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Summary of

HUNGARY UNDER SOVIET RULE II

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PURPOSE

Volume II of HUNGARY UNDER SOVIET RULE, compiled by the American Friends of the Captive Nations and the Assembly of Captive European Nations in association with the Hungarian Committee, will provide U.N. delegates with a complete account of developments in Hungary from September 1957 to August 1958.

In their Introduction, Christopher Emmet, Chairman of the American Friends of the Captive Nations and Stefan Korbonski, Chairman of the Assembly of Captive European Nations, note that in order to debate the problem of Hungary, the U.N. delegates need up-to-date information at their disposal. They cite the fact that the U.N. Special Committee on Hungary was authorized by the Assembly to issue only one report during the past year - a brief analysis of the trials of Premier Nagy and General Maleter which referred to other manifestations of terror in Hungary and contained a spirited statement condemning the executions. The present volume is designed to fill the gap.

The Editorial Committee for this volume consisted of Adolf A. Berle, Jr., former Assistant Secretary of State; the Hon. Clare Boothe Luce, former Ambassador to Italy; and Leo Cherne, Executive Director of the Research Institute of America.

The Introduction points out that the importance of the forthcoming

apparatus and other organs of our society... It is intolerable that even today political and state secrets are misused, spread all over town within minutes, along with reports of the most secret debates, giving access to facts and figures to any outsider." (p. 4)

CHAPTER I: Evidences of Continuing Soviet Military Intervention in Hungary

The report notes that the Red Army is still "the supreme factor in Hungarian political life... although military control is less noticeable than in the months immediately following the revolution." (p. 5)

The regime's abject dependence on the continued presence of the Red Army is underlined by its spokesmen's constant reminders that Soviet forces "intervened to crush the 'counter-revolution' and that they would be ready to intervene again." (p. 5)

Soviet military control over Hungary is insured by the following basic factors (p. 6):

- (1) The presence of approximately 60,000 Soviet occupation troops.
- (2) The strictest Red Army and Communist control over the Hungarian armed forces.
- (3) The Red Army's direct control and operational command over the Hungarian frontier guard.
- (4) The existence of the so-called Workers' Militia under Communist Party control.

The report reveals that the much-vaunted withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary means little since the reduction has been more than offset by the increased power and mobility of the remaining units, which are concentrated near key factory and communication centers, indicating that they are in Hungary primarily as an army of occupation.

The report points out that "the pattern of disposition of Soviet troops in Hungary makes no sense at all if one accepts Soviet claims that its troops are there to protect the frontiers of Communism against the 'aggressive Western imperialist powers.'" (p. 6)

and his friends," and that the Romanian Government promised to "observe the international rules relating to political asylum." (p. 13) The report points out that no official explanation was ever given either the Hungarian or Romanian Governments as to the circumstances under which Nagy and his associates were returned to Hungary - a further proof of the mockery of the alleged independence and sovereignty of Soviet satellites.

According to the official "White Book" of the Hungarian puppet government, Nagy and his associates were tried by the People's Chamber of the Supreme Court, although the Hungarian Constitution clearly provides that the Prime Minister and members of his government can only be tried by the National Assembly. In addition, both the Constitution and the Hungarian Code of Criminal Procedure expressly provide that all trials except those involving military security shall be open. These provisions were, of course, violated by the secret trials of Nagy and Malter; significantly, however, Soviet legal procedure specifically authorizes secret trials.

By citing official Communist sources, the report proves that Nagy, Malter and their associates were murdered primarily as a lesson to the Hungarian and other captive peoples of the folly of their dream of freedom:

"These sentences constitute a warning to all those who dare attack our legal order. They serve as a warning example; those who attack the peaceful work of construction of the people will have to face the full rigor of the laws of the Hungarian People's Republic."

(Nepszabadsag, June 18, 1958) (p. 18)

CHAPTER III: Soviet Intervention in Hungary and the Continuing Violation of Human Rights

The regime of terror installed by the presence of the Red Army in Hungary since the revolution has alternated between periods of relaxation and intensification, which the Hungarians refer to as "the accordion system," applied in order to crush their will to resist.

Economist of September 5, 1958, notes that this agreement disposes of three-quarters of the planned volume of Hungarian trade over the next three to five years.

In addition to making the above points, this chapter gives detailed accounts of the juridical terror and the persecution of the intellectuals, the youth, the workers and peasants.

CHAPTER IV: The Continuing Resistance of the Hungarian People

Although by the summer of 1957 the Soviets had finally stamped out open resistance, the Hungarian people have found passive ways of expressing their unanimous opposition to the regime, as is evidenced in the fulminations of the controlled press. Without preparation or organization, there seems to exist a tacit understanding between the intellectuals, the workers and the peasants, between the adults and the children, on the manner in which each group should conduct its resistance.

What are called "social crimes" and "social property violations," such as stealing or wasting of materials, slow-downs in production, sabotage of deliveries, are felt to be particularly threatening to the regime. A statement by Minister of Justice Ferenc Nezval last September reveals the effectiveness of this type of resistance:

"Counter-revolutionary activity takes a different shape today. The loosening of morale and the citizens' disobedience of the law are still manifest. The increase in the number of social property violations, if we do not act with proper firmness, may threaten our power as seriously as an open counter-revolution." (p. 41)

(Nepszabadsag, September 3, 1957)