

AMNESTY IN HUNGARY

Budapest, 1 April, ag (Reuter). The Hungarian news agency MTI announced on Thursday evening that the Hungarian Communist writers Tibor Dery and Gyula Hay, who had been sentenced in 1956 to imprisonment for terms of several years for participation in the Hungarian revolution, would be released under a partial amnesty.

Dery, an active leader of the Hungarian Writers' Association, which was dissolved after the crushing of the rebellion by the Kadar Government, was one of the best known Hungarian novelists. In April 1957 it was reported that he had been arrested and in November of the same year the MTI agency announced that the writer, who was over sixty-five years of age, had been sentenced to a nine-year prison term for hostile activity during the rebellion. The sentencing of Dery, Hay and other Hungarian writers and journalists took place behind closed doors. Hay was sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

The amnesty was decreed on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the liberation of Hungary from the Nazis by the Red Army. It also provides for the release of all persons sentenced to prison terms of less than six years for offences against the State committed before 1 May 1957.

Among the other persons whose sentence has been remitted are Ferenc Janosi, Imre Nagy's son-in-law, who had been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment, Gyula Varady, and Ferenc Donath, a journalist who had been sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment.

A partial amnesty was announced in respect of persons who had been sentenced before 31 March 1960 to detention in a correctional institution, of mothers who have children under ten years of age and are serving terms of less than twelve months, and also of persons who had been sentenced before 31 December 1953 for "war crimes" and "crimes against the people" and who have served half their sentence.

The announcement added that (missing words) from today onward no one would any longer be placed under security arrest.

It was also announced that the internment camps will be (missing words: probably "dissolved") by 30 June 1960. This decree applies (remainder unintelligible).