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HUNGARY

PROPAGANDA (2611)

Instructors Of The People (NEPNEVELOK) And
Small Gatherings (KISGYULESEK) Of The Commu-
nist Party.

SOURCE TRIESTE: A young boy of BACSBOKOD who escaped
from Hungary in August 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: until 30 August 1952

EVAL. COMMENT: This is a below standard report and
an example of how a report should not be drafted.
Instead of approaching the matter with a certain
knowledge and giving information on the work of the
people's educators in the villages, this report after
some very general statements relates some personal
cases in which no interesting facts connected with
the work of subject Party propagandists may be found.
The report fails to explain what is to be understood
by "small gatherings." It would also be interesting
to know how many people's educators work in the vil-
lage and how and by whom they are elected.
Since all names under reference are UNCONFIRMED in
our files and as the report mostly consists of gos-
sip, it is released for information only.

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The people's instructors (NEPNEVELOK) are the Party's
mouthpiece, especially trained in the propaganda of
the Party's program, such as, the peace movement (Be-
kemozgalom,) the "voluntary" peace loan, etc. They
are put into action by the Party as soon as any inno-
vation to be propagated, or whenever some new slogan
has to be proclaimed among the populations.

These "nepnevelok" were not on a very high cultural
level in KATYMAR, where our source was living. The
majority of them came from the peasant class agricul-
tural workers, farmhands, etc. There are also some
artisans among them, but all of them are Party acti-
vists who have attended a special preparatory training
course.

over

They appeared for the first time in greater number in KATYMAR during spring 1951, and precisely during one of the above-mentioned "small gatherings" (kisgyűlések.) This denomination indicates that the number of the assembled during these meetings is rather small. Whenever such gatherings take place, the inhabitants of a certain number of houses are obliged to assemble in the house of one of three instructors or activists, every fortnight.

Our source, who attended the grammarschool and was, therefore, most of the time away from his native town, did not have to participate as frequently as his parents in these meetings, but he remembers having assisted in June 1952 at one which took place in the house of one of the Party members, who was also a member, of a State agricultural enterprise. His name was Peter VAJDA and his address was at 10 Szent Laszlo Street (now Sallai.)

VAJDA had got hold of the house of a rich German landowner. He came from Transylvania, from where he had gone to stay in Yugoslavia, and in 1945 he escaped to Hungary. A nice piece of land had been assigned to him in the village of KATYMAR. He is about 60 years old, short and thin and a typical "Szekely." When the VAJDA family first arrived in KATYMAR, they attended church. When the persecutions of the kulaks started they found themselves in a fortunate position. They used to live in the neighborhood of our source. During the spring of 1946 the VAJDA family was still working at the farm (tanya) of the source's family, who helped them in many ways. VAJDA had his wife, two sons and two daughters. His son, Peter, 22 years old, attending the Military Academy Kossuth (and should be, meanwhile, an officer of the Popular Army) while the other son, Janos, 26 years old, was in charge of a station of agricultural machinery. One daughter, Juliska, 20 years old, was employed at the municipality, while the other daughter (NU) was married in Yugoslavia, where she is still living.

Since the VAJDA family has made their fortune, they no longer attend church service, and do not greet anymore

any member of my source's family, which had been so good with them in the past.

Besides this equivocal and opportunistic personality of the VAJDA's there was another and much more agreeable "Szekely", named Milklos JAKAB, who had six children. His political ideas are exactly opposed to those displayed by VAJDA. He does everything he can to avoid any activity whatsoever on behalf of the Party, and attends church together with his whole family. In spite of being poor, JAKAB did not take advantage of the possibilities to make his fortune with the help of the Party but preferred his honest poverty.

Another rather dubious character, who turned up during one of these small gatherings, was the 50-year-old peasant, Istvan MIKLOSI, nicknamed "Bimbo," a name generally given to oxen. He is an activist and was promoted by the Party for his merits in his fight against the kulaks, whom he hated, and many of whom he had denounced. He had the reputation of being an unscrupulous man without character. During one of these small gatherings dealing with work in the agricultural State enterprise, he had given a speech about how to prevent the damages caused by frost to wheat, and, according to him, it was the responsibility of the kulaks if these damages were considerable, because the kulaks had let this happen so as to avoid the deliveries of agricultural produce to the State collecting centers. When speaking on other occasions, MIKLOSI had stated: "There are two kinds of people, the honest and the dishonest ones, and the kulaks must be suppressed to the last."

VAJDA and MIKLOWI were Party's mouthpieces, and the others could but passively agree to their statements.

A well-known woman instructor was the 50-year-old Mrs. JUHASZ (fnu), who lived on (Szent Laszlo)-Sallai street. On one occasion when the parents of our source

were driving in their cart to the farm, this woman had spoken to them with abuse, saying among other things "Look how these piggish kulaks are travelling!"

Another woman instructor belonging to this set is Mrs. SZENASI, wife of Istvan SZENASI. Our source met her during one of the above-mentioned gatherings in the house of a certain SZAMOSVARI (Schnobl), during the summer of 1951. Also the wife of Stefan SZENASI was participating in this meeting, where she was going to read a report. But, as she was unable to read properly, she excused herself by saying that she had forgotten her glasses. Janos ISPAOVITS went, and looked at the text she was pretending to read, but with the best will in the world he was unable to find one single word corresponding to what she was saying. Also on another occasion when Mrs. SZENAS had been asked by the assembly to read something she had stated that she had left her glasses at home.

End.