

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

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The Washington Post and  
Times Herald

April 1, 1956

## Hungary Is Asked To Free Priests

Reuters

VIENNA, March 31—Dr. Julius Czapik, Archbishop of Eger, northern Hungary, has asked the Hungarian Government to grant an amnesty to all priests imprisoned in Hungary during the Stalin regime in Russia, the Austrian Catholic news agency Kathpress reported tonight.

The Archbishop also sent a list showing that 30 per cent of Hungarian parishes were without a priest and another 40 per cent were inadequately supplied with religious mentors.



# Reds Use Threats, Lures To Bring Escapees Back

It costs the Soviet government close to \$100,000 to persuade an escapee from the Iron Curtain to return to the Communist fold, according to an official of the International Rescue Committee.

The Soviets are spending vast sums in this activity. In recent months they have intensified their "redefection campaign"—as it is known in official parlance.

The reasons for this campaign, the extent of its success and the measures which the free world can take to counteract it were summarized in the report released recently by the committee.

Headed by William J. Donovan, a nine-man emergency commission prepared the report for the IRC after a trip to Europe to survey the situation.

The actual financial cost to the Soviets of this "come-home" campaign was not included in the official report.

## No Lure Is Overlooked

But, according to Claiborne Pell, the only Washington member of the commission, the \$100,000 figure was the commission's unofficial estimate after seeing to what lengths the Soviets have gone.

Apparently, no lure has been overlooked: The promise of better jobs, schooling for young people, a guarantee of amnesty, and sentimental letters from families urging the escapee to return. If all the more "positive" lures fail, they don't hesitate to use the old Communist trademarks of threats, reprisals against relatives behind the Iron Curtain, blackmail, terrorism and even abduction and murder.

Despite these attempts, well-co-ordinated and highly organized, only 1,158 persons actually returned to Iron Curtain lands last year, according to the report.



CLAIBORNE PELL  
On Rescue Committee

the existing legal, psychological and financial facilities.

## Emigres Terrorized

But the real success of the campaign is the demoralizing effect it has had on the anti-communist emigre groups in destroying and terrorizing their leadership. The Soviets hope to break the resistance movements represented by these groups and also to discourage others from attempting to flee the Iron Curtain.

Emigres reported to the IRC commission that they had received letters from relatives in Soviet countries not heard from in years. These letters were properly addressed—even in instances where the refugee had changed his name and moved numerous times. The letters all have the same general tone—"Come home, we long to see you. All will be forgiven. Things are different now."

Letters were followed by newspaper and pamphlets with the same propaganda line. The Communists have even gone so far as to transport relatives from behind the Iron Curtain to talk to the escapee.

The commission said that this intensely personalized campaign made each emigre feel as if the strong, ruthless might of the Communist state had concentrated its full attention on him—thus giving a feeling of hopelessness, of futility in resistance.

## Successful in U. S.

Even in so vast a country as the United States, the Soviet "redefection" apparatus has managed to work effectively. The report cited the following examples:

An Armenian in New York moved a number of times, thinking he had covered his trail behind him, only to continue to be deluged by "Come-home" appeals, each time correctly addressed.

Since June, 1955, a number of former Hungarian nationals here have received letters asking them to return home. These letters were delivered by members of the Communist Hungarian Legation or mailed directly from Hungary.

At the same time secret warnings were sent to the addresses not to listen to letters sent from Hungary from the same person, for they were extracted under duress.

An analysis of these letters showed an intimate knowledge of the situation in which the refugee lives in America—his income, his job, his problems, plus detailed information as to his political activities.

A number of Czechoslovak exiles living in America have received chain letters—anonymous handwritten letters in simple Czech.

## Why Refugees Are Vulnerable

The Commission cited the following reasons why Iron Curtain refugees in the United States are vulnerable to these repatriation attempts.

1. The refugee is profoundly shocked that residence in the United States does not make him immune to Red pressure.

2. His contact with his compatriots is much less than that of other refugees still in camps or living in the closer quarters of Western Europe.

3. He usually has not been here long enough to feel a part of the United States community.

4. He is totally unaware of



W. Y. Herald Tribune

April 3, 1956

## Hungary Honors U. S. War Dead

VIENNA, Apr. 2 (UP).—Memorial ceremonies were held in Communist Hungary today for American and British soldiers who died in that country during World War II, the Budapest radio reported tonight.

It was the first time since the Communists seized power in Hungary during World War II that such ceremonies have been held there.



The New York Times

April 4, 1956

### Szakasits Release Reported

VIENNA, April 3 (UP)—Hungary has released former President Arpad Szakasits from prison with a group of about thirty

other Social Democrats, it was reported here today.

Reliable sources said that Gyorgy Marosan, former Socialist Cabinet Minister, also had been freed in the wholesale release. Mr. Szakasits and Mr. Marosan were reported to have been the last prominent Socialists still held by the Hungarian Government.

Thirty to fifty Social Democrats, including Anna Kethly, former deputy Socialist party chairman, were released from prison last year.

Mr. Szakasits was President of Hungary from 1948 until April, 1950, when he resigned because of a sudden "illness," according to a Hungarian news agency report at the time. Informed sources said the former President had been imprisoned shortly after his resignation.

He was one of the few Hungarian Socialists who advocated the party's union with the Communists. As soon as that union was established he became President.

Mr. Marosan, former Minister of Light Industry, was arrested in 1950 and sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment by a military tribunal.



W. Y. Times

APR 4. 1956

## SOVIET PLEDGES HUNT FOR VANISHED SWEDE

Special to The New York Times.

MOSCOW, April 3—The Soviet Union promised tonight to investigate the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat, in Hungary at the end of World War II.

Mr. Wallenberg's unexplained disappearance has long been a major mystery and a source of political embarrassment to any government in power in Sweden.

A joint communique issued here tonight said Premier Tage Erlander of Sweden had furnished "important material" concerning the Wallenberg case to Soviet leaders during their conversations here. It said the Swedish Premier had stressed the importance attached to the case in Sweden and urged that Mr. Wallenberg be permitted to return home if he is in the Soviet Union today.

Soviet officials made no commitment beyond saying they would examine "carefully" the material Mr. Erlander provided, most of which came from former German prisoners of war released from detention in this country.

Mr. Erlander told a news conference this afternoon "we know that Wallenberg was taken into custody by the Russians at the end of World War II." He said he did not know if the diplomat was still alive.

Mr. Wallenberg, a member of an illustrious Swedish diplomatic family, was in Budapest in 1945 on a mercy mission among Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution when he disappeared.



The Evening Star April 7, 1956

## Hungary Frees Writer, Husband Remains Jailed

VIENNA, Austria, April 7 (AP).

—The official Hungarian news agency MTI said today Mrs. Ilona Marton, former correspondent for the United Press in Budapest, had been released from prison.

But her husband, Endre Marton, who was correspondent for the Associated Press in Budapest, remains in prison.

The Budapest radio announced January 14 that Mrs. Marton had been sentenced to three years imprisonment and her husband to six years on charges of spying for United States intelligence agents. The Martons are Hungarian citizens.

Relatives said Mrs. Marton had been freed on probation for six months, with her release apparently to become final after that period. They said no reason was given for her early release.

The relatives also said they had been permitted to visit Mr. Marton in prison and found him



**ILONA MARTON**  
**Put on Probation**

—AP Wirephoto

in good health. They said there was no indication whether he also would be released before his sentence expires.



27. Herald Tribune

April 13, 1956

## The Refugee Problem in Austria

TO the N. Y. Herald Tribune: Your interesting editorial "Austria and the Refugee Problem" has rendered considerable service by bringing the attention of this serious problem to your readers. In the interests of clarification, however, there are one or two additional points which I feel should be brought to your attention.

You make particular reference to the refugees from Eastern Europe—Poles, Yugoslavs, Hungarians, Russians, Czechs and Romanians, who have found a haven in Austria and mention that "as a group they cannot be 'integrated' into the small Austrian economy and must find homes abroad." The fact of the matter is that there is indeed no solution for these refugees "as a group"; neither "as a group," can arrangements be made for their resettlement abroad. A solution must be found to the problems facing each individual refugee.

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Many of them individually will indeed be able to find an opportunity for a new life outside of Austria. There will be many, however, for whom emigration is impractical or impossible, many who are unwilling or unable to emigrate elsewhere and whose hope of a new life can only be met by integration within the Austrian economy. This applies equally to refugees who are able-bodied as well as to those who are suffering under the additional handicap of being aged or disabled.

It is for this reason that the United States, as well as other governments of the free world, support and participate in programs for the local integration of those refugees for whom emigration is impractical or impossible, and consider both approaches as important ways to achieve a solution of the refugee problem in Austria. The government of Austria itself subscribes to these principles.

The U. N. High Commissioner

for Refugees is undertaking a four-year program of providing permanent solutions for refugees within his mandate, either by resettlement or by local integration, as authorized in 1954 by the General Assembly. Primary emphasis for the program is directed toward those countries who still have a large population of refugees in camps, many of whom have been there since the end of World War II: Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy.

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The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, on the other hand, was established for the movement of surplus population, including refugees, from Europe. To the extent that the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration moves both the able and the physically disabled refugees to new homes in co-operation with the Office of the U. N. High Commissioner for Refugees, it is making a valuable contribution to the ultimate solution of the problems of refugees.

However, the task of the U. N.

High Commissioner for Refugees is specifically directed by the General Assembly toward providing within his mandate, in Austria and elsewhere, international protection to these refugees and by seeking permanent solutions for their problems.

As you so cogently put it in your editorial, "the permanent refugee is one of the saddest creations of the twentieth century" and your plea that "this is a problem on the conscience of humanity, and the United States should be ready to shoulder its share of the burden" has particular significance in view of the fact that the President of the United States has again requested financial support from Congress for the programs of ICEM, concerned in part with the movement of refugees, and for the U. N. Refugee Fund (UNREF) in providing permanent solutions to the problems of refugees, both of which requests will be considered by Congress within the next few weeks. A considerable portion of the amount appropriated by Congress to UNREF last year was spent to alleviate the refugee problem in Austria.

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The 1956 program of UNREF, which will largely depend for its success on the generosity of governments, including the United States, will again devote the major portion of its resources towards alleviating the problem of refugees in Austria. With specific regard to the problem to which you have referred in your editorial, it is my understanding that the State Department is considering it, in addition to the department's regular request.

Should special measures be undertaken, it would be as a joint operation by UNREF and ICEM according to their respective functions.

ALINE COHN,  
Representative in the United  
States, U. N. High Commissioner for Refugees.  
New York, April 11, 1956.



The 6.7 Times

April 15, 1956

## REDS' FIRES PROTESTED

### Austria Asks Hungary to End Burning of Border Forests

Special to The New York Times.

VIENNA, April 14—Austria asked Hungary today to stop setting frontier fires to improve the visibility from her watch towers along the Iron Curtain.

Hungarian border guards this week began burning numerous forest and bushy areas near the minefields that seal the country's frontiers. These blazes spread across Austria's borders in several areas. In some cases roads had to be closed.

The Austrian Minister in Budapest today asked the Hungarian Government to halt its operations endangering Austrian property and nationals.

Foreign Minister Leopold Figl and Deputy Foreign Minister Bruno Kreisky have both declared recently that the Iron Curtain countries should open their borders.