

1956

CURT SEE KUN REHAB. COMPLETE

Munich, March 22, Monit/Leason... Western observers said that with an article in yesterday's Szabad Nep, the organ of the Hungarian Communist Party, the rehabilitation of Bela Kun can now be considered complete and the re-writing of one section of Hungarian communist party history almost finished.

The article, written by the director of the Institute of Party History, Laszlo Reti, said that in 1937 Kun, who was then in Russia, was charged with being a Trotskyite and Bukharinite traitor.

"Recent investigations have shown that this charge was unfounded," Reti said.

What is still not revealed is when, where and how Bela Kun actually died. Reports over the years have it that Kun simply disappeared in Russia sometime in the years 1934-38.

He had fled to Russia after the collapse of his 1919 Bolshevik regime in Hungary.

"Every true son of our people will be happy that the true state of affairs has been discovered and that we are able to show the historical role of Bela Kun in its full greatness," Reti wrote.

Western observers said, However, that the "history" of Bela Kun cannot be complete until the exact nature of his death is known. If, as it is generally believed, Kun died before a firing squad during the Stalinist purges of 1937-38, this amounts in international law to the illegal practice of one nation executing a foreign national without public trial or notification of his country--unless, by this time, Kun had taken Soviet citizenship.

The Reti article also mentions the present chief of the Hungarian Communist Party, Rakosi, as having "played a role" in the 1919 revolution.

Kun's final rehabilitation had been foreshadowed by articles in the Soviet historical journal Voprosy Istorii of December by Rakosi and in the Feb. 21 issue of the Moscow Pravda by Eugene Varga, the Hungarian-born economist.

A telegram sent to the central committee of the Hungarian Communist Party by a group of Russian communists who claimed to have fought in the international brigade of the Hungarian Red Army under the "excellent" Bela Kun was broadcast over the Hungarian radio two days ago.

Western observers say they are still puzzled how a man could have been both a Trotskyite and Bukharinite deviationist at the same time

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since Trotsky represented the extreme leftist faction of the Bolsheviks
and Bukharin the extreme right.

They pointed out, however, that there is as yet no basis for *224*
speculation that Kun's rehabilitation may lead eventually to "rehabilitation"
of either Trotsky or Bukharin or indeed of any of the purged personalities
who were tried and condemned ^{IN} public trials in the 1937-38 purges. It
is remembered that Kun himself was never publicly tried, but simply
disappeared.

A mass "rehabilitation" took place when Trybuna Ludu, the Polish communist
newspaper, announced on Feb. 19th that a declaration by the central
committees of the Russian, Polish, Finnish, Bulgarian and Italian
communist parties found the pre-war Polish Communist Party innocent of
charges which had led to its ~~dissolution~~ dissolution in 1938.

There was no mention in the Trybuna Ludu editorial of Trotskyite/
Bukharinite deviation as having been the basis for dissolution.

Trybuna Ludu merely said that the 1938 accusation that the party had
been penetrated by a "hostile agency...was based on materials forged by
provocateurs who were later unmasked."

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