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

Rakosi Restores Hold On Hungary

- West is Prodded on German Unity
- Laszlo Heard In Piano Recital
- Austria Disturbs U.S. On Refugees
- Soviet Is Closing Camp At Vorkuta
- Iharos Runs 5,000 Meters In a World Record 13:40.6
- Refugee Problems
- Rakosi Restores Hold On Hungary
- Hungary Premier Outlines Policies
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 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
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 “Pizas Simples” by Juan Orrego Salas, of Chile. This 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 Pavani’s “La Campiella,” which closed the set program.
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.
SOVIE T 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 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.
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.
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 redefectors 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 “Mittesser” (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 displacedpersons 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.
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 pri-
ority. Most of all, he is trying
to undo damage to farm collec-
tives done by M. Nagy’s invita-
tion to the peasants 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
envisioned for the end of the first
five-year plan. Rakosi adherents
blame the Nagy regime for this
because of its theory that cre-
tion of an iron and steel industry
in Hungary was a “megal-
omanic swindle,” and that em-
phasis should shift to consumer
goods.

put his doctrines into practice.
The fact remains that if the
people got more food and con-
sumer 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. Com-
pared with 1953 life, at least for
those who do not actively op-
pose 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. Econ-
mically, 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 al-
ways 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 fac-
tory canteen may explain how
they get along.
“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-new 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 Olák, 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 the Tisza every yield of pasture land was .5 to 6 tons of hay per hectare, each hectare now yields 2.5 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.