

Speech by Kallai: The Intelligentsia

On 13th October, there was a mass meeting in Szeged, at which the main speaker was Gyula Kallai, the Minister of Culture and member of the Politburo. According to the radio, he said: "The people's power in our country is now incomparably stronger and stabler than before the counter-revolution. Our Party ... is smaller than the Hungarian Workers Party, but its ranks are united and firm because it has rid itself of the Workers' Party sectarian mistakes and revisionist treason. One of the most important lessons of the counter-revolution is that the State and the social forces as a whole must be watchful and vigilant - always and everywhere." The economic situation was improving faster than had been expected. The assistance of Hungary's friends had made it possible to avert threatening economic dangers and to live better than last year.

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X Budapest radio's summary of Kallai's speech went on: "Outlining the attitude of the intelligentsia, he pointed out that the overwhelming majority of the Hungarian intelligentsia were already engaged in their normal work and added: 'We want friendly relations with them. We want to co-operate with the intelligentsia in socialist construction. We would like groups of intellectuals who still keep aloof from socialism to realise where they belong - to understand that their place is beside the working class, the working people.' The Minister stated with satisfaction that relations between the State and the Roman Catholic Church were improving. He also spoke about the country's international relations and of the importance of the launching of the Soviet inter-continental rocket and artificial satellite." (Budapest 23.00, 13.10.57)

23rd October: Another Warning

Another version of the speech by the information service, said that Kallai made the following reference to 23rd October: "We hear that counter-revolutionary forces both at home and abroad are preparing to celebrate this day. We would like openly to tell everyone concerned well in advance that the Hungarian people's power is incomparably stronger today than it was before 23rd October. Both our army and police force are stronger and in the meantime our well armed, enthusiastic and battle-ready workers' guards have been added to the forces of public order of the proletarian dictatorship. No full-stop can be put after the October affairs as long as there are depraved people who even today prepare to 'celebrate' the anniversary of their rising. We shall strike down these people more severely than before." (See also Kadar's speech above.)

Speaking of the intelligentsia, this version said, Kallai "emphasised that the aim was friendly relations and that they wanted to convince the intellectuals by patient enlightenment and debate. These debates, however, could not be like those in the Petoefi Circle." (Hungarian information service 15.10.57)