

# Hungary & Eastern Europe - Sixty Years Ago

## A Press Review by a Hungarian Refugee

### Rakosi Restores Hold On Hungary

1955. 10. 16-31.

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Times 16 X 955

# WEST IS PRODDED ON GERMAN UNITY

## Soviet Agreement, European Assembly Unit Says, Must Come First at Geneva

STRASBOURG, France, Oct. 15 (AP)—A committee of the European Consultative Assembly urged the West today to hold fast on German reunification in forthcoming negotiations with the Soviet Union at Geneva.

The Western Foreign Ministers, the committee agreed, must make the Soviet Union agree to German unity in return for agreements on disarmament, European security, trade and other matters. It also urged continued pressure for a rollback of communism from Eastern Europe.

The report was unanimously adopted by the General Affairs Committee for Assembly debate here next week. The Assembly, made up of 132 legislators from fourteen nations and the Saar, has considerable moral force as a European forum, but little actual power.

François de Menthon of France, committee chairman, told a news conference he hoped to push through a resolution embodying the main lines of the committee's report when the Assembly takes it up next Friday.

The report reflected a feeling among many here that the West in general and President Eisenhower in particular had been overeager for some accord with the Soviet Union in the Geneva conference of Big Four heads of government last July.

### Status Quo Is Opposed

The committee said the West must not accept the status quo in Central and Eastern Europe. The continued occupation of nations there, it said, constitutes as great a danger to peace as the continued division of the German people.

"We must recall that the West cannot accept any settlement as definite which would endorse the suppression of national independence and political liberty for a great number of people of Central and Eastern Europe," the committee added. "The division of the Continent is one of the most serious causes of insecurity and tension.

"An acceptance of the present

state of affairs would signify an abandonment of the democratic principles by the very states which profess to defend them."

Committee men said one result of the Geneva conference last July had been to discourage democratic elements in Eastern Europe and make them feel abandoned by the West.

The committee linked the problem of world security to the continued presence of Soviet troops in Central Europe. For this reason, it said, any change in the structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization must be accompanied by a step-by-step and comparable modification of the Soviet position.

## FLUORIDATION DEBATE

N. Y. Herald Trib. 1925

## Laszlo Heard In Piano Recital

By Francis D. Perkins

Ervin Laszlo's remarkable talent, first displayed to an American audience seven years ago when he was under sixteen, was again impressively exhibited in yesterday afternoon's piano recital in Town Hall. The impressive general feature of his playing was its maturity, both in its technical and interpretative aspects; it revealed an objective, discerning musicianship which avoided any extraneous devices, such as distortions of phrase or line, and also did not emphasize power for its own sake.

He possessed, indeed, ample power, but used it appropriately in his well graded and extensive dynamic range, without prejudice to a musical quality of tone. Bach's Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue was sonorously performed, but with entire lucidity; the close of the fugue had a natural rather than a forced climax. In Schumann's "Carnaval," he realized the distinctions of mood between its various sections.

Energetic playing is in order in much of Prokofiev's Seventh Sonata, and here Mr. Laszlo's technical prowess, vigor and momentum were strikingly demonstrated. But there was more than this, including the imaginative projection of the sonata's lyric moods and a sense of expressive excitement in the work's stormiest outbursts.

Ginastera's Rondo on Argentine children's folk tunes was followed by the first New York performance of six of ten "Piezas Simples" by Juan Orrego Salas, of Chile. These also suggested a juvenile subject, and both composers gave an impression of straightforward simplicity of style and atmosphere which also marked the lucid and sympathetic performance. The pianist was also at home in the Liszt works, including the arrangement of Paganini's "La Campanella," which closed the set program.

Times 18 X 215

# AUSTRIA DISTURBS U. S. ON REFUGEES

## State Department Receives Reports of Forced Returns to Iron Curtain Nations

By MICHAEL L. HOFFMAN  
Special to The New York Times.

GENEVA, Oct. 17—United States officials are disturbed by reports they have been receiving about the treatment of political refugees in Austria from Iron Curtain countries and Yugoslavia.

These reports, which have been sent to the State Department, indicate that since the end of the Allied occupation of Austria the Vienna Government has put increasing pressure on refugees to return to the countries from which they escaped. A growing number of cases of actual forced repatriation is mentioned in these reports.

United States officials here believe that during his visit to Moscow last summer Julius Raab, Austrian Chancellor, made a secret agreement with the Soviet Government to encourage the repatriation of refugees.

### Soviet Intimidation Implied

Russian missions have been permitted to visit those in refugee camps and have been given facilities for making contact with other refugees.

These Russian missions are believed to be attempting to intimidate the refugees into returning to their homelands.

Such missions finally were excluded from camps run by the International Refugee Organization and those run by the United States Government.

The Austrian Government refuses to permit new refugees to enter camps still being operated by the United States. It also refuses to give the refugees work permits, except as agricultural laborers.

One camp near Salzburg is only half full but the remaining facilities cannot be made available to new arrivals or even previous inhabitants who, having no job in the Austrian economy, need continued aid.

About 20,000 to 25,000 refugees are involved, United States officials say. These officials do not think these individuals will tax the capacity of the Austrian economy to absorb them as permanent residents or the capacity of existing facilities to maintain them until migration opportunities arise.

Times 19825

## SOVIET IS CLOSING CAMP AT VORKUTA

Mrs. Wallach Says Ex-Inmates Are Staying in Coal Center as Compulsory Exiles

By WELLES HANGEN

Special to The New York Times.

MOSCOW, Oct. 18—The labor camps at Vorkuta, in northern European Russia, are being liquidated, a former inmate reported today. Many prisoners are being released from detention on condition that they remain in Vorkuta.

This was reported tonight by Mrs. Erika Glaser Wallach, who is en route home after more than two years' imprisonment in the Soviet Arctic. She is the adopted daughter of Noel and Herta Field, who were in captivity in Hungary until last year.

"Every day after I reached Vorkuta in August, 1953, conditions improved," Mrs. Wallach said. "Our pay was substantially increased, working hours were shortened to eight a day and we were permitted to buy every day but Saturdays at camp stores."

Mrs. Wallach said she had been assured by Soviet authorities that she could leave Moscow at the end of this week for her home in Washington.

### Convicted of Spying

The 30-year-old German-born brunette was arrested Aug. 26, 1950 in East Berlin while she was seeking clues to the disappearance of her foster parents.

She was convicted of espionage by a Soviet military tribunal and imprisoned for two and one-half years in East Berlin before being transferred to the Soviet Union.

Mrs. Wallach said she had returned a few days ago to Moscow and had been informed by Soviet police officials that the espionage charges against her had been found groundless and that she was free to leave as soon as travel papers could be arranged for her.

Mrs. Wallach reported that the remaining foreign prisoners at Vorkuta were now in the process of being released. She said she had heard of several Americans imprisoned at Vorkuta, but that

all had been liberated to the best of her knowledge.

Once the actual labor camps at Vorkuta are liquidated, Mrs. Wallach said, those prisoners still considered dangerous by the Soviet state will be transferred to camps elsewhere or required to live in Vorkuta as free exiles. Vorkuta is an important coal-mining center.

### Better Conditions Cited

"Many former prisoners have voluntarily chosen to remain in Vorkuta," Mrs. Wallach remarked. "Many of them have no relatives or friends any more."

Mrs. Wallach said she had worked on railroad and road construction at Vorkuta.

"At first I did not think any human being could do that kind of work," she continued, "but I soon learned the human body has great potentialities. You can tell that from the biceps I have grown in the last two years."

She said only men were assigned to coal mining at Vorkuta. She said that men and women had been rigidly segregated until last year when they were allowed to hold dances, do joint dramatic skits, and other entertainments.

Mrs. Wallach said the regime of Nikita S. Khrushchev, party chief, and Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin was popular among the prisoners and guards at Vorkuta because of the relaxations it had effected internally and abroad. She said she thought most of the present members of the Presidium of the Communist party were liked by the Soviet people.

N. Y. Herald Trib. - 24 X 245

## Iharos Runs 5,000 Meters In a World Record 13:40.6

VIENNA, Oct. 23 (AP).—Hungary's track ace Sandor Iharos established a 5,000-meter world record during a Budapest meet today, Radio Budapest announced. His time of 13:40.6 minutes was faster by 6.2 seconds than the previous record held by Russia's Vladimir Kuc.

During the run, Iharos also bettered the world mark for three miles with 13:14.2 minutes. The present mark was set by Chris Chataway, of England, with 13:23.2.

Iharos ran the 1,000 meters in 2:42.0 minutes, the 2,000 meters in 5:28.0, the 3,000 in 8:16.0 and the 4,000 in 11:07.0, Radio Budapest said.

Other competitors in this Hungarian national championship ran also achieved excellent times. Laszlo Tabori was second in 13:53.2, followed by Istvan Szabo in 13:59.0 and Jozsef Kovacs in 14:07.0.

Iharos led the field for as many as 3,000 meters, never giving his competitors a chance to grab the race away from him.

N. Y. Herald Trib. 24 Feb 55

## Refugee Problems

To the N. Y. Herald Tribune:

Forced repatriation of anti-Communist displaced persons has become a live issue in Austria. Thousands of displaced persons and refugees from the Soviet Union as well as from all other countries behind the Iron Curtain are in actual danger of being forced to go back to their former homelands, now under Communist tyranny.

In addition to various press reports, printed in American newspapers, I have just learned on excellent authority that re-defectors who had originally fled the Soviet orbit but went back later are now coming back to persuade the inmates of the DP-camps to follow their own example and to go back to the U. S. S. R. and the satellite countries.

The so-called Soviet amnesty, granting "full freedom and forgiveness" to all returners is being prominently displayed in all Austrian DP-camps.

Most Austrian officials regard 90 per cent of the new refugees from behind the Iron Curtain as "Mitesser" (freeloaders), therefore, as "economic" instead of as "political" refugees. Since the Austrian government is only taking care of the "political" refugees, this means that most of the refugees are in actual danger of starvation.

These undeniable facts let it appear not only as possible but as very likely that the Austrian Chancellor Raab entered in

some kind of oral and secret agreement with the Soviets in order to facilitate the repatriation of the anti-Communists of Soviet and satellite origin. That, of course, completely nullifies the hard won cancellation of the infamous Article 16 of the Draft State Treaty for Austria.

The United States, as a signatory power of the Austrian State Treaty, has assumed full responsibility for the faithful execution of that treaty. Our government should therefore do everything in its power to safeguard the rights of the displaced persons and refugees.

The best way to do this would be the fast transfer of all DP's and refugees, now threatened anew in Austria, to western countries beyond the reach of Soviet and satellite repatriation commissars.

JULIUS EPSTEIN.

New York, Oct. 23, 1955.

Times 22 X 95

# RAKOSI RESTORES HOLD ON HUNGARY

## Reverses Nagy De-emphasis on Heavy Industry and Eases Farm Crisis

By JOHN MacCORMAC

Special to The New York Times.

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Oct. 25 —Less than a year after having deposed Premier Imre Nagy and reversed his "new course," Matyas Rakosi, Communist party boss, again has Hungary firmly in hand.

He has restored confidence in the party rank and file, which had been badly shaken by M. Nagy's "heresies." He has given back to heavy industry its priority. Most of all, he is trying to undo damage to farm collectives done by M. Nagy's invitation to the peasantry to leave them if they saw fit. But in achievement of this goal he still has a long way to go.

Hungary, as the East bloc satellites go, is not badly off today. She is facing the winter with brighter prospects than those for the last three years.

M. Rakosi has been lucky in that this year's crop is 10 per cent better than last year's. He has seen to it that more of it has been collected by the Government. As a result there is in general enough food for Hungary in the cities as well as the country.

In heavy industry Hungary will not reach this year the goals envisaged for the end of the first five-year plan. Rakosi adherents blame the Nagy regime for this because of its theory that creation of an iron and steel industry in Hungary was a "megalomaniac swindle," and that emphasis should shift to consumer goods.



Associated Press

**HEWS TO LINE: Matyas Rakosi, Communist chief of Hungary. Regaining a firm hand, he is imposing a forceful party line once more.**

Actually not much more consumer goods seem to have been manufactured during the year and a half that M. Nagy was in control. It is doubtful whether fewer items are being manufactured now or that there has been any great leap forward in investment in and production from heavy industry.

The difference between the Nagy and Rakosi regimes seems to be the difference in accent, and particularly in discipline.

That seems to bear out the contention of the Rakosi adherents that the Nagy regime left Hungary's economy in a mess. This may have been because it was given only enough time to tear down, but not build up something new. The party doctrinaires fought M. Nagy and his theories all along the line, and not until almost exactly a year ago, only a few months before his deposition, was he given the green light to

put his doctrines into practice. The fact remains that if the people got more food and consumer goods during M. Nagy's reign, it was because he dipped into the country's reserves of them. Wheat had to be imported from France.

This correspondent's last stay in Budapest was in 1948. He last passed through it in 1953. Compared with 1953, life, at least for those who do not actively oppose the regime, seems easier.

The difference in the political climate is perhaps best indicated by the fact that M. Nagy, though he lost his job, kept his liberty and is still in Budapest. Economically, the farmers are certainly better off than in the winter of 1952-53, when their city friends had to smuggle bread out to them.

As for the cities, more than 100,000 citizens of this capital turned out a week ago to see the Hungarians defeat Austria at soccer. The dining room in the hotel at which I stayed, which dispenses jazz and provides small shows during week-ends, is always crowded with people who seem to be able to afford a meal costing them at the official rate of exchange at least \$2.

How they can pay the prices in the shops is a mystery to this writer. To quote these prices in dollars at the fictitious value set by Hungary on the forint means little. But it means something more that the average wage of 1,000 forints a month means a Hungarian must work six weeks to buy a suit, a week to buy a shirt, and two weeks for a pair of shoes. There is no rationing in Hungary, except by price, but that seems severe.

The fact that 50 per cent of the Hungarian women work, that such payments as for rents, street car fares and amusements are cheap, that health and other social service are free and that most workers can eat at least one inexpensive and nourishing meal a day in their office or factory canteen may explain how they get along.



Times 29 X 255

# HUNGARY PREMIER OUTLINES POLICIES

## Defends Industrialization and Cooperative Plans — Says Mindszenty Is in a Church

By JOHN MacCORMAC

Special to The New York Times.

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Oct. 27

Premier Andras Hegedus of Hungary explained his Government's attitude toward industrialization, agricultural collectivization, relations with the Roman Catholic Church and relations with Yugoslavia in an interview today.

He defended his Communist regime against the charge of over-hasty industrialization. He added that it would continue to develop its own heavy industry even after the advent of the next five-year plan, which has been foreshadowed as one that will integrate the economies of the Eastern bloc satellites more closely with each other and with the Soviet Union.

He said the setback given to agricultural collectivization by Imre Nagy, his predecessor who was ousted, had not yet been overcome. But he said the country was rapidly recovering and that collectives were emerging stronger than before.

He contended that an increasing number of Bishops and priests of the Catholic Church, because they were concerned for the welfare of the people, were falling in line with the Government's progressive policy. He said this and not the erroneous interpretations put upon it in Vatican circles explained his Government's action in "interrupting the sentences" of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty and Archbishop Jozsef Groess.

Asked if it were true that his Government had offered to release the Cardinal if he agreed to leave Hungary, but that the Primate had refused, the Premier said it was the first he had heard of it.

"Mindszenty is staying in a church building," he declared. "We do not think it is important or interesting that he may or may not be visited there. Certain Vatican circles would like to disturb church-state relations and it seems to me they subordinate the interests of the church to political interests."

He denied reports that Hungary had already decided to re-open negotiations with Yugoslavia over Hungary's financial obligations to that country. He said, however, that in making its new five-year plan Hungary hoped to be able to contemplate closer economic relations with both Yugoslavia and Austria.

Mr. Hegedus, a small, slight, pale man, is an agricultural specialist as was his predecessor, Mr. Nagy. He received this correspondent in the rebuilt Hungarian Parliament together with Endre Dik, former Minister to Washington and now Assistant Foreign Minister.

### Wheat Import Criticized

Hungary's present regime has been criticized for the fact that the country, once the granary of Europe, has frequently been compelled to import wheat in recent years. On this subject Mr. Hegedus declared that Hungary would not only not have to import wheat this year but also would be able to export it.

He said that before World War II "only 15,000 hectares of arable land were irrigated [a hectare is two and one-half acres] while since then "we have irrigated 140,000 hectares."

"Whereas east of Tisza every yield of pasture land was .5 to .6 tons of hay per hectare, each hectare now yields 2.53 tons of rice, a new culture we have introduced."

Mr. Hegedus declared Hungary now produced more wheat than before the war on less territory. He said more land had been devoted to the production of sugar and industrial plants.

The Premier said about 55,000 families had joined cooperative farms this year. The Hungarian peasant, said Mr. Hegedus, is so conservative that when electricity was brought to the villages some old women had sworn they would never turn on an electric light. It had become evident this year, however, that the peasant in the cooperative could make more than he did as an individual farmer, the Premier said.