

Warsaw Treaty Anniversary

Saviour of Hungary's Independence

A 'Nepszabadsag' leader on the second anniversary of the Warsaw Treaty, quoted by the information service on 14th May, said that Hungarians had had practical proof in October of what an effective safeguard of their peace, security and socialist

construction the Warsaw Treaty was. A country standing on its own might appear as tempting prey to the imperialists, but socialist unity was an invincible force. It had been no coincidence that in October the imperialists had suggested to the counter-revolutionaries that they should repudiate the treaty. Had the counter-revolution conquered, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and Yugoslavia would have had a chauvinist and irredentist Hungary for a neighbour. But the Warsaw Treaty had stood the test: "We owe it to the Warsaw Treaty - and to the USSR, which gave us help in accordance with its stipulations - that our independence was saved and that we were able to defend socialism."

Another 'Nepszabadsag' article on the same day, by Istvan Gyulai, recalled that although the participants of the 1954 Moscow Conference had already been aware of the imperialists' military plans - unmistakably exposed by West Germany's admission to NATO - it had left the door open to a collective security pact. Not until 14th May, 1955 - following the ratification of the Paris Treaty by the Western countries - had the Warsaw Treaty been concluded. Not even this treaty excluded a European collective security pact, because it stipulated that when a European collective security system was established, the treaty would automatically lapse.

Failure of Imperialist "Day-dreams"

Addressing Hungarian listeners in Western Europe on 13th May, an unnamed Budapest commentator said that even if it was regrettable that Hungary should have needed the support of her Warsaw Treaty allies as a result of the counter-revolution, the Hungarian people were fortunate that the treaty's practical value should have been demonstrated in fraternal co-operation and mutual assistance among the socialist countries.

Imre Nagy and his group had considered the "dissolution" of the Warsaw Treaty to be their most important task. This had not merely been a breach of an agreement: they had acted against the interests of an independent Hungary progressing towards socialism, and had clearly shown that they wanted to throw the country into the arms of imperialism. But the imperialists had rejoiced too soon: there had been sound forces in Hungary which had known that only through the Warsaw Treaty could they defend the country's independence and socialist progress. Whatever the imperialists said, the Soviet troops in Hungary on the basis of the Warsaw Treaty had given "friendly and fraternal assistance". They had done their proletarian international duty and protected the true interests of the Hungarian people by "hurrying to our aid at our request" and defeating the counter-revolutionary attack. The effectiveness of the Warsaw Treaty had been proved, and the imperialist day-dream of making Hungary into their bridgehead was over. Both the lesson of October and the current international situation warranted Hungary's continued loyal adherence to the Warsaw Treaty.