

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

„How Can We Best Sell Freedom?“
1955. 03. 16–31.

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The Washington Post and Times Herald

March 16, 1955

Gen. Farkas Reported As Hungarian Premier

By Paul Ghali

Chicago Daily News Service

PARIS, March 15.—Former Defense Minister Gen. Mihaly Farkas is replacing Imre Nagy as Hungarian premier, according to today's reports from Budapest.

Nagy vanished from the political scene last month. Since then the central committee has accused him of following a "rightist, anti-party" line.

Nevertheless, the feeling here is that Nagy's final fate is still very much a question mark.

Hungarians here recall that at least twice before Nagy has been forced to the background by party chieftain Mathias Rakosi, his longtime enemy. But both times he has re-emerged as strong man of the regime and favorite of Moscow.

See for Herald Tribune

March 21, 1955



Herald Tribune—United Press
Count Michael Karolyi

Count Karolyi Of Hungary Dies in Exile

NICE, France, March 20 (AP).—Count Michael Karolyi, eighty, president of the first Hungarian Republic, died Friday in nearby Vence. He will be buried in England.

Lived in Exile

Count Karolyi, who had lived in exile a third of his life, apparently had chosen exile again for the last five years.

During World War II he was leader of the Free Hungarian Movement in London and in 1946 he ended twenty-seven years of exile and returned to Hungary, where he had been elected a member of the Hungarian Parliament despite his absence.

In 1947 he was appointed Hungarian Minister to Paris. He resigned in 1949, giving his age as the reason, but later his criticisms of the Hungarian government from Paris indicated that he had broken with the Communist regime and would live abroad the rest of his life.

Loss Put at \$7 Million

Born of a family of ancient Magyar noble traditions, Count Karolyi was said to have lost an estate worth \$7,000,000 because of his support of socialism and opposition to Hungary's landed gentry.

He entered public life as a Member of Parliament in 1905, became president of the Hungarian Agricultural Society, and, influenced by the writings of Karl Marx, became leader of the radical wing of the Independence party.

He led the opposition to Count Stephen Tisza, the Prime Minister, and their dispute became so bitter that they fought a duel in 1913. Count Karolyi was severely wounded.

Count Karolyi was in the United States when World War I broke out. He went to France and was interned there, but was released with the proviso that he return to Hungary and work for a separate peace. He founded a party for that purpose.

Old Enemy Assassinated

After the war, Count Karolyi became Prime Minister to King Charles and his old enemy Count Tisza was mysteriously assassinated the same day. Then came the revolution, the King abdicated, the empire collapsed, and on Jan. 11, 1919, the new republic was proclaimed with Count Karolyi as President.

Soon afterward, however, he turned the government over to one of Lenin's disciples, Bela Kun, and was not molested in the terroristic reign that followed, but as threats multiplied against him he fled to Czechoslovakia.

He was next heard from when he was expelled from Italy for circulating Communist propaganda. He made his headquarters thereafter in Paris. The High Court of Hungary, at a public trial, found him guilty of treason and confiscated his vast estates. He remained in exile.

Surviving is his wife, Countess Katinka Andrassy Karolyi, daughter of Count Julius Andrassy, former Prime Minister of Hungary.

U. S. Times March 21, 1955

CROSSING THE IRON CURTAIN

Two crossings of the Iron Curtain, one in each direction, made significant news over the week-end. In Germany the noted conductor Erich Kleiber abandoned his post as musical director of East Berlin's State Opera and went to West Germany, having concluded that artistic freedom is no more compatible with Communist rule than it was with Nazi dominance. Responding to a request from Prague, Radio Free Europe sent to that Communist-ruled city a supply of a drug badly needed to treat a child suffering from leukemia. The goodwill behind this dramatic gesture must impress all who hear of it on both sides of the Curtain.

There is one hopeful fact evident in both these incidents: the Iron Curtain is penetrable. The sender of the appeal for medicine from Prague had heard Radio Free Europe broadcasts dealing with the drug in question, a sure sign that these broadcasts are being heard in that oppressed satellite. In terms of the material resources available to him for execution of his musical plans, Mr. Kleiber was fortunate indeed in East Berlin, yet this material generosity of the Communist authorities could not compensate for the political price they demanded in return.

Certainly incidents like these should spur the Free World on in its efforts to break the Iron Curtain. We need more broadcasts by stations such as Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberation, and the officially sponsored Voice of America. The freedom and abundance of our world give us trump cards to play in the competition for the minds of men. We would be foolish indeed not to play them for all they are worth.

The New York Times *March 22, 1955*

Soviet Bloc Command Set If West Germany Is Armed

By CLIFTON DANIEL

Special to The New York Times.

MOSCOW, Tuesday, March 22—The Soviet Union and seven states of East Europe have agreed on the details of a unified military command to be established in the event West Germany is armed. Announcement of the agreement was issued here early this morning by Tass, Soviet news agency. The news had been broadcast to foreign countries several hours before.

The announcement stated that a representative of Communist China had participated in the discussion of the European states and had expressed Peiping's "full agreement with the measures contemplated."

Announcing the agreement, the Soviet Foreign Ministry disclosed that the negotiation had been conducted recently. Those who participated were delegates of the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania and East Germany.

It was not stated who the delegates were. They presumably were the Ambassadors of the several foreign governments in Moscow and some representatives of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The announcement said the delegates had reached "a complete identity of views" on the principles of an agreement for "friendship, cooperation and mutual aid" and the organization of a unified military command to be set up in case of ratification of the Paris agreement for arming the Bonn Republic."

There was nothing new in the announcement except the fact that discussions actually had been held and a formal understanding recorded.

At a conference held here from last Nov. 29 to Dec. 2 representatives of the eight countries announced their intention to create a joint command if West Germany joined the Western defense bloc.

Six weeks ago in his foreign affairs report to the Supreme Soviet Vyacheslav M. Molotov disclosed that as a precaution the eight Governments already had started negotiations.

The timing of the announce-

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SOVIET BLOC MAPS A JOINT COMMAND

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ment of the conclusion of these talks seemed to suggest an attempt to influence the French Advisory Council of the Republic which still has to consider ratification of the Paris agreements.

The announcement provided typical example of how Western correspondents get—or do not get—news of major events in this country.

Sometime last night the Soviet Foreign Ministry made its announcement and Tass broadcast the news. This correspondent received it first not from any source in Moscow but from London to which he happened to be speaking by telephone about 1 A. M.

As of 3 A. M. no Soviet official so far as this correspondent was aware had made any effort to see that the news reached the correspondents of the seven Western non-Communist news agencies and newspapers stationed in Moscow. This was particularly remarkable in view of the fact that one of the obvious purposes of announcement was to serve as a warning to the West.

The incident was not unusual in any other way. It happens night after night in Moscow.

TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

LONDON, March 21 (AP)—Following is the text of a commu-

niqué broadcast from Moscow tonight:

In the Ministry of U. S. S. R. Foreign Affairs.

Consultations in connection with the decisions of the Moscow conference.

Consultations between the Governments of the Soviet Union, the Polish People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Rumanian People's Republic, the Bulgarian People's Republic and the Albanian People's Republics have been held in accordance with the decisions of the Moscow Conference of European states on ensuring peace and security in Europe, concerning the conclusion of a treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual aid between the eight countries that participated in the Moscow conference.

In the course of these consultations complete unanimity of views revealed itself on the part of the Governments of the above-mentioned countries concerning the principles of such a treaty and the organization of a unified command of the states, the participants of the treaty which will be created in the event of the ratification of the Paris agreements, with the aim of ensuring the security of these states and in the interests of the maintenance of peace in Europe.

The Government of the Chinese People's Republic, which expressed its full agreement with the measures outlined, took part in the consultations of the Governments of the eight countries.

ECONOMIC SHIFTS HURT SOVIET BLOC

Pravda Says Satellites Get
Into Trouble While Putting
Stress on Heavy Industry

Special to The New York Times.

MOSCOW, March 21—Economic difficulties and "disproportions" in the Communist states of Eastern Europe were reported today in Pravda.

Among the "disproportions" mentioned was the fact that "tempos of growth of agriculture are insufficient to satisfy the growing requirements of the working people."

Despite difficulties, the Communist party newspaper asserted, the members of the Soviet bloc are adhering to a policy of giving priority to the development of heavy industry, a policy first laid down in the Soviet Union.

Measures to correct the "disproportions" that have arisen from that policy have been incorrectly interpreted by some observers as "a renunciation of the preponderant development of heavy industry," Pravda said. "Incorrect and harmful" views are being subjected to "severe criticism," it reported.

Pravda's article, an economic review written by I. Dudinsky, declared that the course followed by Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Albania since they became Communist states had enabled them to develop native heavy industry and triple their pre-war industrial output.

Now, Mr. Dudinsky declared,

Poland produces more industrial goods than Italy and has caught up with France in the amount of production per head of population. Czechoslovakia, he added, has outstripped France and West Germany in per capita production of steel and some other products.

However, Mr. Dudinsky wrote, it would be "incorrect to think that the setting up of the material basis of socialism is proceeding without difficulties." "Reorganization of the entire

technical base of the national economy requires great capital investments, and also new cadres and great experience," he continued.

"Difficulties experienced by the economies of the countries of peoples' democracy were manifested first of all in the occurrence of a number of economic disproportions. The decisions of the leading organs of Communist and workers' parties of the countries of peoples' democracy point out the fact that the tempos of growth of agriculture are insufficient to satisfy the grow-raw-material and power base is ing requirements of the working people. The development of the lagging behind the needs of industry."

N. Y. Herald Trib. 28 III 1955

Hungary Promises Aid for Peasants

BUDAPEST, March 27 (UP).—Hungarian Communist Party Secretary Matyas Rakosi has promised greater support for peasants individually working farm land, it was disclosed today.

Rakosi told a Budapest meeting of party district secretaries that 70 per cent of the arable land in Hungary still is being worked by individual peasants.

"Because we want to develop the co-operative movement on a strictly voluntary basis," Rakosi said, "there will continue to be hundreds of thousands of individually working peasants for decades to come."

He said it must not be forgotten that the final aim is development of farm co-operatives.

Times 28 III 955

STUDENTS STRESS AID TO OPPRESSED

Youth Forum Calls for Steps
to Stir Spirit of Liberty
Behind Iron Curtain

The morale of peoples dominated or threatened by Communist tyranny must be strengthened, in the opinion of participants on The New York Times Youth Forum yesterday. The program was televised over Channel 5 on the Du Mont Television Network.

C. D. Jackson, editorial vice president of Time, Inc., was the adult guest. Dorothy Gordon was the moderator of the forum, which was presented from the Du Mont studios at 205 East Sixty-seventh Street. The topic was "How Can We Best Sell Freedom?"

Mr. Jackson said that Radio Free Europe, the Voice of America and the Crusade for Freedom were important propaganda outlets in keeping the idea of freedom alive in the Iron Curtain countries.

He warned, however, that propaganda for freedom was worthless if the people to whom it was directed did not aspire to be free.

"The concept of freedom is universal," he said. "But the people to whom we are addressing ourselves must want it, and they must have the mechanism to make it work."

Junior Red Cross Work Noted

Abraham Benyunes, 16 years old, of New Utrecht High School, Brooklyn, stressed the importance of the international program of the Junior Red Cross.

"By sending letters and photographs to students in other countries, explaining to them what life in the United States is like, we can get the idea of freedom across to those in totalitarian areas," he explained.

George Ripka, 18, of the Lycée Français of New York City, praised the work of Radio Free Europe. "The countries behind the Iron Curtain want their freedom," he said.

"Our radio broadcasts help keep their hopes alive."

The student exchange program of the American Field Service was termed an aid to propaganda for freedom by Donald Calder, 17, of Garden City High School, L. I. He said foreign students who came here could see for themselves the advantages of democracy.

Elizabeth Mullee, 16, of Mary Lewis Academy, Queens, said we should try through our radio broadcasts to keep subject peoples "in a state of unrest and discontent." Thus occupied with morale at home, the Communists

would be discouraged from starting an aggressive war, she added.

A suggestion that broadcast similar to Radio Free Europe be made to Communist-dominated nations in Asia was advanced by Norma Simon, 17, of William Howard Taft High School, the Bronx. She said such broadcast would help to counteract Communist propaganda against the United States.

Shirley Strofollino, 17, of Norwalk High School, Norwalk, Conn., said it was necessary to find out what freedom consisted of for different peoples before we could promote it successfully.

Yesterday's program will be rebroadcast next Saturday from 10:05 to 11 A. M. over the WQXI radio network. The topic for discussion next Sunday on the youth forum will be "What About the Comics?" The adult guest will be Dr. Mark A. McCloskey, chairman of the New York State Youth Commission.