

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

Widow Tells of Mathematician's Battle
in Dying Days to Write Yale Lectures
(John von Neumann)
1958. 05 16-31.

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MME. IRMA SZIRMAI, HUNGARIAN PACIFIST

Mme. Irma Reinitz Szirmai, Hungarian suffragist, feminist and pacifist leader, died in Budapest about May 6 as the result of a street car accident. Her age was 91. She was the widow of Oscar Szirmai.

Although Jewish, Mrs. Szirmai survived the Nazi reign of terror in Budapest in 1944-45, often venturing into the streets to carry messages and otherwise aid those in peril. Asked if she did not fear being killed by the Germans, she replied that she was an old woman and could die only once and that she would continue to help younger persons to stay alive.

After World War II Mme. Szirmai revived, in truncated form, the Hungarian Feminist Association with which she had served since shortly after its founding in 1904. She was its president at her death.

The organization had been dissolved voluntarily shortly before the war rather than abide by Hungary's anti-Semitic regulations. In 1949 it was ordered dissolved by the Communist regime in Hungary, but operated clandestinely.

Mme. Szirmai was long an associate of the late Mme. Rosika Schwimmer, a founder and leader of the feminist group.

'REVISIONISM' DECRIED

Soviet Army Told Hungarian Revolt Is Sample of Peril

Special to The New York Times.

MOSCOW, May 17—The 1956 Hungarian revolt was held up to the Soviet Army today as a "vivid example" of the danger of Yugoslav "revisionism."

The main Moscow line that Yugoslavia, in her recently adopted Communist party platform, has "concealed the aggressive essence" of United States "imperialism" was presented to the army by Krasnaya Zvezda.

The army newspaper compared the Yugoslav position to the "treacherous" activities of Imre Nagy, Hungarian Premier during the revolt. The newspaper said he, too, tried to compare the world's two opposing military blocs without recognizing the "peace-loving" nature of the Communist camp.

The article said "revisionists" around the world, meaning Communists who oppose Moscow's line, had depicted Soviet intervention in Hungary "slandorously."

Star 5.20.58

Senators Say Cruelty Caused Hungary Revolt

By the Associated Press

The Hungarian revolution in the fall of 1956 was a spontaneous uprising against the nation's Communist regime, the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee said today.

The uprising, it said, was provoked in large part by the cruelty of "the hated secret police," described as controlled either by Russian officers or by Hungarians trained under Soviet auspices.

The subcommittee, in another installment of its annual report to the Senate, said the Hungarian people had been subjected to "the most inhuman tortures" by the Communist regime.

"Soviet torture specialists supervised and controlled this system of organized cruelty," the report said.

Heard Refugee Stories

These were among the conclusions drawn by the subcommittee from public testimony it took last year from Hungarian refugees, defectors and others—some of them witnesses to the uprising crushed by Russian troops.

The subcommittee said the use of Red troops was planned in advance "and was based upon the importance of Hungary in the scheme of Soviet military strategy."

However, it said that "on many occasions the Soviet troops, including officers, demonstrated their sympathies with the Hungarian revolution

and their hostility to the Soviet regime."

In other conclusions in its report, the subcommittee said:

"Thousands of Hungarians, mostly young people, were deported forcibly to Soviet prison camps. In some instances, the Hungarian people stopped the deportation trains and freed the incarcerated victims.

Leaders Kidnaped

"Communist agents have infiltrated into the ranks of the Hungarian refugees in order to kidnap leaders, make possible the victimization of relatives within Hungary and to create mistrust between anti-Communists within Hungary and abroad.

"The Hungarian people believed that the United States and the free world could not have given decisive aid to the Hungarian revolution."

Expressing concern for the plight of refugees from Hungarian communism, the subcommittee said "they are living proof of man's unshakable devotion to the principles of freedom in the face of ruthless, totalitarian oppression."

Wash Post 5.22.58

Budapest Uncertainty Noted Over Tito Policy

By Henderson Gall

Reuters

BUDAPEST, May 21—The Hungarian Communist Party said today "great uncertainty" among its members resulted from Yugoslavia's "revisionism" dispute with the Communist bloc.

The official Party newspaper Nepszabadsag finally published today a lengthy definitive article stating the Hungarian Communist Party's position, which diplomatic observers characterized as generally conciliatory.

Apart from an article in the monthly theoretical journal Tarsadalmi Szemle at the very beginning of the controversy, this is the first official Hungarian declaration on the subject. It is understood to have the approval of the Party's Central Committee.

Nepszabadsag today said "nobody should doubt that the Yugoslav League of Communists is a party which despite mistakes still leads in the work of building socialism in Yugoslavia."

Despite disagreements between the two parties, "every member of our (Hungarian) party should beware of slipping back to the line of the Cominform decisions of 1948 when discussing our disagreements. We wish to continue our debates with the Yugoslav League of Communists as comradely discussions."

The article drew several parallels between the program of the Yugoslav party and the "revisionist" policy of former Hungarian Premier Imre Nagy, ousted during the 1956 revolt.

The Yugoslavs could not be forced to change their views, it said. A change could be brought about only by persuasion and inner conviction.

The newspaper appealed to Yugoslavia to abandon its "slandering" of the Communist camp, but also urged the Hungarian party to keep dis-

cussions of disagreements with the Yugoslav party on a "comradely" level.

Soviet Near Bid to Lift Standards of Red Bloc

By Vincent Buist

Reuters

MOSCOW, May 21—Russia is on the verge of a major bid to raise Communist-bloc living standards and sharpen the area's economic competition with the West.

This is the belief of Western experts who have studied the announcement of a meeting here of the Council of Economic Mutual Assistance—with representatives from 8 European Communist countries and China, North Vietnam, North Korea and Mongolia—that opened here on Tuesday.

A second Moscow meeting—a Warsaw pact "summit" conference—is scheduled to begin on Saturday. Attending will be heads of government, Foreign Ministers and Ministers of the armed forces of Russia, Albania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, East Germany and Hungary.

The question of Yugoslavia,

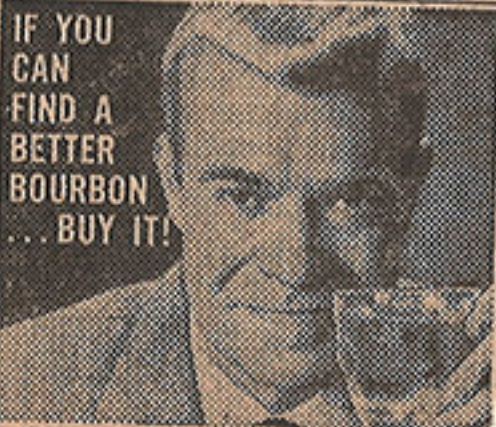
under constant criticism by Communist-bloc countries because of President Josip Tito's "own road to socialism" policies, will be a secondary issue, experts here feel.

Yugoslav officials reportedly feared that the Moscow meetings might result in worsened trade relations with the Soviet bloc, reduction or even cancellation of Soviet economic aid and a violent anti-Yugoslav propaganda

drive.

Informed circles in Belgrade fear the Saturday meeting will produce a new "hard line" on foreign policy that might reduce the chances of a summit conference.

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5-25-58

NYT news

Widow Tells of Mathematician's Battle In Dying Days to Write Yale Lectures

Special to The New York Times.

NEW HAVEN, May 24 — A moving account of the final days of John von Neumann, mathematician who died of bone cancer on Feb. 8, 1957, is prefaced to an unfinished collection of his lectures that Yale University published this week.

The preface was written by Mrs. Klara von Neumann, the mathematician's widow. The lectures were to have been delivered by Professor von Neumann at Yale as the annual Silliman Lectures, which are given annually by outstanding scholars.

Professor von Neumann was on the faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, and an inventor of devices for complicated computing machines.

In 1955 he was preparing his lectures when cancer was diagnosed in August.

"By January, 1956, Johnny

was confined to a wheelchair," Mrs. von Neumann writes, "but he still attended meetings, was wheeled into his office, and continued working on the manuscript for the lectures. Clearly his strength was waning from day to day. All trips and speaking engagements had to be canceled one by one, with this single exception—the Silliman Lectures.

"There was some hope that with X-ray treatments, his spine might be sufficiently strengthened by March, 1956, to permit his traveling to New Haven. By March, however, there was no longer any question of Johnny being able to travel."

Von Neumann entered Walter Reed Hospital in April, 1956, and died there the following Feb. 8. He tried to complete the manuscript while in hospital, but "could not overcome weariness of the body."

Wash Post

When Hungary Was Halcyon

LOVE WITH PAPRIKA. By Maria Molnar. Harper. \$3.50.

THESE TENDER reminiscences of girlhood in Hungary between the wars read like a romantic novel. Mrs. Molnar paints a gentle water color landscape with soft brush and in pastel colors. The peasants were happy, the aristocracy noble and generous and nature's harvest was bountiful in that faraway fairyland safe from the harsh realities of our more strident times.

The result is altogether pleasing. The warmth of the telling makes these vignettes of country living a delight for light summer reading.

JOHN C. DONAHUE JR.

Red Bloc Asks NATO To Sign Peace Pact

MOSCOW, May 27 (AP).—Announcing Russia will pull its troops out of Romania and reduce forces in Hungary, the Soviet bloc called on the NATO nations again today to join in a 25-year non-aggression pact.

At the same time, Premier Khrushchev threatened to set up rocket bases in East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia if the United States and its allies arm West Germany with nuclear weapons.

These disclosures appeared in a communique summing up the meeting of Russia and her East European allies in Moscow Saturday. The group met after a four-day economic conference of the members of the Warsaw Pact, the Communist counter to the North Atlantic Alliance.

Soviet troops have been in Romania since they liberated the Balkan neighbor on the Black Sea from the Germans in World War II.

No Number Specified

The communique did not specify the number, but some sources estimate the total at 30,000 to 40,000. Their withdrawal would leave Russian troops stationed in Poland and East Germany as well as in Hungary.

The communique said the Soviet government will cut its Hungary garrison by one division this year. The Russians said earlier this year they were pulling 17,000 soldiers out of Hungary. They did not specify how many would then remain, but Western observers put the figure as high as 100,000.

Ready at Once

The Warsaw Pact nations also announced their decision to reduce forces by 119,000 men in 1958 in addition to a 300,000-man cut announced earlier for Soviet forces. The new reductions are Romania, 55,000; Bulgaria, 23,000; Poland, 20,-

000; Czechoslovakia, 20,000, and Albania, 1,000.

The Russians called on the West to make similar manpower reductions and said the Warsaw powers are ready to meet at once with NATO representatives on a nonaggression pact.

The proposed pact would link the Western nations with the eight Communist countries making up the Warsaw alliance. The Soviets suggested that meetings on the nonaggression proposal be held before any East-West summit meeting so that final decisions could be taken there.

It also suggested Romania be included in any summit talks along with Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Russia has made previous nonaggression proposals to the West. The United States has rejected them on grounds both countries subscribe to the United Nations Charter which bars aggression.

Mr. Khrushchev issued his rocket-base warning to the Warsaw pact powers Saturday. He said Russia does not have such bases in the Eastern Communist nations and would build them only with reluctance.

West German Defense Minister Franz Josef Strauss and Norwegian Foreign Minister Halvard Lange have claimed Russia already is building missile bases in its European satellites. Moscow denied the charge.

Pro-West Party Lacks Majority in Italy

ROME, May 27 (AP).—Italy's pro-Western Christian Democrats today boosted their parliamentary strength but once more fell short of a majority in the face of matching gains by leftist forces.

The Christian Democrats appeared to have emerged from the nation-wide election Sunday and yesterday strong enough to continue to govern Italy as they have since World War II. They will have to proceed cautiously in a coalition for lack of a majority.

The big losers in the national balloting appeared to be on the right — the Monarchists and Fascists.

The Communists and fellow-traveling Socialists gained after campaigning against installation of North Atlantic Treaty Organization bases in Italy. The Red gains showed they had overcome the setback they were believed to have suffered when Russia crushed the 1956 Hungarian uprising and Premier Khrushchev exposed Stalin's crimes.

With about 70 per cent of the

vote counted for the lower house, the Christian Democrats had won 42.7 per cent, compared with 40.1 in the last election. The Communist-Socialist left was up from 35.2 in 1953 to 37.5. The Monarchists dropped from 6.8 to 2.2 per cent and the Fascists from 5.9 to 4.4.

After all votes are tabulated, the 596 seats in the chamber will be allocated on system of proportional representation.

The final official results for the Senate gave a 41.2 per cent vote for the Christian Democrats compared with 40.7 in 1953. The Communist-Socialist left vote rose from 34.7 per cent to 35.9.

The Interior Ministry announced that the Christian Democrats won 122 of the 246 Senate seats at stake, just barely under a majority. The Liberals, who have been in coalition with the Christian Democrats, took 4 places and the pro-Western Social Democrats 5. The Communists elected 60 Senators, the Left Socialists 35, Monarchists 7,