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X H - HUNGARIAN UNION CHALLENGES PARTY ON FACTORY COUNCIL
FSD NOMINEES

MUNICH, January 20, (COLLINS).... Indications that some locals of the largest Hungarian trade union organization, the Metal Workers Union, have rejected the Hungarian Communist Party recommendations for candidates for nominations to so-called factory councils, were contained in a "Homeland" radio commentary of last Saturday. Workers of the light tool factory at SZEKESFEHERVAR forced the local trade union organization, under whose auspices the nominations took place, to change the elections lists nine times, the broadcast stated.

Former Workers' Council members also appeared on the lists of the majority of factories, the broadcast said. In the Emag Factory, for example, 11 were elected and in the "Csepel" auto works and the "Lang" machinery factory, eight members of former workers councils were elected to factory councils.

Elections are still going on in different locals of the Metal Workers Union and elections in all factories where the union is represented are not expected to be completed until April of this year.

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That opposition tendencies have appeared in the Metal Workers Union appear to have special significance since the regime warned members of this union last December against being "oriented toward irresponsible demagogues" (read former Worker Council members and social democratic-inclined trade union officials). No less a personage than First Secretary Janos KADAR, speaking to delegates of the Metal Workers Union (December 2) congress in connection with the elections, attempted to paint a rosy picture of regime intentions for worker participation under the regime-sponsored factory councils.

Sandor GASPAR, head of the Hungarian TU movement, speaking on the same occasion, stressed that during the last few years the "sense of responsibility" of TU officials to the "workers had greatly diminished". GASPAR said that as the "state's power" was the "workers' power" and the first duty of the TUs was to "strengthen the workers' power both politically and economically".

Regime-created factory councils are new worker organs designed to replace potentially explosive workers' councils which sprang up all over Hungary during last October's upheaval.

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Although the "Homeland" commentary described the former workers council members as "honest" workers, there would seem to be little doubt that the regime had to yield to pressure from below as regards the changing of nominations, so as to include these persons. The fact that the regime sponsored lists were changed nine times in one instance would seem to indicate that the regime is having some difficulty in foisting off hand-picked candidates for even TU-controlled factory councils.

The above evidence would also seem to underline the attraction of the "workers' self-management" concept for workers of the socialist camp. Disregarding for the moment the special political role the Hungarian Workers' Councils played during last October's revolution, the concept of "Workers' Councils", strictly from the economic viewpoint seems to have become firmly embedded in the minds of workers as the best way under the circumstances of combatting a bureaucratic, centrally controlled economy.

The election of former Workers' Council members to the factory councils would also appear to be a good indication of the ineffectiveness of regime propaganda concerning Workers' Councils on Hungarian workers in general. Since December 1956, the Hungarian regime of Janos KADAR has carried on an unremitting campaign of defamation against Workers' Council members and the basic concepts associated with the councils.

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The regime abolished existing Workers' Councils last November by a governmental decree. Ignoring this governmental act as they ignored regime propaganda concerning Workers' Councils, Hungarian workers continue to explore ways and means of maintaining a voice, however small, in the affairs of the nation.

End.