INTERVIEW WITH

MARINA NIKOLAEVNA TARASOVA
Head of Press Center, a department of the
Division of Letters and Social Surveys

The Press Center mainly maintains liaison to the press. It employs 10 people. It has three division:&(1) the press group, (2) a publishing and editorial section, (3) exhibitions.

The press group employs 4 journalists who maintain connection with newspapers and magazines. They organize meetings of journalists to review programs each week, publish a program information guide, explaining program policy and previewing programs for the month, publish a survey of other publications about programs, and generally put out over 50 publications in a week.

For example, daily newspapers have television sections, which are written partly by the newspapers' own correspondents and partly by our people. The press group also organizes meetings with viewer groups and television personalities, field trips, etc. where we invite viewers to discuss their experiences and journalists to write articles about them.

A recent conflict in which we have become involved had to do with an article by Oganov critical of television concerning the Rizanov affair. Our task is not to "defend" Gostelradio but to "find the truth." Rizanov is a very talented and ambitious person who doesn't always evaluate things in a broad perspective. We had a meeting with him. He claimed that we cut some parts of his program and objected to it. The final part of his program he recited his poems, they are not very good, he also made some questionable comments about the army, we

left all that in. But in the last five minutes he gave his recollection of how Lenin and Lunarcharsky went to an art exhibit where Lenin confessed that he didn't understand it. Rizanov said "this was the last Soviet government that (admitted that it) did not understand art." That was cut out. But remember that the program was reduced from three hours to one and heavily edited, but some critical parts were left in, which were criticized by the Red Star for making some unwarranted comments about the army.

In the publishing and editorial section we employ three people and publish the results of our surveys three times a year. This is for the press and also the public. We also publish special books such as the Encyclopedia of Television.

In the exhibitions department we have a permanent exhibition in the "Hall of Economic Achievement" about Soviet culture, TV, cinema, art.

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