

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

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# Strangers in the House

ESCAPE FROM FEAR. By Martin A. Bursten. Illustrated. 224 pp. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. \$3.50.

By HAL LEHRMAN

**W**HEN the Red Army commenced its butchery of Budapest in November, 1956, the regular annual quota for Hungarian immigrants into this country under the McCarran-Walter Act was already over-subscribed through the next thirty-odd years. Improbable names like Iceland and Nyasa-land, along with Canada, Brazil and other large settlement areas, appeared on the list of countries offering sanctuary to the first 15,000 Hungarians "escaping from fear"—but not the name of the United States.

Ingenuous Washington improvisers temporarily made do with the 1953 Refugee Relief Act, still good for almost 6,000 unused visas though expiring by the end of 1956. But the flight from Hungary ultimately swelled to 200,000. Before their reception center at Camp Kilmer in New Jersey closed last May, some 34,000 fugitives had poured into the United States. Most of them, and 4,000 more by the year's close, came through an artful McCarran-Walter loophole known as the "shipwrecked sailor" section—intended originally to accommodate a handful of Baltic escapees arriving in a small Scandinavian boat while the bill was being drafted.

Congressional forbearance, State Department dexterity, Justice Department amiability and White House goodwill made "Operation Safe Haven" legal. The devotion and resources of official and private agencies (at a cost of over \$70 million), the publicity talents of Madison Avenue—but most of all the great heart of the American people—contrived to make the distribution of homeless Magyars to forty-eight states and Alaska a success despite numerous errors of haste and waste and a sublime lack of national preparedness. The whole dramatic story, in its larger international setting of Soviet brutishness and world-wide generosity, is vividly narrated here for the first time by the veteran reporter, Martin A. Bursten.

**L**ONGTIME public relations chief of United Hias Service, one of the major voluntary agencies distinguished for valor and humanity in the Hungarian and earlier efforts, Mr. Bursten has painstakingly consulted authorities and documents. But his account is no pallid product of library research and other men's testimony.

His numbed fingers clicked cameras and scribbled in notebooks throughout a bleak winter of exodus. The author was

Mr. Lehrman, foreign correspondent and author of "Russia's Europe," writes and lectures frequently on international refugee problems.

present on the windswept Austrian border when the first half-frozen refugees stumbled out of the Hungarian marshes into freedom. He was at the tarmac of Schwechat Airport outside Vienna when the first planeload of "Delayed Pilgrims" took off to reach America by Thanksgiving Eve. He was behind immigrant processing desks in the Old World and immigrant chow-lines in the New, and finally, a year later, he returned to a somber, mine-strewn border for perilous conversation with trigger-spry Red guards. He has recorded all of this soberly, analytically—yet crisply and with fine reportorial flair.

Mr. Bursten's chronicle even illuminates the dimensions of Soviet madness in Budapest, as a surviving Freedom Fighter tells how his comrades withheld their fire because Russian tanks would answer a single shot by demolishing an entire street. To escape, one youth walked more than 100 miles on a wooden leg. Fathers fed their children morphine pills to still their cries over the last desperate hundred yards through the Curtain.

There are intimate glimpses of comedy, confusion, knavery and dedication—the harassed railroad conductor who had evaded the Russians but not his mother-in-law, the exiles who got as far as Ireland and then went on hunger strike for American entry, the refugees who declined to venture farther West for fear of Indians after watching old movies on Camp Kilmer television sets, the publicity seekers with phony offers of hospitality ("Brother, can you spare a Hungarian?"), the self-sacrifices of voluntary agency workers—Catholic, Protestant and Jewish—whose office hours at flood tide were "from 8 to exhaustion."

**I**N the main, Mr. Bursten writes with cordiality about the Governments, communities, organizations and individuals involved in different phases of the great rescue. He touches only lightly on the Austrians, who hurried to be rid of the newcomers and regretted too late not having kept more of the able-bodied and skilled. He merely alludes, with a poker face, to the Yugoslav fondness for stockades and armed sentries around Marshal Tito's Hungarian camps.

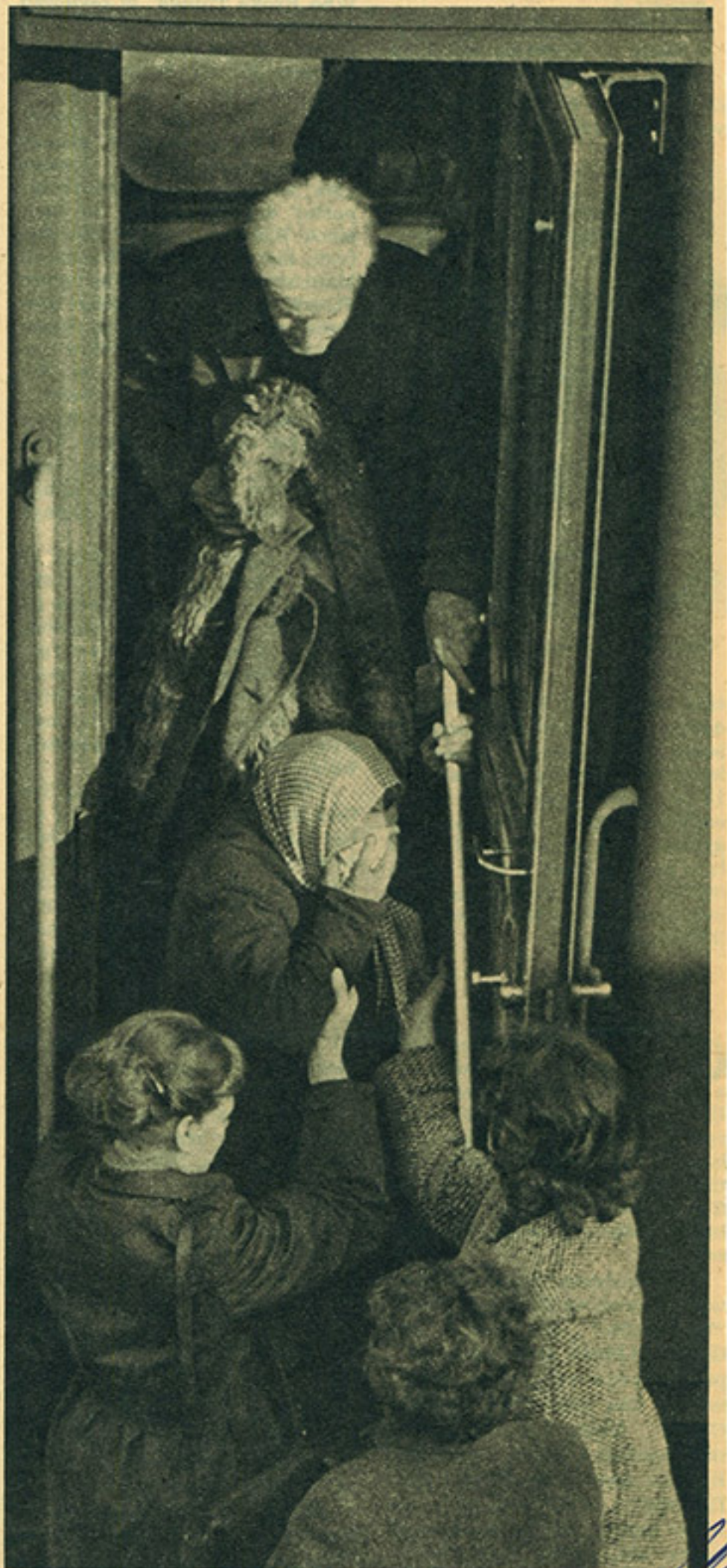
The author is not complacent, however, on the urgency of better preparations for future refugee crises, inevitable in a world half-free and half-slave. He asks the free half, at least, to learn from mistakes in "misplacing the displaced" Hungarians. He wants an international organization ready for next time. Above all, he pleads for far-reaching improvement in American laws and mechanisms. In this he finds stout support in a hearty introduction by Scott McLeod, former director of the United States refugee program and now United States Ambassador to Ireland. This country,

## Explosion

**I**N October, 1956, Hungary exploded. This was a social explosion, of course. But its deafening detonation rocked a civilized world which will probably continue to shake from the thunderous repercussions for a long time to come, for no wave that is set in motion ever stops completely.

—"Escape From Fear."

Ambassador McLeod writes, met the Hungarian challenge "with spirit, determination—and the equivalent of squirrel rifles. . . . We need some bazookas in the immigration arsenal to deal with future situations." Mr. Bursten's story is both an excellent job of reporting and a first-rate public service.



Hungarians leave a Red Cross train at the Swiss border, Nov., 1956.



3.16.58

N.Y.T. news

THE WASHINGTON POST and TIMES HERALD

Sunday, March 16, 1958

A7

## Some Red Units Quit Hungary

GYOER, Hungary, March 15—A local Communist Party chief denounced the United States at ceremonies here today marking the departure of some Soviet troops. He got little applause from an audience of 1500 which displayed scant interest in his speech. Three companies of Soviet troops marched through the town 80 miles northwest of Budapest for a ceremony at city hall. Almost as many Hungarian police and troops were on hand to keep order. There was no disturbance. The Red troops are part of the 17,000 Moscow has promised to withdraw. Best available estimates say 80,000 will remain.

## HUNGARY DISCOVERS AN ANCIENT CULTURE

Special to The New York Times, VIENNA, March 13—Archaeological excavations at Zengovarkony, near Pecs in south Hungary, have established that a Negroid race of high culture lived there about 6,000 years ago.

According to the Hungarian official news agency, pillars and walls of a gigantic structure have been discovered during some years of digging. Paintings on some of the walls showed men with Negroid faces hunting tigers.

As tigers never inhabited Hungary, it is concluded that

these represented memories of other lands from which the painters had wandered.

The clothing and ornament of the painted figures and vases and other articles of use found near by are said to bear a close resemblance to discoveries made in the prehistoric city of Urein Islands and Crete.

Jugs of clay and stone found were identical with others that have been discovered in Crete, Mesopotamia and India.

Hungarian archaeologists believe that, after a natural catastrophe, reflected in the Biblical story of the flood, an ancient people wandered first to North Africa, from there to Crete and other Mediterranean localities and ultimately to southern Hungary.

N.Y. Herald Tribune

smug but stupid."

## Kossuth Honored

### Hungary Independence War Commemorated

A group of Hungarian nationalists yesterday honored the memory of Louis Kossuth, patriot of Hungary's 1848-49 war of independence, by placing several wreaths at the base of his statue at 113th St. and Riverside Drive. The ceremony, at 3 p. m., commemorated the 110th anniversary of Hungary's war of independence, in which it won freedom from the Hapsburg dynasty.

Bela Fabian, chairman of the Federation of Hungarian Former Political Prisoners, spoke briefly to the group, many of whose members were dressed in native costume. The statue of Louis Kossuth was erected in 1928 by the American-Hungarian Federation at a cost of \$60,000.



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**May Craig  
Addresses  
Press Club**

The importance of overseas bases to the United States was stressed yesterday by Mrs. May Craig, Washington correspondent of the Portland (Me.) Press Herald and other Maine newspapers, in an address before the Women's National Press Club.

A former president of the club, Mrs. Craig reported on a recent round-the-world trip at a luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel.

Noting that the duel between democracy and communism is more deadly now than before "because we now have nuclear warfare," she said that Russia's insistence on the abolition of our overseas bases convinces her that the United States should keep them.

"But the recession only makes Congress less willing to pay for the bases," she pointed out. "And if we want them, we will have to pay for them—and that's something that will come out of your pockets."

Mrs. Craig said the most heart-rending experience of her trip was her stay in Hungary.

One thing she learned, she said, was the reason for Russia's extreme brutality during the Hungarian uprising.

"I think the Russians felt that if they cracked down on Hungary hard enough, they wouldn't have to do it again," she said. "And their strategy has succeeded. No other satellite has tried to rebel and Hungary is quiet—with the quiet of hopelessness."

Although it hurts her conscience, she said, she believes that to try to help Hungary would be to risk a third World War. A general movement toward freedom throughout the world would be the only other alternative, she added.

Outside of the Communist bloc, Mrs. Craig said she found the whole world in turmoil because, with so many new nations being formed, it is in a period of transition.

"If they could have time and peace, they could work it out, but the Communists won't let them have peace and quiet," she commented.

Luncheon guests yesterday included Maine's Gov. Edmund S. Muskie, who was kept in Washington by bad weather after attending the Governors' conference with President Eisenhower Wednesday.

Other guests at the head table included Mrs. Arthur Summerfield, wife of the

NYT news  
**HUNGARIANS IN BERLIN**

Begin 5-Day Talks With Reds  
in Eastern Sector

Special to The New York Times.

BERLIN, March 20—A Hungarian delegation headed by Premier Ferenc Muennich arrived in East Berlin today for a five-day visit designed to tighten the bonds with Communist East Germany.

Gyorgy Marosan, secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Communist party, immediately began talks with East German party leaders. Premier Muennich, Foreign Minister Endre Sik and Finance Minister Istvan Antos also held conferences with East German leaders.

Neues Deutschland, East Berlin party newspaper, in an article of welcome said that during the Hungarian revolt in the fall of 1956 "thousands of our best men were prepared to rush to the aid of our Hungarian brother nation to defend socialism with weapons in their hands."

NYH Tribune  
**Red Troops Leave  
Hungarian Town**

VIENNA, Mar. 18 (AP).—Soviet Army units which have been stationed at the Hungarian town of Papa left for home today, the Budapest radio reported.

Papa, 110 miles west of Budapest, was one of the centers of the anti-Soviet revolt in 1956. It has a large military airfield.



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**GIVES SENATE INVOCATION:** After giving the opening prayer at a session of the U. S. Senate last week, Msgr. Bela Varga, President of the Hungarian National Council, at right, talks with Vice-president Richard M. Nixon, President of the Senate, and Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, Chaplain of the Senate. (NC Photos)

## Senate Prayer Marks Hungary's Freedom Day 21

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

The 110th anniversary of Hungarian Freedom Day was commemorated in a prayer by Msgr. Bela Varga, president of the Hungarian National Council, at the opening of a U. S. Senate session.

Recalling the Hungarian insurrection of March, 1848, which was put down by Austria aided by Russian troops, Monsignor Varga said that what happened then "repeated itself when recently the Hungarian people rose again to shake off the fetters of Communist thralldom."

Stating that "tyranny has triumphed again," and "the legions of tyranny are multiplying," Monsignor Varga said: "They have turned a garden on the banks of the Danube into a desert of freedom, into a graveyard of hope. My people are in the agonies of despair. Give them a ray of hope, O merciful Father."

Before offering his prayer in the Senate, Monsignor Varga was greeted by Vice President Richard M. Nixon. The Vice President said: "You have come for six years, may you come for six years more. You have been a hero; but the hero who stays for the full period of four years is a hero who comes for four years or six years. either four or six years. North American College for Seminarians are sent to the countries. with students from 52 different the Gregorian they go to classes ducted by the Jesuit Fathers. At cal Gregorian University, con- of their classes are at the Pontif- few classes at the college. Most The students have only a very ent dioceses. seminarians from over 90 differ- At present there are about 275 ous dioceses in the United States. American College from the vari- Seminarians come to the North



NY Tribune 3-23-58

## Hungarians in Musicale

Four young Hungarian musicians who formerly studied at the Budapest Conservatory and are now attending the Juilliard School of Music will be heard in a musicale at 8 p. m. tomorrow at the Newspaper Guild Club, 13 W. 44th St., under the auspices of World University Service. Admission is free.

The performers in this program, Piroska Kelen, George Vas, Robert Nussbaum and Gabor Neumann, are among 815 Hungarians who are studying in this country on World University Service scholarships.

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## Hungary Curbs Lawyers

VIENNA, March 22 (Reuters)

—Dr. Ferenc Nezval, Hungarian Minister of Justice, said today that lawyers in Hungary would not be allowed to practice privately in the future without special permission, the Budapest radio reported. He also told a press conference that the country's Chamber of Lawyers would be replaced by a new Council of Lawyers.

## VARGA SOLO 'CELLIST WITH PHILHARMONIC

Laszlo Varga was the soloist with the New York Philharmonic in the Hindemith 'Cello Concerto Saturday night in Carnegie Hall. Mr. Varga is the first 'cellist of the Philharmonic.

Ernest Ansermet, conductor of the Orchestra de la Suisse Romande, made his third appearance of the week on the Philharmonic podium. He conducted the Hindemith with a sure hand and understanding of its idiom.

Mr. Varga played with a combination of elegance and seriousness that was well suited to the concerto. He seemed to have a particular affinity for the middle movement—for its lively, jaunty middle section as well as the songful opening and close. He was warmly applauded by the orchestra as well as the audience.

The program concluded with a performance of Debussy's "La Mer," notable for its breadth and sweep as well as intensity of expression in the final "Dialogue of the Wind and the Sea." There were one or two surprising roughnesses in the orchestra, but they did not detract seriously from the total effect.

The Debussy was repeated from the preceding Thursday-Friday pair of concerts, as were also Juan Castro's "Corales Criollos" and Mendelssohn's "Fingal's Cave" Overture.

E. D.



# SOVIET ALSO ACTS TO FORTIFY KADAR

Khrushchev May Head Unit  
Going to Budapest Fete—  
Tito Saw Hungarian

By ELIE ABEL

Special to The New York Times.

BUDAPEST, Hungary, March 29—The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia appear to have joined forces in an effort to shore up the wobbly Kadar regime in Hungary.

A high-powered Kremlin delegation, possibly headed by Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, is expected in Budapest next week. There will be a military parade on Friday, with political speeches and a state reception in the Budapest Parliament, to mark the day thirteen years ago when the last troops of Nazi Germany were driven from Hungarian soil.

Carpenters have been hard at work the last week building bleachers and a reviewing stand on what used to be called Stalin Square. The huge statue of the Soviet dictator, wrenched from its pedestal during the October uprising of 1956, has never been replaced. Workmen swarmed over its rose marble base today hanging decorations for the big parade.

## Tito Received Kadar

President Tito of Yugoslavia contributed to the prestige-shoring up operation by receiving Janos Kadar, First Secretary of the Hungarian Communist party, at his hunting preserve near Karageorgevo Thursday and yesterday. The Tito-Kadar meeting, planned in the strictest secrecy, was disclosed officially last night.

Neither Belgrade nor Budapest would enlarge on the sparse eight-line announcement saying that the two leaders had discussed questions of interest to the ruling Communist parties of both countries in "a friendly atmosphere."

In diplomatic circles here today it was widely assumed that Mr. Kadar had given a frank account of the Hungarian party's weaknesses and pleaded for Marshal Tito's support. In exchange, some diplomats suggested, Mr. Kadar may well have offered the Yugoslav leader fresh assurances that there would be no show trial of Imre Nagy in the near future.

It is worth recalling that when the Soviet Army overthrew the revolutionary Nagy

government Nov. 4, 1956, installing Mr. Kadar in his place, Marshal Tito was among the first foreign Communists to endorse the new regime's program.

Although the Yugoslav leadership could have been under no illusions about Mr. Kadar's freedom of action at the time, it accepted at face value his written pledge that Mr. Nagy would be safe from political reprisals.

However, Mr. Nagy was kidnapped on leaving the Yugoslav Legation in Budapest Nov. 22 to return home after eighteen days in asylum there. Soviet security forces exiled the former Premier to Rumania, where he is still believed to be a political prisoner.

In spite of the Nagy affair, which darkened the prospects for neighborly cooperation between Yugoslavia and Hungary over a period of many months, there has been step-by-step improvement since last summer.

This probably started with the Khrushchev-Tito meeting in Bucharest last August as part of the broader framework of reconciliation between Belgrade and Moscow.

As the Yugoslav party leaders see the Budapest picture, Mr. Kadar occupies the middle ground between the still powerful old guard that owes everything to Matyas Rakosi, former Premier and First Secretary of the party, and the remnants of the so-called revisionist wing

that rallied to Mr. Nagy's leadership in 1956.

Mr. Kadar's downfall, according to this thesis, would inevitably mean the return to power of Mr. Rakosi's henchmen. This to the Yugoslavs seems the worst of all possible alternatives.

Against this background Marshal Tito's meeting with Mr. Kadar at Karageorgevo is being interpreted here as a powerful endorsement that may strengthen the Budapest regime at home.

Mr. Khrushchev is said to be equally aware of the need to shore up Mr. Kadar's position internally. Although it was the force of Soviet arms that put Mr. Kadar in office, the Russians are believed to realize that the political problem Hungary represents today cannot be solved by keeping the country under military occupation indefinitely or by allowing an old-fashioned Stalinist of the Rakosi stripe to take over again.

## Jordan Ousts Egyptian Aide

AMMAN, Jordan, March 29 (Reuters) — Jordan today ordered the Egyptian consul general in the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem, Muhib Samra, to leave the country. The expulsion order said he was considered unwelcome because of "suspicious activities." It is the second time within a year that Jordan has declared an Egyptian consul general in Jerusalem persona non grata.

## Tito and Kadar Meet; Nagy Seen as Topic

Reuters

BELGRADE, March 29 Yugoslav President Tito and Hungarian Communist leader Janos Kadar may have discussed the future of former Hungarian Premier Imre Nagy at a meeting this week, according to speculation here.

(In Hungary, diplomatic observers said Kadar may have assured Tito that Hungary is

not planning to put the disgraced Nagy on trial at present for his part in the 1956 Hungarian revolt.)

Reliable Belgrade sources said Tito and Kadar also discussed the possibility of creating a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Europe.

The Yugoslav and Hungarian chiefs met secretly Thursday and Friday at a hunting lodge retreat on Mt. Karadjordjevo, northern Yugoslavia.

The government announced the meeting briefly this morning, but said only that the leaders "exchanged opinions on questions which interest the two parties."

N.Y. Times  
3.30.58

Wash Post 3.30.58



Wark Port 3.30.58

## I Remember Easter:

# Ilona Massey Recalls How She Sang in Budapest; It Was the Last Time She Saw Her Sister Rosa

*This is the first of a series on memorable Easters in Europe and Asia recollected by well known persons.*

*(Former movie star Ilona Massey is now the wife of Donald Dawson, one time assistant to President Truman. They make their home in Bethesda, Md., and Mrs. Dawson is active with Coordinated Hungarian Relief.)*

By Ilona Massey

My last Easter in Hungary before I came to the United States, brought together in Budapest three of the people closest to me. They were my mother, my sister, Rosa, and my oldest friend, Maria. They came to hear me sing at the Easter Sunday mass in the cathedral.

Years were to pass before I saw even one of them again. My sister, I have not seen since that Sunday in 1938.

My sadness that day almost took away the pride I felt in

being asked to sing. It would have meant so much to me to know that my mother was there in the cathedral. But at the time she was bedridden and believed to be dying of cancer.

For the past year I had been singing with the Vienna State Opera and when my train arrived in Budapest on Easter Sunday I had to go straight to the cathedral.

After mass, I was going to

Picture on Page A15

visit her at our home outside Budapest, for what I feared would be the last time. In a week or so I had to leave for Hollywood. I had just signed a contract and was about to make my first movie.

I remember looking down from the gallery of the cathedral, where I stood with the choir. The interior of the cathedral was crowded and banked with flowers. Some of

the people were elegantly dressed; some of them were shabby.

My own church at home was Calvinist but it was not a new experience for me to be in a Catholic church. My friend Maria is a Catholic and we used to go to each other's churches.

And then, as I began to sing Schubert's "Ave Maria" I saw my mother, sitting there in the front row with my sister.

As the mass ended, people were greeting each other with "Boldog Husverti Unnepeket" — "Happy Easter." Suddenly for me it had become the happiest Easter I could have been given. I went down from the gallery to embrace my mother. We didn't say much but I think both of us felt at that moment that a great load had been lifted from our hearts.

We weren't afraid any more of the thing that had troubled us so much. Both of us understood that it was her pride

in me that had given her the strength to leave her sick bed and come the 100 miles or more to Budapest to hear me sing in the cathedral. And I think she as well as I was convinced that another miracle could happen, too.

In a way I was not really astonished at what she had done. After all, although we had always been very poor, she had always been able to laugh no matter how bad things were.

Some months later when I was in Hollywood, my mother was operated on successfully. It was found that the original diagnosis of cancer was wrong. The following year, war broke out in Europe and it was 1947 before I could bring her to America to be with me. She stayed in California when I came to Washington two years ago.

Monday, The Rev. Herbert Stein-Schneider.



# Drama of Hungary's Ordeal

## MOMENT OF TRIUMPH.

By Gyorgy Sebestyén. Translated by Peter White. 246 pp. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. \$3.95.

Reviewed by  
DAVID TILDEN

THE Hungarian Revolution of 1956 is the subject of Mr. Sebestyén's novel. We knew comparatively little of Hungary during the inter-war years, and our knowledge was limited to romantic visions of gay café society, happy peasants, gypsy orchestras, exotic foods and lovely women. When the Iron Curtain descended on Eastern Europe, we knew in a vague sort of way that Hungary had taken its place in the satellite camp, but we had little conception of what communism meant to Hungarians on a day-to-day basis.

The Hungarians have too long remained isolated from us. Mr. Sebestyén's novel attempts to make us understand the isolation from the rest of the world which the Hungarians felt. But this was only isolation on the international level. Hungarians felt isolated from each other under Communist regimes. The revolution, according to Mr. Sebestyén, broke down the isolation which years of experience with the secret police and terror tactics had patiently built up. In the brief days of victory and calamity when the Russians first withdrew and then returned, there was a feeling of unity and accomplishment as Hungarians, whatever their political beliefs, fought and died together on the streets of Budapest.

Mr. Sebestyén's novel is about

breaking down the doors which divide a people and separate it from the rest of the world. These doors have no keys. They are controlled and move inexorably and noiselessly in response to an electrical impulse started by some one, somewhere. They are strong doors, and once shut behind them, a person can escape only by breaking down the door or by attracting the attention of some one who will push the button for him.

Mr. Sebestyén was cultural editor of an important Budapest newspaper before the revolution. Like Zoltan in his novel, he fought in the streets and worked on the staff of a paper during the revolution. Afterward, he escaped with his family to Vienna. His novel about the revolution fluctuates in quality, but outstanding is his picturing of at least part of the intellectual atmosphere of those days of triumph and tragedy.

We may quibble at the author's characterizations, his sense of plotting, his lack of selectivity, the improbability of the love affair during revolutionary times. Word for word, some of his dialogue may sound stilted and incongruous. But with all its undeniable faults as a novel, the book has both power and flavor. After reading it, we may know little more of the revolution, its causes, its successes and failures. What we do have is a glimpse into the half-world of vision and impressions a sensitive person experienced during the revolution. And who is to say that in the long run this is not as important and meaningful for us as a chronology of events or a political analysis?