfilment with peaceful parliamentary sessions – with the prospect of voluminous foreign investments on the way. In short, no real spectacle, as would be fitting for such an epochal event as the abolition of the withered revolutionary social class: they did not shoot anyone, they did not accuse anyone of counterrevolution – just as if nothing special had actually happened.

*In a language of longing and envy, Štrajn then contrasted the chaos among the Yugoslavs with life in Hungary, suddenly so remarkably unremarkable. In Budapest, the piece continued, a reader could now simply pick up an issue of Newsweek and sink pleasantly into a good read – for example, the recent cover story on the rise of actress Michelle Pfeiffer and her work on a film adaptation of the latest spy novel by John Le Carré, that great merchant of cold war mythology. The film, Štrajn pointed out, was a co-production of a Hollywood studio and the Soviet state enterprise Mosfilm. Moreover, the Russians planned to use their profits to film a novel by Bulgakov, previously banned! But while the Budapest reader could enjoy the luxury of indulging all this new East-West cooperation fairly mundane,*

if a person were to live in Belgrade or Ljubljana, not to even mention Pristina, he would make out in Michelle Pfeiffer's smiling eyes a distant view of some sort of more normal world. And if, in spite of everything, he were to read an article about yet another incremental proof of ever greater cooperation and decreasing enmity in the world, during his reading his thoughts would run off toward the 'historic events' in his own unfriendly homeland of stubborn generals, vile secret agents, corrupt authorities and, here and there, conditionally-existing democracy (Štrajn, 'Oddaljeni pogled Michelle Pfeifer', Mladina no. 40, 17 November 1989, 12).

*The mood here captures perfectly how reformist victories elsewhere in Eastern Europe made for bitter frustration among Slovenian*