

20 December 1957

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ANNEX I

The following direct dispatch from Vienna correspondent Karasik was broadcast by CBS News in the programme "World News Roundup" on Friday, 13 Dec. 1957 at 8.00 a.m.

"The long awaited secret trial of General Pal Maleter, the hero of the Hungarian revolution, began today in Budapest, according to reports reaching Vienna a short time ago. The usually reliable source says, also to be judged by the Secret Military Tribunal are General Kovacs, who served as Chief of Staff to ex-Premier Imre NAGY and Sandor Koppacsi the former Police chief of Budapest, who joined the Freedom Fighters during the uprising. All three defendants were arrested by Soviet troops after the suppression of the revolt in November last year. The Western press had reported earlier that the trial had begun at the end of November, however, on December 3rd an official spokesman of the Hungarian Communist Government denied that any such trial was in progress. It is thought here that earlier reports of the secret trial of General Maleter may have been set off by the trial of Major Anton Pallawichini-Palinkas who was executed this week for leading the unit that freed Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty. General Maleter, who is in his early forties rose to fame during the uprising for his heroic fight against overwhelming Soviet forces in Budapest and for his epic defense in the Kilian Barracks. The 34-year old General Kovacs, is Moscow trained officer who sided with General Maleter during the Revolution. Sandor Koppacsi who is known for many years as a faithful Communist until he threw in his lot with the Freedom Fighters. Observers here expect all three will receive death sentences."

ANNEX II

The full text of the International News Service dispatch of 15 December is not available. Reference to it was made by the representative of Uruguay at the 731st Plenary Meeting on 14 December. the dispatch stated, among others, that the two generals and Colonel Kopacsy were sentenced to death but the execution was suspended because they would be used as witnesses in the forthcoming trial of former Premier Imre Nagy.

ANNEX III

1. Budapest, 17 December (AP)

Reports that Maleter is before a court at the West Hungarian town of Sopron persist in the capital despite official denials.

2. Budapest, 18 December (AP)

Rumours persisted that General Pal Maleter, hero of the 1956 revolution, was on trial in provincial Sopron.

3. Vienna, 18 December (UP)

The sources also confirmed that Maj. Gen. Pal Maleter, defense minister in the Nagy government; Maj. Gen. Istvan Kovacs, chief of staff of the Hungarian army, and Col. Sandor Kopacsy, former Budapest chief of police, are being tried, probably in the Kohida secret prison in Sopron.

Just yesterday the Hungarian delegation at the United Nations denied these three were on trial.

4. Vienna, 19 December (CBS)

The Communist Government of Hungary is staging a series of trials to collect its pound of flesh from the leaders of last year's uprising. Usually well-informed sources now give additional details on a reported secret trial of Hungarian hero General Pal Maleter and tell of at least two other major trials now in progress. The trial of General Maleter before a secret military tribunal is thought to be at the secret police prison of Kohida at Sopron near the Austrian border. Also said to be on trial are General Istvan Kovacs, Chief of Staff under former Premier Imre Nagy and Sandor Kopacsy, the former Chief of Police of Budapest, who joined the freedom fighters. There was considerable speculation that the present series of trials will culminate with the judging of Imre Nagy, himself. It is now believed that the former Premier is also being held in the same Kohida prison, along with some 20 other high ranking officers. The prison is one of the few, and the only one from which freedom fighters were not able to release prisoners during the revolution.

ANNEX IV

1. BUDAPEST, Dec. 16 (Reuters) - Father Egon Turcsanyi, former Secretary of Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty, Roman Catholic Primate of Hungary, is on trial here charged with "Counter revolutionary activity" a Hungarian Court official said today. Fifteen other Catholic priests and a civilian are in the dock with him. They are charged with Ransacking the State Bureau for Church Affairs during the Hungarian revolution last year and taking action against "peace priests" who cooperated with the Communist regime.

The trial began December 3 and is likely to last until the first week of January, the official said.

(Cardinal Mindszenty, who has been sheltering in the US Legation since the revolt was crushed a year ago, has been accused in the Communist press of having ordered the "looting" of the Church Bureau offices.)

2. BUDAPEST, Dec. 16 (AP) - Dr. Matild Toth, a judge of the Budapest Municipal Court, confirmed today that Jozsef Cardinal Mindszenty's personal secretary, Msgr. Egon Turcsanyi, is now on trial here on charges of counter-revolutionary activity.

Dr. Toth told a reporter the trial of Msgr. Turcsanyi, 15 young Roman Catholic priests and a civilian started Dec. 3 and will probably last until the first week of January.

The group is accused of looting the Communist Government's State Office for Church Affairs and acting against so-called progressive or peace priests during last year's anti-Russian rebellion in Budapest. Those on trial were arrested after the rebellion was put down and informed sources said last week they had been brought to trial.

Toth, who is heading a three-member court in charge of the proceedings, labeled Msgr. Turcsanyi leader of a "fascist and reactionary group which had already gravely harmed the nation's interests in the time between the two world wars."

3. BUDAPEST, Dec. 16 (The Times, London)- A municipal court judge confirmed that Msgr. Egon Turcsanyi, personal secretary to Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, fifteen other Roman Catholic priests and one layman, had been on trial here since Dec. 13 for "counter-revolutionary" activities.

The judge, Dr. Matild Toth, said she expected the trial to last until the first week of January.

4. VIENNA, Dec. 18 (UP) - Trials currently in session, according to the sources, include those of Msgr. Egon Turcsanyi, secretary to Josef Cardinal Mindszenty; a group of priests; 18 workers of the huge Csepel iron and steel works and members of the Gyor city revolutionary government.

The trials of Msgr. Turcsanyi and the workers are being held in the Markoutca court in Budapest, the sources said.

They said that although no announcement has been made in the press, the trials are open to the public.

5. BUDAPEST, Dec. 18 (AP) - Defense lawyers predicted light sentences for 16 young Roman Catholic priests being tried on revolutionary charges in another court, but it appeared that Msgr. Egon Turcsanyi, 65, former secretary of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, would be treated more severely. The Cardinal is in asylum in the U.S. legation.

The priests, aged 20 to 28, are accused of distributing inciting leaflets and a papal message during the rebellion. Their lawyers said Judge Matild Toth had termed the priests "political illiterates" who did not know what they were doing.

6. VIENNA, Dec. 19 (SBS) - Also now know trial of eighteen from Csepel opened December 16 at Budapest; Cardinal Mindszenty's former secretary, Father Igon Turcsanyi on trial Budapest's Marko Street Court with sixteen seminarians.

Toth, who is heading a three-member court in charge of the proceedings, labeled Msgr. Turcsanyi leader of a "Fascist and reactionary group" who had already gravely harmed the nation's interests in the time before the war.

7. BUDAPEST, Dec. 18 (The Times, London) - A municipal court judge said that Msgr. Egon Turcsanyi, personal secretary to Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, fifteen other Roman Catholic priests and one layman, had been on trial since Dec. 13 for "counter-revolutionary" activities.

The judge, Dr. Matild Toth, said she expected the trial to last until the first week of January.

ANNEX V

1. Vienna, 18 December (UP)

The source here said Nagy himself, as well as other members of his government, are believed held in Kohida Prison undergoing preparation for trial.

2. Vienna, 18 December (Special to the N. Y. Times)

It is also believed possible that former Premier Imre Nagy will be put in the dock. It is even rumoured that he has been brought from Romanis to the secret police prison in Sopron.

3. Budapest, 18 December (AP)

Rumours persisted that preparations were under way to try former Premier Imre Nagy.

4. Vienna, 19 December (CBS)

There was considerable speculation that the present series of trials will culminate with the judging of Imre Nagy himself. It is now believed that the former Premier is also being held in the . . . Kohida prison.

ANNEX VI

1. Budapest, 16 December (Reuters)

Another unconfirmed report said the trial of 20 former members of a Revolutionary Council at Gyor, Center of revolt in West Hungary during the rising, opened today before the Supreme Court.

2. Budapest, 17 December (AP)

Reports of a third trial - this one before the Budapest Supreme Court and involving top members of the former Revolutionary Council in Gyor, likewise is kept secret.

3. Vienna, 18 December (UP)

Chief defendant in the Gyor trial is Attila Szigethy, who headed a provincial revolutionary government in that western Hungarian city.

4. Budapest, 19 December (CBS)

Received reports Budapest trial group is connected with Gyor revolutionary government.

ANNEX VII

1. Budapest, 17 December (AP)

Nor has there been any mention of eighteen rebels from Csepel Island who appeared yesterday before a court hearing.

2. Budapest, 18 December (AP)

In one of Budapest's open trials Karoly Szente, 51-year-old locksmith, today repudiated his statements to the communist police and denied all guilt. He is chief defendant in a trial of 18 workers from the industrial suburb of Csepel charged with participation in last year's fighting.

3. Vienna, 19 December (CBS)

Also now know trial of eighteen from Csepel opened 16 December at Budapest.

ANNEX VIII

1. Budapest, 17 December (AP)

Hungary's Communist regime is throwing a cloak of silence over new mass trials of anti-Russian fighters throughout the country.

Reports of trials of other rebels in provincial towns including Szeged are reaching the capital, but only one of the cases -- probably due to a slip by a provincial newspaper -- was acknowledged.

The Bekescsaba newspaper Nepujsag reported in one of its latest editions that a court at Szeged sentenced six persons to a total of 53 years in prison on charges of hiding weapons. It is also announced that Pal Fekete, a high school teacher, Lt. Col. Istvan Toth, Police Capt. Pal Koeles and actor Otto Fuzeny are soon to face trial on more severe charges. They were said by the newspaper to have carried out orders of former Premier Imre Nagy and Gen. Pal Maleter, hero of last year's revolt in Budapest.

2. Vienna, 19 December (CBS)

. . . . Because these trials reports now probable that countryside series trials are in process involving armed participants revolution particularly those considered higher level.

ANNEX IX

BUDAPEST, Dec. 18 (AP) - The official Communist daily reported today a 23-year-old student had received "deserved punishment" for spying on behalf of the United States. Although the paper did not say so, this was taken to mean that he had been executed. He was identified as Gabor Illessy, the son of a Kulak or rich farmer and a student at Budapest's school of Agriculture.

The newspaper Nepszabadsag charged that Col. Welwyn Dallam, U.S. Air Attache expelled from Hungary last summer, recruited Illessy and paid him 800 forints (\$725. at the official exchange rate) to spy on an airport under construction at a provincial town. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. Legation here. Dallam, of San Francisco, has denied the Hungarian charges as "utterly ridiculous".

ANNEX 10

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

17 December 1957

The Permanent Mission of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations had the honour of transmitting today to the Secretary-General of the UN the following statement by the Hungarian delegation with the request that it be distributed among the Member States.

The Hungarian delegation considers it necessary to state the following in connection with the debate during the last meeting of the Twelfth Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Following the short statement by the President of the General Assembly on the so-called Hungarian problem, Mr. Cabot Lodge said, among others: "Reports have been received that General Pal Maleter, General Istvan Kovacs, and Sandor Koppacsi have now been brought to trial..." On the basis of this allegation, he renewed his notorious attack against Hungary. Three other representatives followed his example.

On the basis of official information the Hungarian delegation declares that Mr. Cabot Lodge's statement does not correspond to the facts.

This incident during the closing meeting, which was intended to poison the atmosphere, could have been avoided if Mr. Cabot Lodge had not based himself on false reports. The United States Government maintains diplomatic relations with the Hungarian Government. The Hungarian delegation was present at the General Assembly. Had Mr. Cabot Lodge been really interested in ascertaining what was happening in Hungary, he would have had the opportunity to ask for authentic information through the proper channels. In all probability he purposely chose to act otherwise and, relying on false information, revived and intensified undesirable tension. This leads the Hungarian delegation to the regrettable conclusion that, in spite of casting his vote in favour of the resolution for peaceful cooperation, the UN representative of the United States Government made an unfounded statement in an attempt to cast a shadow over the festive atmosphere of hope for peaceful cooperation in the General Assembly.

Unlike Mr. Lodge, the chairman of the group of Latin-American delegations directly approached the Hungarian delegation on this problem. Therefore Ambassador Peter Mod, Head of the Permanent Mission of Hungary, called on the chairman of the Latin-American group after he had received official information from Budapest, and informed him that the news given by Mr. Lodge to the General Assembly did not correspond to the facts. He noted with regret, therefore, that a member of the Latin-American group should have spoken in the General Assembly in the same vein as Mr. Lodge without awaiting the answer of the Hungarian delegation.

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