

2 - 3 April 1958.

NEWS ITEMS RELATING TO HUNGARY

1. REPRESSIVE MEASURES

The Situation of Imre Nagy (Reuters)

Vienna, 3 April - Hungarian refugee quarters said today ex-Premier Imre Nagy has been brought from Romania to a secret police prison in Budapest.

They said his fate is being discussed by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, now on a visit to Budapest, and Hungarian leaders.

Nagy, who was head of a short-lived "neutralist" regime during the 1956 Hungarian uprising, is said to be held in Budapest's Foe Utca prison together with Gen. Pal Maleter, Defense Minister in his Government.

There has been much speculation on whether Nagy ultimately will face a "show" trial in Budapest. It was believed his case was discussed by Yugoslav President Josip Tito and Hungarian Communist Party chief Janos Kadar in a meeting on the Yugoslav frontier last week.

2. FOREIGN RELATIONS

(a) The Visit of Premier Khrushchev to Hungary

(1) Agence France Presse

Vienna, 3 April - Budapest commemorated today the memory of Soviet heroes who had fallen in liberating Hungary in 1945. During the ceremony which had taken place at Liberty Square before the monument for Russian heroes, wreaths were deposited in the following order:

Messrs. Kadar, Muennich, Dobi and Khrushchev.

No speeches were made.

The Viennese papers of this morning devoted considerable space to the visit of the Soviet Premier to Hungary. The papers stressed the importance of security measures which had been taken apparently under the direction of Mr. Serov. Speculations are advanced about the purposes of the visit. Some papers emphasise that the aim of Mr. Khrushchev is to consolidate the position of Kadar and Muennich towards the Stalinist faction within the Party. Other papers predict that the Soviet Union will take new initiatives in international relations as a result of Mr. Khrushchev's visit. The Oesterreichische Neue Tageszeitung writes that the purpose of the visit is "the consolidation of the Communist countries in Eastern Europe and the establishment of a definite equilibrium in the Balkans with the cooperation of Tito who now achieved a reconciliation with Kadar". The same paper predicts that a declaration will

be published dealing with foreign affairs in accordance with which Hungary might be included in the proposed denuclearized zone. The Neuer Kurier envisages the possibility of Khrushchev's visit to Yugoslavia.

(ii) Associated Press

Budapest, 2 April - The Communist leader told about 4,000 persons who gathered at the heavily guarded airport:

"Against the attempts of the imperialists, the unity and cooperation of Hungary and the Soviet Union stands firmly. As long as we are united, there is nothing that we must fear, so we should develop our unity and cooperation."

He said efforts by enemies to destroy Soviet-Hungarian friendship have failed during the past year.

Khrushchev, on his first trip abroad since becoming Soviet Premier Thursday, did not mention the Hungarian revolt crushed by Soviet troops in the Fall of 1956.

But Hungarian Communist leader Janos Kadar, who won power when the Russians intervened, said in response to the visitor's remarks that "in the struggle waged against the counter-revolution the Soviet Union gave help in the spirit of proletarian internationalism and thereby strengthened Socialism."

Kadar, who recently relinquished the post of Premier to Ferenc Muennich, praised the Soviet offer to halt nuclear weapon tests as "one of the greatest acts of peace of our age." He condemned "madmen who see in atomic and hydrogen bombs a way of solving international disputes."

Khrushchev was accompanied by the Soviet's First Deputy Premier Frol Kozlov, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Trade Union chief Victor V. Grishin.

After the airport ceremonies the Soviet Premier rode into Budapest along a 10-mile route lined with security forces.

The official Hungarian News Agency later said Khrushchev and Hungarian leaders had a "cordial and friendly discussion" in the Parliament Building alongside the Danube River.

The announced purpose of Khrushchev's visit is to take part Friday in Liberation Day observances, marking withdrawal of German troops in the face of a Soviet drive at the end of World War II.

Some diplomats speculated that the Russians and Hungarians may be planning new international proposals. Hungarian Foreign Minister Endre Sik told a parliament committee Monday that Hungary must take a more active part in Communist "peace initiatives."

(iii) Reuters

Budapest, 3 April (by Henderson Gall) - Nikita Khrushchev and Janos Kadar today continued private conversations and public appearances aimed at strengthening Russian-Hungarian relations.

Khrushchev, Premier of the Soviet Union and leader of its Communist Party, arrived here yesterday to head a Russian delegation at week-long talks.

Kadar, chief of the Hungarian Communist Party and former Premier, welcomed Khrushchev as "an old friend of the Hungarian people."

Kadar became Premier after the Hungarian uprising of October-November, 1956, was beaten down with the aid of Soviet Troops.

"Our enemies tried to crush or at least weaken the friendship of our peoples by provocation and plots," Khrushchev said. "But despite their undermining efforts, fraternal cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Hungarian People's Republic became even stronger."

His speech, devoted mostly to unity and friendship of the two countries, was considered comparatively restrained by observers here. He did not launch any direct attack on the West nor did he refer directly to the Hungarian uprising.

The observers believe Khrushchev will take the opportunity of this visit to reappraise the entire Hungarian situation, including possible closer relations with the United States and the other "Capitalist States."

Other problems include the future of ex-Premier Imre Nagy, ousted after the uprising was defeated; a full rapprochement with Yugoslavia; East-West Summit talks and Poland's plan for a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe.

Among today's appearances were wreath-laying ceremonies at the Soviet War Memorial in front of the American Legation where the Roman Catholic Primate of Hungary, Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, sought refuge during the uprising; and at the Hungarian Memorial on Heroes Square, where the statue of Stalin stood until it was pulled down during the fighting.

Khrushchev's visit officially returns visits made by Hungarian leaders to Moscow in March, 1957, and last October and to attend the 13th anniversary celebrations of Hungary's liberation by the Red Army.

Liberation Day ceremonies, marking the end of World War II in Hungary, will culminate in a military parade and State reception tomorrow.

The Soviet Party includes Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and First Deputy Premier Frol Koslov.

Top-ranking Hungarians participating in the talks include Premier Ferenc Muennich, who succeeded Kadar at Kadar's suggestion last January 27, and President Istvan Dobi.

Budapest, 3 April - Unpredictable Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev today jumped over a flower bed before a large laughing crowd at the Soviet War Memorial.

The stocky, 63-year-old Premier looked serious and tired upon his arrival for a wreath-laying ceremony. But his face brightened later and he embraced three small children in the crowd.

His leap over a flower bed in his way was witnessed by American diplomats with binoculars from a balcony of the U.S. Legation opposite the Memorial.

(iv) United Press

Budapest, 3 April (by Kurt Neubauer) - Western sources speculated today the visit here by Nikita Khrushchev may be aimed at shaping a new policy of cooperation between Russia and the East European bloc.

(Reports circulated in Vienna that a full East European satellite conference will be held in Budapest after the April 4 ceremonies celebrating Russian "liberation" of Hungary from the Germans in World War II.)

The talks were opened yesterday by Khrushchev and Hungary's top Party and Government leaders. Further talks were called for today with Khrushchev and newly-named First Deputy Premier Frol Kozlov heading the Soviet side.

Khrushchev arrived here yesterday a week after he became Soviet Premier in addition to his old job as Communist Party leader, and four days after disclosure of a meeting between Hungary's First Party Secretary Janos Kadar and Yugoslav President Tito.

Diplomatic sources believed Russia and Yugoslavia had joined forces to back up the regime of Kadar who had been reported facing internal party trouble from various factions pushing for more power.

The strongest group within the Party was reported to be headed by old-time Stalinists Antal Apró and József Revai.

Kadar stepped down as Premier last Jan. 27 and there were reports then that his days as Party First Secretary in Hungary were numbered.

Western observers agreed that Hungarian-Yugoslav relations shaped up as the main topic of Khrushchev's Budapest talks. They said Khrushchev's Budapest visit may bring a new formula of Russia's future policy with Hungary.

Such a new policy could consist of some kind of "nominal liberalization" of the Kremlin's ties with the East European nations, the sources said.

A new approach to East European relations also could serve to contradict Western suggestions that Khrushchev's holding the Premiership as well as heading the Communist Party meant he had become a "new Stalin."

(Authoritative sources in Vienna reported that Gen. Ivan A. Serov, Russia's Secret Police Chief, personally supervised the extensive security precautions guarding Khrushchev in Budapest.

(Khrushchev's bodyguard of several thousand troops and police was by far the largest used in any of his foreign visits. Vienna sources said Serov flew to Budapest a day earlier to make the ornate security arrangements.)

(b) The Yugoslav-Hungarian Relations (Reuters)

Belgrade, 3 April - The official Yugoslav Communist newspaper Borba today expressed editorial satisfaction that in Hungary "more has been done in the past 17 months than in the whole post-War period."

It was Borba's first tribute to the Hungarian regime of Janos Kadar since the Hungarian uprising in October, 1956.

In an editorial marking the 13th anniversary of Communist power in Hungary, Borba added that Hungary was "recovering from the great wounds on its healthy body."

3. REFUGEES

Two Hungarian Soldiers Ask for Austrian Asylum (Reuters)

Vienna, 3 April - Two Hungarian soldiers crossed the border into Austria on April 1 and asked for political asylum, police said today.

The report said that the two men had been on duty on one of the tall wooden watchtowers on the frontier. They were unarmed and had a police dog with them. They gave themselves up to the Austrian frontier post at Nickelsdorf.