

Party

The PPF

What is not Wanted

A 'Nepszabadsag' article by Jenoe Gaal on 31st May set out to describe what the rejuvenated Patriotic People's Front should be like. (Heading inserted) Gaal first explained the kind of PPF that was "not desired": "We do not want a People's Front which is neither for nor against the people's power and whose platform can be interpreted by anyone at will". One of Imre Nagy's most unforgivable crimes had been that he "wanted to hoist over the PPF his capitulating, nationalist and revisionist pirate's flag". There could be no room in the PPF "for those who look on the regime with the squint of a butcher - for people who, with their obscure ideas, would again like to use the PPF movement for hostile, malicious and irresponsible incitement". A decisive campaign must be waged against the short-sightedness which had reduced the PPF to mere "idling" and into a meaningless ornament. The sectarians and dogmatists had failed to recognise the importance of the PPF.

PPF on Rallying Point

Some misled people still "harboured illusions about a multi-Party system". In the minds of many honest people who harboured such illusions, there was a desire to participate in the everyday problems of the country and to have a say in political and public life. These people, who agreed with the communists on many fundamental issues, must be given an opportunity to make their voice heard and to use their knowledge and ability for the good of the country. The PPF must be their rallying point and a political arena. It must be a forum in the framework of which Communists, non-Party people, statesmen, politicians and the various elements of society could meet and exchange views on great, decisive problems of national importance. The Party did not want the PPF to be a conglomeration of "yes-men", but an organisation from which well-considered and practical proposals emanated. Communists working in the PPF movement therefore had a great responsibility: it would depend on them how this great political movement would develop. (Budapest 09.00 and Hungarian information service 31.5.57)

New PPF Leadership Soon: Barcs

Sandor Barcs, described as "Deputy in the National Assembly for Budapest City District No.1", spoke at a mass meeting of the District's PPF Committee on 30th May. He said that it was possible and necessary to revive the PPF, which had been "consolidated in the fight against fascism". The original militants of the PPF were "still alive". He added: "We must break away from the PPF policy of recent years, which exhausted itself in formalities and thus discredited the movement." Barcs announced that the leadership of the PPF would shortly be "re-constituted on the basis of a broad political alliance". (MTI 30.5.57)