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News BackgroundRUMANIAN REGIME'S GUARANTEE FOR NAGY'S SECURITYREVEALED

BUCHAREST, June 26. (CNR/NUM EVAL.) -- The late Rumanian Foreign Minister, Brigrade Preoteasa (died in a plane crash near MOSCOW on 4 November 1957), told the UN plenary session of 3 December 1956 that the granting of political asylum in Rumania to Imre Nagy and his group had become necessary for the personal security of the former Hungarian Prime Minister and his friends, as well as for the easing of tension in Hungary. Preoteasa also revealed that the Rumanian Government had pledged that the sojourn in Rumania of the Hungarian leaders would conform to all laws of hospitality and that all necessary measures would be taken for the safety of Nagy and his associates. Moreover, the Rumanian Government, Preoteasa said, had given assurance that it would respect the international regulations provided by political asylum. Preoteasa finally told the Assembly that the attitude of Nagy and his associates was marked by a spirit of understanding and cheerfulness, which, according to the Rumanian Foreign Minister was contrasted to rumors spread by a "certain delegation to the UN."

It may be noted that the statement of Preoteasa did not reflect only a personal stand of a high Rumanian regime official but implied a solemn guarantee for the protection of Imre Nagy and his group by the Rumanian Government, certified by a corresponding communication made to the United Nations organization.

Note also the contrast to the stand taken toward the Nagy trial by Politburo member Gheorghe APOSTOL in his speech of 19 June 1958, and the articles on the Nagy trial carried by "Scinteia" of June 20 and "Romania Libera" of 24 June 1958.

It is rather surprising that the Yugoslav regime has not yet taken issue with Preoteasa's statement, in its polemic on the abduction and trial of the former Hungarian Prime Minister.

Following is the official text of the part of Preoteasa's speech to the UN, as reproduced in "Scinteia" of 6 December 1956:

....Finally, the problem of political asylum granted to Imre Nagy, former president of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, was brought up. In connection with this problem, I would like to specify that the granting of political asylum in the RFR proved to be a measure necessary both to the personal security of the former Hungarian president of the council and his friends

as well as to the restoration of peace and order in Hungary. It is obvious that the security of the Nagy group was threatened in Hungary from two directions: from the parents and friends of the victims of the counter-revolutionary terror during the former government as well as from the direction of the fascist elements capable of committing any crime in order to complicate the situation of the government led by Premier KADAR. Taking into consideration the wish of the group to go to a socialist country, and wishing to secure its safety, the Hungarian Government addressed the Rumanian Government which consented to grant political asylum to this group. On this occasion, the Rumanian Government gave assurances that the stay in Rumania of the group will be in conformity with all rules of hospitality and that all adequate measures will be taken in order to guarantee the personal safety of former Premier Nagy and his friends. Also, the Rumanian Government gave assurances that it would take into consideration the international rules concerning political asylum. Nagy's stay in Rumania is temporary. Under these conditions, former Premier Imre Nagy and his group are on Rumanian territory since November 23, enjoying there all the rights provided by political asylum.

I am in a position to affirm that the persons concerned are grateful to the Rumanian Government for the hospitality offered them. They realize the evil which their presence in Hungary could have caused at the present moment. I can also communicate to the General Assembly that the attitude of Imre Nagy and of the persons in his group is marked by a spirit of understanding and good will, which is in flagrant contradiction to the rumors which a certain delegation is trying to spread here. Accepting this measure, the Rumanian Government was chiefly guided by the interest of restoring, as soon as possible, order, peace and calm in Hungary.

End.

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