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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO PRESENT BRONZE SCULPTURE TO UNITED NATIONS

A bronze figure entitled "The Rising Man" ("Die Aufsteigende"), by the sculptor Fritz Cremer, will be presented to the United Nations tomorrow, 17 September, by the Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, Oskar Fischer. It will be accepted by Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim at a 10:15 a.m. ceremony in the United Nations gardens.

The sculpture depicts a standing male figure about eight feet tall, symbolizing the rise of man towards an awareness of his historic role in society. The sculptor, a leading artist of the German Democratic Republic, dedicated the work to the peoples liberating themselves from oppression.

The sculpture is located at the north end of the garden, near the children's playground. It is set amongst azalea bushes and stands on a granite block about three feet high.

The Permanent Mission of the German Democratic Republic has supplied the following information about the work:

"The sculpture 'Der Aufsteigende' comes as a climax in the treatment of an epochal theme unfolding in Cremer's work from "those who grew dumb" to "those who talk persuasively", from "those who wail" to "those who accuse", from "those who fall" to "those who never submit" - all of which are titles of Cremer's works. The sculpture 'Der Aufsteigende' aptly symbolizes the rise of man towards an awareness of his historic role and the unfolding of his strength. The Rising Man shown here liberates himself of a world which is a burden on him, and the incongruity of which he himself embodies. He is a symbol of man's liberation from the fetters of the past. In this sense, 'Der Aufsteigende' must also be seen as a historic symbol of the German Democratic Republic's 25 years of development."

The sculptor, Professor Fritz Cremer, was born at Arnsberg/Ruhr on 22 October 1906. He spent his youth in modest circumstances at Essen/Ruhr, losing his parents when he was still a child. He lived among miners, which accounts for his early political and social fields of interest.

From 1922 to 1926 he learned the trade of a stone sculptor in a workshop at Essen and, during that time, attended evening classes at the Folkwang School. From 1926 to 1928 he worked as a stone sculptor's assistant in Essen, moving to Berlin in 1929.

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Until 1934 he was a pupil and master pupil of Wilhelm Gerstel at the Berlin College for Free and Applied Arts. From 1934 to 1938 he made study tours to Paris, London and Rome. From 1938 to 1940 he had a master's atelier at the Prussian Academy of Arts in Berlin.

In 1936 Fritz Cremer received the State Award for "Trauernde Frauen" (Mourning Women) - a relief secretly called "Gestapo".

After being drafted in 1940, he was in a Yugoslav prisoner-of-war camp from 1944 till 1946.

After his release he went to Vienna, where he was appointed Professor and Head of the sculptor's department at the Academy of Applied Arts.

The first sculpture he made there was "Freiheitskämpfer" (Freedom Fighter), intended for the Austrian memorial hall at the former concentration camp of Auschwitz. A second major sculpture he created in Vienna was a monument dedicated to the victims of fascism. His next works were a monument for the Mauthausen concentration camp, and one in tribute to French prisoners at Ebensee. His last work in Austria was a monument to the victims of fascism for the town of Knittelfeld.

In 1950 he was appointed full member of the German Academy of Arts in Berlin and director of a master's atelier at that institution.

Cremer's most significant sculptures during the last few years have been the statues "Aufbauhelferin" and "Aufbauhelfer" (man and woman helping in rubble clearance); and bust of Karl Marx (first and second versions); and bust of Franke (three versions); and the large sculptures "Spanienkämpfer" (Fighter for the Spanish Republic), "Galilei" (Galileo), "Der Aufsteigende" (The Rising Man), and "Der Stürzende" (The Falling Man).

For the third version of the Franke bust Fritz Cremer received the National Prize in 1953.