

The Repatriation of Minors

As quoted on the home service on 19th May, 'Nepszabadsag' returned to the repatriation of young Hungarians abroad. The paper put the number of dissidents under 19 at 15-16,000 and described the miserable conditions in which they lived. Western circles were still trying to sabotage the Austrian Government decision not to allow Hungarians under 18 to proceed further West. Their contention that these young people were political refugees was untenable. Although some of them might have left the country for political reasons, children as young as 14 who had left without the consent of their parents, and were now being prevented from returning even though their parents demanded their return, could certainly not be described as political refugees. The article concluded by referring to the "fit of rage" displayed by some Western papers at the repatriation of Hungarian children from Yugoslavia.

Interview with Boy Back from Yugoslavia

An interview with a young boy just back from Yugoslavia was broadcast for Hungarians in Western Europe on 17th May. His mother described her joy at his return and he himself said he hoped to get his apprentice's job at the Csepel Tube works back. A friend said he had spoken to officials about the boy and they had assured him that no harm would come to him. The boy himself spoke of "alarmist and disquieting reports about conditions at home" which had caused "confusion" among Hungarians in Yugoslav camps. There had been no official pressure on him to return. He had not been questioned on his arrival in Hungary and had made his way home from Szeged by himself. His mother said that she had examined the boy for any signs of maltreatment but there had been no marks on him. She thanked the Yugoslav and Hungarian authorities for helping her son to return home.

Another broadcast for Hungarians in Western Europe (16.5.57) reported that on 15th May the Hungarian Legation in Paris had handed a note to the French Foreign Ministry, again protesting at the growing number of restrictions by the French authorities on the return of minors to Hungary.

Resumption of Studies

Instructions issued by the Minister of Culture on the resumption of studies by students who had returned from abroad were broadcast in the home service (15.00, 18.5.57). They said that grammar school pupils who had returned and reported to their schools by 31st March could resume their studies without any restriction. Those who had returned since 31st March, but before the half-yearly examinations, could either stay in the same form for a further year or be put in another form, according to the results of a supplementary examination they must take at the beginning of the next half-year. Grammar school pupils returning after the half-yearly examinations must take a private examination at the beginning of next term. Pupils at technical secondary schools who had returned since 31st March must repeat the academic year they had interrupted.