

Hungary & Eastern Europe - Sixty Years Ago A Press Review by a Hungarian Refugee

More Red Premiers Believed on Way Out Like Hungary's Nagy 1955. 03. 1-15.

- Soviet Reported to Seek Ransom to Release Jews
- Von Neumann Wins Approval For AEC From Joint Committee
- Red Hungary's Premier Seems Slated for Purge
- Arrest Wave Reported in Hungary
- U. N. Survey Find Rise in Red Trade
- More Red Premiers Believed on Way Out Like Hungary's Nagy
- 30 Anti-Red Balloons Soar At Hungary Freedom Rally

The New York Times

March 1, 1955

Soviet Reported to Seek Ransom to Release Jews

Special to The New York Times.

ROME, Feb. 28—The Soviet Union is said to have offered to let "some of its Jews emigrate to Israel on the payment of \$2,000 to \$3,000 ransom a person. This was reported today by a reliable Italian source when a group of eleven Hungarian Jews arrived here.

The Italian said the Israeli Government was considering the Soviet offer with the greatest caution for fear it might be a device to plant Communist agitators and spies in Israel.

In 1953 Jewish organizations in the United States paid \$1,000 ransom for each of 197 Jews released by Hungary.

The group that passed through here today on its way from Vienna to Naples consisted of three men and seven women, all more than 60 years of age, and a 13-year-old half-paralyzed girl.

This group, with an elderly couple from Hungary, five Bulgarian Jews and a Jewish girl from Poland, will sail for Israel tomorrow.

March 9, 1955

Von Neumann Wins Approval For AEC From Joint Committee

By the Associated Press

A mathematical scientist who believes that important discoveries remain to be made in atomic energy was unanimously approved yesterday as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission by the Joint Senate-House Atomic Committee.

He is Dr. John Von Neumann, Hungarian-born researcher who is credited with a major role in the application of high-speed calculating machines to the development of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

His nomination to the AEC post by President Eisenhower now goes to the Senate for confirmation.

A member of the war-time staff at the Los Alamos Atomic Weapons Laboratory and a consultant to all three of the armed services, Dr. Von Neumann was a member of the faculty of the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J., until his nomination to the AEC last October.

In his appearance before members of the joint committee

today, he was asked by Senator Pastore, Democrat, of Rhode Island whether he thought he could serve the atomic program "better as a commissioner than as a consultant."

Replying he thought he could because he'd be working "full time" rather than part time, Dr. Von Neumann said, "I do think I can be of essential service." He added that he felt scientists could do good work on the commission because "I don't think it's true that all the important discoveries have been made," and that, therefore, a scientific viewpoint can be of possible assistance in the AEC's overall work. The AEC already has one other scientist, Dr. Willard Libby.

During his testimony, Dr. Von Neumann said he and Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer "definitely belonged in opposite camps" with regard to early controversy about whether the H-bomb should be built—"I was in favor of the H-bomb."

But he said he felt this dis-



—Harris-Ewing Photo.

DR. JOHN VON NEUMANN.

agreement "did not constitute a security risk (on Dr. Oppenheimer's part), or a question of loyalty."

He also declared that he felt the AEC's ultimate decision to withdraw Dr. Oppenheimer's access to atomic secrets was "properly reached."

He later told a reporter in an-

swer to questions that he personally believed that Dr. Oppenheimer did not constitute a security risk either on the H-bomb matter, or on his "total past record (and) personality."

But he said the commission's decision had been reached on their evaluation of the Oppenheimer case and "according to their own convictions."

New York Herald Tribune

March 10, 1955

Red Hungary's Premier Seems Slated for Purge

VIENNA, March 9 (AP).—Communist Hungary's Premier Imre Nagy tonight appeared marked for a purge in the wake of his denunciation as a "rightist deviationist" and "anti-Marxist." The sharp rebuke to the father of Hungary's "softer, New Look economic policy" was administered by the Hungarian Communist party's central committee.

The denunciation, broadcast by the Budapest radio and published in the Soviet satellite's controlled press, sounded like the signal for a move to shelve Mr. Nagy in the same matter that former Soviet Prime Minister Georgi M. Malenkov was toppled from power.

[Reports reaching Vienna from Budapest, according to The Associated Press, told of a wave of arrests in which many Hungarian Communists who had gained positions under Mr. Nagy and Mr. Malenkov were said to have been seized. The reports said many non-Communists also were arrested by secret police in a renewal of the night terror held in check since Mr. Nagy took office in 1953.]

Rakosi in Line

Observers here expected that the fifty-eight-year-old Mr. Nagy, reported to have been seriously ill recently, would be succeeded by Matyas Rakosi, Hungary's first-ranking Communist and his predecessor as Premier. Mr. Rakosi is an advocate of developing heavy industry, as are the new rulers in Russia.

The possibility also was suggested that Mr. Rakosi, fifty-one, might follow the example of Soviet Communist party leader Nikita S. Khrushchev and leave the Premiership to one of his close party friends. These include Gen. Mihaly Farkas, former Defense Minister under Mr. Rakosi, and Deputy Premier Andras Hegedues.

Observers believed the Hungarian party's action may be the forerunner of post-Malenkov purges in other satellite states.

The Budapest radio said Hungarian workers met tonight in factories throughout the country to discuss the central committee's action.

Among the errors, faults and mistakes charged against Mr. Nagy was his neglect of heavy

industry and of the collectivization of farms, in favor of a policy of turning out greater quantities of consumer goods.

Mr. Malenkov was broken and demoted to a minor Cabinet post for having introduced a similar soft, New Look policy in Russia after the death of Josef Stalin.

Up to tonight there had been no indication when or whether Mr. Nagy would be ousted. Sources familiar with Communist party tactics said, however, that he could not remain in office long after the sharp denunciation by the party's high command.

Denunciation

The denunciation of Mr. Nagy published in the Hungarian press charged that "the decisions of the central leadership, taken in June, 1953, proved right, but there were mistakes and deficiencies in carrying out these policies."

"They were distorted by anti-Marxists and opportunists which led to Rightist deviation and Rightist mistakes," the party's central committee said. "It is the party's main task to crush these dangerous Rightist ideas ideologically and to completely isolate them."

"The most dangerous system of the Rightist deviationist is nationalism and chauvinism. This must be met with the roughest kind of ideological battle."

"Rightist ideas within the country and the party could be so dangerous because Comrade Imre Nagy supported them in his speeches and articles," the party denunciation said. "He was the chief proponent of this anti-Marxist idea."

Nagy Is Russian Trained

Mr. Nagy, a Russian-trained revolutionary, served as one of Hungary's five Vice-Premiers before advancing to the Premiership. He fought in Russia at the outbreak of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution and then worked in the Hungarian Communist party. During World War II he was again in Russia as a Hungarian-language broadcaster.

He returned to Hungary with the Soviet Army in 1944 and rose rapidly in the new Hungarian Communist hierarchy, becoming successively Agriculture Minister, Interior Minister and Speaker of Parliament before being named Vice-Premier.

The Washington Post
Area Times Herald

March 10, 1955

Arrest Wave Reported in Hungary

By Richard O'Regan

VIENNA, Austria, March 9 (AP).—Communist Hungary apparently prepared today to boot out a premier who had urged a better life for the masses.

A new hard Red policy, reminiscent of the Stalin era, appeared to have been ushered in. It was expected to have repercussions elsewhere in Russia's East European empire. Conceivably it could mean the end of former Soviet Premier Malenkov's career.

The Central Committee of the Hungarian Communist Party today accused Premier Imre Nagy of "right wing deviationism." He is a 58-year-old Communist who had been front man for the policies of Malenkov. It appeared certain Nagy could



Nagy

Rakosi

not remain many days longer in office.

As this about-face of the "new look" policies was being announced, reliable reports from Budapest seeped into Vienna telling of a wave of arrests. Many Hungarian Commu-

nists who had gained positions under Nagy were said to have been seized.

Many other non-Communists were reported to have been taken by secret police in a renewal of the nighttime terror which had been held in check since Moscow and the satellites adopted the better-life-for-the-people course in mid-1953.

Nagy, who took over the premiership in July, 1953, was blasted in a resolution taken by the Central Committee of

the party, Budapest newspapers and radio broadcasts disclosed.

Matyas Rakosi, first secretary of the party and the opposite number in Hungary of Russia's Nikita Khrushchev, was the man who led the party debate. Western diplomats believed it showed that Rakosi, who took a back seat when the "new course" was announced, was now top man again.

Nagy, said the party resolution, was the "chief preacher

of anti-Marxist ideas" which allegedly brought about a dangerous drop in production.

Western diplomats said it was apparent that Nagy was being held responsible for all the failures of the last 18 months in the same way as Malenkov was in Russia.

There was speculation here that Defense Minister Mihaly Farkas or Vice Premier Istvan Hidas, a former Minister of Heavy Industry, would soon be appointed premier.

Nagy's ouster had been expected ever since Rakosi returned from Moscow recently and announced the country would go back to its program of heavy industrialization. On February 20, Nagy fell ill with a "serious heart condition" according to Radio Budapest.

More Red Premiers Believed on Way Out Like Hungary's Nagy

By the Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria, Mar. 10.—The well-informed Vienna newspaper Arbeiter-Zeitung speculated today that the Premiers of Communist Poland and Albania—like Hungary's Imre Nagy—will soon be on their way out of office.

The paper said the position of Poland's Josef Cyrankiewicz and Albania's Lt. Gen. Mehmet Shehu is identical with that of Nagy, who was charged with "rightist deviationism" at a session this week of the Hungarian Communist Party's Central Committee.

Succeeded "Strong Men."

Cyrankiewicz and Shehu became Premiers when the Communist Party "strong men"—Boleslaw Bierut in Poland and Gen. Enver Hoxha in Albania—withdraw to positions as first party secretaries after Stalin's death. In Hungary, Nagy succeeded dictator Matyas Rakosi, who retained his party secretary post.

Rakosi made his comeback as Nagy's chief accuser in the central committee session. He is expected to take revenge on the followers of the "new course" under Nagy, Arbeiter-Zeitung said.

"Confession" Expected.

The paper said the attack on Nagy appeared to signal the end of the period of "collective leadership" in the satellites and a return to the one-man rule under Stalin.

Arbeiter-Zeitung predicted that Nagy, following the pattern set by ousted Soviet Premier Georgi Malenkov, will formally resign after a "confession" at a parliament meeting.

U. N. SURVEY FINDS RISE IN RED TRADE

Turnover Within Soviet Bloc
Since 1948 Is Estimated to
Have Increased Fivefold

By MICHAEL L. HOFFMAN

Special to The New York Times.

GENEVA, March 10—The first coherent picture of trade among countries of the Communist bloc that is available to the West was presented today. It was drawn by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in its annual survey.

From a speech here and there, a published figure in an obscure report, a percentage calculation in an official document, an article of "self-criticism" in a Communist newspaper, a pattern of trade has been put together.

Broadly speaking, the story is one of great increases, since 1948, in the turnover of trade among Eastern European countries and particularly in the trade between the satellite countries and the Soviet Union. The trade turnover within the bloc has more than quintupled in the last six years, totaling \$13,000,000,000 in 1953.

As "turnover" counts both the exports of all countries to one another and imports of all countries from one another, it counts the same goods twice. The total volume of intrabloc trade, adjusted for various statistical errors, is given as \$6,400,000,000.

Price Increases a Factor

Trade with the West, on the other hand, has barely doubled.

No effort is made to calculate how much of the growth in the totals is due to price increases but Economic Commission economists say privately they believe the Eastern figures reflect world price changes fairly accurately.

The most striking change in the pattern of trade is the development of a food deficit or bare balance in the satellite countries, all of which, except Czechoslovakia, were formerly food exporters. The Soviet Union is now a net supplier of basic food products to the whole region.

This shift had been generally known. The most interesting things in the new figures are the evidence of Eastern Germany's tremendous economic importance in the Eastern bloc and the fact that the Soviet Union, for all its rapid industrial development, is still, apparently, a heavy net importer of machinery.

Special calculations on trade in "machinery and equipment" indicate that Eastern Germany was a net exporter of such items, in 1953, to an extent of \$660,000,000 to \$775,000,000.

The margins of error are inevitably large in such calculations.

The same year, the Soviet Union was a net importer of machinery and equipment to the extent of \$500,000,000 to \$550,000,000.

It is not certain just how large Soviet machinery and equipment exports were. A minimum figure of \$200,000,000, given in the survey, is based on a statement by Anastas I. Mikoyan who was, at the time, Minister for Foreign Trade.

The survey finds a greater emphasis on production of consumer goods in the Communist countries. The survey was in print before the reversal of the emphasis on production of consumer goods, lately evident in all Communist countries, was announced.

Agricultural Output Lags

Agricultural production continues to lag.

In Western Europe the economists trace the growth of prosperity throughout the economy during 1954.

Special attention is drawn to several new features of the Western European economy, notably the increased stability of outlays on housing, the growth of installment credit as a means of financing the purchase of durable consumer goods, and the threat of substantial agricultural surpluses to countries with a high cost of agriculture.

The Washington Post
and Times Herald

March 11, 1955



Photos by Associated Press and INP

Shehu

Nagy

Cyrankiewicz

The Vienna newspaper, Arbeiter-Zeitung, speculated yesterday that Lieut. Gen. Mehmet Shehu and Josef Cyrankiewicz, Premiers of Red Albania and Poland, respectively, would soon be ousted. The paper said their positions are much like that of Hungary's Imre Nagy, who was accused this week of "rightist deviationism" by top Reds.



Associated Press

Hungarian freedom rally—The Right Rev. Bela Varga, last constitutionally elected Speaker of the Parliament of Free Hungary, watching yesterday as members of the Hungarian National Council in native costumes released Crusade for Freedom balloons in front of Carnegie Hall. Msgr. Varga is president of the council.

30 Anti-Red Balloons Soar At Hungary Freedom Rally

Thirty helium-filled balloons, carrying the same anti-Communist messages from the free world as have been released in Hungary and other captive countries behind the Iron Curtain, soared yesterday afternoon into the March winds over Seventh Ave. and 57th St. to help celebrate the 107th anniversary of the founding of a free government in Hungary.

The balloons were released by the Right Rev. Bela Varga, last constitutionally elected Speaker of the Parliament of the Free Republic of Hungary and now president of the Hungarian National Council, group of Hungarian patriots here. The demonstration, in advance honor of Hungarian Freedom Day, March 15, was sponsored by the council in co-operation with the Free Europe Committee and the Crusade for Freedom.

Later, at a meeting near by at Carnegie Hall, Msgr. Varga told more than 400 persons participating in the Freedom Day

rally that, although World War II ended ten years ago, "the plundering, violating and murdering Red Army still occupies Hungary and supports the rule of its Communist hirelings and henchmen."

He said: "It is our sacred duty to make the free world aware that the Hungarian people do not fight only for their own liberty but for that of Americans too."

Dallas S. Townsend, United States Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Office of Alien Property, was guest speaker. He told the audience that the end of World War II should have assured "new hope for Hungarian freedom," but, he said, "we are in the long melancholy shadow of history." He added: "The sufferings of martyrs like Cardinal Mindszenty will not go forever unrequited . . . eventually there will not be a foreign soldier in Hungary."

The released balloons were

of two types—clear plastic, square envelopes stamped with the blue-lettered "Crusade for Freedom" marking and round, black rubber balloons. Both contained three ounces of printed matter, the original Hungarian-language pamphlets and a synopsis of the anti-Communist message in English, outlining the program of the three agencies to bring the truth of democracy from the free world to peoples behind the Iron Curtain.

The balloons headed south toward lower Manhattan, dipping in the gusts of wind.