

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

"Rebel" Priestess Seized By Reds in Hungary 1957. 08. 1-15

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HELPED SEIZE PLANE: Six who took part in hijacking a plane and escaping from Hungary were, from left: Gyeorgy Polyak, Josef Jakoby, Ferenc and Enese Iszak, Karoly Pinter and Josef Balla. They arrived yesterday at New York International Airport, Queens.

Six Hungarians Who Hijacked Airliner In 1956 Revolt Arrive Here as Refugees

Six of seven young Hungarians who hijacked a commercial airliner a year ago to escape to freedom completed their trip yesterday at New York International Airport, Idlewild, Queens. The seventh, ill with tuberculosis, remained in West Germany.

The six were among seventy-four Hungarian refugees who arrived on a plane chartered by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration. They had been in England, Austria and West Germany after escaping during the revolt.

Following public health and customs procedures at the airport, the group was taken in two buses to the St. George Hotel, 51 Clark Street, Brooklyn. There they will meet relatives and complete immigration procedures.

Included in the group that seized control of the airliner on July 13, 1956, was Gyeorgy Polyak, a 26-year-old tool designer and former aviator, who

piloted the ship to a safe landing at Ingolstadt, West Germany.

With him at the airport, although not a member of the hijacking plot, was his wife Ilona. She escaped to Yugoslavia early this year.

Another "conspirator" who was reunited with his wife after the Hungarian revolution was Josef Jakoby, 26, an engineering draftsman. The Polyak and Jakoby couples each have a child living with relatives in Hungary.

Also in the group was Enese Iszak, 20, who decided to join her husband Ferenc in the escape plot.

The other conspirators were Karoly Pinter, 20, a draftsman who hopes to join the United States Air Force, and Josef Balla, 27, a "long-distance" truck driver.

Also on yesterday flight was Bela Horvath, 34, an economist who was a passenger on the hijacked plane.

'Rebel' Priests Seized By Reds in Hungary

By Carl Hartman

BUDAPEST, Aug. 1 (AP)—A group of Roman Catholic priests was accused by Hungary's Communist Government today of aiding the rebels in last fall's tragic revolt. The Government said all are under arrest and will be brought to trial soon.

The Interior Ministry issued a statement detailing the charges against this "major group of counter-revolutionary priests" but did not name them all or say exactly how many are in the group.

Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, who is still in asylum in the U. S. Legation in Budapest after being released from a life prison term by the rebels, was accused in one instance.

Mindszenty Charged

This involved his secretary, the Rev. Albert Egon Tursanyi, who has been reported under arrest previously. The Ministry charged Cardinal Mindszenty instructed the priests to loot the Government's Religious Affairs Office during last fall's anti-Russian revolt. Then, said the Ministry, they shipped secret documents from the Office to the Cardinal. Father Tursanyi, the statement charged, "took part in the looting at the head of an armed group."

The present Hungarian Catholic hierarchy, headed by Archbishop Josef Groesz, has formed an organization called "Opus Pacis" (the work of peace) to cooperate with the Communists' "peace movement." Thus the Ministry's announcement today said that only some church leaders were aware of the accused priests' "large-scale organization and counter-revolutionary activities." But the Government did not say which ones they were.

Others Arrested

Others arrested were Pal Lieszkovsky, identified as a lieutenant colonel under Adm. Nicholas Horthy; Fathers Imre Vargu and Antal Kukla; Istvan Tabodi, a theological student, and "several other priests."

These persons, started working against the Government before the rebellion, the Government said, and their activities reached a climax when the revolt was in full swing.

The priests apparently were picked up before the recent wave of arrests, which were defended yesterday in a speech by Minister of State Gyoergy Marosan.

He told factory workers near Budapest: "We are arresting those in whom the foreign supporters of our counter-revolution (the October uprising) put their hopes."

New Unrest Reported

[Reports reached Vienna today of new unrest among workers in Budapest, according to Reuters. The Hungarian trade union newspaper Nepakarat said workers at the huge Mavag electrical equipment factory were worried about "unjustified wage cuts which are expected to be announced shortly."

[Budapest radio, meanwhile, said Minister Marosan told workers at a factory last night that "any violation of peace and order will be severely punished," Reuters reported.]

Mindszenty Safe in Legation

Hungary to Try Priests Accused of Aiding Revolt

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Other charges against the "counter-revolutionary" priests include:

Printing and distributing "large quantities of leaflets and propaganda material" in centers of the uprising, and maintaining close contact with the



Herald Tribune—United Press

Josef Cardinal Mindszenty

freedom fighters, conducting "personal agitation among them," supplying them with food and helping them to hide out after the revolt was crushed by Soviet tanks.

Others arrested were Pal Lieszkovsky, identified as a former Army officer; Fathers Imre Vargu and Antal Kukla, Istvan Tabodi, a fourth-year theological student, and "several other priests."

Mar 8.3.57

Hungarian Reds Seize 12 Rightist Politicians

BUDAPEST, Aug. 3 (AP).—The arrest of 12 right-wing Hungarian politicians by the Communist regime was announced today. Three of them were said to be connected with Josef Cardinal Mindszenty.

It was the second time this week that the names of jailed persons were linked with the cardinal, a refugee at the United States Legation here since Russia crushed the Hungarian revolt last November.

On Thursday the Interior Ministry announced that it had completed investigation of a major group of "counterrevolutionary priests," including the cardinal's former secretary.

The official Communist daily Nepszabadsag said some of the 12 and six others arrested will get court trials. There was no indication that a general conspiracy was charged against them.

The best known politician arrested was Hugo Payr, said to have been secretary to Archduke Joseph of Hapsburg nearly 40 years ago and later a leader in Budapest city politics.

Payr was sentenced to four years in prison under the Communist regime but released in 1954. He was accused of conferring several times with the cardinal and organizing a "Hungarian freedom party" last October that the paper called Fascist.

Mentioned with Payr was Zoltan Gyula Mesko, and Attila Krompazski who was described as a "former rightist politician."

Others arrested included:

Dr. Karoly Zajgovary, a

Budapest lawyer who organized the "Christian Hungarian Party."

Jenoe Soltesz and Jozsef Sigethy, the latter identified as a "former Dominican monk" who had an interview with the cardinal. They were said to have tried to organize about 60 former politicians into a monarchist "Christian front."

Istvan Asztalos, founder of the "National Bloc of Non-partisans."

Dr. Gyoergy Bezerey, whose "Hungarian Democratic Union" proclaimed the union of all social classes without class warfare.

Dr. Ferenc Matheovics, a former member of Parliament who was sentenced to prison with Cardinal Mindszenty and granted amnesty last year. He became deputy secretary general of the "Democratic People's Party."

The others included Gen. Wilmos Poltari, Col. Bertalan Zsoter and Lt. Rudolf Sillai, identified as supporters of Admiral Horthy, Hungarian regent of the 1930s.

8.6.51

NY Tribune

Leader of Lutherans In Hungary Arrives

Primate Once Jailed by Reds

By Philip S. Cook

Bishop Lajos Ordass, primate of the Lutheran Church in Hungary and one of the Christian world's most persistently courageous symbols of the struggle against communism, arrived here yesterday.

The tall, gaunt leader of some 500,000 Hungarian Lutherans arrived aboard the liner United States en route to the Third Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation at Minneapolis, Aug. 15-25. The bishop will preach at the opening service of the assembly.

Though his persecution by the Communists was never widely publicized, Bishop Ordass served twenty months of a two-year sentence on phony charges of fraudulent dealings in foreign currency and later was kept under virtual house arrest for another six years.

Innocence Established

Efforts by the Lutheran World Federation to establish his innocence finally met with success about a year ago under the growing influence of de-Stalinization in Hungary. He was cleared by a Hungarian court on Oct. 6 and restored to his offices by the Lutheran Church on Oct. 8.

He was reinstated in his bishopric and returned to active leadership of the Hungarian Lutheran Church on Oct. 31, during the height of the bloody fighting in Budapest.

Bishop Ordass, in conformity



Herald Tribune—McCarten

Bishop Lajos Ordass, primate of the Lutheran Church in Hungary, after his arrival yesterday.

with Lutheran tradition, has refused to use political weapons in his long struggle to defend his church against both Nazi and Communist oppression.

Bishop Ordass said the Hungarian Lutheran Church "has had many good days . . . as well as days of trial and tribulation." The church, he said, represents only a minority of 5 per cent and has had many difficulties. "But we are still living—and we think that is a miracle of God."

BISHOP CITES RISE IN HUNGARY FAITH

Restored Lutheran Primate
on Way to U. S. Assembly,
Hails Youth Interest

Bishop Lajos Ordass, primate of the Lutheran Church of Hungary who was reinstated last October, arrived here yesterday. He is on his way to attend the assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Minneapolis.

On his arrival he said that after four centuries that included days of trial and tribulation, the Lutheran Church in Hungary was "still living—and we think that is a miracle of God."

The Bishop read a statement and carefully answered questions at a press conference at National Lutheran Council headquarters, 50 Madison Avenue.

The Rev. Dr. Paul C. Empie, executive director of the council, who presided, reminded reporters that the Bishop would answer questions in a manner that would not affect his position on his return to Hungary. Dr. Empie praised the Bishop for courage in maintaining "the integrity of our Lutheran position on the separation of Church and State."

Bishop Ordass, 56 years old, with a shock of steel-gray hair, dated the steady improvement in the situation for Hungarian churches from the meeting of the Twentieth Congress of the Communist party in Moscow in the spring of 1956.

At that time, the Bishop said, he was living in obscurity, having been dismissed from his position as Bishop of Budapest and Lutheran primate following a two-year prison sentence on what he termed a false charge of currency dealings in 1948.

Appeal Was Renewed

In August, 1956, officials of the Lutheran World Federation renewed their appeals for his rehabilitation. On Oct. 6 the Hungarian Supreme Court cleared him of the original charges and two days later he was reinstated in the church. His full reinstatement as Bishop followed on Oct. 31, during the anti-Communist uprising, in which he said he took no part.

Increasing numbers of parents have registered their children for religious instruction during the coming school year, he said.

He said that this was true not only of the Lutherans, a church of 500,000 or about 5 per cent of Hungary's population, but also of the Catholics, with 63 per cent, the Reformed Church, with 18 per cent, and the smaller denominations.

The Bishop read his statement in English and answered questions through a translator. He heads a delegation of six to the assembly, which begins on Aug. 15.

Swiss Give Refugee Funds

Special to The New York Times.

GENEVA, Aug. 5—Switzerland has given \$1,000,000 to the United Nations for aid to Hungarian refugees still in Austria and Yugoslavia, it was announced today.

NY Times

NYH Tribune 8.7.57



Associated Press

Ho Chi Minh in Hungary

Ho Chi Minh, president of Communist North Viet Nam, gets an embrace and a floral greeting from a young girl on landing at the airport in Budapest. At right is Istvan Dobi, President of Hungary. Ho is on a tour of Communist-bloc Europe.

Wash Post

8.5.51

NYT men

U.S. Presses for Special U.N. Session on Hungary

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 8 (INS)—The United States today requested a special Sept. 10 General Assembly debate on the Soviet aggression in Hungary after Dag Hammarskjold reported that "quite a few" nations wanted to delay a debate on the question.

A United States spokesman declared:

"I am authorized to say the United States delegation believes the Assembly should resume its consideration of the Hungarian item on Sept. 10 and hopes that such will be the case.

"We feel consideration should not be delayed much longer."

In response to questions at a hastily summoned news conference, the spokesman added that the United States would have preferred an even earlier meeting to take up the indictment of Soviet actions in Hungary handed up by a five-nation investigative committee.

Earlier, Hammarskjold told correspondents that "quite a few" nations would prefer to delay the Hungarian question until the regular 12th Assembly session later in September.

He said the decision on the "two prevailing views" rests with Assembly President Prince Wan of Thailand and the 16-nation General Committee.

The Secretary General said

he has "kept very closely in touch with delegations and explored their reaction" to the question of resuming the Hungary debate.

He declined to give an interim report on his "informal poll."

In reply to reporters' questions, Hammarskjold also:

- Noted the "impact" of the five-nation committee report on Hungary. "You have certainly seen how it was received by world governments," he declared.

- Proposed to tackle the many Arab-Israeli problems at the 12th Assembly by meeting each "concrete issue" one by one and making specific proposals.

- Reported he was pressing Egypt for the release of Israeli seaman Raphael Eylon, who was removed from a Danish vessel in the Suez Canal.

[Hammarskjold also said that the Arab economic boycott of Israel "is one of the matters which are a dead-weight on our efforts" toward peace in the Middle East, the Associated Press reported.

(But he told a questioner that he thought Arab-Israeli negotiations might result if present tendencies continued in the Middle East. "The last few weeks on the southern border of Israel with Egypt have been a period of very great quiet," he added.)

COMMUNISM SHIFT ISSUE IN NAGY BOOK

A more liberal form of communism for Hungary is recommended in a recent book by Imre Nagy, deposed Premier.

Mr. Nagy, now in exile in Sinaia, Rumania, was said to have written that Nikita S. Khrushchev, Soviet party chief, had predicted last fall's Hungarian uprising against the Communist regime in Budapest.

The book was printed clandestinely in Budapest last spring in a cover that tried to pass it off as an approved Communist publication, the Free Hungary Information Service said here yesterday. At least 2,000 copies of the book are believed to have been circulated in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

About two dozen copies were said to have been received in Paris, Vienna and other free outposts, and English translations were made. One of these was received by Frederick A. Praeger, New York publisher, who said he planned to publish it in October. The title chosen is "Imre Nagy on Communism: In Defense of the New Course."

Free Hungary officials said the Nagy manuscript was completed before the revolution last October, although not published until this year. They said it probably gave spiritual impetus to the uprising, which resulted in Mr. Nagy's becoming Premier again briefly. Then the Russians supplanted him with the present administration led by Janos Kadar.

President Invited to Oregon

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (UP)—Senator Richard L. Neuberger invited President and Mrs. Eisenhower today to consider an Oregon vacation before leaving the White House. The Oregon Democrat issued the invitation in a letter wishing the President and his wife "a most successful and enjoyable summer vacation" at Newport, R. I.

Star 8 15 57

Lutheran Leaders Open World Assembly in U. S.

By CASPER NANNES
Star Staff Correspondent

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug. 15—The most significant Lutheran gathering ever held on American soil opens in the Minneapolis Auditorium tonight with a solemn worship service.

The service formally inaugurates the third assembly of the Lutheran World Federation.

Nearly 300 delegates representing 57 church bodies having about 50 million of the world's 70 million Lutherans will attend.

Joining them will be 500 official visitors, many observers from member and non-member church bodies, and thousands of Lutherans and other visitors.

Hungary Bishop to Preach

Bishop Lajos Ordass of Hungary, restored to office last fall after spending eight years in prison and under house arrest for allegedly failing to tell the Red government about relief funds from America, will deliver the sermon.

During the next 10 days the delegates will study and debate theological and other issues gravely affecting the place of the church in a world torn by fear of war.

Theme of the epochal meet-

ing, probably the only one of its kind to be held in the United States during the present generation, is "Christ Frees and Unites."

Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, executive secretary of the federation, said at least 37 Lutheran church leaders from four countries behind the Iron Curtain—East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia—will attend the assembly.

There presence has been opposed by some Lutherans who consider it a mistake to accept delegates from Red-dominated lands, contending that churches in those countries are not free.

Majority Approves

But the overwhelming majority of Western Lutheran

leaders defend the presence of these delegates. Bishop Hanns Lilje of Hannover, Germany, federation president, said the Lutheran church believes "the shepherd must stay with his flock and ministers serving congregations in Eastern Europe must stay there as long as members remain."

The assembly will have nine plenary sessions, many discussion group meetings, special programs for visitors, open public event gatherings each night and a youth parade and rally on August 24. The assembly will conclude with a huge festival service, expected to attract 100,000 persons, on August 25 at the Minnesota State Capitol grounds in nearby St. Paul.

The Lutheran World Federation is the successor to the Lutheran World Convention, organized in 1923 at Eisenach, Germany, by 151 representatives from churches in 22 countries. The World Convention, after meeting in Copenhagen in 1929 and Paris in 1935, was reorganized as the Lutheran World Federation in 1947 at Lund, Sweden. The federation last met in 1952 at Hannover, Germany. Its headquarters is at Geneva, Switzerland.

Eight American Lutheran

churches, with approximately 5 million of the 7.5 million Lutherans on this continent, are members of the federation. They are the United, Evangelical, American, Augustana, Free, United Evangelical and American Evangelical Lutheran Churches and Suomi Synod.