

F.O. officials sincerely believed in the principle of self-determination, the political aspect was, in all major cases, decisive. As Professor James Barros says: "all cases of self-determination where great power interests were involved were in fact decided by power considerations" (*The Aaland Islands Question: Its Settlement by the League of Nations*, New Haven, 1968, p. 341).

TO THE EDITOR:

Am I guilty of "ex cathedra pronouncements" and "metaphysical subtleties"? Mr. Abouchar says so [*Slavic Review*, June 1971, p. 360], but his proof requires him to misquote me. He had pointed out that proposed maximum livestock holdings by Soviet peasants, published in a draft charter, exceeded actual holdings by large percentages. I wrote: "The draft charter certainly never intended to increase numbers . . . by the percentages there given" (given, that is, by Mr. Abouchar). He omitted the italicized words, thereby implying that I claimed special knowledge of their intentions, which indeed I do not have. But it requires no "metaphysics" to be certain that officials neither expect nor desire increases up to the maximum. On the contrary, if peasants give up keeping cows, because they are able to purchase dairy produce from their farm, this is regarded as a welcome development. Because keeping animals is a labor-intensive task, it becomes less attractive when and if peasants are paid better for their normal work. This is one reason why livestock numbers are far below the *existing* maxima (shortage of feed is another). The difference between permitted maximum and actual private holdings is indeed much smaller in the case of cultivated land, as Mr. Abouchar noted, but for some reason he considers this to be part of the case against me. However, there must still be a fair number of peasant families who would own more livestock if this were allowed, and they would try to take advantage of relaxation of the rules, which may indeed have been contemplated for hogs and sheep. Not, however, for cattle. The rule about "one cow and offspring" has been in existence since 1935.

ALEC NOVE
University of Glasgow

TO THE EDITOR:

In the March 1971 issue of the *Review* (p. 231), Professor Nikola Pribić reported on American participation in the Sixth International Congress of Comparative Literature, held in Bordeaux, France, from August 31 to September 5, 1970. Papers by American Slavists omitted by Professor Pribić's report may be of additional interest: "Critics of Literature and Society in 20th-Century America," by René Wellek (Yale University), "Symbolism, Acmeism and Africa," by Professor Ralph Matlaw (University of Chicago), "Theatre of the Absurd as Theatre of Commitment," by Professor Andrzej Wirth (Lehmann College, CUNY), "Gogol as Man of Letters: Writer and Audience in 19th-Century Russia," by Professor Donald Fanger (Harvard), and my own "Baroque Literature and Islamic Culture."

HAROLD B. SEGEL
Columbia University