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## HUNGARY

FOREIGN RELATIONS (1500)  
Visitors (1501)

COMMUNIST PARTY (0600)  
Personalities (0606)

## FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN HUNGARY

SOURCE PARIS: Confidential.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: End of August 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: It is known that prior to 1945 Imre HORVATH had spent several years in the USSR. He returned to Hungary in early 1945 with the group of Moscovite Communists who took over the direction of the Hungarian CP.

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Paul Marius ANXIONNAZ, Secretary General of the French Radical Party, at present State Secretary at the French Admiralty, visited BUDAPEST during this summer. Mrs. ANXIONNAZ was born a Hungarian, thus their trip was to visit relatives in Hungary.

The first impression they received was that since their last visit to the Hungarian capital, several years ago, neither the squalor nor the poverty stricken picture of BUDAPEST had changed. The only striking thing was that criticism against the Regime had become bolder and more passionate. They even met a traffic policeman who, in full uniform and on his post, loudly abused Regime and government.

Their most amusing experience happened during a luncheon which was given in their honor by the French Minister in

(over)

BUDAPEST, Jean Paul BONCOUR. The State Secretary had Mr. Istvan HORVATH, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as his table-neighbor.

During their conversation, the French politician remarked, politely, that even if many changes had taken place in the country during recent years, the charm of the Hungarian countryside, the kindness of its people and its natural beauty, had remained unchanged since his first visit to Hungary, several decades ago.

Nevertheless, Imre HORVATH was of another opinion. "I am not very much at home in Hungary," he complained. "I lived for many years in the Soviet Union, my wife is Russian, my son is married there ... Believe me, sir, I am often homesick for Russia."

ANXIONNAZ smiled at the strange confession made by the Foreign Minister of the Hungarian People's Democracy. Next day he sent his card to the Foreign Minister. HORVATH naturally immediately reciprocated this diplomatic courtesy. ANXIONNAZ received a small piece of cardboard, slightly soiled, with the following inscription written in ink and in printed characters: Imre HORVATH, Foreign Minister of the Hungarian People's Democracy. The minister did not possess a visiting card...

End

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