

FROM THE EVALUATION AND RESEARCH SECTION

BACKGROUND REPORT

(Hungary)

27 October 1956

THE NEW HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister: Imre NAGY. Succeeded Andras HEGEDUS as Premier and became Politbureau member on October 24, the first day of the current revolt.

Premier from July 1953 until April 1955 and spokesman of the New Course. Ousted from the Government and Party offices in April 1955, and expelled from the Party in December 1955 for rightist deviation.

Deputy Prime Ministers: Antal APRO. National Chairman of the PPF (Peoples' Patriotic Front,) and Minister of Building. He served as Deputy Premier in the former Government; was member of the recent regime delegation to BELGRADE. Member of CP Politbureau.

Jozsef BOGNAR. Also Minister of Foreign Trade, both of this Government and of the previous one. Secretary General of the Smallholder Party. Since 1946 he has always held a cabinet post.

Ferenc ERDEI. Continuing in the position he held in the previous cabinet. Secretary General of the National Peasant Party. In the provisional government after World War II he was Minister of Interior. Has been a member of the cabinet since 1947.

Minister of State without portfolio: Zoltan TILDY. Prime Minister of Hungary's first post-war constitutional government (1945) and President of the Republic from February 1946 until his dismissal in August 1948, when he vanished from the public eye. Reappeared in September 1956. Former President of the Smallholder Party.

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Imre HORVATH. Held the same post in the former cabinet. Became Foreign Secretary

after RAKOSI's downfall in July 1956. Although not a career diplomat, since the end of ^{World} War II he has been Minister to East-BERLIN, WASHINGTON, LONDON and PRAGUE.

Minister of
Interior: Ferenc MUNNICH.

Fought in the Spanish civil war; police commander of post-war BUDA-PEST. At the time of the RAJK affair he was appointed Minister to Finland; later he became Minister to Bulgaria and than Ambassador to the Soviet Union. In August 1956, became Minister in BELGRADE. He is an old-time enemy of Matyas RAKOSI.

Minister of
Defense: Karoly JANZA.

Major General, former metal-worker. Was deputy Minister of Defense in former cabinets.

Minister of
Agriculture: Bela KOVACS.

Former secretary general of the Smallholder Party. Arrested by Soviet Military forces in February 1947. He was deported to Soviet Union, whence he returned in spring 1956.

Minister of
Finance: Istvan KOSSA.

From May 1951 until May 1952 he was chief of the State Church Office, later became Minister of Metallurgy and Machine Industry. When this ministry was dissolved he was appointed president of the Labor reserve Office. In January 1955 he became first deputy president of the National Planning Office.

Minister of
Justice: Erik MOLNAR.

Held same position in the previous cabinet. He is a lawyer, chairman of the Hungarian Federation of Jurists, chairman of the permanent government committee on constitutional and administrative law, and one of the main historians of the Communist Party. Won the Kossuth Prize

twice and is member of the Hungarian Scientific Academy. Held various positions in several former cabinets since 1945, and was for a short time Ambassador to MOSCOW.

Minister of Metallurgy
and Machinery: Janos CSERGO.

Has held the same position since 1954. He is a turner by trade.

Minister of
Health:

Antal BABITS.

An outstanding urologist, Kossuth Prize holder, former Dean of the Medical School of the BUDAPEST University. In March 1953, when he was director of the BUDAPEST Kútvölgyi Street Hospital (known as the principal hospital of the Hungarian security police) he was suspended from his position and arrested, very likely in connection with the demotion and arrest of former security police boss Gabor PETER. He reappeared, however, early in 1954. In July 1956 he was awarded the title of outstanding physician and received a 3,000 forint cash prize.

Minister of Mining
and Power: Sandor CZOTTNER.

He has been Minister of Mining and Power since 1951.

Minister of

Domestic Trade: Janos TAUSZ.

He was deputy minister in the same ministry in 1951, subsequently he became deputy minister of home and foreign trade. After that ministry was split up in July 1954 he was appointed first deputy minister of domestic trade and in April 1956 upped to the rank of minister in the same ministry.

Minister of Chemical
Industry: Gergely SZABO.

Was in the same position in 1952. In January 1955 became chief of the secretarial office of the Council of Ministers. Since July 30 1956,

again Minister of Chemical Industry.

Minister of Light

Industry: Mrs. Jozsef NAGY. A former textile worker, became manager of the BUDAPEST "Hungarian Cotton Mill." In January 1951, Deputy Minister of Light Industry. In 1952 became deputy chairman of the National Planning Office. In September 1955 was appointed Minister of Light Industry.

Minister of Communal

Economy: Ferenc NEZVAL.

A leather worker, former deputy president of the BUDAPEST town councils executive committee, First deputy minister in the same ministry from June 1954.

Ministry of State

Farms (Sovkhozes): Miklos RIBIANSZKY. Has been holding leading offices in the Ministry of Agriculture since 1952. In 1953 he won the Kossuth Prize and 10,000 forint cash prize. Was appointed deputy minister in the same ministry January 1955.

Minister of Food

Industry : Rezso NYERS.

Born 1923. Printer. Former social democrat; after the fusion (June 1948) became org. secretary of the MDP's PEST County party committee. In 1954 was nominated deputy president of National Council of Trading Co-operatives (SZOVOSZ.) Has been Minister of Food Industry since July 30 1956.

Minister of Produce

Collection: Antal GYENES.

Journalist, he wrote articles in Szabad Nep about agricultural problems. Tarsadalmi Szemle in September 1956 published an essay of his titled: "The Role of Simpler Forms of Co-operation in our Kolkhos Movement."

Minister of Communications
and Post: Lajos BEBRITS.

Born 1891. Former railroad employee. Worked as a Communist journalist and member of the American Communist Party in the USA. Was deported in 1932, went to the Soviet Union, and after his return to Hungary in 1945 became Secretary of State in the Ministry of Communications, being the right hand of Erno GERO, then head of that ministry. Was appointed Minister of Communications in July 1951 and subsequently in July 1953 Minister of Communications and Post.

Minister of People's
Culture: Gyorgy LUKACS.

Aged 71. He was Minister of Education in Bela KUN's 1919 regime. During the thirties he emigrated to the Soviet Union, whence he returned after the war (1945.) He is the most outstanding Marxist-Leninist philosopher of the regime and one of the leaders of the "thaw" in Hungary. He criticized bitterly the degeneration of Marxism-Leninism by Stalinists.

Minister of Education:
Albert KONYA.

Born 1917, teacher of mathematics and physics. Nuclear physicist. From 1952 until autumn 1954 deputy minister of education, then until July 30 1956, deputy chief of the CC's scientific and cultural section and subsequently Minister of Education.

Chairman of the National
Planning Office: Arpad KISS.

Was Minister of Light Industry from 1951 to October 1954, when he became Minister of Chemical Industry and Power. Dismissed from this ministry, was appointed President of National Council of Technical Development. In 1954 won the silver degree of the Kossuth Prize with a 20,000 forint cash prize. In January 1956 became deputy chairman of the national atomic energy committee.

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PARTY STATUS OF NEW CABINET MEMBERS

Follows a list of members of the new Hungarian cabinet, in the order names were announced by Radio BUDAPEST on October 27. Also given are their party affiliation and any official positions held in the party.

Note: HWP is the abbreviation for Hungarian Working People's (Communist) Party.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Position</u>
NAGY Imre	HWP (CP)	Central Committee and Politbureau member.
APRO	HWP (CP)	Central Committee and Politbureau member.
BOGNAR	Smallholder	Secretary General.
ERDEI	National Peasant	General Secretary.
TILDY	Smallholder	
HORVATH Imre	HWP (CP)	Central Committee member.
JANZA	HWP (CP)	
MUNNICH	HWP (CP)	Central Committee member.
KOVACS Bela	Smallholder	
KOSSA	HWP (CP)	Central Committee alternate member.
MOLNAR	HWP (CP)	Central Committee alternate member.
CSERGO	HWP (CP)	Central Committee member.
BABITS	Undocumented, but almost certainly HWP (CP)	
CZOTTNER	HWP (CP)	Central Committee member.
TAUSZ	HWP (CP)	Central Committee member.
SZABO Gergely	HWP (CP)	Central Committee alternate member.
NAGY Mrs.	HWP (CP)	Central Committee member.
NEZVAL	HWP (CP)	Central Committee alternate member.
RIBIANSZKY	Undocumented, but almost certainly HWP (CP)	
NYERS	HWP (CP)	Central Committee member.
GYENES	HWP (CP)	
BEBRITS	HWP (CP)	Central Committee alternate member.
LUKACS	HWP (CP)	Central Committee member.
KONYA	HWP (CP)	Central Committee alternate member.
KISS Arpad	HWP (CP)	Central Committee member.

HUNGARIAN EVALUATION COMMENT:

Of the 25 members of the new cabinet, only eight are newcomers. 19 are known from our files as members of the Communist Party, and two more are very probably also CP members. Three are Smallholders and one belongs to the National Peasant Party.

The following members of the previous cabinet were excluded:

Prime Minister HEGEDUS, First Deputy Prime Minister HIDAS, Deputy Prime Minister MEKIS, Deputy Prime Minister MAROSAN, Minister of the Interior PIROS, Minister of Defense BATA, Minister of Finance OLT, Minister of Produce Collection SZOBOK, Minister of Construction SZIJARTO, Minister of People's Culture DARVAS, Minister of Health ROMAN, Minister of State Farms POGACSAS, Minister of Agriculture MATOLCSY and Minister of Communal Economy Janos SZABO.

Of the excluded former cabinet members only DARVAS is not a CP member.

The situation regarding the Ministry of State Control is for the time being unclear. No minister has been appointed. The name of Arpad HAZI, head of this ministry, is not included in the new cabinet list. So far the abolition of the ministry has not been announced, therefore the post of minister has to be considered vacant.

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