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MAROSAN ATTACKS "ANTI-SOCIALIST" ELEMENTS

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News Background

MUNICH, July 26, Collins... In a violent attack on so-called "anti-socialist" elements in Hungary, Georgy MAROSAN, Hungarian Minister of State, claimed in a speech yesterday to the workers of the huge Csepel steel plant that following the CPSU resolution deposing the anti-Party group of MOLOTOV-KAGANOVICH-MALENKOV various "fascist, counter-revolutionary" elements planned another "October".

MAROSAN confirmed rumors circulating in the West that the KADAR regime had embarked on a new wave of terror early this month. The former Social Democratic "fusionist" cynically admitted that the regime had "rounded up a few hundred persons" in a "preventive" action. According to MAROSAN, members and leaders of provincial workers' councils were among the arrested.

It is recalled that the revolutionary workers' councils were the last bastion of organized resistance to the Soviet-imposed KADAR regime following the second Soviet intervention in November last year.

The new wave of arrests and apparent persecution of members of workers' councils by the Hungarian regime in connection with the CPSU anti-Party resolution is in crass contrast to the use of GOMULKA's centrist faction of the Polish Communist Party in making of the same event. In Poland, the CPSU resolution was used as a platform from which to launch attacks on the Stalinist Natolin faction of the PUPP. The Natolin group of the Polish Communist Party has been a die-hard opponent of GOMULKA's new agricultural policy and his encouragement given to the organization of workers' councils in all branches of Polish industry. The head of the Polish trade unions reported in this connection that workers' councils had been organized in 60 to 80 per cent of all Polish factories in the various branches of the economy.

There are other indications that the Hungarian regime may be embarking on a harder course toward participants of last October's

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uprising. Reuter reported from BUDAPEST that RAKOSI's former ideological theoretician and author of a "Stalinist interpretation" of October revolution, Josef HEVAI had again attacked the role of Imre NAGY during October and November. In a speech at SZEGED (July 23).


In this connection the role and person of NAGY in the light of the October events has been, with only slight variation, under constant attack by various Hungarian journals and newspapers. The most recent series on the "traitorous" activities of NAGY is appearing currently in the peasant weekly, "Szabad Föld".

MAROSAN concluded his speech by scoring "absenteeism, thefts of socialist property by workers, poor labor discipline,... etc" and called in the workers to support their protector, the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party.

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MAROSAN's charge that various "anti-socialist" groups began actively and overtly resisting the regime after the Soviet resolution expelling the "anti-Party" group from their official functions in the Party and the State does not hold water. The present wave of arrests of members of the old ruling class, i.e., "Horthy officers", "land and factory owners", etc., was already forecast in a July 3 editorial of "Nepszabadsag". This article maintained that it was now necessary to take action against persons who did not actually take part in the "counter-revolution" but remained in the background to form "conspiracies" against the Party and leaders of the Party and State at a later date. According to "Nepszabadsag", these groups of former bourgeois receive their orders from imperialist espionage organizations in the West and are only waiting for a favorable opportunity to overthrow the "peoples' authority".

The move against members and leaders of workers' councils represents nothing new in the KADAR regime's move to suppress every manifestation of political resistance to the Communist State and Party. It would only appear from MAROSAN's statement that the Party and its security organs now have time to search out those Hungarians in the province who were instrumental in organizing revolutionary organizations.

The assertion made by MAROSAN that the unity and strength of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party was born during the period of armed battle against the "counter-revolution" has been rejected by none other than the Politburo and Central Committee member responsible for Party organizational matters, Karoly KISS. KISS, chief of the Party Control Commission, claimed in May that the HSWP was tainted by its four-day co-operation with the counter-revolutionary government of Imre NAGY. 



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Also the MAROSAN announcement of new arrests is hardly calculated to lend any sincerity or credibility to his alleged desire to improve the relationship between the Party and the Hungarian masses.

Equally foreboding is his announcement of the establishment of a Ministry of Control which is to be a "small apparatus consisting of workers and peasants, technicians and intellectuals" who are to report on the "wreckers" and "thieves" of the people's property. In this connection MAROSAN expressed "astonishment" at the evidence of bad "worker morale" he encountered at CSEPEL. He said that Communist workers are taking a too lenient attitude toward workers "who come late....leave early". MAROSAN also revealed extensive "absenteeism" and worker migration in the Hungarian Labor Force. He stated that at CSEPEL in May alone, 669 people were hired while 244 workers left to seek work elsewhere.

Concerning productivity, MAROSAN expressed the fear that Hungarian goods were becoming too expensive to compete on the world markets.

MAROSAN's remarks seem to be a solid indication that the Hungarian regime has by no means been able to cow the Hungarian population into a disciplined submissiveness. Complaints about labor migration, resistance of workers' councils to Party control on the factory level, arrests and threats of arrests have been permanent features of Party statements for the last eight months.

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