

Further Statement by Ringrose: The Sztalinvaros Rising Explained

Budapest radio's English service broadcast yet another recorded statement by one of the British "friendship" officials who recently visited Hungary, Charles Ringrose (Summary Part IIB, No.879, p.11). Ringrose said he had visited Sztalinvaros and recalled Western claims last autumn that the town had been "a centre of the so-called fight for freedom". He had talked to people there and had been told the following "most extraordinary story": "In brief the position in Sztalinvaros was that a small group of people

led by a writer named Sandor took over by a sudden action ... a small arsenal of arms which was being held in the city for the use of the young men who were called up in the normal procedure of things to the Army. And this small group of people ... went to a neighbouring prison camp where ordinary criminals were held in captivity and freed these criminals ... 150 of them ... and brought them back to Sztalinvaros, put them into uniforms, gave them arms and used them ... to take over control of Sztalinvaros...

"They did this by arresting the legally-elected members of the Sztalinvaros City Council, whom they imprisoned in cellars and held under guard and then they continued to try to upset the industrial section of the city. They did succeed ... in stopping the general workshops from carrying on with their work. They also tried to put out the furnaces, but the furnacemen absolutely refused to allow this to be done... So the furnacemen remained firm and today, at least the day that I was there, the furnaces were going at full swing." Ringrose went on to discuss plans to build a rolling-mill at Sztalinvaros to make the combine an economic proposition; and to praise the high standards of Hungarian workers' dance ensembles and choirs whose performances he had witnessed. (Budapest in English 20.00, 8.11.57)