

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

Golf in Budapest a Stymie to Reds
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Sunday Star 17 VI 256

THE WEEK IN RELIGION

Catholics Eye Shifts In Hungary, Poland

By Religious News Service

Roman Catholic observers are watching with interest developments in Hungary suggesting a new conciliatory attitude by the Communist government toward the church there.

At the same time they are disturbed by reports from Poland of intensified efforts to win the faithful to the side of "progressive" Catholics who seek to spread the idea of "coexistence" between communism and Christianity — a theory the Vatican has condemned repeatedly.

Particular cause for concern was the announcement that Stanislaw Mackiewicz, former Premier of the Polish government-in-exile in London, is planning to return to his homeland and may join a new "religious cominform" reportedly being formed by "progressive" Catholics there to link progovernment religious believers in all the Communist countries.

Surface indications are that a period of greater tolerance may be taking shape in Hungary. But Catholic observers are adopting a wait-and-see attitude before passing judgment.

Last month, Communist authorities in Hungary permitted Archbishop Joseph Grosz of Kalocsa, who was released from prison conditionally in October, to resume his ecclesiastical functions. This is the first time a prelate tried and condemned as a "traitor" has been officially "pardoned" and reinstated in his civic and religious status.

An unconfirmed report from Budapest this week said the government is negotiating with Vatican representatives "in a neutral country" on the nomination of a successor to Archbishop Julius Czapik of Eger who died April 25. He had served as acting chairman of the Bench of Bishops.

According to the report, the master general of the Piarist Order has been suggested as head of the Eger See. He is the Most Rev. Vincent Tomek, who has lived in Rome for the past eight or nine years.

Wash Post 17 VI 256

East and West Discuss Atomic Power As World Conference Opens in Vienna

By Ulrich Marker
Reuters

VIENNA, June 16—Leading experts from East and West will compare notes on atomic power plants at the Fifth World Power Conference, which opens in Vienna Sunday and continues until June 23.

More than 2800 delegates and their wives, representing 50 countries, make this the biggest gathering of experts ever held in the Austrian capital.

The first such conference was held in London in 1924. Subsequent world conferences were held in Berlin in 1930, in Washington in 1936, and in London in 1950.

The Soviet Union is sending more than 50 delegates to the Vienna conference, and delegations are also coming from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, East Germany and Communist China.

All nations of western Europe will be represented, along with the United States, most of the South American countries, the Philippines and several of the British Commonwealth countries.

The theme will be: "The world's energy resources in the light of technical and economic developments."

The various national delegations have submitted some 300 papers which are to be dealt with by the conference.

Among them are reports on the development of national power production between 1950 and 1954; on problems of thermal power stations; on hydro-power stations; on the utilization of new methods of energy; and on technical and economic problems of international co-operation in power matters.

One of the highlights of the conference will be a discussion

on nuclear energy, including protective measures against the misuse of atomic power.

So far 55 reports on atomic power have been submitted by participating nations and more than 1000 delegates have announced their desire to address the conference on the subject.

The conference will be opened by Austrian President Theodor Koerner.

Eighteen working groups are to discuss the various problems in sessions, five of which will be sitting at the same time.

The General Assembly of the Conference will elect a new president to succeed Sir Harold Hartley of Britain whose term ends with the Vienna Conference. It is believed that the new president will be an Austrian. The permanent office of the conference organization is in London.

N. Y. Herald Tribune 18 VI 256

Horthy's 88th Birthday

ESTORIL, Portugal, June 17
(U).—Admiral Nicholas Horthy,
regent of Hungary from 1920 to
1944, celebrated his eighty-
eighth birthday here today.

Times 18 VI 256

RUMANIA PLEASED BY NEW RED LINE

Leaders Say They Shunned
Cult of Personality Since
Big Purges of 1952

By SYDNEY GRUSON

Special to The New York Times.

BUCHAREST, Rumania, June 17 — The Rumanian Workers (Communist) party is happily at peace with itself.

In sharp contrast with their Polish, Czechoslovak and Hungarian comrades, the Rumanian leaders are not indulging in any lamentations or recriminations about their activities, past or present. They feel no need for such behavior.

So far as the Rumanian Communist chieftains seem concerned, the Twentieth Congress of the Soviet party last February simply set a course they have been following since 1952. This was even before the death of Stalin set the stage for the Soviet Union's present rulers to chart the new course.

In 1952, the Rumanians conducted their version of the purge that coursed through the Soviet bloc after Stalin's break with Yugoslavia. Mme. Ana Pauker, Foreign Minister; Vasile Luca, Minister of Finance, and Teohari Georgescu, Minister of Interior, were swept from power and branded as "deviationists."

Purges Are Reaffirmed

Far from being "rehabilitated" like other fallen leaders throughout the bloc, Mme. Pauker and company have been condemned once again. Scinteia, the party's main newspaper, listed their sins recently in reporting a debate of Communist activists on the results of the Twentieth Congress.

According to Scinteia, the "deviators" played a "great role" in spreading the cult of personality, Communist synonym for dictatorial individual rule as opposed to acceptable collective leadership. They were responsible for "infringements of Socialist legality" and violations of "Leninist norms of party life," the newspaper said.

Having crushed the deviation in 1952, in a "brilliant manifestation of the party's firm unity," as Scinteia put it, there is no need here for the same upheav-

als as elsewhere in the Soviet bloc.

One small oversight was conceded. Because the 1952 criticism of the cult of personality was not made public, Scinteia said, its results were insufficient. "In the light of documents of the Twentieth Congress, any trace of the cult must be uprooted," it added.

Western observers are frankly puzzled as to why the Rumanian leaders decided to play it this way. Their guess is that self-criticism was decided against out of fear that to indulge would be to weaken their own positions unnecessarily.

To a newly arrived observer one of the main reasons seems to be that the Rumanians have not been pushed by the same kind of intellectual ferment that broke out elsewhere in the bloc when Stalin was downgraded.

An incipient writers' revolt against the cultural dictatorship was crushed swiftly. One writer was expelled from the party and two others were censured. The party's absolute authority over literature was reasserted in the strongest terms.

Despite a seeming desire to cling to the past, there have been some innovations in line with the "new atmosphere." Of most importance to the Rumanian masses has been the checking of police terror. Authorities have reported that the secret police force was being reduced by 30 per cent. They have also reported the release of all imprisoned Social Democrats on a list drawn up recently by the British Labor party.

Ordinary Rumanians' fear of being seen with or talking to Westerners had not been wiped out altogether. But the fear is far less than it was six months ago and there is no comparison at all with the situation that prevailed a year and two back. Then even a plumber brought witnesses when he was called to make repairs in a Westerner's house.

Times 24 VI 256

GOLF IN BUDAPEST A STYMIE TO REDS

Four-Hole Course Is Reply of U. S. Diplomat to Hate of Links by Hungary

Special to The New York Times.

BUDAPEST, Hungary, June 10 — A "monument to nose-thumbing," as its founder describes it, stands on the hills of old Buda overlooking the Danube River and Pest on the other side.

It's a four-hole golf course, known as the "Air Free Golf Club" for reasons having to do with its location deep behind the Iron Curtain.

The founder is Christian M. Ravndal, the American Minister to Hungary and the kind of golf enthusiast who isn't to be deterred by a Communist Government's dislike for the sport. The club has been going since 1952 and among its members is President Eisenhower.

The President acknowledged the gift of lifetime membership in a letter that has been framed. It hangs in the clubhouse. Expressing his warm thanks, he commented that, unfortunately, he didn't think he would be able to get around to playing the course.

And Then There Were None

When Ravndal arrived at his post here in December, 1951, there were eight holes left of what had been the Hungarian Golf Club's magnificent pre-war eighteen-hole course. By Easter, 1952, there were only five holes. The Government had taken the land of the other three for military buildings.

"One day I was playing with Joe Stammel, the pro, when the Hungarian War Minister and a Russian general came along and gave us five hours to clear out everything," Ravndal recalls.

He immediately decided to see whether something could be done with some near-by property bought by the American Government in 1947. It was to have been the site of residences for the legation staff. The Congress of the United States, however, halted all government building in Iron Curtain countries.

The Germans and Russians fought over the property in 1914 during the battle for Budapest. Where there wasn't a jungle of bushes and trees, there were huge bomb craters, smashed-up stables and various other hindrances to building a golf course.

Paying for everything out of their own pockets, the Minister, his counsel or, Sidney Lafoon, and other members of the legation hired Stammel as their pro and told him to see what he could do.

Jungle Cleared by Hand

Joe and some Hungarians cleared the "jungle" by hand. They filled in bomb craters. They

got rid of dozens of hand grenades, one of which exploded just after Joe threw it away. And they had four holes ready for play by July, 1952.

Hole No. 1 is a 90-yard shot, slightly uphill, with a small trapped green and trees on right and left. No. 2 is 120 yards, No. 3 a hefty 170 yards, and No. 4 is another 120-yarder. The cards are made out for sixteen holes to a round. Par is 48 and Joe holds the course record of 45.

The course is amazingly well-kept, thanks to Joe, who supervises all the details and gives lessons besides. Grateful members are continually improving the club. Lafoon donated the men's locker room. The legation's Marine guards contributed the money to wire the clubhouse for electricity.

The club has become self-supporting. It now sports a swimming pool and a tennis court.

Ravndal has some amusing recollections about getting the course built.

Skeet Shooting on Greens

"Joe needed some sod for the greens," he said. "So I asked the Hungarians if we could buy the sod from the greens of the old golf course. They told us the greens were needed for their own people practicing for the Olympics. I was curious to see and went out to take a look. They were practicing all right — skeet shooting!"

One day Ravndal was talking to Imre Nagy. It was before Nagy's fall from power as the Prime Minister. Ravndal told Nagy that golf was likely to be included soon in the Olympics and that the Government ought to build a course. In the meantime Ravndal suggested that any Hungarians who might like to practice would be welcome to use Air Free.

Ravndal quoted Nagy as replying:

"We don't think much of golf. It's a game for capitalists. But if it becomes an Olympic sport, we'll ask you to teach us, and we'll treat you the same way we treated the British in soccer."

This is warning enough. The British introduced soccer here, taught it to the Hungarians and then amazedly watched the Hungarians become the soccer champions of the world.

That's the way it is with Hungarians and sport. They are a nation of less than 10,000,000. But they generally finish third in the unofficial Olympic scoring after the United States and Soviet Union.

June 26 VI 256

Hungary's New Aide at U. N.

Special to The New York Times.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 25—Peter Kos, newly appointed permanent representative of Hungary at the United Nations, presented his credentials today to Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld. Mr. Kos returned from Washington, where he will also replace Karoly Szarka as Minister of Hungary.

As. Idar 20 VI 256

CONSTANTINE BROWN

Psychology of Soviet Captives

People Reported More Awed by U. S. Skill And Power Than by Red Forces

The Soviet weaknesses which the Polish rebels capitalized on briefly have existed for some time also in East Germany, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, according to reports from reliable sources which cannot be disclosed lest it injure the still very much alive underground.

Comrades Khrushchev and Bulganin were compelled to take cognizance of these weaknesses because they do not possess as the rulers of the new Soviet empire the military glamour of the now-degraded Stalin. Doubtless, now, they will attempt to tighten their grip.

What surprises our intelligence agencies is that throughout the years during which the Soviet military, naval and air forces have shown their muscles, they impressed beyond their worth the Western nations but failed to impress the satellites. It is strange, say these reports which for bureaucratic reasons are labelled "top secret," that the peoples in the captive nations are more awed by American know-how, military power and skills than by the Red forces which still occupy their territories.

It is not difficult to understand the psychology of the peoples in the Baltic countries and Poland, for instance. They saw the Russians run like rabbits before the Nazi legions in 1941. They saw the Red soldiers barefooted, in shoddy uniforms and with antiquated equipment. After 1943 they saw the Red armies return in excellent uniforms, solid boots

which did not lose their soles after a few days of marching, and equipped with modern tanks and planes.

The Baltic and Polish people knew that the miracle of refitting the Russian troops had been accomplished by America which had such enormous resources that she was able to provide not only for her own sons who were fighting over the seven seas but all of her allies. This feat did not impress particularly the American people who considered it natural. And it did not impress particularly our allies who believed they had the right to top priority on everything this country was producing from armament to food and clothing. But the memory of the "miracle" still lives in the minds of the masses in the subjected countries which have been for so many years a battleground for warring nations.

The Germans in the "Peoples' Republic" draw an unpleasant parallel between the drabness and lack of construction work in their own areas and the unbelievable prosperity in the Federal German Republic. And they know that the hard-working qualities of the West Germans do not excel their own. They feel that the reasons for the prosperity of the Bonn republic which was even more ravaged than East Germany are American initiative, American know-how and fair play.

Reports are being circulated in all the captive nations—with the possible exception of Albania and Bulgaria—that America has some ultrasecret weapons which are so secret that even the American people are not aware of them. Reportedly these could at a given moment be used to destroy Russia's military power and thus bring about the much-sought liberation. These are,

of course, figments of the imagination of peoples who dream day and night that the time will come when America, in keeping with her solemn promises, will "roll back" the Russian conquerors to their natural borders.

The fairy tales spread by word of mouth are keeping the expectations of the captive peoples alive. The result is a definite scorn of the Red power and possibly an exaggerated idea of America's abilities in this age of nuclear weapons.

The belief in America's unsurpassed strength is being confirmed by what we may consider trivialities. For instance, many in the satellite countries have relatives or friends in this country who send them parcels containing clothing and cosmetics. The excellence of these articles manufactured in the United States is striking in contrast with those manufactured by the "state factories." The people feel that surely a nation which can produce cheaply shoes which will last three years instead of three months, as the local footwear does, must be able to measure itself with the Communists.

The captive peoples derive greater comfort and confidence in America from these manifestations of know-how than from our Government's propaganda, which continues to be pale and uninspiring. It is not necessarily the fault of the United States Information Service. This organization takes orders from the State Department insofar as policies are concerned. And when diplomatic expediency demands a "soft approach," the USIS must mould its broadcasts and other propaganda means accordingly. This does not, however, affect the popular convictions among the captive peoples that America continues to be the foremost power in the world, and their only hopes for freedom come from that source.

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Hungary Reports 2 Spies Seized

VIENNA, June 29 (Reuters)—
The Budapest radio reported to-
night that two "Western spies"
had been arrested in Hungary
after having put up armed re-
sistance. The two were said to
be Hungarians who had fled to
the West, been recruited there
for Western spy service and had
returned illegally to Hungary in
recent months.