

ITEM No. 9847/56

PRIORITY

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HUNGARY.

EXILE /1200/
Refugees /1204a/

AUDIENCE ANALYSIS WITH A TECHNICAL DRAFTSMAN FROM
BUDAPEST.

SOURCE FRANKFURT: Source is a Hungarian male born in March 1931 in BUDAPEST where he lived most of his life. He has had eight years of elementary and secondary schooling and approximately one year of technical schooling. From December 1955 until his defection in July 1956, he was employed as a technical draftsman at the "Cable and Cable Wire Factory" in BUDAPEST. He was not a member of the Communist Party.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Source was interviewed on August 25 1956. He was made available to this office on September 12 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: A jamming station in ERD was previously reported.

It is unlikely that the Ministry of the Interior should have its own jamming station. The installations reported here are very likely identical with the special radio transmitter network for police purposes of the Ministry of the Interior.

The jamming stations in the Farkashegy and Janoshegy area are not known here.

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News Sources.

In order to be informed on the local events source regularly read "Magyar Nemzet," a daily newspaper that was less pro-regime than Szabad Nep and "Nepszava." He occasionally glanced through the two latter papers. He was very much interested in "Elet es Tudomany," a non-political weekly, which contained valuable information on scientific subjects. Source often read "Life" which was circulated among friends. Where the issues came from, source could not tell.

Radio.

A. General Availability, Distribution, etc.

1. Source had in his home a wireless set called "Törpe Super," five tubes, all waves, price 1,560 forint. This fairly good set was not easily available. It was manufactured by the "Hunting Cartridges Factory" at SZEKESFEHERVAR and initially scheduled to be exported to the Netherlands. Since this scheme could not be completed, a number of the Törpe Super" were put on the market in Hungary.
2. Source believed that in Hungarian towns 50 to 60 per cent of the families own a radio and in the countryside about 40 per cent. Since December 1955, radio sets could be purchased by installments and during 1956, the number of home sets increased rapidly. The set in most general use was the "Nepradio" /three tubes, price 340 forint/ which picked up only the BUDAPEST stations I and II. However, through private technicians many owners of this set had a conversion made that made it possible to listen to short waves from abroad. Such an alteration cost 200 forint. Other popular makes were the "Orion" sets /price range from 800 forint to 16,500 forint./ Ten forint were paid monthly as a radio listening fee.
3. Ordinary spare parts were available in government shops for domestic sets but some more complicated parts, for example condensers, were in short supply. Source knew that a number of Soviet sets called "Leningrad" /five, or six tubes/ were available in Hungary but they were sold privately. Source listened a few times on short wave in the home of a friend to broadcasts over the "Leningrad" receiver, but he could not

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describe the set.

4. No permit was required to purchase a radio set.
5. There was no black-market in radios.
6. Source had no information on wired radio in Hungary.
7. Source had no information on the number of wireless radios, wired receivers or collective system loudspeakers.

B.Domestic Radio Listening.

1. Source listened regularly to the news of BUDAPEST I in the morning and at night and also to the "foreign quarter of an hour" broadcast by BUDAPEST I from 2015 to 2030 hours. Otherwise the only programs that interested him were musical and artistic performances and scientific lectures. Most of the radio listening /domestic and Western/ was concentrated in the evening hours.
2. Forced listening took place only in plants and schools where loudspeakers transmitted official speeches, etc.
3. The only domestic stations to which source listened were BUDAPEST I and II. He had no preference.
4. Source did not subscribe to the regime's radio magazine.
5. Source stated that 60 per cent of the radio programs were saturated with propaganda and so he listened only to musical and theatrical performances and to scientific lectures which generally were well-presented. He could not remember any performances of particular interest.
6. Source occasionally listened to domestic programs beamed abroad. The level of these, in his opinion, had been improving during recent months. Their jazz was superior to that intended for domestic listeners, and more patriotic themes were taken up that were never touched upon in the ordinary broadcasts, these programs were one link in the regime's endeavor to entice refugees to return home.

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7. Source could not list any personalities on the domestic radio.

C. Foreign Radio Listening.

1. Source listened mainly to VOA /short waves 19 to 45/ and to RFE /short wave/. He occasionally also listened to the MOSCOW Radio Hungarian language program /short and medium waves/ and to a German station in STUTTGART, AFN FRANKFURT and AFN MUNICH.

VOA and RFE were listened to in the evening from 1800 to 2400 hours and from 1530 to 0600 hours in the morning, in Hungarian. They were received on short wave. Best listening hours were from 2200 to 2400 hours at night.

Owing to jamming the quality of reception was often poor, and it was necessary to change bands frequently. However, jamming never prevented source from listening, and in his opinion even the owners of the cheap "Nepradio" were able to receive at least 50 per cent of the Western programs. Source knew the following jamming stations in BUDAPEST: at JANOSHEGY, FARKASHEGY and at the Headquarters of the Ministry of the Interior. In addition he had heard of a jamming station Erd-PARK-VAROS /southwest of BUDAPEST/. Source was unable to describe any jamming installations.

2. VOA programs were very much appreciated and source could not emphasize any bad points except that occasionally the music was not of the best quality. Information given on foreign politics was especially good. RFE was liked for its good news service and its programs were highly appreciated.

Source could not list any personalities performing with VOA or RFE.

Source suggested that it would be good to have more information about emigré activities and the American way of life. The Communist stations are giving the Hungarian people the impression that the Soviet Union is technically and culturally far ahead of the United States. This idea should be challenged more officially.

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Source did not consider that any programs were too long or too short.

3. Source especially liked the programs devoted to old Hungarian national festivals and commemorations of Hungarian historical days which are neglected by the Communist regime.

4. Source did not recall any program which he particularly disliked.

5. Source had no objections concerning speakers and their voices. The deliveries were excellent.

6. The best news broadcasts and commentaries were given by VOA.

The religious programs of VOA and RFE were equally good. Source was unable to elaborate on youth, women's and intellectual programs.

7. VOA and RFE were the Western stations considered to give the best coverage of news of events in BUDAPEST /source's community./

8. Hungarian listeners appreciated most pertinent political commentaries.

9. The music broadcast should be of rather "conservative character" since modern music was disliked. Melodious dance music was highly appreciated by young people.

10. Often the Western stations broadcast information that was not previously known or that challenged the Communist news service. Source recalled especially this type of "duel" during the Greek Civil War and the Korean War. Highly appreciated were surveys which gave a true picture of the economics of Hungary and other Communist-dominated countries. The true aspect of the POZNAN riots was made known through broadcasts from the West.

11. Source listened to Western broadcasts at home, often in the company of a few trusted friends.

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12. In source's opinion it was difficult to differentiate the types of people who listened to different Western stations.

13. Source did not recall that his friends disliked anything in Western broadcasts.

14. VOA and RFE were considered the best stations by source for their reliable, alert information and their outright anti-Soviet stand. BBC was, in his opinion, in third place; its information was in general pertinent, but this station was not very popular because of its passive attitude toward the USSR.

15. Source knew of no ill effects among listeners to VOA or other Western stations.

16. People found in the broadcasts encouragement for their hope of liberation. Information received from the West was regularly discussed among a group of source's friends at his place of work.

17. Listening to Western broadcasts was not directly prohibited, but if someone was caught listening he could lose his job, be demoted, or risked detention. Only seldom did the regime publicly attack a Western broadcast. Source recalled that Radio BUDAPEST once staged an anti-VOA radio play which tried to ridicule the American "truths." This theatrical attempt was particularly clumsy and had an effect on listeners opposite to that intended. The regime's counter-measures were without results.

18. Source could not think of anything the United States had done during recent months which would have particularly pleased or displeased them.

19. In source's opinion the US Government's actions were not always in accord with the expressed American policy. He was unable to elaborate, but stated that the Hungarian people expected more drastic steps from the United States in liberating the enslaved countries.

20. In case of war or crisis involving the USSR

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against the United States, source, if he were still in Hungary, would rely on information broadcast by VOA and RFE.

Western Leaflets.

Source had never seen a leaflet. He was shown one "Szabad Magyarorszagert" /For Free Hungary/ which he found to be well edited. Source knew that leaflets, sponsored by anti-Communist groups, were continually coming into Hungary, but they seldom reached BUDAPEST. In his opinion the leaflets were an important weapon in fighting the regime. Source had no suggestions concerning content or form of the leaflets. He was not aware of any organized opposition movement.

Source had no information on TV in Hungary.

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