

(4) - GDR REACTIONEAST GERMAN REACTION TO HUNGARY(sixth release in  
this series)

( Up to 1400 hrs Oct. 29)

D-303

"All's Well" Propaganda

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Conscious of the protective presence of an estimated 22 Soviet divisions in the GDR, and of the workers' disinclination for another bout with Red tanks since the crushing of the June 1953 uprising, the PANKOW Government continued last week to play the confident tune "It Couldn't Happen Here."

Disturbances in both Poland and Hungary were gleefully attributed to the "mistakes" of the Communist Parties there, exploited in the first case by Western agents and in the second by armed domestic and foreign reactionaries. These had even "misled" some honest citizens. The Red Army's intervention in Hungary was specifically applauded.

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(Eval)

Selective reporting of events was designed to show that (a) in Poland matters had never got out of hand, and Gomulka's regime was pro-Soviet and as wildly popular as its predecessor, and (b) as late as the evening of October 28, that in Hungary the "counter-revolutionary forces" were soon doomed to be crushed by loyalists, with the aid of the trusty Soviets.

Nevertheless, steps were taken from October 24 to alert militia and troops, and toward the end of the week GDR leaders thought it necessary to make numerous speeches of reassurance. "The fashionable disease of government-changing," declared ULBRICHT on October 28, "is one we are highly immune to." Democratization was in order, but "liberalization" meant the return of capitalism and would never be conceded. The SED paper warned that the regime would "defend itself with vigor."

Having relegated Hungarian news to a minor place during the week, and spoken every day of "remnants" surrendering, the GDR rad at the week-end started to admit the seriousness of the situation. It is now discussing, after its own fashion, little else, i.e. "Pravda" on Hungary, "L'humanité" on Hungary, the WFTU on Hungary, (East) German Red Cross aid to "patriots," shameful support of insurgents by West Berlin social democrats, etc. Western hopes of the infection spreading to East Germany are ironically seconded with the comment that West Germans should now tackle their own fascist reactionaries, and so make reunification possible.

# (H) - GDR REACTION

## Unrest and Security Measures

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There is no evidence of serious unrest in the GDR at present, though the bitterness of public opinion - and the regime's anxiety - is shown by security measures taken. One agency reports that students of Humboldt University in East BERLIN demanded the resignation of ULBRICHT and proposed a mass meeting to voice support for the Hungarians.

On October 24 the State-run TU federation, while promising a campaign for higher wages, cautioned workers against "following the lead of enemies of the people." The same day SED "fighting groups" from the factories marched silently with unloaded weapons through the streets of many East German towns.

Next day, October 25, the People's Army was reportedly put on a grade three alert - the top rating - with all leaves cancelled. Troops were given political lectures on the crisis. By October 26 it was reported that CP headquarters and government buildings in East BERLIN were manned by guards with bayonets fixed. On October 27 military and para-military patrols were mentioned by eye-witnesses in most major towns, with armed guards watching bridges and road junctions, and special checks on people leaving or entering the capital.

## Impact on Home Propaganda

D-304  
Though the SED leaders maintain a pose of invulnerability, based on special Soviet protection and absence of any figure comparable to Nagy or Gomulka, signs of anxiety appeared on October 26. "Neues Deutschland" quoted a factory militia group swearing to crush any Hungarian-style attempts at counter-revolution, and during the day SED officials called works meetings throughout the country to pass resolutions of loyalty to the Central Committee. Willi STOPH warned the staff of his defense ministry against listening to Western agitation. ULBRICHT, cadre boss MATERN and Politbureau member SCHIRDEWAN addressed three separate BERLIN factory audiences on the current situation.

On October 27 ULBRICHT took the unprecedented move of appearing on a nation-wide radio and TV hook-up to answer workers' questions." He was joined by Premier GROTEWOHL, who claimed that East Germany had been spared the current troubles of Poland and Hungary because the SED had kept in harmony with the workers.

## Propaganda on Hungarian Events

While keeping more up-to-date on Budapest than on Warsaw news, the GDR radio has until now consistently underplayed the crisis. Demands to Nagy were described as "suggestions" - but the "suggestion" that Soviet troops should leave was not mentioned. On October 26 KADAR was spoken of casually as Party secretary, but no mention was made of his replacing GERO. The composition of NAGY's new cabinet was promptly announced on October 27 - but with no explanation.

The rebellion did not reach the front page of the SED paper until October 25, when it was described as already crushed. It only made the lead on October 27 as something "protested" against by Humboldt students. ULBRICHT's analysis, however, was the main feature in the October 28 issue.

As to the extent of the struggle, the "fascist reactionary elements attacking public buildings in BUDAPEST," first admitted on

## ④-② CDR REACTION

October 24, had become "small scattered groups" the following day, and by October 26 "order" had been "restored." ("Neues Deutschland's" front-page banner "Fighting Continues" referred to the West German metal-workers' strike.)

On October 27, however, media reported that fighting continued in the Ruhr area.