

Budapest, in Hungarian to Hungarians in West Europe, Sept. 27, 1957,
1900 GMT--L

(Extracts from the press statement of László Gyaros, spokesman of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

(Excerpt) The first question was put by foreign journalists in connection with the Aug. 20 speech of Istvan Dobi, chairman of the Presidential Council of the people's republic. According to their information, Dobi declared that an end ought to be put to the persecution of counterrevolutionaries.

In his reply, the spokesman declared: Apparently foreign journalists have been erroneously informed about the speech of the chairman of the Presidential Council because the passage in question ran, verbatim, as follows: "Ten months have passed since October. I agree with those who are of the opinion that the October counterrevolutionary cases must be closed as soon as possible. Those guilty must be punished. However, from now on supreme attention must be turned toward the problem of how to build the morrow and the after tomorrow."

In reply to a French journalist's question whether one can count upon a declaration of amnesty at the end of the year, the spokesman said: If the Presidential Council deems it necessary, it will proclaim an amnesty.

(Text) Replying to a question concerning internments, the spokesman stated that court approval was necessary for the prolongation of internment over 6 months. This measure served the consolidation of legality. Furthermore, internal political tension, which could be sensed after the crushing of the counterrevolution, has been diminishing since January, and it is now the Western reactionary press which keeps speaking of "tension" in connection with the political situation in Hungary.

Asked about the number of death sentences pronounced and executions carried out in Hungary since last November, Gyaros stated that the Hungarian press had given the exact numbers: 107 persons sentenced to death, 47 of whom had been executed.

The communique of the committee of international lawyers, dated Sept. 10, 1957, which estimated the number of persons executed to be between 2,000 and 5,000 was an invention from beginning to end and formed part of the campaign of slanders launched against the Hungarian People's Republic before the 11th session of the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 10.