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News Background

Russ - RADIO MOSCOW ATTACKS BEGOVIĆ ON HUNGARY 72

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Munich, April 12 -- (STANKOVIĆ) -- Radio MOSCOW in Serbo-Croatian last night attacked the article by the Yugoslav theoretician Vlado BEGOVIĆ published in the April 5 of "Borba" (also see today's CNR item C-14 -- Yugo Monitoring). The unnamed author of the Radio MOSCOW commentary took BEGOVIĆ to task, especially because of his assertions that what had happened in Hungary was a people's revolution rather than a counter-revolution, a thesis stubbornly maintained by the Soviet bloc leaders.

The Radio MOSCOW commentator also said that Imre NAGY and his group had degraded themselves to "purely bourgeois-democratic interpretation of freedom and democracy" long ago before the Hungarian rebellion took place. "Long before the October events," Radio MOSCOW said, "the oppositional group of Imre NAGY appeared in the ranks of the Hungarian Workers' Party, criticizing the errors of the RAKOSI-GERO leadership. But the Imre NAGY group had not proclaimed its own program aimed at correcting the mistakes; instead it degraded itself to the purely bourgeois-democratic interpretation of freedom and democracy. Thus reactionary elements were enabled to use NAGY and his group as a weapon against the people's democratic rule..."

According to Radio MOSCOW, Imre NAGY was supported by "hundreds of agents from West Germany from where they arrived with arms and radio stations". The Russian commentator claimed that "of a hundred planes sent to Hungary by the Red Cross, forty had brought to BUDAPEST about 500 armed Horthyites".

Radio MOSCOW then sharply attacked BEGOVIĆ saying that he "and certain other Yugoslav functionaries claim that the Hungarian workers themselves (rather than counter-revolutionary elements) had taken up arms to fight for their rights". The commentator said: "If

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it is true (namely the fact that the Hungarian workers themselves rebelled - Ed.) then the question must be put: Why did the workers, whose demands at that time were voiced by the government of Imre NAGY, find it necessary to storm the institutions of that very government -- ministries, post offices, radio stations, railway stations, etc?"

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The Radio MOSCOW commentator claimed that those people who chased 'innocent Communists' in the streets of BUDAPEST were not Hungarian workers but Western agents. He added that "chief organizers of counter-revolutionary excesses in Hungary were those American imperialist agents who have financed the undermining activities against the Hungarian republic from its very foundation and against its people's democratic regime".

The Radio MOSCOW commentator is surprised that "the Yugoslav comrades... who undoubtedly know all these facts, call the (counter-revolutionary) crimes 'revolution' and ascribe these crimes to the Hungarian workers!"

Returning to Imre NAGY and his government, the Russian commentator said that NAGY's government "had not organized suppression of counter-revolution but rather supported it". Imre NAGY "received in his government representatives of the former exploiting class, which helped the counter-revolution to win the upper hand... True, the Communists and all honest Hungarian patriots had supported Imre NAGY at the very beginning hoping he would correct the mistakes of RAKOSI and GERO. However, at the moment when Imre NAGY began to make concessions to counter-revolution... the Communists and patriots ceased to support him..."

The Radio MOSCOW commentator further said that after NAGY's downfall "the best people in Hungary formed a new revolutionary workers-and-peasants' government; they mobilized all the forces of the Hungarian people and asked the Soviet government to help them in suffocating the counter-revolutionary tumult; these very people are now successfully liquidating the results of that inimical attack..."

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All "creative Communists", an epithet which cannot be given to "comrade BEGOVIĆ", think in a way which apparently accepts the thesis of the counter-revolution in Hungary, Radio MOSCOW said. C D

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As far as a show trial of Imre NAGY is concerned -- a possibility foreseen by Vlado BEGOVIĆ in his April 5 article in "Borba" -- the Radio MOSCOW commentator said that the Yugoslav writer "should not be too much upset over this problem". By saying that BEGOVIĆ had written about "alleged preparatuons of the Soviet Government to arrange a process against Imre NAGY, similar to that of Laszlo RAJK," the Russian commentator obviously implied the impossibility of such an act. He concluded his commentary by claiming that "such accusations against the Soviet Government prove in general that the Yugoslav side is not ready to contribute to the removal of the differences".

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