

(4) - Chronology

FROM THE EVALUATION AND RESEARCH SECTION

19 NOVEMBER 1956

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN HUNGARY /Nov. 17-18/

/All broadcasts official Radio Kossuth/

NOVEMBER 17

- 0600 The temporary workers' councils of the main BUDAPEST enterprises called upon the workers to resume work by November 17 or 19. /No appeal was made by the CSEPEL workers./
- 0700 The title of today's leading article in "Nepszabadsag" is "With renewed forces." The article commented on the fact that the BUDAPEST workers' councils decided to resume work on November 17. According to the article this decision was made because the workers realized that the aims of the KADAR government were in accordance with their demands.
- 0805 Relying on British sources, Radio Kossuth refers to the news that in the Soviet Union a struggle is going on between Stalinists and non-Stalinists.
- 1003 "Nepszabadsag" reported on the second discussion which took place between the Budapest workers' councils delegation and the KADAR government on the evening of November 16. The delegation asked for information concerning several problems: the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the activities of the workers' councils and the organization of an armed workers' guard. The delegation stated that even if work were resumed it would take several weeks before production returned to normal.
- 1408 Even in the factories which decided to resume work, 50 per cent of the workers did not appear.
- 1410 An appeal was made to the miners at the Komló and Pécs mines to resume work.
- 1415 The Ministry of State Farms ordered that till further instructions no food should be transported to BUDAPEST.
- 1502 The government called upon the city and county executive committees to invalidate all the resolutions brought by social organs which were contrary to the constitution and law.

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- 1505 The Presidium of the People's Republic dismissed György ~~NON~~ from his position of chief Public Prosecutor. Dr. Géza SZÉNÁSI was appointed in his place.
- 1605 In BUDAPEST a new isolation hospital was set up. 90
- 1608 In the district XIII and at Ujpest, leaflets are circulating calling upon workers to continue to strike.
- 1700 The workers' councils of the BUDAPEST Köbánya enterprises decided to resume work on November 19, but do not give up any of their demands.
- 1705 The Free Trade Union of the Food Industry and Trade workers called upon workers to resume.
- 2004 Imre DÖGEI, Minister of Agriculture, in a radio speech condemned the mistakes committed by the RÁKOSI regime and also condemned the activities of the counter-revolutionary forces. He announced that the government intended to give financial help to individual peasants but would support the development of State farms as well. The government acknowledged the peasant private property and would permit a free market for land. The forceful organization of State farms and regrouping of land had stopped.
- 2030 The declaration of the Soviet government concerning disarmament is broadcast.
- 2035 The Tatabánya and Oroszlány miners' delegations have conferred with the government. No agreement was reached; negotiations will be resumed on Monday.
- 2045 In BUDAPEST, the refuse in the streets threatens the danger of epidemics. Despite this, in several districts the populace prevents the transport of refuse.
- 2150 At CSEPEL, leaflets are circulating for the continuation of the strike. The police arrested several persons spreading these leaflets.
- 2155 On November 16, the militia units arrested an armed group who manufactured and spread inciting leaflets.
- 2200 The Free Trade Union of Hungarian textile workers called upon workers to start work but to stick to their demands.



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2230 The temporary workers' council of the Kispest Textile factory decided to resume work on November 19 but to maintain their right of strike.

NOVEMBER 18

0700 The leading article of today's "Nepszabadság", entitled "For an independent Hungary", condemned the criminal policy of the RÁKOSI clique, whose chief crime was to renounce the country's independence. The Soviet army had come into the country to fight "white terrorism" and not to re-establish the harmful policy of the GERO-RÁKOSI clique. "The Hungarian people's desire for freedom has now become so great that no force can suppress it."

0805 According to a government statement, not a single arrested person was deported from Hungary. The news of deportations was spread by enemy elements, in order to create confusion. The truth is that a few leaflet spreading, looting counter-revolutionary elements were arrested, but they were not sent to the Soviet Union.

1000 The leading article of "Népszabadság", titled "Deeds and Demands," says that one part of the revolutionary demands were granted by the government, and promises had been made for the fulfilment of the others, so that there was no reason why the workers should not return to work.

1215 The presidium of the Free Trade Unions of the iron and metal workers brought a resolution on November 17. It (should be) declared: 1./ In future, trade unions independent of the Parties and the government. 2./ After order has been restored Soviet troops should leave Hungarian territory. 3./ The right to strike should be maintained. 4./ The present wages system and norms should be invalidated. 5./ A proposition was made with regard to a new wages regulation and social benefits. Maintaining these demands, the presidium decided to resume work on November 19.

1210 The Free Trade Union of the food workers brought a similar resolution.

1405 The Technical Group of the Petöfi circle formed the voluntary Petöfi brigade, the duty of which is to clear away the rubble and repair houses.

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1600 The radio speech of Minister György MAROSÁN. In his speech, the minister called upon the workers to put an immediate end to the strike. He said that for the time being the counter-revolutionary elements had stopped fighting with arms but tried to over throw the people's power through propaganda and demagoguery, as by incitement to strike. According to MAROSÁN, these propagandists /RFE among them/ had won over for their cause journalists, writers, and students, who preach "the insane strike."

1710 According to the radio commentary, after the defeat of the armed counter-revolution, it now tried to obtain results from strikes and the spreading of alarmist rumors. The chief sources of these rumors were certain foreign radio stations.

1930 The title of one "Népszabadság" article is: "To the margin of a poster." It says that the signatories of the posters either do not exist or do not know about them. /This is the situation with regard to a poster attributed to the Writers' Union./ According to another poster, the formation of officers' regiments failed, because "the officers are compelled to sign declarations which they cannot accept." The commentary continues: "We do not want to discuss whether this declaration was acceptable or not." The article merely stated that the officers' units were now active.

2000 The joint Soviet-Polish statement was broadcast.

2100 Several workers' councils requested the workers to resume work on November 19.

- End of November 18 -

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The Free Trade Union of the food workers brought a similar resolution.

1405 The Technical Group of the People's Police formed the voluntary Kertfi brigade, the duty of which was to clean away the rubbish and repair houses.