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A-20 LIFE SPECIAL MEMORANDUM 4/60

TWO REFUGEES FROM SOVIET SUPPRESSION IN HUNGARY RECEIVED UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DEGREE SATURDAY (JUNE 11).

THE TWO-PETER KATONA AND GYORGY (GEORGE) SANDOR--WERE AMONG 24 HUNGARIAN STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY EARLY IN 1957, WHEN THIS COUNTRY OPENED ITS DOORS TO SEVERAL THOUSAND ESCAPEES FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN.

AFTER ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE DIVISION, 14 REFUGEES WERE SELECTED BY THE UNIVERSITY FOR ONE-YEAR DIVISION SCHOLARSHIPS. OF THIS GROUP, 11 HAVE RECEIVED DEGREES AND TWO ARE CONTINUING THEIR STUDIES.

THE OTHER HUNGARIANS ENROLLED AT THE MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOLLOWING THE REVOLT, OF WHOM THREE HAVE EARNED DEGREES AND FOUR ARE STILL STUDYING.

KATONA WAS ONE OF THREE HUNGARIANS PROFICIENT IN ENGLISH WHO WERE ADMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE UNIVERSITY IN THE SPRING OF 1957. FORMERLY A STUDENT AT THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST, HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO DO UNSKILLED FACTORY WORK BECAUSE HIS FATHER, THE MANAGER OF A FLOUR MILL, WAS DEEMED A "CAPITALIST."

ONE OF THE TOP UNDERGRADUATES IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, KATONA HAS NOW SQUARE 3 AND GROSBECK SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE U-M, BEEN OFFERED FOUR GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS, AND COMPILED A 3.8 ACADEMIC AVERAGE (4.0 IS TOPS).

US- (H) Freedom Fighter Kovacs
A-6, REF, NEW YORK, JUNE 7- WEDNESDAY NY HERALD TRIBUNE LOCAL REPORTS:

IN NOVEMBER, 1956, THE LIFE OF HUNGARIAN AIR FORCE PRIVATE IVAN KOVACS WASN'T WORTH A PLUGGED FOHINT.

CONSIDERED A POLITICAL UNRELIABLE BY COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES, HE HAD BEEN DROPPED FROM THE HUNGARIAN UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AT BUDAPEST AND DRAFTED INTO THE SERVICE AS A RADIO OPERATOR. WHEN FIGHTING BROKE OUT, HE TURNED HIS GUN ON THE SECRET POLICE WHO WERE FIRING INTO CROWDS OF STUDENTS. "WE KEPT ON FIGHTING," HE EXPLAINED.

THEN THE UPRISING COLLAPSED. HE WAS CAPTURED BY RUSSIAN SOLDIERS AND IMPRISONED. AFTER TWO WEEKS, HE AND NINE OTHER PRISONERS MADE A BREAK. FIVE OF THEM GOT AWAY.

TOMORROW, PRIVATE KOVACS WILL BE THE FIRST FREEDOM FIGHTER TO GRADUATE FROM FORDHAM UNIVERSITY UNDER A SCHOLARSHIP PLAN ESTABLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY AFTER THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION.

ALTHOUGH HE SPOKE NO ENGLISH WHEN HE CAME TO THIS COUNTRY IN DECEMBER, 1956, MR. KOVACS HAS HAD AN ASTONISHING CARRER. IN 1957 HE HELPED ORGANIZE THE HUNGARIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AND ON ONE TOUR OF THE COUNTRY OBTAINED MORE THAN 100 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

HE ENTERED FORDHAM IN FEBRUARY, 1957, AS A SPECIAL STUDENT AND HELPED PAY HIS WAY WITH CAMPUS AND SUMMER JOBS. HE WAS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE MARKETING CLUB AND THE FORDHAM CHAPTER OF ALPHA DELTA SIGMA, NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING FRATERNITY.

MR. KOVACS IS ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED AND PLANS TO BECOME A UNITED STATES CITIZEN NEXT YEAR. AT TWENTY-SIX, HE EXPECTS TO PURSUE A CAREER IN ADVERTISING.

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