

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

"Personality Cult" Assailed by Rakosi
1956. 03. 1-15.

- What individuals Can Do About Communism
- Ten Years of the Iron Curtain
- Hungary to Reduce Arms Budget
- Hungarian Folk Music Heard at Y.M.H.A.
- Satellite Funds in U.S. Seized for War Claims
- "Personality Cult" Assailed by Rakosi
- Hungary's Rakosi: I - Man of Many Aliases


N. 7 Herald Trib 4/11/56

The Red Underground

What Individuals Can Do About Communism

By Herbert A. Philbrick

Many readers of this column write that they appreciate what it tells them about the activities of the Communist conspiracy, but wonder what they can do about countering those activities. The answer is three-fold. First, learn all you can about the true nature of the international Communist network. Philbrick



Understanding based on accurate information is a prerequisite for proceeding intelligently and effectively. You can not effectively combat an enemy until you know him. That is why ignorance is the Communists' prime ally and truth their worst enemy. Excellent material on Communism is contained in such sources as Ralph de Toledano's compelling book "Spies, Dupes and Diplomats," Francis Noel-Baker's sensational "The Spy Web," and many other such works.

New Handbook

Also very valuable is the Senate Internal Security subcommittee's new definitive, comprehensive "Handbook for Americans," now available from The Bookmailer, Box 101, Murray Hill Station, New York (16), N. Y., which also has Robert Byfield's "The Fifth Weapon," a very clear delineation of Communist strategy and tactics, packed between the covers of a small booklet.

Secondly, write letters. Write to friends, to your newspaper, to your clubs and organizations,

your religious leaders and your Senators and Congressmen. Never underestimate the power of a simple letter.

An Example

A current example may be found in a letter by Dr. Bela Fabian, a Hungarian emigre now living in New York, written to the London "Time and Tide," angrily protesting the proposed British welcome of Khrushchev and Bulganin. Dr. Fabian reminded the British that when Gen. Julius Jacob (The Hyena) Haynau appeared in London in 1850 he was set upon by angry Britons with heavy whips and driven from the country. British wrath was stirred because Gen. Haynau, in suppressing the Hungarian war of independence of 1848-'49, ordered execution of thirteen Hungarian generals—a minor offense against the Hungarian people compared with the many thousands of Hungarians liquidated or imprisoned in slave-labor and concentration camps by the Soviet Union.

For more than a century, wrote Dr. Fabian, whenever Hungarians mourned their martyrs, the orators never omitted commending the British people for their sympathy. . . . "Now I read in the newspapers that Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Khrushchev plan to visit England in April, 1956. . . . For many hundreds of years the oppressed nations have regarded England as the champion of freedom and as the adversary of tyranny; it would therefore come as a great shock to Great Britain's faithful friends and admirers if Bulganin and

Khrushchev were to be received with flowers and ovations."

Dr. Fabian's protest was reprinted in several newspapers and magazines and attracted the attention of government leaders in Britain.

Dr. Fabian himself managed narrowly to escape death at the hands of the Communists. He eventually reached the freedom and safety of the United States with little more than his skin, and even that bears the purple tattoo marks branded by the Nazis as a memento of his four years in Hitler's concentration camps. Here is a man with far less material wealth than most Americans, doing his bit in the fight against Communism.

Similarly, a short time ago a young man of Syracuse, N. Y., wrote a short letter to Henry Ford II calling his attention to some of the activities of the Fund for the Republic, which was established with \$15,000,000 of Ford Foundation money. Mr. Ford's reply to this letter, indicating his disapproval of some phases of conduct of the Fund for the Republic, captured front page space in newspapers all over the country.

The Syracuse letter writer was John Dungey, an ordinary American, father of four children, and employed in the sales department of a metal fabricating firm. He is a veteran, active in the V. F. W. and the American Legion. He plays an important part in the fight against Communism by constantly calling attention to the threat to America of the Communists' workings. Mr. Dungey does this simply by writing letters.

In another instance recently a friendly letter to a leading clergyman in New York City resulted in his resignation as a trustee of Guy Emery Shipler's notorious "Churchman" publication, whose proclivities for pro-Communist falsehood, bias and distortion are well known to regular readers of this column. Withdrawal of this name from the list of "Churchman" supporters represents an important victory in the battle against the Red conspiracy—all achieved through a friendly but enlightening letter.

Anti-Red Meeting

A third way in which the individual can act is by attending and supporting meetings such as the one scheduled at Hunter College auditorium, 695 Park Ave., on March 10 at 7 p. m. The meeting, sponsored by the American Hungarian Federation, is to deal with three problems of utmost urgency: first, the British government's invitation to Khrushchev and Bulganin to visit in London; second, the continued imprisonment of Cardinal Mindszenty, and third, the spread of colonialism under Soviet Communist imperialism.

A featured participant will be Ilona Massey, of stage and screen. Others include Zoltan Becky, representing Hungarian Protestants; John Gaspar, leader of Hungarian Catholics, and Dr. Fabian, whose most recent book is "Cardinal Mindszenty." He is a key figure in the Hungarian anti-Communist resistance forces. Those who attend are assured enlightenment and stimulation.

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N. Y. Herald Trib. 7 III 256

Ten Years of the Iron Curtain

On March 6, 1946, Winston Churchill spoke on a college campus at Fulton, Mo., and captured the imagination of the world. "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic," he said, "an iron curtain has descended across the Continent." He spoke of the loss of liberty that had overtaken the famous cities and ancient states of central and eastern Europe. In face of the threat to the free world posed by the growing shadow of tyranny, he urged on the English-speaking nations a policy of unity and strength, "constancy of mind, persistency of purpose" and "simplicity of decision."

Ten years later, the part of the world so vividly described at Fulton still presents a melancholy picture. Austria, to be sure, has emerged from the shadows, and Yugoslavia is not under Moscow's thumb. But Poland is still a Russian pawn on the European chessboard; the Baltic states, first victims of Soviet aggression, are no better off; Czechoslovakia has lost such vestiges of freedom as it had; Hungary and Bulgaria remain in subjection; East Germany is the fruit of what Churchill described as an attempt by the Russians "to build up a quasi-Communist party in their zone of occupied Germany by showing special favors to groups of Left-Wing German leaders."

From Romania, moreover, come confused but highly disturbing reports of a current wave of terror in which hundreds are said to have perished. Whatever the truth of the report may be, it is a sad

commentary on the effects of the Iron Curtain that any such monstrous charge of mass slaughter cannot, under present conditions, be investigated to the satisfaction of the civilized world.

The warning at Fulton startled many who had failed to read aright the signs of the times. The free world has since then seen China and Tibet fall to the Communists and watched their encroachment in Southeast Asia. The passing years have served only to confirm the keenness of the great statesman's vision and the soundness of his advice. It is still a fine platform to "adhere faithfully to the charter of the United Nations and walk forward in sedate and sober strength seeking no one's land or treasure, or seeking to lay no arbitrary control on the thoughts of men."

Wash. Post 11 III 256

Hungary To Reduce Arms Budget

Reuters

LONDON, Feb. 10—Communist Hungary will reduce defense spending this year to the equivalent of about \$350 million, the Hungarian news agency MTI reported today.

Prime Minister Andras Hegedues told the National Assembly the country would reduce defense expenditure following a decision to reduce armed strength by 20,000 men.

Finance Minister Karoly Olt said the budget provided for total expenditure of the equivalent of about \$3,550,000,000. Income was estimated at about \$3,780,000,000.

"Considerable sums" would be allocated for television, more railway lines would be electrified and equipped with new electric and diesel locomotives, agricultural producer co-operatives would receive more financial aid, and 7100 tons of shipping would be built, he said.

Investments for 1956 would be 30 per cent up on last year, and 41.7 per cent of the total would go to industry, heavy industry receiving 39 per cent of the total.

June 12 III 256

June 3, 12, 56
Hungarian Folk Music Heard at Y.M.H.A.

"MUSIC in Our Time: 1900-1956," having sampled the influence of jazz at an earlier session, turned its attention yesterday to a surprisingly related influence. Hungarian folk-music was the unifying thread that ran through most of the concert at the Ninety-second Street Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association.

As at previous sessions of his provocative series, Max Pollikoff had invited composers whose works were performed to comment on the music. Tibor Serly, a close friend of Béla Bartók, opened the program with some interesting words on Bartók's activity as a collector of folk music, and the rôle of folk music in his own and in Bartók's works.

One point that perhaps seemed to him too obvious to mention, but which the program brought out clearly, was the tremendously vitalizing influence of Hungarian folk rhythm on the music of both composers.

It is significant that Mr. Serly's own "Hungarian Folk Music for Violin, Clarinet and Piano," which opened the pro-

gram, made generous use of dance rhythms, some of them highly syncopated in a way that could not help but remind an American listener of jazz.

Bartók's Violin duets, which followed, were almost entirely dances. And the concluding work of the program, Bartók's brilliant and extremely difficult "Contrasts for Violin, Clarinet and Piano," was stylized dance music in its first and third movements.

The rhythmic shot in the arm that twentieth-century music received from jazz and folk music is one of the most obvious and appealing traits of modern music. Messrs. Pollikoff and Hugo Fiorato, violinists; Lucy Brown, pianist, and Eric Simon, the clarinetist with a particular flair for the style, made this eloquently clear.

A well-chosen contrast to the rhythmic element was the group of five songs to sonnet's of Dante by Robert K. Evans. Mr. Evans, who played the piano accompaniments, also gave detailed summaries of the Italian texts. The songs had a gracefully vocal line and discreet, rather modal-sounding accompaniments. Mildred Allen, soprano, sang them beautifully.
E. D.

War Post 13 III 256

Satellite Funds in U. S. Seized for War Claims

International News Service

The Government yesterday began seizure of \$25 million in funds from three Iron-Curtain countries which have been blockd by the United States since the early days of World War II.

The Justice Department said the seized assets will be used to pay claims of American citizens for property in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, which was damaged during the war or was taken over by the Communists.

The first seizure was made yesterday; \$13 million in gold bullion held since 1940 in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for the National Bank of Romania. Also confiscated was \$250,000 in bank accounts held for the Romanian Bank.

Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. said similar action would soon be taken against \$11,750,000 in bank accounts and securities held for Hungary and Romania.

The seizures were made under special congressional authority resulting from failure of the three satellite nations to pay claims of American citizens estimated at about \$125 million.

Those countries had agreed to pay the claims under terms of peace treaties signed in 1947, but they failed to do so despite reminders from the U. S. State Department. A good share of the claims involve oil property belonging to American firms. Since the seized funds fall far short of the claimed totals, the money will be paid out on a pro-rata basis.

Brownell emphasized that the property undergoing seizure was blocked during World War II. No action will be taken against blocked property

owned directly by individuals nor against other types of property of the three satellite nations.

Times 16 III 256

'PERSONALITY CULT' ASSAILED BY RAKOSI

Special to The New York Times.

VIENNA, March 15—Matyas Rakosi, First Secretary of the Hungarian Communist party, has been rebuking his comrades for a "harmful cult of personality." This is the same Rakosi whose picture used to be as common a sight in the streets and public buildings of Budapest as that of Stalin.

M. Rakosi told a meeting of the party's Central Committee Monday and Tuesday, according to the Budapest radio, that this leader worship had spread from the Stalin regime in the Soviet Union to the satellites and had caused many serious political and ideological mistakes.

In Hungary, he said, collective leadership has not yet been satisfactorily established and the Central Committee had failed to transform itself into a collective executive body. The party's Politbureau was entrusted with the task of correcting this situation.

Another resolution of the Central Committee directed that the Fatherland Front movement must be intensified and filled with new political content in order that it should embrace all levels of the Hungarian people and become a workers mass movement. This resolution came as a surprise, since the Fatherland Front had been built up in just this fashion by Imre Nagy, former Premier.

Times 17 III 256

Foreign Affairs

Hungary's Rakosi: I—Man of Many Aliases

By C. L. SULZBERGER

BUDAPEST, Hungary, March 16 —Matyas Rakosi, boss of Communist Hungary, is an extraordinarily durable man. By his own account he survived nineteen years in prison, seven in solitary confinement. He survived underground intrigues on behalf of the Comintern. He led Cominform attacks on Tito's Yugoslavia and survived Moscow's drastic change of line. He survived the death of Stalin, the shift to Malenkov's "new course" and the switch back under Khrushchev. Now the U. S. S. R., fount of his political inspiration, emphasizes collective leadership and the end of one-man rule. But Matyas Rakosi remains Communist Hungary's boss.

Steeped in the traditions of conspiracy, Rakosi seems to have formed the habit of obscuring facts. When I asked him if Rakosi is his real family name he answered yes. Yet his own Foreign Office admits that when he was born 64 years ago in a village now in Yugoslavia his surname was Roth. He Magyarized it while studying in Budapest.

As a Comintern agent in Europe Rakosi used many passports and thirty different aliases. A prisoner of the pre-war Horthy regime in 1940, he was released to the Soviet Union in exchange for battle flags of 1848, then captured by the Russians. Now he recalls with pride: "It is an irony of history that the same standards were taken again in Austria by a Russian army—the Red army. And they were again returned to us. At national parades they head our columns. I find it a highly agreeable sensation to see them there."

Rakosi speaks fluent English, Russian, German, French and Italian plus more than a smattering of Turkish. He explains this talent accordingly: "Forty-six years ago I studied to be a diplomat. I wanted to enter the consular service and attended the Oriental Academy, our only diplomatic school."

He is astonishing looking: barely five feet tall but with an enormous, powerful chest that has slipped a bith with age; large head, shaven and bald, shaping up to a point; heavy jaw, shrewd brown eyes, friendly smile, several gold teeth and a hoarse, resonant voice. "In my youth," he confides, "I was a sportsman. I still rown and swim." He used to read the American and

English press assiduously. But, says he: "I found they kept repeating the same rubbish. Last January I cancelled my subscriptions—all but The London Economist and New Statesman."

He goes on about Moscow's shifting party line enthusiastically. When asked for his views on Stalin or the recent Bolshevik Congress, he answers with a smile: "I agree with Comrade Krushchev and Comrade Mikoyan." In the hall outside of his office is a Stalin portrait. In the antechamber hangs a snapshot of Stalin lighting a pipe. And again behind his desk is Stalin. Hungary makes formal obeisance to Krushchev's new "collective leadership." Next month's Liberation parade is being obediently centered by the Yugoslav Legation instead of before the Stalin monument. But Rakosi retains his private pictures.

Despite zigzags of communism's erratic course, Rakosi seems brim-full of confidence. Today he pays lip-service to Stalin's faults, Tito's virtues and the good qualities of his hiterto-disgraced Hungarian colleague Bela Kun. But how deep does this run?

Says he: "I am an optimist by nature. My parents bequeathed me health. I survived difficult years. A Hungarian prison was no high school. Often I lived in darkness. But I kept fit by using my cell table as a weight for exercises. When I emerged, full of energy, the keeper was most dissatisfied." Rakosi is exuberantly devoted to the Soviet Union. His wife, a ceramic artist, is Russian. For him all good winds blow from the east. "To be a successful power nowadays, he observes, you must have a population of at least one hundred million." These are not the words of a Tito.

Hungary, he claims, is on the crest of a wave, a Soviet wave. He adds: "Every day the papers are full of news agreeable to us—even if disagreeable to Mr. Dulles. China has joined our camp. There have been changes in Vietnam, North Africa, Egypt. Adenauer's regime is disintegrating. Man must be blind if he doesn't see the direction in which history moves." And, he boasts, "This is a free wave. Look around. You will see free people."

One looks. One discovers that Hungary's current literary genius, Guyla Illyes, has just written: * * * It is too late now. * * * The earth, our earth, is always heavier, heavier with one more corpse. * * * The fallen always increase in number and anguish always increases."