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VII/498HUNGARYDESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY (3803)AGRICULTURECOMMUNIST PARTYExpropriation Of Lands And Fanatical Communists
In NYIRMAIRTONFALVA

SOURCE TRIESTE: a 45-year-old farmer escaped from Hungary in June 1952. See for detailed source-description Item No 14139/52

DATE OF OBSERVATION: June 1952

EVAL. COMMENT 1: This is a somewhat vague and monotonous report on routine conditions in a small village in the eastern part of Hungary. It proves to what great extent general conditions (collectivization of agriculture; utter bankruptcy of the kolkhozes; relentless pressure on the kulaks; arbitrary rule of the local C.P. tycoons etc.) are exactly the same all over Hungary.

All reported names are UNCONFIRMED in our files.

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The village of NYIRMAIRTONFALVA, Province of Hajdu-Bihar, District of DEBRECEN in the immediate neighborhood of the latter town, has about 600 inhabitants, all farmers. Before 1946 some of them did not possess any lands but in that year they all got from 5 to 15 hectares of lands from the great expropriated landowners. In this way lands were also given to the former day-laborers of the big farms (urasagi cseled) formerly belonging to the landowners. The most important among the latter were: REVICZKY Jozsef, owner of 4,000 hectares, VARADI Szabo (fnu) with 700 hectares; STERN Sander with 480 hectares; Baron VECSEY Miklos with 3,000 hectares (half of the property was situated within the limits of NYIRGASSAD); ROZEN (fnu) with 300 hectares, BALKANI (fnu) with 400 hectares. On the property of the two latter (both of Jewish origin) the kolkhoz of the village was established in the spring of 1951 covering a surface of 700 hectares. Their lands were already confiscated

during the regime of Horthy on the basis of the racial laws, but were not assigned to the farmers even during the "popular democratic" regime since this regime preferred to take advantage of them and use them for the kolkhoz.

The first to join the kolkhoz were the most ardent Communist Party members including the former cobbler GOMBOS József, aged 45, a wellknown spy of the political police. Also his wife and daughter, Julia, are fanatical Communists. The latter is the presidentess of the MNDSZ.

During 1950 GOMBOS denounced several farmers, among whom also the kulak KOTACS Peter who was interned as a result of GOMBOS' denunciation. (Also our source was compelled to escape from the village in consequence of a denunciation made by GOMBOS.)

The offices of the kolkhoz are located in the former house of GERBERGER Ernő. The Communist leaders of the village summon the kulaks to these offices to force them to go to work on the lands of the kolkhoz. Also when they were land-owners, the members of the kolkhoz did not care to work and this is the very reason why they joined the collective farm. As a result the 18 kulaks of the village have to cultivate the lands of the kolkhoz which does not dispose of one single tractor. The richest kulak (NU) who formerly owned 82 hectares of lands now possesses only 15 hectares. The other 67 hectares were confiscated under various pretexts, such as non-deliverance of quotas, sabotage etc.

Although there are 70 Communist party members in the village, most of them only forcibly joined the Party and are therefore, as for the rest, the whole population of the village, terrorized by the following Communist leaders:

BANGO Mihály, aged 50, illiterate, resident in NYÍRMARTONFALVA since 1950, a former simple worker in a factory in DEBRECEN and now the president of the local Soviet.

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JOHÁSZ (fnu) aged 35, who came from HAJDUBÖSZÖRMENY in 1951 is the secretary of the local Soviet.

SZABO Jozsef, secretary of the Communist Party organization of the village, a former day-laborer. His wife is a fervent Communist; since SZABO became the Party secretary he built himself a big house.

PODOR Ferenc, also called "Vakancsos," a Party activist, one of the managers of the kolkhoz, is known by everybody as a lazybones. He is 32 years old and his wife is a Communist too. He also managed to profit from the last years and built himself a nice house on the grounds formerly owned by REVIGZEKY Jozsef.

NEMES Janos, a Party Activist aged 28. He is in charge of collecting signatures for loans for the five-year plan and the "peace campaign."

The inhabitants of this village, i.e. not only the kulaks but also the poor farmers, are discontent with the present situation because of the exaggerated quotas demanded from them as well as the lack of goods, the high cost of living etc. In the spring of 1952 a meeting of the farmers was held during which one of the Communist leaders invited the farmers to express the reasons of their discontent. As a result of the criticism made by some of the farmers, the AVH of DEBRECEN arrested about 40 peasants a few days later. They were released after several weeks. After this incident there were no further mass arrests, only some kulaks were interned and are still detained in concentration camps.

End.