U Thant in Budapest

The trip to Hungary of the United Nations' Secretary-General finally came about on July 1, after having been in the making since 6 December 1961. While Deputy Premier Gyula Kallai welcomed U Thant at the Budapest airport as a guardian of peace and international cooperation. U Thant did not fail to point in his reply to the reason, deeply anchored in Hungarian affairs, which made his trip possible. He was referring to his satisfaction at last March's amnesty of political prisoners. This crucial detail was omitted, however, from the news-coverage of Radio Budapest in the domestic service and was mentioned only in the "Homeland Radio" broadcast to Hungarians abroad. (This, of course, is thoroughly in keeping with the "Homeland Radio" efforts to induce defectors to return.) Radio Budapest's domestic service quoted U Thant's speech where he said that he intended to have talks with Premier Kadar and other personalities in order to discuss with them important international problems, in particular those which should be tackled by the United Nations. The Hungarian authorities have not disclosed in advance any of U Thant's program for his three day stay in Hungary.

Kadar in East Berlin

On June 29 and 30 Kadar was in East Berlin joining other Soviet Bloc leaders who convened to celebrate the 70th birthday of Ulbricht. The Hungarian leader was accompanied only by Deputy Foreign Minister Karoly Erdelyi (who was with him also on the "surprise" trip to Poland in May 1963) and the Hungarian ambassador to the GDR, Jozsef Karpati. This was Kadar's second trip to East Berlin. In 1958 he headed the Hungarian delegation which attended the Fifth Congress of the East German Communist Party.

As to the "conspicuously" absent Gheorghiou-Dej, Radio Budapest mentioned twice on June 30 in the Home news the congratulatory telegram a sent to Ulbricht, once in a separate congratulatory telegram he sent to Ulbricht, once in a separate
item of news and the other time listing it among the similar messages of Mac, Kim Ir Sen, Ho Chi Minh, Castro and Tito. In both cases, however, the reference to the telegram came after a longer news item devoted to the homage Khrushchev and the other Communist leaders had paid to Ulbricht. The mere juxtaposition sufficed for the Hungarian public to realize the something was "wrong" between Dej and the leaders gathered in East Berlin.

Regime Media on Sino-Soviet Clash at Moscow Congress of Women

"Nepszabadsag" of June 30 and a commentary of Radio Budapest broadcast on July 1 gave ample details on the clash between the Chinese delegation and the overwhelming majority of other delegations at the "World Congress of Women" held in Moscow. "Nepszabadsag" quoted the Chinese delegate as saying that the "Appeal to the World's Women" could not be endorsed by her country as it failed to mobilize the masses for struggle against imperialism. Also the Chinese delegate's sally against those who voted for the appeal — that they are "cart-pushers" for imperialism — was quoted by the Party daily. Finally, details were given on the rejoinder of Dolores Ibárruri who rejected the Chinese innuendo by saying that "Woe to the imperialists" if they have such "cart pushers" as the courageous women who fight imperialism from Africa, the Iberian Peninsula to South America.

The commentary of Radio Budapest pointed out that the Chinese and the other delegations who shared their views were "isolated".

More Weight to Public Opinion

"Nepszabadsag" of June 30 hailed the recent resolution of the Council of Ministers on the future duty of all state organs to supply within 30 days a substantial reply to all criticism and suggestions voiced in press, radio and TV. This, according to "Nepszabadsag", brought the extension of "socialist democracy". The resolution will guarantee that public opinion plays a much greater role than before in public affairs. The resolution will give public opinion its due and increase respect for it. In the last analysis, it will be the duty of the minister to give a satisfactory account on the fate of critical remarks or suggestions.
In the past there was no institutional guarantee to see to it that they were heeded. The resolution of the Council of Ministers should be an incentive to journalists, Radio and TV reporters to carry out their work with particular circumspection. If their criticism does not hold ground, it will have to be rectified. But, on the other hand, if their criticisms or suggestions hold water, it will be the obligation of the state organs to respond.

The resolution of the Council of Ministers is likely to give a further push to criticism directed at local leaders at various levels whose activity has been subjected to particularly close scrutiny ever since the regime embarked on the "destalinization" course in late 1961. The conduct of local leaders still leaves much to be desired and in certain cases can thwart the implementation of the political line set by the Party leadership. Very often such leaders are "color blind" to the various human problems of their subordinates. Their bureaucratic approach to human questions amounts to sheer ruthlessness. Raising the question, "Nepszava" of June 27 points out that color blind people may not get a driver's licence but at present there is no paragraph under which leaders who are "blind" to the colorful variety of human problems could also be barred from "driving". The paper calls for the withdrawal of "driver's licence" from all economic or administrative leaders who prove to be unable to grasp the rich variety of problems. Otherwise such people are apt to cause troubles, minor or major accidents on the road to socialism.

"Nepszabadsag" of June 27 once more puts on the spot economic leaders who, while pretending to have a watchful eye on over-all economic interests, try to achieve savings in the execution of the investment schemes at the expense of works security and hygiene. Such practices not only create poor and unsafe working conditions, lower the morale and eventually cause workers to look for another job, but violate the year by year decisions of the government on the improvement of works safety and hygiene. The paper stresses that "nobody is entitled to save the amounts earmarked for works safety and hygiene, thereby disobeying the resolutions of the Party and government."
Comments on the First "Half Time" of the Second Five Year Plan

On July 1, the Second Five Year Plan entered on its "second half". In "Magyar Nemzet" of June 20, Janos Balog, the economic commentator of the paper, draws up a summary balance sheet about the results and shortcomings of this first half. He finds that the rate of growth of industry was greater than was originally scheduled. On the other hand, agriculture fell short of the mark because of the severe droughts of 1961 and 1962. Thanks to the advance of industry foreign exchange plans could also be generally fulfilled, since industrial products could fill the gap caused by the short falls of agricultural items. But one of the reasons why the increase in the standard of living could also not keep up with the targets of the plan was due to the poorer yields of agriculture. Balog points out that future plans aiming to improve the living standard must rely on the fully proportionate contribution of agriculture. While, by pure calory criteria, the Hungarian food supply is at a surprisingly high level, the consumption of more nutritious food items is still rather low. Only through a more abundant production of the latter can the living standard be raised sizably above the present level. The same conclusion was also reached by Istvan Dobi in his editorial on the beginning of the harvest, published by "Nepszabadsag" of June 30. He mentions that bread grain crops, while they are likely to be better than estimated ten weeks ago, will not be "outstanding". He reminds the farmers that side by side with harvesting, they should carry out also the other works of the season. The progress of agricultural production in keeping with the pace prescribed by the plan is indispensable in order to guarantee the increase in the living standard and the further development of foreign trade.

It is to be seen to what extent agricultural production will play a greater role in this year's foreign trade. What is, however, certain, even at the moment, is that heavy bread grain imports will have to be continued also after this year's harvest. "Magyar Nemzet" of June 27 reveals that, while 2.5 million tons of bread grain would be needed to cover home supply, seed grain and to store up the necessary reserves, even in 1961, a year of an exceptionally good results, only 2.24 million tons could be produced. Full self-sufficiency in the growing of bread
grains is to be attained in the second half period of the Second Five Year Plan. As the growing area will not be increased, the higher results should be achieved by raising the yield per hectare from the present level of 17.9 quintals to 23.4 quintals.

Heavy Insistence on the Importance of Private Plots

A commentary broadcast by Radio Budapest on June 30, as well as articles in the provincial press, eloquently demonstrate the Party leaderships' great interest in the fullest valorisation of private plots and at the same time also their determination to overcome resistance which still stands in the way of the complete implementation of such a policy.

Laszlo Dezsery, a senior staffer of Radio Budapest, devoted a very interesting commentary to this key problem, calling "irrational" and "unwise" what is happening in many places in connection with the private plots. On the one hand, the situation is that still about 15 per cent of the arable land and even a greater portion of orchards, vineyards, etc. belong to the category of the private plots or other small private pieces of land. They comprise more than half of the stock of cows and sows, up to 80–90 per cent of poultry. Hence it would be natural to expect that private plots receive an attention corresponding to their importance. On the other hand, however, what is the situation? Private plots are denied even the most elementary assistance. Their share in the livestock dwindles. So does their vegetable and fruit production. In recent years the sale of these items from central supplies had to be organized in 1,300 villages which in earlier times used to be self-supporting. Dezsery asks whether there is not a contradiction in the efforts to teach the farmers to use the most up-to-date techniques and compel them, at the same time, to fall back on retrograde methods in their private plots, to farm with poor seeds, primitive means, without fertilizers. He demands the greatest attention to the new measures of the government aimed to bolster up the private plots and mentions that "indolence and lack of understanding" are still impeding the putting into practice of such measures.
A similarly vigorous note was struck in defense of the private plots also in the Party daily of County Bacs "Patofi Nepe" of June 6 and by the President of County Csongrad, Laszlo Torok, in "Csongrad Megyei Hirlap" of June 2. In both cases local sectarians were subjected to stringent criticism. They were reminded that private plots should not be considered as valid only for a short, transitory period. Torok said with force that views and practices which disregard the economic policy of the Party and the interest of the people's economy by not furthering or even by repressing the productive activity of the private plots are "harmful and inadmissible".

First Comment on the Election of Pope Paul VI.

In "Nepszabadsag" of June 29, István Rudnyanszky, one of the foreign affairs commentator of the Party daily, poses the question whether the new Pope will only be the successor to Pope John or will also pursue his line and, after a brief examination of Pope Paul's first public utterances, reaches the conclusion that there are signs that the new Pontiff will display an understanding and a positive approach toward the problems of the modern world and will stand for the idea of peaceful coexistence, thereby continuing the life-work of John XXIII.