

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Mr. Galantiere  
Mr. Sears  
Mr. Walker  
Mr. Michie  
Mr. Griffith /37 copies/

PRIORITY  
MV  
Feb 18  
III-4627

HUNGARY  
/REDEFLECTION/

RE-EMIGRANTS /2700/

HUNGARIAN REPATRIATION LEADER IN EAST BERLIN.

SOURCE BERLIN: A Hungarian in West BERLIN.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Prof. SZENT-IVÁNYI has been labelled by Radio BUDAPEST as chairman of the Hungarian Repatriation Committee with headquarters in East-BERLIN.

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The leader of the Hungarian Repatriation Committee in East BERLIN is Prof. Dr. Béla SZENT-IVÁNYI. The name usually heard in connection with East BERLIN repatriation activities is Pastor FÖLDES-PAP, but he is not the head of the committee. SZENT-IVÁNYI apparently prefers to remain in the background.

SZENT-IVÁNYI has been in BERLIN since 1936. He was rector of the Collegium Hungaricum for some 10 years, until the Russians entered BERLIN. After the city was divided, SZENT-IVÁNYI was made professor of Hungarian at the East Sector Humboldt University. It is not certain whether he still holds this post; in any case, he is giving most of his time to the repatriation drive.

SZENT-IVÁNYI had a poor standing with the pre-war Hungarian Embassy and was not looked upon too kindly by East Germans in the first years after the war. He had been close to the HORTHY regime in Hungary and his wife was known as an ardent Social Democrat. He was also a close friend of the Minister of Schools /NU/, who was relieved of his post about two years ago. SZENT-IVÁNYI was able to show the Russians that he was loyal and trustworthy, however, and with Soviet backing he was able to convince the East German Communists of his reliability.

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