Light Scholars Return

Two other students, Carol Dennis and John Howell had the unique experience of visiting Istanbul, Turkey. They met a man who was traveling to a job in Turkey and offered to take them on the trip, the itinerary of which included Yugoslavia and Greece. Especially interesting was Yugoslavia where communist youth groups were building roads much as the Antabahs of Germany were built under Hitler.

Luck was once again with them when they reached Istanbul for they met a university student majoring in English literature who offered to be their guide. They stayed there three days doing such things as the University of Istanbul and the beautiful Mosque of the Blue Mosaic.

On the return train trip, Carol and John met two men who, having learned that The New Class by Dylas was widely read in the United States, tried to refute the fact that the author was in prison because he had written the book. The men claimed the reason was that Dylas had tried to undermine the government. Their point was that freedom of speech is denied no one in Yugoslavia.

In the three weeks after classes were complete, Ann Wagner, Joan Robinson, and Lynne Emmons, University of Caen students, motorbiked to Southern France and Germany, staying in youth hostels on the way. Having nearly lost the motor from one of the bikes, they decided to hitch-hike through part of Germany and then take a train to Paris. Especially if one wears an American flag attached to his knapsack, getting rides is relatively simple in Europe.

In a caserole, in soup, fried, baked — any way you can imagine, the scholars at the University of the Andes became indoctrinated to BANANAS. But banana-freaking was almost the only thing totally unexpected in Bogota living. Contrary to American thought, says Judy Dekema, Columbians do not wear skins (it's too cold) and swing from tree house to tree hut. They are civilized in almost every way. Large, modern buildings, outstanding entertainment such as the Robert Wagner chorale and the Ballet Russe are only a few signs of Columbian prosperity.

While the Bogota group was enjoying such things as a trip to an emerald mine, the European travelers were seeing an exciting climax to their trip. As a symbol of allied friendship and unity, President Eisenhower was visiting Europe where the students saw him overwhelmed with welcome both in Paris and Bonn. Joe's “Je vous aime, tous” must have expressed the feelings of all the Light travelers toward the Europeans and South Americans.