

Diplomatic Relations Improving

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Diplomatic relations showed a tendency to improve now, six months after the counter-revolution, which had had a detrimental effect on relations with the capitalist countries. "We did not seek this conflict; it was foisted upon us. The idea of counter-revolution was not born in the mind of the Hungarian working masses. The counter-revolution was inspired and supported by organisations in the pay of foreign Powers who had taken advantage of the workers' dissatisfaction, which in many respects was justified. Strangely, however, the Governments that supported the counter-revolutionary organisation have been blaming not themselves but the Hungarian people for this turn of events."

They said it was the Soviet Union that interfered in Hungary's internal affairs. "Today, under the impact of facts and documents, it is realised more clearly throughout the world that in fact a revolt to overthrow the power of the working class was defeated by the Hungarian armed forces with the help of Soviet armed forces who came to their aid." More and more bourgeois Governments wished for a return to relations in the pre-October form, and the Hungarian Government was doing everything in its power to speed up the process.

US Government's "Unfriendly Attitude"

"For instance, we cannot be blamed for the fact that the US Government is, to put it mildly, adopting an unfriendly attitude towards us. The US Legation in Budapest is demonstrating this US Government attitude in a manner unusually brusque in international

relations. We understand what prompts this wrath. We are convinced, however, that in time the US Government will get over the unalterable fact that in Hungary we are building socialism." But it was astonishing that the US Legation should, by failing to send a representative to the ceremony at the Heroes' Tomb on 4th April, extend their wrath to the US soldiers who died in the fight against fascism. Again, Longfellow was not responsible for the difference between the social structure of Hungary and the USA, but US diplomatists invited to the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the poet's birth remained aloof.

Austrian Government to Blame for Strained Relations

Relations with the Austrian Government were not satisfactory either. Austrian propaganda continued its campaign of slander. The Austrian Press - for instance, 'Die Presse' - carried articles sully the Hungarian people. Despite differences in social structure, Hungary wanted to develop good neighbourly relations with Austria. But since the defeat of the Hungarian counter-revolution the Austrian Government had done very little to end the shameful propaganda campaign against Hungary. "Lately, for instance, they have said that in Hungary internment camps have been set up for 14-year-old children. Have they, perhaps, invented this tale to justify the inhuman detention of Hungarian children in Austria? There are many outstanding problems, the solution of which is up to the Austrian Government. For example: Why have they still not revoked the ban imposed by the Austrian Government on sport and cultural meetings between the two countries? MALEV (Hungarian airways) has still not been granted an operational licence for the Budapest-Vienna flight." It must, however, be added that there had recently been signs of improvement. Austrian political representatives had begun to use a more acceptable tone and the pre-counter-revolutionary commercial and payments conditions had been restored. Before the counter-revolution the Hungarian Government had made many proposals in the interest of establishing good relations and it was not its fault that these proposals had been put into practice only on a minor scale. The Hungarian Government was not to blame in any way for the deterioration in relations. It was striving to eliminate causes of dissension in order to promote mutual understanding.