

RADIO FREE EUROPE
MUNICH

FEB 19 14:34

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

TO: 5

MUN 54 19 FEB 66

TO: KAPPEL COPY RICHARDSON YARROW ROWSON DUNNING FISCHER
SCHNEIDER E.

FM: OTT COPY WALTER COOK KINGSLEY DAVIS

191337: U R G E N T PLEASE PHONE

AP SERVICE WHICH WE DO NOT BUY BUT ONLY MONITOR, CARRIED A BUDAPEST DISPATCH AT 11:55 MT TODAY, SAYING THAT NEPSZABADSAG, THE HUNGARIAN CP OFFICIAL ORGAN ANNOUNCED THAT A QUOTE LARGE NUMBER UNQUOTE OF PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF QUOTE CONSPIRATORIAL PLANS TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT UNQUOTE WITH HELP FROM THE WEST. THOSE ARRESTED WERE DESCRIBED AS POLITICAL CRIMINALS, WHO HAD BEEN IMPRISONED AFTER THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER AND THE 1956 REVOLUTION AND WERE RELEASED UNDER A GENERAL AMNESTY IN 1963.

ADDITIONAL AP TAKES AT 1201 AND 1205 MT SAID THAT THE OFFICIAL REPORT GAVE A VAGUE DESCRIPTION OF THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY, ALLEGING ADVICE FROM WESTERN CONTACT. A FEW NAMES OF THOSE ARRESTED WERE GIVEN, INCLUDING SOME PRIESTS.

REUTERS DISPATCH AT 1233 MT READS AS FOLLOWS QUOTE SEVERAL HUNGARIANS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR PLANNING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT WITH HELP FROM THE WEST, THE HUNGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY PAPER NEPSZABADSAG REPORTED TODAY.

THE NEWSPAPER, QUOTED BY THE HUNGARIAN NEWS AGENCY M.T.I., SAID SEVERAL PEOPLE, WHO HAD BEEN JAILED FOR POLITICAL CRIMES BUT FREED UNDER A GENERAL AMNESTY IN 1963, HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AGAIN.

IN THE THREE YEARS OF PROBATION SOME OF THESE AMNESTIED HAD MISUNDERSTOOD THE GENEROUS GESTURE AND HAD TAKEN HUMANITY FOR A KIND OF WEAKNESS.

THESE 'ARRANT ENEMIES OF OUR SYSTEM, RECEIVED, OF COURSE, MORE THAN ONCE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM WESTERN FORCES - AND SOMETIMES

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EVEN ASSISTANCE,' THE PAPER ADDED.

'SOME TIMES THEY ESTABLISHED FOREIGN CONTACTS AND HAVE PUT UP CONSPIRATORIAL PLANS TO OVERTHROW THE REGIME.. UNQUOTE WE ARE USING THE REUTER DISPATCH AS BASIS FOR NEWS COVERAGE BY ALL BD'S AT 1300 MT, USING NO NAMES OR OTHER DETAIL FROM AP. THERE WILL BE NO COMMENTARY ON THIS PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION.

WE NOW HAVE TRANSLATION OF MONITORING OF RADIO BUDAPEST PRESS REVIEW, AND MTI SUMMARY OF THE NEPSZABADSAG ARTICLE FURNISHED BY REUTERS FROM VIENNA. WE WILL PUT THE SUMMARY ON THE WIRE TO YOU IMMEDIATELY IN THE CLEAR.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE MTI TEXT OF AN ARTICLE APPEARING ON ARRESTS RECENTLY MADE IN HUNGARY.

THE MTI MATERIAL WAS MADE AVAILABLE BY REUTERS EXVIENNA HUMANITY AND FIRMNESS -- ARTICLE IN NEPSZABADSAG.

"THE SATURDAY MORNING ISSUE OF "NEPSZABADSAG" CARRIED A LONG ARTICLE UNDER THE ABOVE TITLE. IN INTRODUCTION, IT POINTED OUT THAT THE THREE-YEAR GRACE PERIOD -- WHICH WAS GRANTED TO THOSE AMNESTIED IN 1963 -- IS SLOWLY DRAWING TO A CLOSE. IF NO NEW CRIMES ARE COMMITTED IN THIS PERIOD, THE FORMER WHOLE SENTENCES WILL BE TAKEN AS FULLY SERVED. THIS AMNESTY REFERRED BOTH TO POLITICAL AND GENERAL CRIME.

"NOW, IF WE SPEAK AGAIN ABOUT THE POLITICAL CRIME PERPETRATORS, THE REASON IS THAT IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS THE POLICE HAS HAD TO TAKE INTO CUSTODY SOME PERSONS WHO WERE FORMERLY RELEASED UNDER THE AMNESTY, BECAUSE THEY HAVE ONCE AGAIN STOOD UP AGAINST THE LAW AND ORDER OF THE STATE.

"THE GENERAL AMNESTY WAS A HUMANE STEP AND GENEROUS GESTURE, ENTAILING A RELEASE FOR A THREE-YEAR GRACE PERIOD. ITS CORRECTNESS IS WELL PROVED BY THE FACT THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THOSE RELEASED FOUND THEIR PLACE IN SOCIETY, TOOK NOTE OF REALITIES AND ENDEAVOURED TO DO USEFUL WORK. IN THE MAJORITY OF THE CASES, THE PERSONS CONCERNED RETAINED THEIR PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO OURS, THEY DISAGREE WITH US ABOUT MANY QUESTIONS, BUT NOTING THE STRENGTH OF THE SYSTEM THEY STAY

WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO OURS, THEY DISAGREE WITH US ABOUT MANY QUESTIONS, BUT NOTING THE STRENGTH OF THE SYSTEM THEY STAY QUIET --AND ARE BEING LEFT QUIET.

"BUT DURING THESE THREE YEARS IT HAS HAPPENED MORE THAN ONCE THAT SOME OF THE AMNESTEES -- ALTHOUGH THEY COULD HAVE DRAWN THEIR CONCLUSIONS FROM WHAT HAD HAPPENED, -- MISUNDERSTOOD THE GENEROUS GESTURE AND TOOK HUMANITY FOR A KIND OF WEAKNESS. THESE, BEING ARRANT ENEMIES OF OUR SYSTEM, RECEIVED - OF COURSE - MORE THAN ONE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM OUTER, WESTERN, FORCES, AND SOMETIMES EVEN ASSISTANCE. AFTER THEIR RELEASE, THEY LOOKED FOR POSSIBILITIES TO ESTABLISH CONTACT AGAIN WITH THEIR COMRADES: -AT- PRINCIPLES, AND SOMETIMES ESTABLISHED FOREIGN CONTACTS AND HAVE RIGGED UP CONSPIRATORIAL PLANS "TO OVERTHROW THE REGIME," AND TO ESPECIALLY PREPARE FOR HEADING ANY EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL FORCES STANDING UP AGAINST THE SYSTEM AT A TIME CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR THEM. THEIR WESTERN ENCOURAGERS HAVE TOLD THEM: "CREATE AN INTERNAL OPPOSITION WHICH, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OUTER DISSOCIATIVE ACTIVITIES, WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER POWER AND CHANGE THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE."

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"A SMALLER PART OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED UNDER THE AMNESTY AGREED IN THE PRISON BEFORE THE RELEASE THAT THEY WOULD MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER AND --EVEN IF CAUTIOUSLY -- THEY WOULD EXCHANGE VIEWS AND PREPARE FOR AN EVENTUAL "GREAT ACTION."

"THE FACT THAT THERE ARE SUCH BLINDED, HATRED-ACTUATED PEOPLE, IRRECONCILABLE ENEMIES OF OUR REGIME, IS BEST PROVED BY THE CASE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSPIRATORIAL GROUP FORMERLY BELONGING TO THE "REGNUM MARIANUM" CIRCLE. THIS GROUP WAS FORMERLY MOPPED UP BY THE POLICE AUTHORITIES AND ITS MEMBERS WERE SENTENCED TO EIGHT TO TEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT EACH. IN 1963, THE GROUP'S MEMBERS WERE AMNESTIED. AFTER THEIR RELEASE, THEY AGAIN ORGANIZED A PLOT, AND WERE ONCE AGAIN UNMASKED. LASZLO EMOEDI, ISTVAN KEGLEVICH AND LASZLO ROZSAVOELGYI, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, HAD TO BE SENTENCED AGAIN TO 4-5 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND THE COURT, OF COURSE, ORDERED THAT THEY SHOULD SERVE THE PART OF THEIR FORMER SENTENCED REMITTED AT THE TIME OF THE AMNESTY.

"SIMILAR ACTION WAS NECESSARY IN THE CASE OF GYULA SZOENYI, WHO WAS SENTENCED TO SEVERAL YEARS' IMPRISONMENT BECAUSE OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, WAS AMNESTIED, AND THEN PLOTTED AGAIN. THE SAME REFERS TO THE CASE OF ZSOMBOR KASANSZKY, JOZSEF KOS, JENOE SOLTESZ AND OTHERS. ACTION HAD TO BE TAKEN AGAINST OTHERS, WARNINGS ISSUED TO THEM, BECAUSE --ALTHOUGH THEY WERE AMNESTIED BEFORE AS FOR INSTANCE MIKLOS WESSELENYI -- BECAUSE THEY INCITED OPENLY AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REGIME AND BEHAVED SEDITIONOUSLY. THERE SHOULD BE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THIS -- THEY DID NOT VOICE WELL-INTENTIONED CRITICISM OR JUST CONTRARY OPINIONS, AS SUCH WOULD NOT ENTAIL ANY ACTION AGAINST THEM. BUT THEY ENGAGED IN DARK-INTENTIONED SEDITION AIMED PURPOSELY AT DOING SPIRITUAL DAMAGE.

"OUR STATE WOULD STRIKE DOWN ON SUCH FIGURES WITHOUT INDULGENCE BECAUSE THERE IS, AND CANNOT BE, ANY EXCUSE FOR THOSE WHO ATTACK OUR REGIME."***

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IT LOOKS AS IF WE CAN HOPE THAT THE SITUATION IS NOT NEARLY SO EXCITING OR SO SERIOUS AS FIRST INDICATED. WE WILL CONTINUE TO TREAT THE NEPSZABADSAG ARTICLE AS NEWS ONLY, AND FOR THE TIME BEING WILL NOT USE IN COMMENTARY.

WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE PICTURE.

REGARDS.

MSG