

HG/lr.

3 April 1958.

According to reliable information received by Hungarian circles in New York, Sandor Erdei was arrested a few days ago in Budapest. His arrest was in connexion with his article in "Kortars" (January issue).

Erdei's article (see attached article of "Neue Zurcher Zeitung" of March 2, 1958) resulted in furious attacks on him in "Nepszabadsag" and in "Elet es Irodalom".

Sandor Erdei was Secretary General of the "Writers' Union" in June 1956 and he took part in the preparatory work leading to the uprising.

He is the brother of Ferenc Erdei who was Minister of State in the Imre Nagy Government, constituted on October 30, 1956. Ferenc Erdei was a member of the delegation which went with General Kadar to carry out negotiations with the Russian high command regarding withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary. He was arrested together with Kadar in the negotiations only as an interpreter and had no political functions.

Both brothers retired to their 6 - 8-acre market garden in Szigetszentmiklos (on Csepel Island) and lived quietly.

The first sign of Ferenc Erdei's re-activities (he represented the Peasant-Petofi Party in Imre Nagy's Government) was in the Fall of last year when he wrote an article in "Nepszabadsag" about Hungarian agricultural problems.

At the same time he also became President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and General Superintendent of the Presbyterian Church in the Eastern part of Hungary, the region between the river Tisza and the Eastern frontier of the country.