

Current Year's Developments

In a statement to 'Nepszabadsag', Jenoe Incze, Minister of Foreign Trade, said that in the first nine months of 1957 Hungary had fulfilled its import and export plans by 102.4 per cent and 113 per cent, respectively. Commercial relations were now maintained with 101 countries and inter-State agreements had been concluded with 43 countries. Hungary now traded with "every West European State as well as with many States in South America, Africa, and the Near and Middle East". According to preliminary estimates, Hungary's foreign trade balance would exceed the foreign currency provisions for this year by 150-160,000,000 forints. Imports from the people's democracies during the first nine months of the current year had been 7 per cent higher than foreseen and imports from the capitalist countries 8.9 per cent lower than foreseen. The value of goods imported during this period had exceeded the value of the imports for the corresponding period in 1956 by 1,500,000,000 forints but the value of exports had fallen by 1,100,000,000 forints.

The Tasks Ahead

Turning to the future, the Minister said that the foreign trade experts were faced with two great tasks: (1) in order to base the Three-Year Plan of the people's

economy on proper foundations, its raw material requirements must be assured through long-term contracts with friendly countries; (ii) Hungary had to export highly-priced mechanical installations - equipment for entire factories - which involved a large amount of labour. A further task was to step up the export of well-known light industrial and food industrial articles. (Hungarian information service 26.10.57 and MTI 26.10.57)

Other Foreign Trade Reports

Agreement with France: Under the terms of an agreement on Hungarian-French trade for 1957-58 which has been signed in Paris the volume of the trade between the two countries will be about 60 per cent higher than in 1956. Hungary will export to France light industrial goods and machines, as well as agricultural products, in exchange for French chemicals, textile raw materials and textile goods, machines and technical products (Budapest 21.00, 21.10.57). The value of the new agreement for Hungary will be about Fr.2,500,000,000. In addition to this, France may export rolled goods and textiles and Hungary oil seeds, tobacco and goose liver up to a limit of Fr.1,500,000,000 (Hungarian information service 22.10.57).

Exchanges with Argentina: A one-year trade and payments agreement has been signed in Buenos Aires between Hungary and Argentina. Hungary will deliver diesel trains and spare parts for them, telecommunication articles, measuring instruments, machine tools, aluminium cables and various chemicals to Argentina, from whom she will receive raw hides, leather-processing chemicals and other types of raw materials. (Budapest 21.00, 23.10.57)

Forthcoming Talks with Yugoslavia: Trade talks between Hungary and Yugoslavia will open in Budapest on 5th November with a view to concluding a goods exchange agreement for next year; questions concerning the conclusion of a three-year commercial agreement will also be discussed. The present exchange of goods between the two countries amounts to 20,000,000 dollars annually on both sides and a further increase is expected. (Budapest 23.00, 22.10.57)

Diesel Engines for Syria are being supplied by the Győr wagon factory. (MTI 26.10.57)

Activities of Independent Export Enterprises: An investigation carried out by the Ministry of Metallurgy and Machine Industry revealed an improvement in the activities of the independent export enterprises. They had fulfilled their plan by 104 per cent and had also explored new markets; it was also "significant" that some of them had improved the quality of their goods since operating independently. The Ganz voltage-meter factory had contracts in Uruguay for one-phase and three-phase voltage-meters and was also negotiating with India. The factory producing X-ray machines had regained its Polish and Chinese markets, modernised its products and extended its markets to Syria, Egypt and Latin America. In view of the Ministry's findings that the independent export enterprises had been "successful in their work", it is expected that the right to independent export activity will be extended to further enterprises. (Budapest 23.00, 22.10.57)

Industrial Production

Consumer Goods and Light Industry Developments: The Ministry of Light Industry announced that the branches manufacturing consumer goods had produced in the third quarter of this year "about 12 per cent more than in the quarters before the counter-revolution". Light industry had employed 15,000 more workers in September than last year and each worker had earned about 50 forints more than last year. (Budapest for Hungarians in W Europe 19.00, 22.10.57)

Csepel Works' New Trucks: The Csepel Automobile Works are to make 4.5 ton trucks, the prototype of which has already been completed. Serial production is expected to begin next year. (Hungarian information service 25.10.57)

Meeting of National Assembly Building Committee: The National Assembly Building Committee held a meeting on 26th October under the chairmanship of Jozsef Koeboel. In a report on the production of building materials in 1957, Lajos Kocais, Deputy Minister of Building, said that the country's brick supplies had greatly improved and that, whereas the total production in 1938 had been 600,000,000 bricks, this year almost the same number of bricks had been allotted to private builders alone. Peter Valyi, Deputy President of the National Planning Office, spoke on building investments (no details given). (Budapest 15.00, 26.10.57 and for Hungarians in W Europe 05.30, 27.10.57; Hungarian information service 28.10.57)

Budapest Flats: Discussing the "1958 plan" for Budapest, 'Nepakarat' was quoted as having stated that "another 5,400 flats will be completed in Budapest before the end of the year" and that "some 4,500 flats will be built next year". (Hungarian information service 25.10.57)

The Atomic Reactor: The workers engaged on the construction of the Hungarian atomic reactor at Csilleberek have decided to have the building ready for heating by 7th November so that work within the building can proceed undisturbed by the onset of the cold weather. (Budapest 03.30, 26.10.57)

The Szatmar Smelting Furnace: Pig-iron production at the new smelting furnace at Szatmar (see Summary Part IIB, No.874, p.8) had reached the 700-ton mark by 21st October. (Hungarian information service 21.10.57)

Pharmaceutical Developments: In a talk on the Hungarian pharmaceutical industry broadcast by Belgrade radio in English, the speaker mentioned various atropin products that had resulted from the research work of Academician Issekutz, including "gastropin", for the treatment of gastric ulcers, which was to be put on the market shortly. Reference was also made to: drugs for the treatment of malaria developed by Academician Jancso; drugs to combat TB, many of which, based on foreign inventions, would now be exported; antibiotics, including penicillin derivatives and streptomycin; and a new synthesis of chloramphenicol invented by Janos Kulomics for treating typhoid fever, virulent pneumonia and whooping cough. (Budapest in English 20.00, 22.10.57)