

Comment on the sentences passed on Imre Nagy and his associates

The Hungarian News Agency published yesterday the sentence of the People's Court Council of the Supreme Court in the criminal case of Imre Nagy and his accomplices. The Hungarian People's Court pronounced sentence on the intellectual instigators, organizers and leaders of the counter-revolution in the Autumn of 1956.

Over 18 months have passed since the bloody days of 1956. Many people have been asking over and over again: Who is responsible for those innocently murdered at the time of the counter-revolution? Who is responsible for the collapse of the economy, for the damage amounting to many billions of forints? The widows and orphans of 234 murdered martyrs were justified in asking who has taken away from them their loved ones. The sentence names and metes out the punishment due to the direct initiators, the chief leaders at home of the bloody outrage against the people - Imre Nagy and his accomplices.

The deeds for which they have been called to task are known to the whole country: the counter-revolutionary acts, the overthrow of the people's power the turning loose of armed desperadoes on the people - all this happened before the eyes of millions.

Imre Nagy and his nearest accomplices, Geza Losonczy, Ferenc Donath, Miklos Gimes, Jozsef Szilagyi organized a secret illegal organization, in order to break up the legal order of the Hungarian People's Republic, to stir up a counter-revolutionary uprising and to seize the power for themselves.

This group of conspirators prepared and organized the demonstration of 23 October 1956 in Budapest, and the armed counter-revolutionary uprising. In close alliance with all sorts and conditions of men of reaction in Hungary, Imre Nagy and his companions launched an onslaught to overthrow the people's power and to restore capitalism. The front, in which Imre Nagy and his counter-revolutionary group had assumed the role of battering rams, reached far and wide from Zoltan Tildy to Ferenc Nagy, and from Mindszenty to Horthy. If the traitors' plan had been successful, the cost to the Hungarian people would have been the loss of its freedom, yearned for for centuries and finally won. The worker would have been plunged back into his former misery, and the land would have been taken away from the peasants; the country would again have been brought under the yoke of the capitalists and landowners; freedom of thought would have become the subject of persecution, and all progressive movement would have been crushed.

The foreign reactionary forces strongly supported Imre Nagy's group. As their propaganda shows, the Western imperialists became aware, long before the counter-revolutionary uprising, of the fact that Imre Nagy's activity was identical with their plans. The fact that the Imre Nagy conspirators at that time disguised themselves as communists came in very handy for them. They knew very well that they had found loyal allies in Imre Nagy and his companions. The assumption of power was the first and decisive step by the Imre Nagy group in their strategic plans to overthrow the Hungarian People's Republic. It is not by accident that the main centre of their subversive activity, "Radio Free Europe", supported the conspiratory group in all its activities.

Imre Nagy had hardly taken his seat in the Prime Minister's chair, as the result of the armed rebellion, when the counter-revolution set about overtly and brutally to liquidate the people's democratic order. Our comrades heroically

defending/



defending the party-house in Budapest were murdered, and the massacre and mass arrest of communists and patriots, loyal to the People's Republic, began. The semi- and openly fascist parties appeared again on the political scene, together with Horthy-fascist officers and notorious figures of the gendarmerie.

Radio Free Europe proclaimed, wrongly however, that the last day of the Hungarian People's Republic had arrived. Their calculations were disappointed by the Hungarian people who, under the leadership of the Hungarian Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government and with the help of the Soviet Union and friendly countries, put an end to the orgy of the counter-revolution, chased Imre Nagy's gang of traitors from power and restored the legal order of the Hungarian People's Republic.

Having paraded as communists for a long time, Imre Nagy and his companions deceived and misled many people in Hungary, for whom they had set a trap. The fact that prior to 1953 the leaders of the Hungarian Workers' Party had committed grave mistakes in the course of building socialism, and that Imre Nagy had been able for a certain time to consider the "redressing of mistakes" as his own monopoly, counted for a great deal in bringing about this situation. The revisionists, led by Imre Nagy, only unmasked themselves in the Autumn of 1956; only then did their real face, the awful face of traitors to the people's power, become visible to those who had been deceived. Then the people who had been misled by Imre Nagy became finally aware of the misdeeds of the conspirators. Together with the great masses of our people, they strongly condemn the organizers and leaders of the counter-revolution and approve of taking the guilty to task. The sentences clearly show that Imre Nagy and his accomplices were sentenced, not for any revisionist heresies, not for professing views opposed to Marxism and Leninism, but for having organized an armed counter-revolutionary putsch, for having aimed at the overthrow of the legal order of the Hungarian People's Republic, and because their hands were stained with the blood of people innocently murdered. Sentences were pronounced on the traitors to the people.

The Hungarian working people, the chief loser in the counter-revolution, rightly expect that, not only the small offenders, but also the main criminals be held answerable. The Hungarian people takes cognizance of the fact, with satisfaction, that the Court - in the course of the criminal proceedings - has passed a righteous judgement on the criminal act, taking into account the aggravating and extenuating circumstances.

The sentence is a warning to those who dare to attack our legal order. It is an awesome warning that the full force of the law of the People's Republic will be applied to anyone who dares to attack the peaceful constructive work of the Hungarian people. Our people want to live, work and create in peace. During the danger of the counter-revolution, it has learned, even more than before, to appreciate peaceful creative work, the free life, the new socialist fatherland, the Hungarian People's Republic. He who dares to lift his hand against the workers' power will face the whole nation. One of the chief lessons to be drawn from the trial is that we should be vigilantly on guard that renegades, traitors and counter-revolutionaries are never again able to disturb our constructive work which serves the best interests of the people.