

Budapest Party Activists' Conference: Marosan's Report

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A conference of Budapest Party activists - the first of a series at which activists are to be informed of the work of the recent Party Conference - took place on 5th July. Party leaders present at the meeting, which took place at the MAVAG cultural centre, included Dezső Nemes and Miklós Somogyi, according to MFI.

Revai's Errors: The CPSU Changes

The main speaker was György Marosan, whose posts include that of First Secretary of the Budapest Party Committee. He said that the participants of the conference had been unanimous on essential problems. Referring to the speech made by József Revai, Marosan said Revai had basically approved the Party's policy and had identified himself with the decisions made by the conference. But his speech had shown that he was not well informed on certain questions. His remark that some former communist officials found themselves in a sort of "internal emigration" was not correct. Communists must not take offence if they found themselves in a lower post. If they corrected their former mistakes, all roads in Party and State life would again be open to them. The conference had not agreed with Revai's assessment of past mistakes. (Summary Part IIB, No. 841, pp. 11 and 12)

Turning to the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee, Marosan said they reflected a firm resolve to implement the resolutions of the 20th Congress. Some people might think that the latest CPSU resolution vindicated the revisionists. This point of view must be firmly rejected: similar opinions had led to 23rd October. "We shall not allow discussions in the Party to be placed in the service of the enemy. No one must imagine that our Party will become a 'ballon d'essai'." (MTI 6.7.57)

Resolution Supports CPSU Decisions

The activists' conference then passed the following unanimous resolution:

"The Budapest Party activists approve the CPSU Central Committee resolution on the exposure and liquidation of the Malenkov-Kaganovich-Molotov anti-Party group. This resolution is fresh proof that, as so often before in its glorious history, the CPSU has again defended that indispensable prerequisite of all success and progress - Party unity - on a firm basis of principle. The CPSU Central Committee resolution also furnishes convincing evidence that the CPSU is pressing ahead with unshakable determination on the path of the policy laid down by the 20th Congress - a policy vindicated by life and already implemented in many respects. This consistency of the CPSU in defence of Party unity and of the policy of the 20th Congress, the rallying of the Soviet Communists round the Central Committee, their militant agreement with the resolution, and their attitude of unanimous condemnation of the anti-Party group, all amount to an important directive and lesson to our Party and to the Budapest Party organisation. The CPSU Central Committee has presented us with a new weapon in the defence and strengthening of our Party unity." (Budapest 20.00, 5.7.57)

Similar conferences were said to have been attended by "political cadres" in many places throughout the country. At these, the Communists "expressed their conviction that no one may violate the Party's Leninist principles any longer". (MTI 5.7.57)

Nepakarat, 7 July 1957:

At an Activists' meeting at Kispest, Marosan said:

"In connexion with the Party Conference, lively comments were made by many people on Revai's speech and the ensuing discussion. Since this speech was not mentioned in the press, a lot of gossip is circulating in the town. By using various inventions, the enemy is trying to distort and take advantage of this discussion."

"Therefore, it is necessary to state that Comrade Revai agreed in substance with the policy of the Party, and voted for its resolution. From his speech, it appears that Comrade Revai was not correctly informed in certain questions."

"Revai's statement that certain old communist functionaries live in internal emigration was unfounded. The role of each comrade in the life of the Party, the State or the community depends on himself. Internal emigration does not exist among Communists, and not one comrade has any reason to live in internal emigration. However, there are some who feel offended, who therefore stand aside and sulk and do not accept the responsibility assigned to them by the Party, nor participate in Party-life. To those comrades we must say: 'Cease to be offended because you have no right to take offence. The Party and the people have more right to be offended, yet they do not play the part of offended persons.'"

"We have not agreed with Comrade Revai in his appraisal of past mistakes. The Party Conference accepted the valuation of the Central Committee. The Central Committee has approved the party-line followed since November, and this has proved to be right by the time that has elapsed and by the results attained since then."

Nepszabadsag, 7 July 1957:

(At an Activists' meeting at KISPEST

Commenting on the Resolution of the Communist Party of the USSR, Marosand
stated:

"The enemy is only misleading himself if he draws any other conclusion from the Resolution than that the Party will defend its unity against anybody. There will also be people here who will try to read between the lines of the Resolution; people who will try to read rightist views into it, and ^a justification ~~of~~ *for* revision. Such views must be strongly rejected because they are identical with those which dragged us into the dangers of 23 October and made our country the prey of a counter-revolution.

We warn these elements that October has taught us that there is no room for mercy towards the enemy. We shall not tolerate any discussion in the Party that may be turned into a discussion which could help the enemy. We shall be tough and implacable in the protection of the peaceful life of our people. No-one should dare intimate that our country might become a guinea-pig. Our Party has learned its lesson from the wranglings of past years; the Resolution of the Communist Party of the USSR only strengthened us. We are expecting that foreign broadcasting stations will use the events in the USSR to create unrest in our country. They have already started. We want them to know that we will not allow them to poke up the fire. The Hungarian people do not want another 23 October and we will do everything to prevent a repetition of the events of that day. We shall never forget our gratitude to the Soviet/^{Union}for what it has done for us; it has twice shed its blood for us. We assure the people of the Soviet Union and its leaders that we will work in such a way that they will never, under any circumstances, be disappointed in us."