

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Political Advisor
Audience Analysis
Translation ~~Pool~~

EN-KK
Oct 17
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HUNGARY

PERSECUTION (2206) ✓
MORALE AND GENERAL MOOD { (2002)
(2004)
PRISONS AND CAMPS (2506/b)

PART I

TWO REPORTS ON INCREASING INTERNMENT AND THE KISTARCSA CAMP

SOURCE PARIS: Confidential; details available at Hungarian Evaluation Desk.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: To 20 September 1957.

ENGLISH SUMMARY: Mass internment takes place in waves, always increasing before some National Holiday or Anniversary which might have the slightest connection with the revolution. The majority of those arrested are workers. Some leading politicians, on the other hand, remain at liberty -- presumably because the possibility of a puppet "coalition government" has not altogether been abandoned.

The underlying purpose of the internment is to spread uncertainty and fear. Internment is practically always for an indefinite period, without any charge being brought. An anonymous denunciation is quite enough for the arrest to be made.

This action is applied not only against active participants in the revolution last October, but also against many persons who had previously been jailed or interned for political reasons since 1945. This means that a great many so-called "unreliable elements" risk internment at any time.

The main internment camp in KISTARCSA is overcrowded. Some six to eight persons have to sleep -- if possible -- on the same straw-sack. The same situation was observed in the TOEKOEL Camp.

Possibilities of visit: once in every four to five weeks. The visitor can be either a relative or a lawyer. In the latter case, authorities ironically ask: "Why on earth a lawyer? Do you

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still hope there will be a trial?" Visitors are admitted in alphabetical order. Interned persons are hand-cuffed even during the visit.

EVALUATION COMMENT: Available information on the implementation of the laws concerning political internment (Presidium Decree No. 31 of 13 December 1956 and No. 41 of 14 July 1957) and on the conditions prevailing in the internment camps is rather scanty and vague.

It can be considered as established fact that the number of political internees runs into several thousands and that a large number of internees are detained in the reactivated KISTARCSA camp (see e.g. GRAZ RFE Item No. 2446/57 and PARIS RFE Item No. 5341/57) and at the newly established TOEKOEL camp (see VIEN RFE Items Nos. 4836 and 5298/57).

MUNICH RFE Item No. 3851/57 hinted briefly at the appalling conditions of inmates at both camps. It is interesting to mention in this context the "Esti Hirlap" article of 18 June 1957, entitled "Sunday-visit to the KISTARCSA camp", which depicted a rather idyllic picture of the conditions of the internees.

Distinction should be made between political internment proper, where the victim is deprived of his freedom for a minimum period of six months, extendable by the Minister of the Interior in agreement with the Chief Prosecutor, and the short-term placing under police custody on the eve of holidays and anniversaries which, according to the fragmentary information at our disposal, does not exceed one week. The two repressive measures are more or less indistinct to the people as both involve loss of freedom, and it may happen that the short-term custody is changed into internment proper.

Although the following two reports are somewhat vague and may also seem exaggerated, still they give a persuasive feeling of the widespread state of anxiety of the population because of large scale internments and other repressive measures, as well as of the hardships of internees in the KISTARCSA camp.

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Becsülés szerint körülbelül 40.000 ember van jelenleg internálva. Az internálások látszólag minden rendszer nélkül történnek és a társadalom legkülönbözőbb rétegeit érintik. Vég-eredményében azonban úgy látszik, hogy nemcsak számban, de százalékos arányban is legtöbb közülük a munkás. Internáltak majdnem mindenkit, aki a gyárak forradalmi (munkás) tanácsaiban résztvett, ugyanakkor szabadon hagytak nagynevű vezető politikusokat, mint pl. KOVÁCS Bélát. Ez utobbinak az a magyarázata, hogy még mindig

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nincs teljesen elejtve egy koalíciós kormány alakításának lehetősége, amikoris majd ezeket az embereket akarják felhasználni egy látszat-koalíció megalakításánál, -- esetleg akaratuk ellenére is.

Az internálások hullám-szerűen jönnek, legtöbbször egy-egy nemzeti ünnep előtt vagy olyan évforduló alkalmából ami valamiképpen emlékeztet a magyar forradlomra. Mindenki el van készülve arra, hogy a következő nagy letartoztatási hullám a forradalom egy éves évfordulója előtt lesz.

A tömeges internálás célja kétségtelenül a megfélemlítés. Ez mindenesetre sikerült is, mert ma már mindenki retteg és tudja, hogy személyi szabadsága egy láthatatlan hajszálon függ. Egyetlen névtelen levél elegendő ahhoz, hogy mindenfajta kihallgatás nélkül bárkit leinternáljanak. Az internálás időtartama teljesen bizonytalan. Időnként egyeseket kiengednek, de ezzel a szám nem csökken, mert ugyanakkor újabbakat visznek el.

Az internálások másik célja az, hogy a számukra veszélyesnek látszó elemeket "biztos helyen" tudják. Így igen sok olyan személy aki politikai büntett miatt 1945 óta büntetve vagy internálva volt, most újra le van tartoztatva. Tehát nemcsak olyan politikai foglyoknak akiket a forradalom alatt szabadítottak ki a börtönökből, kell hátralevő büntetésüket kitölteni, de letartoztattak olyanokat is, akik börtönbüntetésüket kitöltötték és a forradalmat megelőző években szabadlábra kerültek.

A legnagyobb internálótábor a KISTARCSAI. Olyan nagy a zsufoltság, hogy egy szalmazsákon hat-nyolc embert helyeznek el. A második nagylétszámú tábor a TÖKÖLI. Hire jár, hogy egy még nagyobb internálótábor felállítását tervezik a Duna-Tisza között.

KISTARCSAN a hozzátartozók négy-öt hetenkint látogathatják meg a foglyokat. Vasárnap reggel a tábor és a vasútállomás közötti úton négyes sorokban állnak a-b-c rendben a látogatók. Ügyvédek ugyanúgy látogathatnak, mint a hozzátartozók, vagyis a látogatási engedélyt a család átadhatja az ügyvédnek. Ilyenkor azonban az örök gunyosan jegyzi meg, hogy "ügyvédre aztán igazán kár költeni a pénzüket", mert tárgyalás hiányában ügyvédre ugy sem lehet szükség.

A foglyok a látogatás ideje alatt is hátul megbilincselte kezekkel állnak a rács előtt. A szörnyű zsufoltság miatt még akkor sem tudnának velük jól bánni, ha történetesen akarnának, mert a normális létszám többszörösét helyezték el a KISTARCSAI táborban.

PART II.

THE INTERNMENT CAMP AT KISTARCSA

SOURCE VIENNA: A former inmate of the KISTARCSA internment camp.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Early May to end of June 1957.

ENGLISH SUMMARY: As a result of the mass arrests following the revolution, the camp at KISTARCSA is again in use. The camp comes under the administration of the Ministry of the Interior and is used as a "transit" camp. From this camp the internees are brought to the BUDAPEST Marko utca prison, where they are held prior to and during their trial.

Source repeats that the food and general conditions are appalling. The camp is policed by a force of 250. Because of overcrowding a new internment camp was set up at TOEKOEL.

1957. május 5.-én este a rendőrség letartóztatta forrást és bevitték a 16. kerületi kapitányságra. Innen került ki egy rabszállító autó a KISTARCSA-i internáló táborba. A vád ellene ellenforradalmi szervezkedés és tevékenység volt. A táborban három napig békén hagyták. A harmadik napon este kezdődött meg a kihallgatás.

A KISTARCSA-i internáló tábor

The Internment Camp in KISTARCSA

A forradalom előtt KISTARCSA a rendőrség "fogolyszanatóriuma" volt. Akik a hosszú börtönökben egészségileg tönkrementek, azokat a rendőrség KISTARCSA-ra helyezte és itt több héten keresztül jobb ellátásban részesítette, mielőtt szabadlábra kerültek. A forradalom után a tömeges letartóztatások nyomán ezt a tábort is újra mint internáló tábort használják. Itt ejtik meg az első kihallgatásokat. Innen kerülnek az elítélendők a BUDAPEST-i Markó utcai ügyészségi börtönbe.

A tábor létszáma 1957 júniusában kb. 1300-1400 fő volt. A 14-18 év körüli fiatalkorúak létszáma 550-600 főre volt tehető. Volt még a táborban kb. 150-200 női internált is, ezeknek majdnem a fele 14-16 éves lány volt.

Miután a tömeges letartóztatások miatt KISTARCSA sem bizonyult elegendőnek, TÖKÖL-ön új internáló tábort létesítettek.

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Sok női internálton kívül itt vannak azok a prominens politikusok és szabadságharcosok is, akik a forradalom alatt különlegesen kitűntek magatartásukkal. Ugyancsak TÖKÖL-ön van egy külön részleg, ahol a letartóztatott papok és apácák nyertek elhelyezést.

A KISTARCSA-i tábor őrzése

Guarding Of the Camp

A tábor őrzése kb. 250 karhatalmista és rendőr végzi. Szolgálati idejük 24 óra, majd utána 24 óra szabad idejük van. Az őrszemélyzet pihenője a CINKOTA-i erdőben lévő volt hadianyagraktár épületeiben van és szolgálattételre rendőrségi teherautókon szállítják őket a tábor területére. Szervezetileg az internáló tábor a Belügyminisztérium alá tartozik.

A tábort négy őrtorony veszi körül. A külső őrök párosával őrzik a tábor területét. A séták alkalmával még 18 rendőr őrzi a sétálókat. Természetesen szigorú beszélgetési tilalom van, ennek ellenére azonban mindig sikerül valahogy a többi internálttal az érintkezést felvenni.

Az internáltak u.n. magán és tömegcellákban vannak elhelyezve. A tömeges cellákban kb. 70-80 ember van elhelyezve. A tábor területére érkező rabokat egy khaki színű dukkozott rabszállító kocsin hozzák. A kocsin hátul kémlelő nyílás van, minden oldalán három ablakkal van ellátva. Az egyik ilyen kocsinak a rendszámát forrás meg is jegyezte: RB 327. 10 vagy 12 rabot lehet egy ilyen kocsival szállítani.

Ellátás

Food Supply

Az ellátás a táborban katasztrófális. Egy napi kenyér-adag 20 dkg. Reggel köménymagos leves, délben vékony zöldfőzelék vagy káposztalé, este pótkávé. Hust egyáltalában nem kapnak az internáltak és krumplit is csak ritkán.

End.

TRANSLATION
(29 Oct 1957)

ITEM No. 5892/57

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Political Advisor
Audience Analysis

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Morale and General Mood (2002) (2004)
Prisons and Camps (2506/b)

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It is estimated that at present approximately 40,000 people are interned. These internments are carried out seemingly without any system and concern every class of society. The final issue, however, shows that not only in numbers but also in percentage the workers seem to be in majority. Practically everyone who participated in the factories worker's councils was interned and at the same time leading politicians, like Bela KOVACS, for example, remained at liberty. The reason for this presumably is that the possibility of a coalition government has not altogether been abandoned and in such a case these politicians will be used to participate in a sham-coalition, eventually against their will even.

Mass internment takes place in waves, always increasing before some National Holiday or Anniversary which might have the slightest connection with the revolution. Everyone is anticipating that the next large wave of arrests will be carried out before the anniversary of the October revolution.

The underlying purpose of the internment is to spread uncertainty and fear. In this the regime certainly reached its aim because today everyone is aware of and fears that his liberty hangs by an invisible thread. One anonymous denunciation is quite enough for someone to be interned, without any kind of hearing. Internment is practically always for an indefinite period. From time to time some are released but by this their number does not decrease as new arrests are made at the same time.

The other purpose of these internments is that thus the regime keeps "in a secure place" those elements which seem to be dangerous from its point of view. Thus many persons who have been interned or jailed for political reasons since 1945 have been rearrested; not only do those political prisoners who have been released during the revolution have to finish their sentences but also those who already served their sentences and were released in years previous to the revolution are also incarcerated.

KISTARCSA is the largest internment camp. It is so overcrowded that six to eight people have to share one straw-mattress. The second largest is in TOKOL. It is rumored that an even larger internment camp is to be built between the rivers Duna and Tisza.

In KISTARCSA relatives are allowed to visit the prisoners once every four or five weeks. On Sunday mornings the visitors line the road between the camp and the railway station four deep and in alphabetical order. Lawyers are allowed the same visiting privileges as relatives, that is to say a family can pass its visiting permit to a lawyer. On such occasions the guards remark ironically: "Why on earth spend money on a lawyer; as there will be no trial, there is no need of a lawyer."

During the visit, prisoners are handcuffed and have to stand thus in front of the bars, their hands behind their backs. The prisoners' treatment could not be good even if this were the intention, the camp is so terribly overcrowded, having many times more than its normal number of inmates.

PART II

The Internment Camps at KISTARCSA

In the evening of 5 May 1957, source was arrested by the police and taken to the 16th district police commandatura. From there he was transported in a prison truck to KISTARCSA to the internment camp. Source was accused of counter-revolutionary organization and activities. For three days he was left in peace at the camp. On the evening of the third day his interrogation started.

The Internment Camp in KISTARCSA

Before the revolution, KISTARCSA was the police's "sanatorium for prisoners". Those whose health was impaired during long years in prison were sent to KISTARCSA by the police and given better food for several weeks before their release. After the revolution, because of mass arrests, this camp was again used as an internment camp. The first interrogations are held here, and it is from there that those who will be sentenced are brought to the BUDAPEST Marko Street prison.

In June 1957 this camp had approximately 1,300 to 1,400 inmates. Among these 550 to 600 were young people between the age of 14 to 18 years. There were also about 150 to 200 women, nearly half of them young girls of 14 to 16 years old.

Because of mass arrests, KISTARCSA proved to be too small and a new internment camp was established in TOKOL. Apart from a great number of women prisoners this camp contains those prominent politicians and freedom fighters who distinguished themselves during

the revolution. TOKOL has also a special part where arrested priests and nuns are kept.

Guarding of the Camp

The camp is guarded by about 250 policemen and members of the militia. They are on duty for a period of 24 hours after which they can rest for another 24 hours. The prisoners' rest center is in the former ammunition barracks on the CINKOTA woods. They are transported on police trucks to and from the camp. This camp falls under the administration of the Ministry of the Interior.

The camp is surrounded by five watch-towers. In the outside, guards patrol in pairs round the camp. During their walks, the prisoners are guarded by 18 guards. Naturally it is strictly forbidden for the prisoners to talk but in spite of this they always find ways to contact each other.

The inmates of the internment camp are placed in so-called solitary cells or in communal cells; about 70 to 80 in the latter. The prisoners are brought to the camp in khaki colored prison trucks with a small sphyhole in the back and three windows. Source remembered the number of these trucks: RF 327. 10 to 12 prisoners can be transported in them.

Food Supply

Food supply is catastrophic in the camp. The daily bread ration is 20 dekagrams. Breakfast: caraway-seed soup, lunch: very thin green vegetable or cabbage liquid, dinner: coffee-substitute. The internees receive meat and potatoes only rarely.