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1 Aug
VII/N.851 1

HUNGARYEXILE (1207)

Listening to Western Broadcasts And Radio Free Europe.

SOURCE TRIESTE: A young boy born in BACSEKOD who escaped with his mother on 30 August 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: until August 1952

EVAL. COMMENT: Since the program of BODA Balint was broadcast from NEW YORK before the Hungarian RFE transmissions started in MUNICH, it may be assumed that the reported opinion on Western radio broadcasts refers to a rather remote period.

SPECIAL ATTENTION:

Mr. Kelley
Mr. Stowe.
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Our source and his family intercepted the Western broadcasting stations at the house of some neighbors who had a radio set which they had originally in their farm house and had successively transported into town. Above all they listened to the transmissions of Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America.

The transmission they were most interested in, was the "black list," i.e., the name list of all those who had been particularly brutal in oppressing the MAGYAR people. Our source recalls that he regularly followed the 19.30 hrs. transmissions. The news transmitted by Radio LONDON was not too popular, firstly, because they disliked the speaker's voice and, secondly, they did not find anything comforting as to the liberation of Hungary in these transmissions.

Our source's family had a Philips radio set, 4 valves, which was sufficiently powerful to intercept transmissions from any part of the world. During the war they did not report that they owned this Radio set, but in 1951 it was found when the Police came to search their house following an inquiry after their father's escape to Yugoslavia. When the mother of my source saw the agents coming, she tore out the wires of the loudspeaker, so as to be able to tell the agents that the Radio set was out of order, and with this trick, she prevented the

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radio from being confiscated. Later they took the radio to BAJA. They continued to intercept the Western stations including RFE, in this town, as well as the transmissions from PARIS, though they were not too enthusiastic about the latter. As a demonstration of the popularity which Radio Free Europe enjoys in Hungary, our source reports the following: On a day in November 1951, all the students of the Baja grammarschool were taken to CSATALJA AND THE GIRL students to MATEHAZAPUSZTA (this latter locality is about 8 to 10 km from town.) The students had to gather cotton in CSATALJA. On this occasion some twenty students, when boarding a freight train in MATEHAZA, found a name in pencil, which has become almost legendary in Hungary: Boda Balint. The student who discovered it began to yell loudly. Everybody knew who Boda Balint is and to have found his name there, provoked intense joy in these youngsters. All twenty students had the same feeling of hope and expectancy when reading that name, and nobody denounced the friend who had discovered it. An animated discussion started, and they tried to guess who had been courageous enough to write that name there - maybe it had been some worker or railwayman, with a middle class background?

My source asserts that according to his personal experience and the information he gathered from friends and neighbors, he considers the RFE transmissions to be the most popular ones, for the reason that they commented on the events in Hungary just as the inhabitants of BAJA did.

The Voice of America enjoys great prestige because it represents the mouthpiece of the world's greatest power. People are fond of these transmissions, in which they see the only hope for their liberation. However, the musical transmissions are less popular - because many people in Hungary say about them; You, who you are living quietly in the West can enjoy music, but we, here, have so many headaches that we are not always in a frame of mind to enjoy it."

What our source criticized about the RFE and other Western transmissions was that they were not all aware of the Hungarians' interests in their emigrants to America, that

there is no mention of the living conditions of the Hungar an refugees, and how they were received, etc.

According to our source the Hungarian people are looking fowward with great hopes to the meetings between two, three or four representatives of the great powers from which they expect the liberation of Hungary, and they are also expecting a decisive turn in the United States' world policy.

"The West annot imagine"- states our source - "how deeply the Magyar people are thinking and hoping for their redemption, particularly the younger generation and the students, who find their parents upset and worried, and their fathers and elder brothers always living in fear of losing their job. This state of things prevents them from quietly accomplishing their studies, and for this reason listening to the Western Broadcasting stations have become a moral and vital necessity for the adults, a tonic which keeps up their morale and inspires them in their unequalled fight against a bloodthirsty regime.

End.