

Budapest Radio
19-22
July 18

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRSThe UN Report; and Other Aspects of the Counter-revolution

'Nepszabadsag', said an MTI report, was carrying a series on the part played by imperialist agents in the preparation and conduct of last October's counter-revolution. (MTI 20.7.57)

'Nepszabadsag' Suggests Alternative Witnesses

An account of a 'Nepszabadsag' article on this subject was broadcast by Budapest radio for Western Europe on 19th July. Suggesting that the UN Committee of Five might call for more evidence from institutions allegedly implicated in the October events, the paper said that the Vatican might be asked to give information about its dispatch of advisers to Cardinal Mindszenty after he had been freed by the counter-revolution, and also to explain its failure at a later stage to endorse the drastic policy proclaimed by the Cardinal. The UN Committee, the paper said, might also call for information from the head of the so-called 'Hungarian Military Emigration' ('Magyar Katonai Emigracio') organisation, Gen. Hugo Sergyi, whose intention had been to throw Hungary open to the mercy of more than 10,000 armed Horthy-fascist army officers, Arrow Cross members and gendarmes. Another whom the UN Committee might call upon for evidence was Baron Korin, who could explain the real destination of the 100,000 dollars which he gave the Order of the Knights of Malta at the time of the counter-revolution. By calling such witnesses, the paper declared, the UN Committee could not but realise that the counter-revolution was a plot hatched by international reaction against socialism in Hungary and the whole socialist camp. (Budapest for Hungarians in W Europe 19.7.57)

An Answer to the BBC: UN Witnesses Unreliable

Commentator Laszlo Boros, in a broadcast in English from Budapest radio on 18th July, replied to a BBC Hungarian-language broadcast two days earlier on plans to distribute the UN Committee of Five report on Hungary. Though English listeners had had no opportunity to hear the BBC Hungarian-language commentary in question, some discussion of its contents might interest them.

"The BBC commentary", said Boros, "quotes the British Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as saying that he did not believe that dissemination of the Committee of Five report could be regarded as propaganda. Budapest radio, it states, has no grounds for saying that the report is slanderous and its authors guilty of deliberate falsification. The BBC commentary claims that it is particularly unpleasant for Budapest radio that millions of people will read in the report how the security police on 23rd October opened fire in front of the Radio Building."

As the average person, Boros continued, had no time to investigate the truth or falsehood of everything he was told, he was inclined to accept it or reject it in the light of who had stated it. "When the report was issued", said Boros, "I looked to see who its authors were. The chairman of the Committee was Mr. Alsing Andersen, a Danish diplomat. I found his picture and a short biography in the 'New York Times' of 23rd June, when it was stated that he had been Minister of Defence from 1935 to 1940. If my memory serves me right the Germans occupied Denmark in 1940, and the Minister of Defence showed little opposition to the Nazi troops. The 'New York Times' also states that Mr. Andersen was Minister of Finance, conveniently omitting to say when. After a little research I found out that it was during the Nazi occupation!.. With such a chairman as this it hardly needs to be said that the work of the entire Committee commands little confidence!"

Only one of the 100 and more witnesses heard by the Committee, said Boros, had been identified - the much vaunted Hungarian "freedom fighter" Bela Kiraly. But why should Kiraly's statements to the UN Committee be any more reliable than his earlier affirmations in his own country of his loyalty to socialism? More convincing would be the testimony of the radio workers - dubbed communist agents in Britain - who unanimously declared that on 23rd October the security guards and soldiers only opened fire at about 01.00 hours, after many of their number had been killed and wounded by the attackers.

"Talk about an unpleasant fact for Budapest radio will not help the BBC to cover up the fact that the British Government is planning to disseminate the false and mendacious report of the Committee of Five. Publication of the report is not unpleasant for us, but only for those who read it, because there is not a word of truth in it. As for the statement of the British Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, much as I respect the statesmen of foreign countries, I believe it does not conform to fact" said Boros in conclusion. (Budapest in English 19.7.57)

Free Europe and Imre Nagy

The weekly 'Magyarország', in a "marginal note", commented on Free Europe radio's efforts in defence of Imre Nagy. The radio had come to the unequivocal conclusion that Imre Nagy was not a traitor; only the Communists were branding him as one. Apart from the facts, which were well-known there was no more convincing proof that Imre Nagy was a traitor than Free Europe radio's efforts to prove his innocence at any cost. Nor had Hungarians forgotten the October days, when Free Europe was just as eagerly trying to prove that Imre Nagy was a traitor to the Hungarian people and a Muscovite. At that time Free Europe heaped insults on its present protege and had originated the nickname "Nagyimrov" for him. Free Europe radio had taken Nagy under its wing precisely because it knew him to be a traitor. (Budapest for Hungarian in W Europe 22.7.57)

Repatriation: Protest by Pioneers

The National Executive of the Pioneers' Federation has sent letters of protest to the US, Argentine, Belgium, French, Netherlands, Israel, British, Italian and Turkish Legations in Budapest as well as to the West German Foreign Office and to the International Red Cross. The protest letters say that Western countries are preventing by various means the return of young Hungarians to their fatherland. At a meeting on 18th July the National Executive of the Pioneers expressed indignation at these Western offences against human rights. The Pioneers demand that the Western countries should stop placing obstacles in the way of young Hungarians wishing to return home. (MTI 20.7.57)

Lasslo (Recsei), Head of the Law Department of the University of Economics and the Hungarian parents' delegation about to leave for Austria to bring home children under the age of 14, said in a statement to 'Hetfoeli Hirek' that international law made no distinction between minors under and over 14 years of age, and that both Hungarian and Austrian law gave parents the right to decide on the future and place of residence of minors. The Austrian Government had promised to co-operate in the repatriation of Hungarian minors under 14 years of age, but this goodwill should be extended to all Hungarians under 18 in Austria. (Budapest for Hungarians in W Europe 22.7.57)

The mixed Yugoslav-Hungarian repatriation commission will shortly hand over to the Hungarian authorities a further group of dissidents, consisting of over 70 persons. (Hungarians for W Europe 21.7.57)