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SECURITY : ~~RESTRICTED~~

PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

TO : Department of State

511.885/12-2850

FROM : AMEMBASSY, Tehran, 481, December 28, 1950

28 XR 888.452

JAN 5 2 27 PM '51

REF :

SUBJECT : MOTION PICTURES - Pro-Soviet feature film NORTH STAR

2534

The Embassy has brought the Department's attention to the fact that the Soviet-produced film FALL OF BERLIN was shown to the public in one of Tehran's cinemas. This film was withdrawn at the request of the Iranian Government and replaced with NORTH STAR, an American-made film with a pro-Russian slant. Although NORTH STAR only played about a week, The Embassy is interested in preventing a repetition of the showing of this film.

Feature films are normally leased by exhibitors in Iran for a period of three years. As NORTH STAR is quite an old film, in all probability the lease has expired. It is a common practice for exhibitors in Iran to run films when legally they do not have the right to do so. For obvious reasons the Embassy has not made any special inquiry into the status of NORTH STAR.

The Embassy would like to suggest, however, that the Department approach the U.S. distributor and request that prints of this film be withdrawn from circulation. To display publicly an American-made film which praises the Soviet Union can do considerable harm at this time. The Embassy feels certain that if the distributor knew the circumstances and the effect this film has in Iran he would be equally interested in seeing that it is no longer shown. Although NORTH STAR is the only film of this type that has come to the Embassy's attention, there are no doubt others made, with good intentions, when U.S.-Soviet relations were better than they are now. The distributors could assist the Embassy's information program by making every effort to see that such films are not shown in critical areas such as this.

511.885/12-2850

For the Ambassador:

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
MOTION PICTURES - (IMP)
Department of State
JAN 6 1951
JLHamilton:kjd
12-28-50

Edward Wells
Assigned to
C. Edward Wells
Public Affairs Officer
to Tehran

RESTRICTED

Date of Action 1/27/51
Action Office Symbol
Name of Officer
Direction to DC/R

DEC 30 1950

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files, with an endorsement of action taken.