

ITEM NO. 4216/56

JU
April 21
XI/1738 (M)

HUNGARY

COMMUNICATIONS (0500)
Subway (0508/a)

WESTERN FIRM MAY BE ASKED TO COMPLETE ABANDONED BUDAPEST
SUBWAY.

SOURCE ATHENS: 43-year-old Greek repatriate.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Up to December 1955.

EVALUATION COMMENT: In line with information available on the Subway construction, particularly with VIENNA RFE Item No. 3645/56.

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The BUDAPEST subway -- intended to link BUDA to PEST beneath the Danube and much headlined in 1953 as the pride of the Communist regime's dynamic public development program -- was abandoned in 1954 when it was realized that the Hungarian economy could not possibly bear the expense.

"Exploratory shafts surrounded by forbidding walls two meters high, spread all over BUDAPEST, is all that is left of the over-ambitious Communist project," said source. "Nudging one another, by-passers point to the old 'monuments' and mutter bitter comments about the regime's wasting of public money.

In the meantime the old "capitalist" subway with its two rickety carriages proves really useful driving daily hundreds of children and adults to the zoological gardens from beneath Andrássy út.

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