

## Hostile to the Régime

1 MAY 1957  
The Hungarian Parliament has just ended a brief session by prolonging its own life for another two years. In this way elections that were due have been dodged. It is unusual for a satellite Government to feel any coyness about holding elections—the results always seem to turn out satisfactorily—but MR. KADAR and his colleagues know what they are doing. Any occasion which could by any means be used to reflect popular opinion is to be avoided, since the only basis of the Kadar régime is still the Russian Army.

Strenuous efforts are, however, being made to change this. Apart from the punitive measures that continue with great severity against those who took part in the autumn rising an attempt is being made to produce at least a façade of popular support for the régime. Particular attention is being paid to the intellectuals and students, since it was they who so largely inspired the rising. Most of them, no doubt, have to be written off as incorrigible. The Writers' Union has been dissolved, on the grounds that it had been used "as an active instrument for attacking the social order of the Republic." But at least one prominent catch has been made. MR. GYORGY LUKACS, the philosopher,

has not only been brought back from banishment but has been made editor of a new periodical. So far his example is more or less isolated, but where conformity is not yet possible disillusionment is being encouraged as a first stage towards it. Publicity was recently given to the testimony of MR. LAJOS KASSAK, a writer, who, after confessing that "I am both unbearably restless and unbearably tired," concluded that he must devote himself entirely to writing—"to concentrate my strength on creating works of value which I would like to pass on to those who have not gone blind amid the heaps of rubbish, those who long for a friendly handshake, a sincere glance and the beauty of life."

But the Minister of Culture, MR. KALLAI, addressing a teachers' conference last week, was forced to admit that "the ideological and political chaos caused by the counter-revolution among the people, and in particular in the ranks of the intellectuals, has not yet been dispelled." Translated, this means that both teachers and taught remain openly hostile to the régime. They are promised—every section of the population is promised—that the mistakes of the past will not be repeated. But in this context "mistakes" means the liberalizing measures sponsored by the Nagy Government, not the severities against which these measures were a reaction. MR. KADAR, in his long speech on May Day, made it clear that in all essentials the clock is being put back. At the head of his achievements he put the reorganization of the Army and police, and the formation of "workers' guards." The rest of the menu was as before—collectivization in agriculture, a new three-year plan, the closest possible ties with the Soviet Union, and so on. MR. KADAR'S unresolvable dilemma is that the only policies certain to be popular are for him totally impossible.

unbearable