

H U N G A R Y

May 10, 1957

ASSEMBLY HEARS DOBI ON OCTOBER EVENTS

Budapest, in English to Europe, May 9, 1957, 2000 GMT--L

(Text)

The Hungarian National Assembly was opened at 1000 hours this morning. Sandor Ronai, Speaker of the National Assembly, in his opening address stressed that the members of Parliament were elected on the basis of a most democratic electoral law and its composition fully represented the Hungarian people. Among the 298 members of Parliament, there are 127 workers, 97 peasants, and 74 intellectuals. But there are no capitalists, bankers, and big landlords in the National Assembly, Ronai stressed and added that this was the reason why Cardinal Mindszenty and Prince Esterhazy intended to dissolve it.

Following this opening address, the Speaker proposed that a telegram be sent by the National Assembly to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, supporting the new proposals of the USSR on banning the A- and H-bombs and on disarmament.

Reporting on the work of the Presidential Council since the last session of the National Assembly, Istvan Dobi, Chairman of the Presidential Council, said that it had not left its place during the counterrevolution and thus legal continuity had been preserved in the functioning of the Presidential Council.

Besides reporting on the decrees the Presidential Council issued between the two sessions of Parliament, he spoke in detail of the activity of the Imre Nagy government. He could have used the police and the army for defending the power of the people, Dobi said, if that had been his intention. Instead he denied support to the members of the state police who fought heroically against the counterrevolutionaries and who Imre Nagy knew very well were the sons of peasants and workers, regular conscripts like the soldiers in the Army. At the beginning, Imre Nagy also asked for Soviet help but later he proposed that the Soviet forces be withdrawn from the territory of Budapest and placed his confidence in the armed gangs of the counterrevolutionaries.

Of Pal Maleter, Minister of Defense in the Nagy government, Dobi said that he was not for the maintenance of the people's power in the country as shown by the fact that at a meeting of the Cabinet, Maleter proposed that the information he received on the position and movements of the Soviet troops should be given to the military attache of Great Britain.

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"I told Maleter," said Dobi, "that his proposal implied that he had already passed on information to the British military attache. Maleter did not reply then."

Here, in Parliament, Dobi continued, one had to be blind not to see how the Government shifted more and more to the right and how the leaders tried to outdo one another in giving concessions to the counterrevolution. White terror raged in the streets and though Janos Kadar several times urged the Government to take measures against it, no such measures were taken by the government of Imre Nagy.

Before Anna Kethly left the country, she told a friend of mine, said Dobi, that because of the shifting to the right of the Government it did not seem possible that the socialist achievements of the past year could have been defended. She was most upset about the manhunts and the white terror raging in the streets of the capital. "I do not want to hurt anybody," Dobi said, "but as a matter of fact she called her party, the then reorganized Social Democratic party, a garbage pail and said that she was ashamed that she was to be treated as president of this garbage pail."

Dobi also spoke about the role of Cardinal Mindszenty. If one can credit the notes of Mindszenty, it was Imre Nagy who proposed that he should take refuge at the U.S. Embassy."

Dealing with the proclamation of the Imre Nagy government on Hungary's neutrality and the abrogation of the Warsaw Treaty, Dobi said that he had warned Imre Nagy that the Government had no right to take such a measure and that it was the National Assembly which had the right to decide on such questions." "In those days," Dobi said, "it was generally accepted that the government of Imre Nagy would be quickly replaced by military rule, headed by Pal Maleter." The Government, which based all its plans on the counterrevolution and whose most reliable men were Dudas and Pal Maleter and whose favority ally was Cardinal Mirszenty, was bound to arrive at a point where Imre Nagy was no longer (several words indistinct--Ed.) and the other parties represented in the Cabinet felt free to manifest their anti-Soviet sentiments.

The majority of that government thought it was time to break with socialism and push the country back into capitalism. The Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government formed by Janos Kadar and the help of the Soviet troops saved us from that course. But it was obvious that the functioning of the Imre Nagy government endangered the state and social order of the Hungarian People's Republic. The Presidential Council dismissed it last Nov. 4 and, in accordance with the Constitution, Janos Kadar was appointed Premier of the new Government, said Istvan Dobi, Chairman of the Presidential Council, concluding his report on the work of the Presidential Council since the last session of the National Assembly.

Following the report, the National Assembly confirmed the present members of the Council of Ministers and elected additional members.

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Oaths of Office

Budapest, Hungarian Home Service, May 9, 1957, 1700 GMT--L

(Text)

The following new members of the Government this morning took the official oath in the presence of Istvan Dobi, Chairman of the Presidential Council: Istvan Antos, Minister of Finance, Dr. Ferenc Nezval, Minister of Justice; Janos Csergo, Minister of Metallurgy and Machine Industry; Sandor Czottner, Minister of Heavy Industry; Mrs. Jozsef Nagy, Minister of Light Industry; Jeno Incze, Minister of Foreign Trade; Janos Tausz, Minister of Internal Trade; Imre Kovacs, Food Minister; Rezso Trautmann, Minister of Building Industry; Oden Kishazi, Minister of Labor; and Arpad Kiss, President of the National Planning office.

Afternoon Session

Budapest, Hungarian Home Service, May 9, 1957, 1500 GMT--L

(Report on National Assembly Session)

(Text)

After the midday interval, Sandor Ronai, Speaker of the National Assembly, announced that since the last session two deputies, Lajos Szentivanyi and Mihaly Guba, had died. Comrade Ronai then went on to present the list of the names of deputies who had resigned since the last session:

Resignation of Gero, Hegedus

Erzsebet Andics, Lajos Acs, Istvan Bata, Jozsef Bozsik, Istvan Denes, Tibor Erdey-Gruz, Erno Gero, Andras Hegedus, Istvan Hidas, Marton Horvath, Lajos Konya, Istvan Kovacs, Jozsef (Kornei?) Gyorgy Lukacs, Ferenc Madarasz, Laszlo Piros, Matyas Rakosi, Bela Szalai, Mrs. Lajos Vajdai, and (Mrs. Zoltan Vas?).

Comrade Ronai announced that there were certain deputies who had displayed during the counterrevolution a political and moral attitude that warranted an inquiry into their case by the committee of privileges and submission of recommendations concerning them to the National Assembly. The deputies in question themselves felt that, in consequence of their actions and attitude, they had become unworthy of the people's trust, and therefore resigned their mandates. They are:

Janos Elek, Rudolf Foldvary, Mari (Ilkovics?), Sandor (Kopacsi?), Imre Kiss, Andras Marton, Daniel Suveges, and Attila Szigeti.

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On the basis of recommendations submitted by the committee of privileges, Arpad Miklos, the traitor who has gone abroad, has been deprived of his mandate.

The speaker of the National Assembly then called in the following persons, next on the list of candidate members:

Kalman (name indistinct--Ed.), Janos Csergo, Jozsef Orosz, Imre Telegdi, Mrs. Pal Kovacsi, Mrs. Pal Kalmar, Mrs. Jenő Varga, Antal Szerus, Janos Kiss, Istvan Nagy, Sandor Mucsi, Jozsef Kocsis, Zsitomir Becsei, Janos Puspok, Sandor Kovacs, Istvan Szapary, Gyula Gyorin, Ferenc (name indistinct--Ed.), Istvan Bakos, Mrs. Janos Regyi, Karoly Horvath, Istvan Varga, Janos Szumek, Mrs. Janos Petrovics, Lajos Balogh, Janos Dora, Gyula Danko, Mrs. Marton Varyn and Illes Otvos.

The proposal of the speaker regarding the calling-in of the deputies was unanimously passed by the National Assembly.

A proposal of the Minister of Justice regarding the extension of the mandate of the National Assembly for 2 years was also passed by the National Assembly.

A proposal of the Chairman of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic concerning the modification of the Constitution of the Hungarian People's Republic was accepted by the National Assembly as a point on the agenda and will be debated Saturday.

The following have been elected new members of the National Assembly on the recommendation of the Patriotic People's Front: Karoly Kiss, Karoly Olt, Janos Peter, Ferenc (Csepregi?), and Andras Szobek.

Comrade Janos Kadar, President of the Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government then delivered his speech.