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## HUNGARY

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MORALE AND GENERAL MOOD

/2000/

## VIEWS OF A HUNGARIAN VARIETY ARTIST

SOURCE STOCKHOLM: RFE News Bureau

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The living conditions in BUDAPEST are correctly described.

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I came to STOCKHOLM together with the Hungarian troupe. I dance Hungarian folk-dances together with a male partner. I have studied ballet, and danced in the chorus of the Opera before. My partner is a peasant boy who has only attended a "short course" a couple of years ago and can dance only "popularly". Our instructor in BUDAPEST ordered me to adapt myself to him, in other words, to dance as primitively as he. This boy is a convinced Communist, which is rather understandable as the Communists have made him a "people's artist". He sends regular reports to the Party in BUDAPEST - he believes we do not know it. Once he told us that we saw too much of the Hungarians living in STOCKHOLM, there were certainly reactionaries among them. We made enquiries at the Legation about it, secretary KOVACS told us that we could meet these Hungarians with an easy conscience, nobody would say anything about it. KOVACS asked us only to tell to the Hungarians here how pleasant life is in BUDAPEST and that they ought to make a tourist trip to BUDAPEST next summer.

I can only say that life in BUDAPEST is miserable,

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absolutely not so pleasant as they maintain. My husband is a dancer at the Opera, but no star. We have a 2-year-old daughter. Although we work very hard, we must live very simply and are happy whenever we are able to buy some piece of clothing. I joined the troupe and left my little daughter behind because I wanted to earn money, and buy a winter coat, coal and warm underclothes. The changes are great but the living conditions have not improved at all.

I visited the ballet school of the STOCKHOLM Opera with Mrs. LAJTAI. I was surprised how little they know here, how low the ballet level is here. Such male dancers and ballerinas as are considered first-rate here, one can find about twenty or thirty in BUDAPEST. Now I can understand why Nora KOVACS and Istvan RAB were so great a success abroad.

It is shocking that second-rate ballet dancers earn so much here in STOCKHOLM at a time when we in BUDAPEST are starving.

I heard in BUDAPEST that now many foreign theatrical agents would arrive in Hungary to engage dancers and musicians. They will be surprised how good these Hungarian artists are. It is a pity, though, that all this will serve Communist propaganda. Please tell the Hungarians abroad that they should not return to Hungary -- they do not know how well off they are abroad. Unfortunately I have heard myself that many Hungarians, musicians and writers will return. In the spring there will be a KODALY Festival of Music in BUDAPEST -- on this occasion many artists living abroad will be asked to come home and some have already promised to come to BUDAPEST.

We listen frequently to foreign broadcasts, of course, even to RFE. We know everything about the foreign countries but we simply cannot understand the Americans. Now that the Russians are so weak, why do they not do anything to drive out the Russians from East Europe? I do not believe in a war, but an economic blockade or something of the kind. But because of these delays and EISENHOWER's friendship with the Communist leaders, the Americans are not very popular in Hungary at the moment. There are many who believe that when the Germans grow strong enough, they will take a stand against the Russians and liberate not only East Germany but also Hungary from the Communists. Others prefer to think that the Hungarians

should liberate themselves. There is a resistance movement, particularly among the peasants, and the Communists cannot do anything about it. The workers, too, are unreliable from the viewpoint of the regime. It was typical that when there was the anti-RAKOSI revolt in BUDAPEST, they discontinued unpaid overtime at the factories, they distributed working clothes and when RAKOSI was finally overthrown, the workers at all the factories were dismissed half an hour before the end of the work-day and the party representatives told them to listen to the radio at home, as something important would be broadcast. It was GERO's speech. GERO is as much hated as RAKOSI and nobody believes that he will hold his post for long. It was already rumored that GERO had already retired. It is also said that RAKOSI is no longer in BUDAPEST, the Russians have sent him to Siberia.

End.

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