

HUNGARIAN REV.

I. From "Neither War Nor Peace" by Hugh Seton-Watson

pp. 342ff

Student demonstration Oct. 23rd fired on by Gero's police.
Soon joined by armed wkr. from factories in Budapest
suburbs & then by indiv. soldiers & units of
Hungarian army.

Oct. 28th Sov. command made armistice. - Imre Nagy appointed
Prime Minister.

Br. & Fr. launched Suez ultimatum Oct. 30th. On Nov. 4th Soviet attacked
Budapest. (Kadar probably deserted Imre Nagy on Nov. 1)

Last important fortresses of Rev. were metallurgical
wkr. of Csepel, a suburb of Budapest & Dunaszenttele in the So.
AFTER ARMED RESISTANCE HAD BEEN CRUSHED A GENERAL STRIKE
CONTINUED FOR OVER A MONTH IN THE CAPITAL. 200,000 Hungarians escaped.
Throughout winter '56-'57 resistance still continued.

Bulgaria & Albania have claims on Yugoslav territory.
Rivalry bet. Serbs & Bulgars for Macedonia dated from 1880s.
In 1913, 18 & '44 most of Macedonia had gone to Serbia
& her successor, Yugoslavia. In '48 Bulgaria was for ind.
Macedonia that would have been dominated by Bulgaria. In '50
propaganda revived. Ever since '48 Albania conducted
anti-Yugoslav propaganda--certain popular support since
700,000 Albanians (about 1/3rd of whole Albanian nation--
live under Yugoslav rule in Kosovo-Metohija region.

THE HUNGARIAN REV., ed. by Melvin J. Lasky, Intro. by Hugh Seton-
Watson

(p. 20 quotes from George Mikez, "The Hungarian Rev." re
taxes & miserable wages, "Peace Loans" Bet. 4/50-2/51
& so-called competitions in ind., i.e., incr. tempo of work
with no rise in wages.)

4/18/55 Nagy had been removed from GG & Premiership
Sept. Writers Assoc. held congress newly-released from prison
became members of GG.

(p. 23 quotes Julius Hay, 6/'56 on "Truth")
(p. 30 quotes Rajk's widow; p. 31, poem by Karoly Jabbagy, Csillag
(Budapest) 4/'56, "Don't Tell Me It Is Worse in Africa":
"Don't talk to me about space ships,
a trip to the moon or Marx,
about life in the atomic age....

"We live like this. In darkness, in mud,
far away....

"Don't tell me it is worse in Africa.
I live in Europe, my skin is white.
Who will embrace me to make me feel that
that I am human?"

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pp. 63-4 From Peter Fryer, "Hungarian Tragedy" London, 1956

WIL: "In Finland, if Poland, if the Ukraine break away from Russia, there is nothing bad about that. Anyone who says there is, is a chauvinist. It would be madness to continue the policy of Tsar Nicholas... No nation can be free if it oppresses other nations."

A 21 yr. old worker in the huge United Electric factory in Ujpest --an industrial suburb of Budapest --described how his factory joined the revolt: "...On Wed. morning the revolt began in our factory. It was unorg'd. & spontaneous. If it had been org'd., the AVH would have known & stopped before it started. The young workers led the way & everyone followed them."

(From The Observer (London) 11/11 by George Sherman)

News Chronicle (London) 11/17 (10/29) Signor Mario Rossi, conductor of the Italian Symphony Orchestra, who left Budapest on Fri. said "All eye-witnesses agree absolutely that Russian troops as well as Hungarians joined the insurgents." Russian tanks were in action against Russian tanks in the capital's streets, he added.

10/28 The Peoples Councils which are being created all over the country illustrate the birth of the new state power. These new Peoples Councils, which under different names but with quite similar aims, are being created every day in all cities, districts, counties, villages.--

Radio Kossuth

10/28 The Workers Council & Student Parliament of Borac County. "The new Govt. shall include in its program and fulfill the demands of all the Wkrs. Councils, factories, and Student Parliaments..."

General elections in 2 mos. with several parties participating.

All of you! -- call on Sov. troops, in Russian, not to fight for the suppression of the Hungarian people's legitimate struggle for liberty!

10/29, 100,000 before Parliament

Rev. Comm. of Hungarian Intellectuals formed 10/28 -- united every org. of intellectuals -- writers, artists, scientists & university alike

ABSOLUTE freedom of press & assembly must be guaranteed...

10/30 A Rev. Military Council of the Army Command has been formed. On behalf of every soldier, NCO, officer-cadet officer & general of the Army the Rev. Military Council approves & considers as its own all decisions & demands of the revolutionary councils of workers, youth & intellectuals.....

We are proud that the entire police force refused to be turned against the people's rev. struggle & that it did not fire on the heroic fighters for freedom but fraternized

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with them & supported their struggles."

p.178. Free Radio Kossuth --The Temporary Commof Uranium Ore Planning Office. the mine of Kovagoszollo. Prof.Lajos Janosi, world famous Hungarian atomic scientist.

p.219: Franz X. Philipp, 41 yr. old Austrian rep. of Soviet-Zone Ger. News Agency has resigned. His editors in E. Berlin have been suppressing his stories.. He was a veteran Austrian Communist, was deputy foreign editor of Taegliche Rundschau, official Sov. daily in E. Ger. "The chief reason for my break is that I wrote about the Hungarian tragedy in the only way any decent human being can write of it. I told my friends that the Soviet intervention was a Schweineerei that had nothing whatsoever to do with socialism."

***** Aftermath--11/5/'56
1/3/57 Viktor Woroszyk, France Observateur (Paris)
1/5/Peter Schmid, Commentary(NY) --young poet (one of his poems took the place of a lead article in the paper, Truth, a colleague of Marxist philosopher Georg Lukacs was one of the leading spirits among the insurgent intellectuals...The Communists, he argued, were bad Marxists if they believed that they could suppress a his. dev. like the satellite freedom movements by the violent methods of colonialism. "As a true Marxist I believe in the inevitability of his processes," he told me, "We know perfectly well what a wave of terror & Stalinist repression will be let loose on us. But repression cannot cancel the laws of his, which are working in our favor." "Then you will surrender?" I asked quietly. "Surrender," he laughed, "We don't need to do that. You know how the rev. broke out--spontaneously, without any kind of preparation, when the police fired on our students; leadership & org. sprang up over night. Well, we'll scatter now just as spontaneously as we came together,,,The rev. can't die; it will play dead & await its moment to rise again." ...The maj. of the young Hungarian rebels were like that--never for an instant suggesting pathos, buoyed up by an intractable idealism, calmly heroic, as if what they were doing was the most natural thing in the world...."

*****Hungarian wkrs. declared a 2-day "total strike" after Rus. tanks & troops had tried to break up a nat. wkrs. council mtg....General strike now in its 5th week to try to force withdrawal of Sov. troops. Nat. Wkrs Council--supreme body of nation's workers---

--Epilogue written by Francois Bondy, 3ditor-inchief of Fr. monthly, Preuves, in Paris

WOMEN OF BUDAPEST IN SILENT DEMONSTRATION 12.5/Proclamations glued on walls "Hungarian Mothers, Girls & Wives" to appear on Heroes Sq. 11 a.m. "Protest against slanders called our beloved dead "counter-revolutionaries" & our Hungarian rev. 'fascist'

Handwritten notes:
The above
is a copy
of the
original
document

Handwritten notes:
11/4/56
100,000
100,000

THE REVIEW, #4, April 1960 Appeal of Central Wkrs. Council of Greater Budapest created 11/14 Budapest to all factory, district & county councils.
Also ~~see~~ Bulletin of Central Workers Council of Greater Budapest

We are against retaining the institutions of exempted t.u. functionaries. We consider the work of the factory comm. as well as that of the wkrs council social work

We do not wish to become exploiters of rev. & we shall not suffer others to become such.

WE PROTEST AGAINST THE ATTITUDE OF THE NEWLY FORMED "FREE TRADE UNIONS" WHICH ARE READY TO ACCEPT THE WORKERS' COUNCIL MERELY AS ECO. ORGANS. WE DECLARE THAT IN HUNGARY TODAY THE WORKERS' COUNCILS REPRESENT THE REAL INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS, that there is no stronger pol. power in the country today than the power of the workers' councils & that we must concentrate all our forces on strengthening the power of the workers. ... we are supported by the actors, artists, musicians, & the Rev. Council of the Hungarian Intellectuals embracing every org. of the intellectuals. As a result of our struggles we are achieving a hitherto unknown national unity // vigilance for our aims, an ind. dem. socialist Hungary but according to our nat. character. 11/21.56

11.30.56 I. yr. No. 2, The request of Central Workers Council of Greater Budapest for a ~~press~~ organ... Our position is that the workers councils are in absolute need of a press organ so that the workers may receive uniform & true information.

We also raised the ques. of a multi-party system..

Imre Nagy & the Hungarian Rev. by Balazs Nagy, pp 116-54
"No, I wanted a rev., least of all Imre Nagy..."
Memorandum written in summer-sept. 1955, added 4 chs. at beginning of '56

"Is it possible that, if the SU takes a realist course, she will have to put Imre Nagy's programme into practice? Can there be any doubt that in that case the Hungarian rev will be seen as a premature harbinger of a definite, new socialist pol. trend/ And can there be any doubt that such a pol. trend would find many followers in the int. communist movement?"

Vo. III, #2, 1961 -- My Experiences in the Central Workers' Council of Greater Budapest by Miklos Sebestyen, member of Central Workers Council of Greater Budapest

"THE GOVT. WAS SIMPLY IGNORED. EVERYONE WHO HAD A PROBLEM TO SETTLE CAME TO US." (Central Workers Council) coordinate their work with the work of the peasant councils-- tried printing a newspaper entitled Workers' Journal., 12/9 Central Wkrs/ Council dissolved