

INTERVIEW OF THE HUNGARIAN ARMY
PAPER DURING THE UPRISING 1/
WITH MRS. LASZLO RAJK

On the morning of 3 November, the correspondent of this revolutionary paper, Judit Nagy, met Mrs. Rajk, who had just returned from Berlin. Mrs. Rajk stated:

"We all know that my husband's reburial was preceded by a two year fight. This fight was waged in order that people should know 'officially' what we already knew: Laszlo Rajk was executed as an innocent man." The correspondent added that Mrs. Rajk was

The correspondent added that Mrs. Rajk was able to achieve the public reburial only with the assistance of the masses. Mrs. Rajk continued:

"I saw hatred in the people's eyes, and all of us who attended the funeral knew that it meant a turning point in the political life of our country.

On the morning of 19 October, I had a conversation with Gerő who suggested that I should become a member of the Central Committee of the Party. Of course I did not accept this offer and told him that I had no intention of collaborating with him. I also said that the economic situation of Hungary was miserable, and that we were in a colonial situation vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. Gerő replied what he repeated in his speech of Tuesday [23 October]. I then said that the people hated him and that they had no confidence either in him or in the other discredited members of the Central Committee.

My health had been seriously affected by the funeral and the excitement connected with it, and accepting the invitation of friends, on Sunday morning, 21 October, I left for Berlin. When I heard about Gero's speech, I knew that it could not remain unanswered. On Wednesday, [24 October], and Thursday, [25 October], even in that distant place I knew that this was no more manifestation, but a tremendous popular movement. From that moment on I did not leave my radio set, and on Saturday, [27 October], I decided to come home by whatever means of transportation I could obtain. I flew to Prague, but there I heard that there was no railway connexion to Hungary. This confirmed my evaluation of the events and now I felt that I must return to Hungary at all costs and as quickly as possible. I continued by car to Bratislava, where I found about 450 Hungarians who demanded their immediate return. Two members of the Hungarian Consulate, Tivadar Ivan and Benyi, helped us to obtain money, shelter and food. The Hungarians in the city also helped us. In spite of all this the [Czechoslovak] authorities wanted to place us under house arrest, but the local Hungarians came to our aid and the authorities finally thought it best to put a train at our disposal on condition that we should not go into town. We travelled by train to Komarom, where the locomotive was removed.

1/ Magyar Honved, 3 November 1956.

During the night I walked over the bridge at Komarom to the Hungarian part of the city to contact the National Council there. An emergency meeting of the Council was called and we were given all assistance to get to Budapest . . . That is how we arrived during the night of Thursday [1 November] in Budapest."

Mrs. Rajk said in the conclusion of the interview that she wanted to start her work "immediately." She intended to go to the Parliament building to speak to the women of Hungary by radio, if possible, the same day.