

URGENT

M
12 March
IX/688

HUNGARY

MORALE AND GENERAL MOOD (2002)

Hope Of Liberation Seen In S ALIN Death.

SOURCE VIENNA : Confidential.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : Until 7 March.

EVALUATION COMMENT : A very likely opinion. It is interesting that the reaction to President EISENHOWER's election was strikingly similar. The captive nations have their hopes raised every time there is some important change on the international scene.

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A foreigner (NU) who just arrived in VIENNA reports that the first reaction of non-Communists in BUDAPEST to the news of STALIN's death was that an early liberation was to be expected. Possibly because of the extent to which the Communists have extolled STALIN as the one and only great leader of their movement, Hungarians took the view that there will be nobody with an equally strong hand to succeed him, and that dissension among the remaining Soviet leaders will give the people of Hungary and the other satellites their chance of regaining their freedom.

End.