

H U N G A R Y

May 8, 1957

MINISTRY REFUTES POTATO SEED SLANDERS

Budapest, Hungarian Home Service, May 4, 1957, 2100 GMT--L

(Text)

The Ministry of Agriculture issued a communique today in the affair of seed-potatoes which the Red Cross delivered to the Hungarian Government, and which the Hungarian Institute of Plant Protection found to be infected.

Dutch and other Western papers refused to believe the validity of the examination carried out by the Hungarian Plant Protection Institute. Now the Ministry of Agriculture publishes the text of the agreement concluded in April with the representatives of the International Red Cross in order to refute the malicious slanders.

The agreement reveals that neither side questions the bona fides of the plant protection institute of the other, but in view of the fact that before a final and unanimous scientific examination could have been effected the potatoes in question would have rotted. The parties agreed that the Hungarian Government should utilize the potato for fodder and distilling and that the price of the potatoes should be granted to the Hungarian Red Cross. On the basis of the agreement, the Hungarian authorities most firmly reject malicious attacks of the Western press.

RESTORED ORDER PERMITS ASSEMBLY SESSION

Budapest, in Hungarian to Hungarians in West Europe, May 7, 1957, 1900 GMT--L

(Anonymous commentary: "Before the New Session of the Hungarian National Assembly")

(Text)

The Hungarian National Assembly will reassemble this week after a long interval. Last time the session of the assembly had been convened for the end of October to discuss many draft bills which would advance the country's life, but the session failed to materialize because of the counterrevolution. Now the consolidation of political life, the successes of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and the achievements of the Worker-Peasant Government have made it possible for the National Assembly to commence its work.

HUNGARY
May 8, 1957

The entire Hungarian public opinion is looking forward to the new session of the National Assembly with understandable attention. This attention is full of confidence as the parliamentary deputies have not remained idle. Even at the end of November, relying on the Party and People's Patriotic Front organizations which were in the process of forming and strengthening, the elected representatives of the people began their work, though often under difficult conditions. They kept regular consulting hours, called on their electorate, attended to many of their everyday problems, and held political report meetings.

The permanent committees of the National Assembly have also been active and have prepared important draft bills. With the participation of excellent economic experts, the delegates of the permanent planning and budget committee have been at work since last January to prepare the plan and budget for the current year. The agricultural committee has created a new general income tax system, long awaited by the working peasantry. The permanent legal and judiciary committee, has, among others, discussed the new citizens' law, the press law, the civil code, and the modification of the system of court appeals. The social and health committee has prepared a proposal with a view to increasing the health budget by 30 million forints. It has also dealt with the problem of granting greater autonomy to the medical universities.

The deputies and permanent committees have, by their work, prepared for the new session of the National Assembly which is to open this week. According to our information, the National Assembly will discuss all the activities and policies of the Worker-Peasant Government. On the first day of the session Premier Janos Kadar will give a political talk. Some clauses of the Constitution will be amended, including the one which fixes the number of ministries, and another which had defined the emblem of the Hungarian People's Republic. The present session is likely to choose an emblem which truly mirrors the present situation and the aspirations of the Hungarian People's Republic and which expresses at the same time our specific national traits and historic traditions.

As is known, the mandate of the now convened National Assembly is to expire presently. There can be no doubt that in the event of the holding of new parliamentary elections, the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party would gain the majority of votes. However, the holding of new elections would not be sound in the present situation since as a result of the counterrevolutionary attack we have to grapple with such political -- and today economic -- tasks that call for the concentration of all forces upon their realization. The Constitution contains clauses which make it possible to extend the mandate of the National Assembly and the new session will make a decision also on this question. An extension of the mandate is all the more necessary as the new election law which had been announced previously could not be prepared on account of the intervening events.

HUNGARY
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In the work of the new session the National Assembly's new deputies will also take part. Since the last session, some 26 to 28 deputies have resigned their mandates and one of the dissident deputies will be deprived of his mandate. In conformity with the standing orders of the house, the Speaker of the National Assembly has invited the alternate members figuring next on the list to attend in their stead.

We have already mentioned the fact that the present session of the National Assembly has been made possible by the process of political consolidation. The workers of the country in turn expect the National Assembly to make its own contribution to further consolidation and the further strengthening of the political situation. The work of the deputies so far and the preparations for the tasks confronting the National Assembly indicate that this is based on solid foundations and that there is justified confidence that the new session of our National Assembly will prove a worthy continuation of the fine traditions of the historic Hungarian parliaments.

Further Commentary

Budapest, Hungarian Home Service, May 7, 1957, 1700 GMT--L

(Anonymous Commentary)

(Excerpts)

The National Assembly will meet again next Thursday after a long interval. Interest in the session is, of course, shown not only within the country; the attention of our enemies as well as our friends will be focused on it for it will be the first session of our National Assembly since the grave days of the counterrevolution. What has made it possible for the population of our country to look toward the work of the National Assembly as an event of historic importance in our state life? What are the factors on the basis of which we may expect the National Assembly to promote our people's cause? The answer will provide a reply to friend and foe alike.

Under the leadership of the Party and the Government, our people have again worked a miracle. After the counterrevolutionary chaos, public security returned to normal relatively quickly, thanks to the reorganized forces of public order. The entire people supported the Government in restoring order rapidly and assuring the conditions for constructive work. This is why the attempt of the smashed counterrevolution has failed by inciting to strike, to thrust us into unemployment, inflation and misery. The miners, industrial workers and working peasantry rallied behind the Party and Government against the instigator and proved by deeds their desire for prosperity, order, and progress. We can therefore claim that the conditions for successful work by the National Assembly have been created by our working people through their sober and industrious efforts.

HUNGARY
May 8, 1957

The convocation of the National Assembly bears witness to the stability of our regime. The Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government led our people out of a grave crisis. Since the liberation, no other Hungarian government has had to surmount comparable difficulties. Not even the joint effort of internal and external subversion was enough to prevent the consolidation of the government. The enthusiastic May Day demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of our working people in Budapest and every provincial town testified to our population's recognition of the Government's historic merits, its support in repairing the mistakes committed in the past, that it rallies behind the Government in building socialism.

Nor must one forget that the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party has been reorganized and strengthened and has once again become the leading force of our country's working people in resolving the tasks ahead. The Party has settled its account with the Imre Nagy-Losonczy group which exaggerated the faults which it criticized from a platform alien to the Party ideology and which, under the guise of the slogans of socialism, played into the hands of bourgeois restoration. The Party has purged its ranks of those who denied the fundamental principles of the Communist Party, such as the hegemony of the working class; the leading role of the Soviet Union and the Party democratic centralism. The Party has settled its account with that group which, essentially, worked toward the preparation of the counterrevolution.

The Party has purged its ranks of the traitors and a whole series of mass meetings bore witness to the fact that, for this very reason, the confidence of the working people has returned to it all the more so since the results achieved in recent months in building up the country have vindicated the correctness of our Party's policy. The convocation of the National Assembly proves therefore that in our country the people's cause, so faithfully defended by our Party and Government in the difficult days, has emerged victorious.

PEACE GROUP ENDORSES WPC BERLIN APPEAL

Budapest, Hungarian Home Service, May 3, 1957 , 2100 GMT -L

(Text)

Under the chairmanship of President Laszlo Nanasi, the presidium of the National Peace Council held a meeting today. The meeting heard Mme. Janos Bugar, secretary, report on the position of the international peace movement and the tasks confronting the Hungarian peace movement. The speakers discussed the various political, cultural, and organizational questions of the Hungarian peace movement mentioned in the report. On the basis of what had been said in the debate, the presidium expressed full accord with the appeal of the Berlin office of the World Peace Council; it decided to center the activity of the Hungarian peace movement on the fight against nuclear weapons and experimental atomic explosions, and the work of enlightenment in this connection.