

7 January 1958

NEWS ITEMS RELATING TO HUNGARY

1. Viennese Report on the existence of a tape recording of the conversation between Imre Nagy and Messrs. Suslov and Mikoyan

a. Columbia Broadcasting System, Vienna correspondent Karasik, 7 January, 6:07 a.m. Vienna's usually reliable Die Presse newspaper reports discovery of hidden microphone in U.S. Legation in Budapest. Paper quotes well informed circles asserting Communists using microphone desperately trying to learn which Western diplomatic mission has possession of tape recording of Imre Nagy's conversation with Mikoyan and Suslov during Hungarian uprising. Recording presumably contains Moscow's agreement to Nagy's neutrality program as well as promise to withdraw Soviet troops from Hungary and revise Warsaw Pact. Die Presse states that recording remains in Western hands. Communist forces reluctant to stage trial of ex-Premier Imre Nagy.

b. Associated Press, Vienna, 7 January. The Vienna Anti-Communist newspaper Die Presse claimed today that the Hungarian Communist regime is afraid to put former Premier Imre Nagy on trial because of an incriminating tape recording that is in Western hands, presumably American.

Die Presse's report said the recording proved the Russians had officially agreed to Hungarian neutrality and the withdrawal of their troops from Hungary after the Budapest revolt in October 1956. Later the Russians reneged, attacked Budapest without warning at dawn on Nov. 4 and smashed the revolution.

There was no confirmation available of Die Presse's report, which said the recording was made during negotiations in Budapest between Nagy and Soviet leaders Anastase Mikoyan and Mikhail Suslov after the Hungarians had won the first round of their revolt.

Nagy is believed to be a Soviet prisoner in Romania.

Die Presse said the recording was handed to an unnamed Western diplomatic mission in Budapest by Hungarian freedom fighters after the Russian attack. It said that if Nagy is put on trial, the tape recording will be sprung on the Russians and the Hungarian regime. The account added that the Communists had planted microphones in the U.S. Legation in Budapest to try to get a clue to the whereabouts of the recording. This also could not be confirmed.

c. Agence France Presse. Vienna, 7 January.

LE JOURNAL AUTRICHIEN "DIE PRESSE AM MONTAG" ANNONCE QU'UN MICROPHONE A ETE DECOUVERT CES DERNIERS JOURS A L'AMBASSADE DES ETATS UNIS A BUDAPEST. D'APRES CE JOURNAL, LES AUTORITES SOVIETIQUES AURAIENT SURTOUT CHERCHE A SAVOIR PAR CE MOYEN OU SE TROUVE L'ENREGISTREMENT D'UNE CONVERSATION QUE M. IMRE NAGY, ALORS PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL HONGROIS, A EUE EN OCTOBRE 1956 AVEC MM. MIKOYAN ET SOUSLOV, ET DANS LAQUELLE CEUX CI AURAIENT PROMIS L'EVACUATION DE L'ARMEE SOVIETIQUE ET ACCEPTE QUE LE HONGRIE DEVIENNE NEUTRE. SELON LE JOURNAL, LES SOVIETS SERAIENT GENES DE FAIRE PASSER IMRE NAGY DEVANT LES TRIBUNAUX TANT QUE L'ENREGISTREMENT HISTORIQUE DE BUDAPEST EST AUX MAINS DES OCCIDENTAUX, PAR CRAINTE QU'IL NE SOIT RADIO-DIFFUSE AU MOMENT DU PROCES.



Note: United Press had reported on 2 December 1957 from Washington that according to reliable information microphones were discovered in a fireplace of a room of the American Legation in which Cardinal Mindszenty was staying. The microphones were discovered during the cleaning and repair of the fireplace. The microphones were evidently lowered through the chimney shaft and were connected with a recorder placed on the roof of the Legation. The information was neither denied nor confirmed by the State Department; it was said only that the information is under examination.

## 2. Internal Developments

### a. The whereabouts of Mr. Hegedus

Die Presse of 5 January stated that according to Magyar Hirado, the paper of the Hungarian refugees in Austria, former Prime Minister Andras Hegedus returned lately with his family to Hungary. The Associated Press reported on 6 January from Budapest that an official spokesman of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry denied that Mr. Hegedus had returned to Budapest but he did not deny "that he may be coming back".

### b. Church and State

Budapest radio announced on 28 December, 10 p.m., that the Government decided to make an exceptional grant to the Calvinist Church of Hungary, thus to cover the deficit which would arise by the reduction of a cut in subsidy to the church (FBIS, No. 2, 1958). Calvinist Bishop Bereczky gave an interview on 31 December to Magyar Nemzet in which he said, among others, "The Church's primordial duty is to proclaim peace . . . The best place for the church to display this sort of activity is in the People's Patriotic Front . . . The duty of the church is to show its gratitude towards the State which supported the church". (FBIS, No. 1, 1958).

## 3. Trials and executions: The execution of Laszlo Ivan Kovacs

The Hungarian Telegraph Agency (MTI) announced on 2 January that the People's Judiciary Council of the Supreme Court of Hungary sentenced to death Laszlo Ivan Kovacs, referred to as "one of the chief counter-revolutionaries of the Corvin Alley Group". Kovacs took part in the demonstrations of 23 October in the attack on the radio station and became the commander of the Corvin Alley Group. After the counter-revolution he organized various armed actions and an illegal party called "Turul". The official announcement stated that the sentence had been carried out. (FBIS, No. 2, 1958).

## 4. Refugees

The New York Post of 7 January reported from Vienna on 6 January the story of the return of 400 Hungarian refugees from the Dominican Republic. The refugees who had been recruited in Austria by a Hungarian-born agent of the Dominican Republic found "unbearable conditions" there and after six months or so with the assistance of a U.N. official from Colombia managed to get out of the country. (The Dream Trujillo Shattered).