

2. State - The death of Foreign Minister Horvath

(a) Reuters

Vienna, Austria, January 31 - Hungarian Foreign Minister Imre Horvath has had a serious gall bladder operation, Budapest radio announced tonight. His condition is satisfactory, the radio said.

(b) Associated Press

Budapest, 3 February - Hungary's Communist Foreign Minister, Imre Horvath, died last night following a gallstone operation. He had been Foreign Minister since July 1956 - before, during and after the Hungarian revolt. An active communist since 1918, Horvath was a member of the Party's Central Committee.

Horvath was representing Hungary at the U.N. General Assembly session when the anti-Russian revolt broke out in 1956. He held his post under the short-lived regime of Premier Imre Nagy, then was retained when the Russians crushed the revolt and installed Premier János Kadar.



Horvath also headed the Hungarian delegation at the last session of the U.N. General Assembly and attacked the five-nation report which condemned the Russian intervention in the Hungarian revolt. Since his return from New York he had been seen little in public and was not present at the last two sessions of the Hungarian Parliament. Announcing his death, Budapest radio said he had been seriously ill for a long time. However, Ferenc Muennich, who succeeded Kadar as Premier last week, retained Horvath as Foreign Minister.

Andre Sik, Deputy Foreign Minister and Hungary's Chief Delegate at the U.N., appeared a likely choice to succeed Horvath.

(c) Reuters

Budapest, February 3 - by Henderson Gall - Imre Horvath, Communist Hungary's Foreign Minister and voice at the United Nations, died on Sunday night after a gall bladder operation, a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced today. He was 56. The silver-haired, bespectacled statesman, whose son turned against him to join the "freedom fighters" during the 1956 October revolution, was a life-long Communist.

Horvath became foreign minister during the summer of 1956. He lost his post during the short-lived anti-communist Government of Imre Nagy, but regained it after Russian troops crushed the October uprising.

Born in Budapest Nov. 19, 1901, of a worker's family, Horvath joined the Hungarian Communist Party in 1918 and went to the Soviet Union during the 1920's. Returning in the thirties to Hungary, he worked in the Communist underground. During World War II, he was a prisoner in the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau. From 1945 onwards, he represented his country abroad as Minister or Ambassador in Moscow, East Berlin, Washington, London and Prague.

Flags of the Foreign Ministry Building and all public buildings in Budapest today flew at half mast. The date of his funeral has not yet been set.

Horvath sprang into world prominence in November, 1956, when he flew from revolt-torn Budapest to United Nations Headquarters in New York to defend the actions of Russian troops during the revolt and the Russian-backed regime of Premier Janos Kadar.

Defeated in his attempt to keep the Hungarian question off the U.N. agenda - he argued it was a purely "internal" affair - Horvath made a last-ditch effort to defeat a U.N. resolution calling for withdrawal of Russian troops from Hungary. It failed.

On November 19, Horvath took the rostrum to flatly deny that any "freedom fighter" arrested during the uprising had been deported from Hungary. Nevertheless, the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a Cuban resolution calling on Russia to cease deporting Hungarians.

On December 4, Horvath delivered a long defense of the Kadar Government and an attack on the "fascist elements" which he claimed had been the main force behind the revolt. He said the "counter-revolution" had been defeated only because the Hungarian Government had called on Russia for military assistance. During the same debate, he suggested that U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold visit Budapest,



but the following day the Kadar Government turned thumbs down on his proposal.

Faced with Hungary's refusal to admit Hammarskjold, permanent United States Delegate Henry Cabot Lodge said Horvath had put himself "outside the pale of accepted international behavior and common decency."

On December 11, at the height of the debate on Hungary, Horvath walked out of the General Assembly in protest against "insults and calumnies".

Three days later, Australian External Affairs Minister Richard Casey demanded Horvath's expulsion from the United Nations because "the world knows that Mr. Horvath represents Russia, not Hungary".

In May last year, Horvath signed an agreement in Budapest together with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on the legal status of Russian troops "temporarily stationed" in Hungary.