

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

Worker Councils Ended in Hungary 1957. 11. 16–30.

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NY Times

WORKER COUNCILS ENDED IN HUNGARY

Last Gain of 1956 Revolt Is
Replaced by Factory Units
Under Regime's Thumb

By JOHN MacCORMAC

Special to The New York Times.

VIENNA, Nov. 19 — The workers' councils, whose existence represented the last Democratic right won by the working man in the Hungarian revolt, have been abolished, the Budapest radio, said today.

They are to be replaced by factory councils under the control of the trade unions, which in turn are completely under the thumb of the regime.

The Government under Premier Janos Kadar has been slicing away the authority of the workers council ever since it took office in November, 1956. One of its first actions was to dissolve the Central Workers Council a year ago and to arrest its chairman, Sandor Racz. His fate has never been disclosed.

Under today's Government decree the Factory Councils are to consist two-thirds of officials of trade unions, the Communist party and youth movement. The director and chief engineer of the enterprise concerned will also belong to this group. Workers will be permitted to elect only the remaining one-third of the members.

Workers councils were first established in Yugoslavia in 1950. There they share in profits and losses and have the controlling voice over decisions taken by plant managements.

Recognized in Poland

In Poland during the bloodless revolt of October and November last year, workers councils took over factories in the Warsaw area and some other sections. They were recognized by a statute adopted a year ago. However, they have received little encouragement from Wladislaw Gomulka, the Communist party leader, who, like Mr. Kadar, believes the workers should content themselves with representation through factory committees and trade unions.

Workers councils in Poland have been made to conform closely with centralized planning and operation.

The Czechoslovak Government has refused to let Workers councils be formed at all. At a meeting of the Communist party's Central Committee, Vice Premier Jaromir Dolansky said that Czechoslovakia had no need to follow Yugoslavia's example, since workers were sufficiently represented by their unions.

In the Soviet Union the idea is workers councils is anathema.

The "idea of putting administration of production in the hands of producers is anarchistic," the publication Pravda, Ukraine said some months ago.

Week Post

Worker Units Abolished By Hungary

Reuters

BUDAPEST, Nov. 17—Hungary today officially abolished workers' councils, formed after last year's rebellion.

They are replaced by "works councils" with strictly limited powers and led by trade unionists loyal to the Communist regime.

The Presidential Council repealed a decree passed a year ago entrusting the workers' councils with power to manage factories, mines and other plants.

These councils, condemned by Premier Janos Kadar's Government as having been used to further "counter-revolutionary aims," had virtually ceased to function since last spring.

The new "works councils" will supervise and check economic work in state plants and farms, advise on planning, investment, organization and wages and decide about profiteering and investments on social amenities, according to a government resolution.

But they will not take away any authority or responsibility from the managers appointed to run the plants for the state.

Two-thirds of the members of the works councils, which will be formed by March 1, will be nominated by trade union officials. The rest will be elected by workers.

Star

Hungary Abolishes Workers' Councils

VIENNA, Nov. 18 (AP).—The Communist Hungarian government yesterday issued a decree depriving workers of their last bit of freedom won in last fall's revolt.

Radio Budapest announced the government had formally abolished the independent workers' councils formed by rebels. Stewards' councils organized and strictly controlled by the Communists replace them.

The government had virtually killed the independent councils by arresting their leaders and intimidating the workers. Installing of the shop stewards as watchdogs and informers will combat growing dissatisfaction and unrest reported in Hungary's factories and mines.

NY Times

11-19-57

HUNGARIAN IS FREED

Actor Is Acquitted of Charges
Brought by Girl, 12

Special to The New York Times.

TEL AVIV, Israel, Nov. 18—

A trial that has soured Israeli-Hungarian diplomatic relations ended today in the acquittal of a Budapest screen and stage actor.

Magistrate Haim Bental said he believed the testimony of a 12-year-old girl who alleged that the actor, Zoltan Greguss, 54, had committed an indecent act against her in a hotel room Sept. 7.

However, the magistrate said this was not sufficient in law. There was no corroboration.

The Budapest Government expelled three Israeli diplomats in connection with this case. On Oct. 14 the Hungarians said half the Israeli legation staff in Budapest would have to leave if Greguss were not released. The Israelis rejected the ultimatum.

11-20-57

HUNGARY'S ROAD WOES

Red Regime Reportedly Plans
600 to 700 Service Stations

BUDAPEST, Hungary (Reuters) — Communist Hungary plans to build a network of between 600 and 700 highway service stations to end complaints by motorists and motorcyclists that it is difficult to find a place to get repairs if their vehicles break down on the road.

The authorities' aim on main thoroughfares is to enable motorists to find a service station within an area of between three to six miles, the Budapest newspaper Magyar Nemzet reported.

Wash Post 11-21-57

Hungarian Convicted in Bomb Arrest

By Irving Lee
Staff Reporter

A 24-year-old former Hungarian freedom fighter was found guilty yesterday by a Municipal Court jury of carrying a "Molotov cocktail" near the Russian Embassy during an anniversary commemoration of the 1956 Hungarian revolt.

Gabor L. Babler, 619 Cameron st., Alexandria, was ordered to pay a \$150 fine or spend 30 days in jail on the charge of carrying a deadly weapon. He paid the fine.

Judge Austin L. Fickling told the young refugee that although he came from a country engaged in a great deal of fighting, he must learn to "conduct himself in a lawful manner" in the United States.

Babler, who fled from Budapest about 11 months ago, denied he intended to use the soda-bottle contraption for a destructive purpose. He explained through his interpreter, Laszlo Hadik, he intended to use the gasoline to clean a spot on his trousers.

Assistant United States Attorney Thomas O'Malley described as a potentially dangerous weapon — the home-made mechanism, a soft-drink bottle three fourths filled with gasoline and containing a cloth wick protruding from a hole in the bottle cap.

The former freedom fighter said he made and used more than one "Molotov cocktail" in Hungary and that nitro-glycerine was required in addition to the gasoline to cause an explosion.

His attorney, Charles J. King, argued that the soda-bottle containing gasoline and cloth was not a deadly or dangerous weapon and compared it with a cigarette lighter. He pointed out that Babler was never disorderly nor did he make any move toward the Russian Embassy.

A motion by King for a directed verdict of acquittal on the grounds Babler was searched illegally by police and that the home-made mechanism was not a dangerous weapon was denied by Judge Fickling.

THE EVENING STAR, Washington, D. C. ** C-7
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1957

Budapest Refugee Fined For Bomb Near Embassy

Gabor L. Babler, former Hungarian freedom fighter and now Washington "master masseur," yesterday was found guilty of carrying a dangerous, homemade bomb near the Russian Embassy.

Municipal Court Judge Austin L. Fickling imposed a \$150 fine after a jury found the young refugee guilty of carrying a deadly weapon on October 23, the first anniversary of the Budapest Revolt against Communist domination of Hungary.

Mr. Babler, 24, who lives at 619 Cameron street, Alexandria, was arrested in the 1100 block of Sixteenth street NW with "a homemade, incendiary bomb, known as a Molotov cocktail," Police Corpl. Frederick J. Long told the jury. The bomb was a soda pop bottle partly full of gasoline with a wick, he said.

Through an interpreter, Mr. Babler told the jury he made "more than one" Molotov cocktail while fighting the Communists. But he said the liquid in the pop bottle was only cleaning fluid. Mr. Babler said a proper Molotov cocktail contains nitroglycerin in addition to gasoline.

The interpreter, Laszlo Hadik, formerly a newsroom employee of The Star, is a graduate student at Georgetown University.

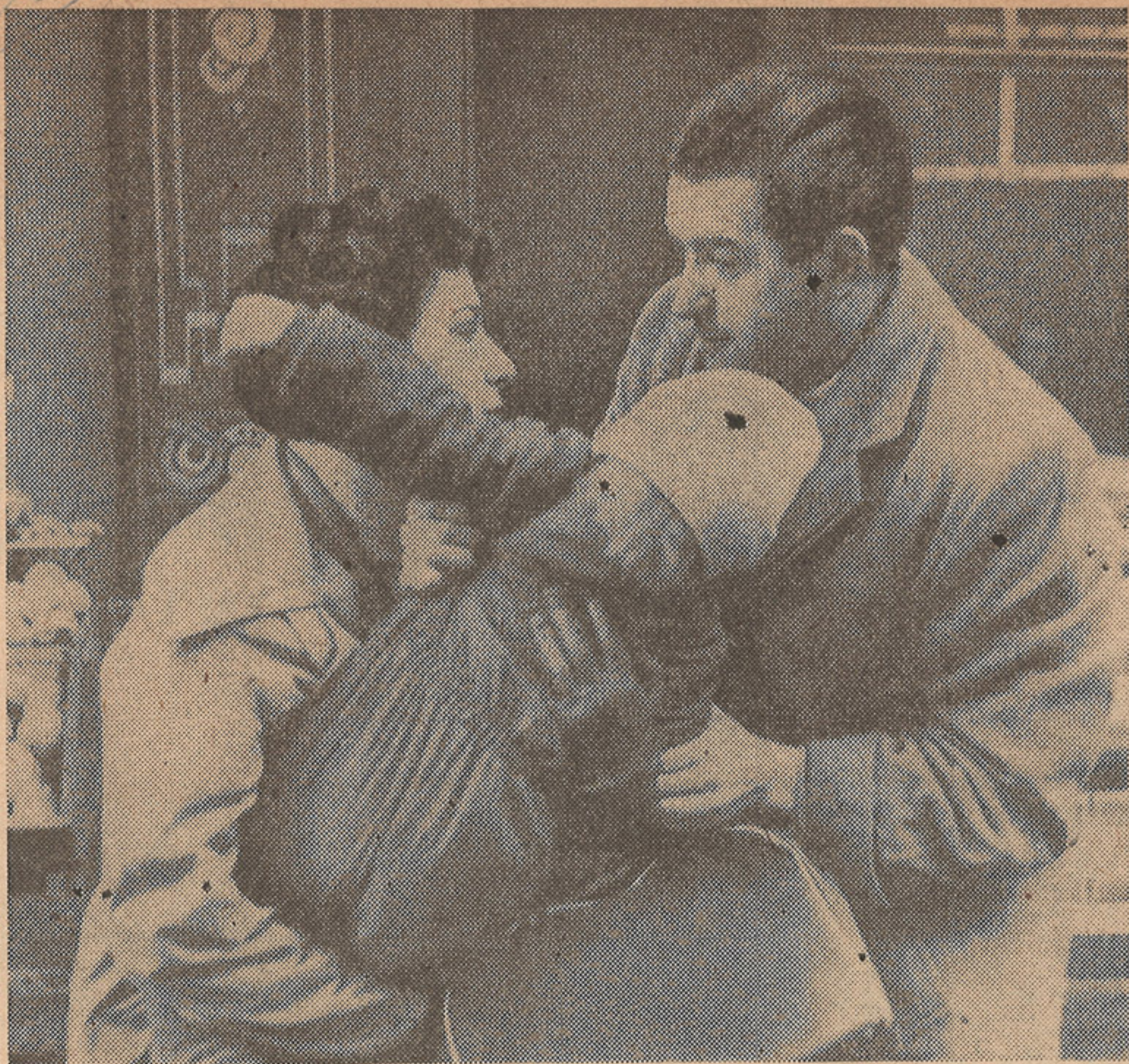
Judge Fickling warned the young freedom fighter to learn peaceful civic life. "We cannot condone this kind of conduct here," the judge said.

On the day of his arrest, Mr. Babler sent a message to the Russians. It read:

"Barbarians, you are lucky there is no courthouse in the world that can punish you for the thousands of Hungarians that you have killed."

Mr. Babler said he fled from Budapest after seeing Communist soldiers murder his mother and father. He was arrested last April for demonstrating near the Hungarian Embassy.

Refugee Stops Wife From Taking Son Back to Hungary



Associated Press

Alex Gabriel and his wife Edith fighting for possession of their son Sandor, 2, on a Paris street last Saturday. Photo was taken by a staff photographer of The London News Chronicle who accompanied husband on his flight to France to intercept wife and son.

LONDON, Nov. 26 (AP)—A young Hungarian refugee has brought his wife and 2-year-old son back to Britain after she had tried to return to Hungary.

The wife, Mrs. Edith Gabriel, 25 years old, is the daughter of Hungary's deputy defense minister, Maj. Gen. Mihaly Horvath. Communist agents were reported to have warned her that her father might be

in danger unless she returned to Hungary.

Last week she set out with her son, Sandor, from the London apartment where she and her husband, Alex Gabriel, have lived since last November. Mr. Gabriel traced her to Paris. Last Saturday he confronted her as she left her apartment with the boy.

"Come back with me now or give me my boy," he said. "I will not let you take him to Hungary."

Mrs. Gabriel refused and the couple scuffled on the sidewalk. The police arrived and arrested them on a charge of creating a public scandal.

They were held for six hours, then released. After further argument Mrs. Gabriel capitulated and the next day all flew back to London.

Mrs. Gabriel said later: "My marriage was under a strain. Now I am glad. I think we will be happy again in London."

Star

Dictaphone Use On Mindszenty Laid to Reds

BONN, Nov. 29 (NANA).—Hungary's Communist regime "bugged" the living quarters of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty within the United States Legation in Budapest, it has been learned.

A State Department source just out from behind the iron curtain said a cluster of ultra-sensitive listening devices was lowered from the roof of the legation down a chimney.

The chimney led to a fireplace in the legation suite occupied by the cardinal, who was given sanctuary within the legation at the time of the Hungarian anti-Communist revolt a year ago. The State Department source said the dictaphone made it possible for the Communists to eavesdrop on conversation anywhere within the cardinal's legation suite.

Machine on Roof

The dictaphone was connected with a recording machine concealed on the roof. The "bug" was discovered when the chimney was cleaned.

The United States and Hungary are at diplomatic odds over the cardinal's residence in the legation. Hungary charges that Cardinal Mindszenty is conducting anti-state agitation from within the legation. American authorities deny this, and say that the United States is extending to Cardinal Mindszenty nothing more than the traditional right of asylum.

The United States justifies the cardinal's asylum on the ground that the Hungarian regime clearly intended to arrest and persecute him at the time of the revolt, that government-inspired press attacks on Cardinal Mindszenty indicate he would be flung into jail if expelled from the legation.

Incriminating Data Sought

The State Department source who reported on the "bugging" incident said the Hungarian secret police obviously were trying to get data against Cardinal Mindszenty to support allegations he was abusing the traditional right of asylum.

The cardinal, in his legation sanctuary, remains the focus of hope for thousands of Hungarians, Catholic and non-Catholic. Efforts are made continually, it was disclosed, to smuggle into the legation messages for him.

Hungarian authorities control the legation exterior. A fact which made easy the "bugging" of the chimney. They are also able to penetrate the interior with agents masked as "repairmen" and local legation employees.

11. 29. 51

NY Times

Bishop Berezky Keeps Post

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Nov. 28 (AP)—A spokesman for Bishop Albert Berezky of the Hungarian Reformed (Calvinist) Church said today the Bishop had withdrawn his resignation, following a pledge of confidence in him by the church's General Assembly. Accused of collaborating with the Communists, he was ousted in last fall's revolt, then was re-instated when the revolt was smashed. In his resignation recently, he charged pressure by "Western church leaders."

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Vienna Shelters Hungarian Refugee Children

Austrian School Unit Tries to Heal Scars Left by Tragedies

By JOHN MacCORMAC

Special to The New York Times.

VIENNA, Nov. 21—To have escaped alone from Hungary to Austria a year ago; to have sought a new future in three countries in two continents and now to find oneself back in Austria and still without a home—that would be an experience trying enough for an adult.

For the 10-year-old boy who sits on the steps of a roomy villa in the Vienna woods and watches his comrades play, it has been shattering. It shows in his withdrawn attitude and the fear behind his eyes.

If the fear is slowly abating, it is to the credit of the International Rescue Committee. A home that once housed Alexander Girardi, a celebrated Austrian comedian of the Emperor Francis Joseph era at the turn of the century, has been turned into a boarding school for refugee children who have found it hardest to adjust themselves to life on this side of the Iron Curtain.

Tragedy and Disillusionment

Sometimes it has been made hard by such experiences as that of the little girl who was found still weeping beside the body of her mother, shot by Hungarian frontier guards a day earlier as she was escaping.

With children old enough to have fought with his arms against Communist enslavement it may be the result of simple disillusionment with a Western world that has seemed to offer them in camp life only another set of restraints with no compensating opportunities.

Whatever the problem, it is being solved here with love, skill and care. The school has forty children, two from Yugoslavia and the rest from Hungary. Eighteen are classed as "disturbed" and in need of special care.

The school also has one full and one part-time psychologist and a consulting psychiatrist in addition to two teachers, a "house father" and two "house mothers."

Its director, Paul Heber, studied anthropology at Columbia University and worked for the Department of Correction in New York as a rehabilitation counselor. Like the rest of the staff, he is Hungarian-born.

Some of the disturbed children are suffering only from "camp neurosis," the uncertain-



The New York Times

Gyula Komos teaches the children geography at the school by means of a picture puzzle

ty born of being shifted from one camp to another with no apparent hope of a permanent abode.

Most readily explicable was the mental state of eighteen boys and girls who participated with their parents in an ill-fated colonization experiment in the Dominican Republic. Altogether, 581 escaped Hungarians were recruited here last spring. They were told that they would be given land on condition that they worked it.

When they arrived, according to their story, they were put to work clearing out jungle under military guard. When they had cleared one strip they were moved on to another. Meanwhile, they lived in grass huts without sanitation and received starvation wages.

They say they managed to smuggle out letters with the help of foreign seamen and thus to acquaint the authorities in Vienna with their plight. About 320 of them have been brought

back to Austria under the sponsorship of the Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration.

They blame a fellow Hungarian, Gen. Sandor Kovacs, for many years military aide to Hector Blenvenido Trujillo, President of the Dominican Republic. They assert General Kovacs received a commission for each immigrant.

Stay Is Limited

The most disturbed child in the school is one of those who returned. A year ago he made his way by himself from Budapest to Austria and eventually was accepted by Portugal. Then his father escaped, asked that his son be returned to Austria and emigrated with him to the Dominican Republic. Like other children who went through this experience, the boy came back with a skin disease and sores resulting from malnutrition. There were deeper emotional scars.

"What we tell the children is that they have a home with us here, where they can stay as long as they want," said Mr. Heber. "Meanwhile we prepare them for sponsorship abroad or for integration into Austrian life."

Nearly 3,000 Hungarian children came to Austria without their parents. Only about 150 of them became social problems and some of these have gone back to Hungary. The Hungarian regime, through its secret police organization, is trying to get the children back by any means.

One of its methods was tried on a boy. When he received a letter apparently signed by his grandmother telling him that his father had died and asking him to return for the funeral, he knew it was a lie, since his grandmother had had a stroke and could not write. Later it was learned that his father was alive.

Refugee Butcher, Happy in U.S.,
Invites 250 to Bridgeport Party



The New York Times

John Murzsa at his job yesterday in Bridgeport, Conn.

Hungarian, in Country 11 Months, to Give
Supper in Gratitude to New Friends
—Fete Will Aid Two Churches

By RICHARD H. PARKE

Special to The New York Times.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Nov. 29—Jefo Murzsa, 35 years old, is a butcher in a supermarket. He is also a Hungarian refugee who came to this country eleven months ago.

Tomorrow night Mr. Murzsa is giving a traditional Hungarian pork supper in a church hall here to some 250 of his new-found friends and neighbors. He wants to express his gratitude for their kindnesses to him.

"And also," he confided today in halting English, "because I am so happy to be here in this country."

It will cost Mr. Murzsa several hundred hard-earned dollars to provide the party. Tickets are being sold at \$2 for adults and \$1 for children, but the proceeds are to be given to projects sponsored by the North Avenue and Fairfield Hungarian Evangelical and Reformed Churches.

Mr. Murzsa is a member of the North Avenue church. Much of his gratitude is owed to its pastor, the Rev. Stephen M. Boszormenyi-Bessemer. Mr. Bessemer, as he prefers to be known, is president of the Magyar [Hungarian] Synod, which embraces eleven states.

The minister arranged for Mr. Murzsa's passage here

shortly after the Hungarian revolt last fall. The butcher fought in the uprising. Earlier he had been a prisoner of the Russians in a Siberian labor camp.

His 13-year-old son is in Hungary, and Mr. Murzsa is trying to bring him here. His wife remarried after the Russians had reported erroneously that her husband had died in Siberia.

The dinner party will be held in the parish hall of the Fairfield church because there are no facilities for the affair in Mr. Murzsa's own church.

The Rev. Alexander Babos, pastor of the Fairfield church, recalled that Mr. Murzsa had gone to him several weeks ago, introduced himself and said he wanted to "surprise" Mr. Bessemer and other friends.

"He asked me if he could use our hall," Mr. Babos explained. "He told me what he had in mind, and I was so moved that I agreed at once to help him all I could."

Tomorrow night's menu will include a loin pork chop for each diner. There will be beef soup and a variety of breads cooked "old-country" style in a brick oven. Dessert will be sutemeny, a pastry made of flaky dough folded over poppy seeds.



The New York Times

Rabbi Michal B. Weissmandl

RABBI WEISSMANDL,
HEAD OF SCHOOL, 54

Special to The New York Times.

MOUNT KISCO, N. Y., Nov. 29—Rabbi Michal B. Weissmandl, dean of the Yeshiva Farm Settlement here, died of a heart attack last night in Northern Westchester Hospital. He was 54 years old.

The settlement is an Orthodox Talmudic seminary for training rabbis and other leaders who desire rural activities and intend to work in agricultural areas.

Rabbi Weissmandl, who was born in a part of Hungary that later was annexed to Czechoslovakia, was an official of a Yeshiva settlement at Nitra, Czechoslovakia, at the beginning of World War II. He and his students were put in concentration camps by the Nazis and the rabbi served in the anti-Nazi underground.

After the war, Rabbi Weissmandl brought fifty of his students, many of them branded by the Nazis, to this country. The former Robert S. Brewster estate of 260 acres on Croton Lake Road was given by a benefactor for the establishment of a new Yeshiva Farm Settlement.

Cash contributions from others helped to set up the school. Enrollments have remained at about fifty. The settlement was cows, chickens and large cultivated fields.

Rabbi Weissmandl leaves his wife, Antonia; five sons and a daughter.

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Tragedy and Disillusionment.

