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VII/651 (a)

HUNGARYNYIE (1207)Comment On Western Broadcasts.

SOURCE TRISTE : See Item No. 1185/53.
DATE OF OBSERVATION : Until March 1952.
EVALUATION COMMENT : Interesting comments.

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Our source, who is residing at RAKOSPALOTA had a Radio set of the Orion type 449 G., at 6 valves, which he had purchased in 1948 at the price of 3,400 Forint. Very often, and especially on Saturdays and Sundays he intercepted the transmission of the BBC and RFE programs. On weekdays he intercepted the transmissions of the 23,30 hours program. All these transmissions were very much disturbed, particularly the ones of the evening. Above all wave length 41 was greatly disturbed. For this reason our source had to avail himself of wave length 49 to listen to the RFE transmissions.

Among the RFE programs which most of all interested our source was the reading of the black list - but as long as he had been in Hungary he had never heard that the names of any of the Communists who worked at his factory or at RAKOSPALOTA were transmitted. He was very much interested in the programs of "Boda Balint and, particularly, in the transmissions of DUNAPENTELE. He gained the impression that RFE was better informed about the internal situation in Hungary than the Hungarians themselves. He very much enjoyed the political dia-

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logues among the two performers of a sketch - i.e. between Mariska, the wife and fervent Communist, and her non-Communist husband, and the political comments made by three friends sitting in a pub, who are the protagonists of another Radio sketch.

In February 1952, when RFE had made propaganda for 24 hours of intermittent work in all the Hungarian factories, it happened that in the office where our source worked together with four other persons, (three of whom were inscribed members of the Party), all had worked less than usual, but without having made any previous arrangements about it. In our source's office the colleagues exchanged the news heard the evening before from the Western senders, when there were no foreigners about, and without the slightest fear that they might be denounced by the three Communist - as these latter had lost a good deal their faith in the Party. However, at least the better half of 300 workers employed at the refrigerator factory Hitegygyar vallalat regularly listened to the Western senders.

Regarding the news concerning foreign politics, our source preferred the communications of the "Voice of America", which he considered more reliable.

In spite of the obligation of all the employees at the factory to subscribe to the newspaper Szabad Nép, nobody ever read this or any other newspapers, much preferring to learn the latest international and local news exclusively from the transmission of the Western transmission. The newspapers were delivered to the factory, and our source used to keep them there for weeks at a stretch, in fact he took them home only when his wife needed paper to make a fire, and so did his other colleagues in the office. Only the musical programs of the BUDAPEST broadcast interested them - and especially the pieces which were transmitted on request (Sziv kaldi Szivnek), only seldom was our source able to intercept the musical transmissions of the RFE, which were always greatly disturbed.

When listening to the Western senders our source had to carefully close his doors for fearing of being surprised by his neighbor another State employee, he knew that he, too, intercepted the Western transmissions, but as they did not know each other they distrusted each other.

End.