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HUNGARY

COMMUNIST PARTY (0600)  
Inner Life (0604)

DIPLOMAT SAYS GERO IS TOUGHER THAN RAKOSI.

SOURCE STOCKHOLM: Confidential source.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The individual views given in this report express general opinion. Undoubtedly many Hungarians consider GERO to be a more fanatic and austere Communist than RAKOSI. The antagonism between the two Communist leaders is constantly rumored, but so far there has been no concrete evidence of real opposition between them.

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\* A Hungarian diplomat stationed in the West expressed the following opinions in a private conversation with a reliable Westerner:

"It is wrong to believe that there is any change in Hungary because RAKOSI has been superseded by GERO. The latter is as loyal to MOSCOW as RAKOSI ever was. He is even less conciliatory than RAKOSI. The difference lies only in the fact that RAKOSI is heavily compromised with earlier trials, while GERO is not. The change is, of course, a personal satisfaction to GERO, because he and RAKOSI always were antagonists, not on a Party, but on a personal basis.

"No, the removal of RAKOSI is merely a sacrifice to TITO. With GERO at the helm we have created a basis for negotiations with TITO, but should MOSCOW have any real changes in mind, even he would have to be replaced by quite a new and different man. As things are, everything will really be just as usual. The changes have been made for show only."

End