

NB This could perhaps go more appropriately in the Chapter on Human Rights DB

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~~General Attitude towards~~ The Security POLICE (AVH) ~~and~~ Popular ~~Resentment~~ against

All the evidence available to the Committee, both written and oral, left no

doubt regarding the universal ^{deterioration} ~~mistrust~~ and fear inspired for years before the up-

rising by the security police or AVH, (Allam Védelmi Hatóság). These feelings played a

uprising from a peaceful demonstration to a violent insurrection. Great part in changing the

The creation of the security police goes back to December 1944, when, in Debrecen;

AVH had become

a symbol of

the alien

rule by

terror

which they

were

struggling

to end.

the then provisional Government of Hungary sent 22 persons to a training course for the

setting up of a political police. It was a guiding principle that only Communist Party

members could be appointed to key positions in the AVH. According to witnesses, one

of the most serious consequences of Soviet interference in Hungarian internal affairs

occurred after the election in 1945, which left the Communist Party with only 17

per cent of the seats in Parliament. The Portfolio of the Ministry of the Interior,

under which the AVH was placed at that time, was ^{stolen} ~~taken~~ out of the hands of the Small-

holders Party and the Committee ^{was told, though it could not verify the statement,} ~~heard the suggestion~~ that this was done at the insistence

of Marshal Voroshilov himself.

^{both} security police

After 1949, (the ~~AVH~~ and the military frontier guards were ~~both~~ placed under the AVH

and made directly responsible to the Council of Ministers, while the regular Hungarian

police remained under the Ministry of the Interior. The AVH had jurisdiction over such

^{matters as} espionage, conspiracy and treason. From 1949 onwards, with an interruption during

Mr. Nagy's premiership (1953-55), the AVH was said to have adopted in full the methods

of the NKVD, and to have been the real machinery of Party control.

In the second half of 1956, apparently under the impact of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and after the rehabilitation of László Rajk, the Hungarian Government decided to subject the State's security organ to more extensive supervision.

It was ~~also~~ intended to "assert Socialist legality without fail and to ensure the free exercise of citizens' legal rights". "Socialist legality" had been defined by one of Hungary's chief legal experts, Prof. Imre Szabo, in the review TARSADALMI as "the absolute and complete adherence to Socialist legal maxims, to the laws, ordinances and decisions expressing the will of the workers and of the working class". On 26 June 1956, the Minister of Justice, Erik Molnar, is reported to have ~~said~~ *complained* that his Ministry and the regular Hungarian courts had had no jurisdiction at all during the past few years in cases of political offenses which were of importance to the Party and that "this illegal and harmful practice had to stop". (SZABAD NEP)

Budapest Radio on 31 July broadcast a statement made the previous day to the Hungarian National Assembly by Chief Prosecutor György Non, who criticized the special position enjoyed by the AVH. He asserted that many leaders of that organization had abused their power and had exported untrue confessions of guilt by the use of "moral and physical pressure". The Chief Prosecutor accused them of violating Socialist legality "in the most callous manner" and drew attention once more to the fact that the AVH was subject to no form of supervision. However, he claimed that infringements of legality were now punished and that the AVH and the judiciary ^{*called for*} ~~required~~ the support of all genuine patriots.

Witnesses reported that the AVH consisted mainly of Hungarians, but that 12 advisors from the Soviet NKVD served with it. One witness stated that an NKVD officer was permanently stationed in each department of the AVH and that an NKVD Lt-Col and Major were always present in the investigation department. It was said that many Hungarian members of AVH were Soviet citizens and most of the Hungarians ^{*serving with it*} had been trained in the Soviet Union.

AVH personnel were said to have been carefully screened, not only by the AVH itself, but also by the NKVD. AVH members were paid salaries ^{considerably} ~~about 20 per cent to~~ ~~60 per cent~~ higher than those of ^{ordinary} Hungarian workers. ~~The income of an AVH officer ranged from 8,000 to 16,000 Forints a month, as compared with the average income of 1,000 Forints for a Hungarian worker.~~ In addition, they had pension rights and many privileges unknown to the proletariat, such as free accommodation, clothing, cut prices for food, special private schools for their children and all kinds of bonuses, including one for an arrest. On special assignment, they received from a secret fund approximately ~~for~~ five or six times the amount of their salary in the form of a bonus, which, for bookkeeping purposes, was put down under the heading of the construction of new buildings or expenditure of new furnishings.

A number of witnesses claimed that the AVH functioned under direct Soviet control, ^{gave as an example} ~~and that the preparation~~ ^{the preparation of which is said to have been} of the Rajk trial was in the hands of General Bielkin of the Moscow Headquarters of the NKVD, who, from his headquarters at Baden near Vienna, ^{was} then served as police chief for all the countries under Soviet control. He was said to have come to Hungary early in 1950 and to have established his headquarters in the AVH building at 60 Stalin (Andrassy) Street. ^{Between 1953 and 1956,} several witnesses told the Committee that they had been visited by detectives and ordered to say nothing about the role performed by the NKVD during the Rajk case. When one witness told the Supreme Court of Hungary on 29 March 1956 that he had appeared before General Bielkin as a defendant during the Rajk trial, his statement was deleted from the record by the presiding judge, Jozsef Domokos.

affirmed
All witnesses ~~who referred to this subject, concurred in the statement~~ that the AVH maintained a very elaborate network of spies, informers and agents provocateurs. It was said that members of the AVH or their informers were present in all offices and all factories, so that no one knew, even when talking to friends, where his words would be repeated half an hour later. During the uprising, documents found in the building ~~in~~ of the Ministry of the Interior in Budapest were said to have supplied evidence of the extent of the AVH spy network. The material found included 6 steel cabinets of tape recordings, mostly of telephone conversations carried on with people outside Hungary. Diaries were also found in which details of conversations were recorded. The material proved that the spy network involved a very important part of the Hungarian population from high government officials to simple factory workers. Some of these had been anti-Communists before the War, others were former members of the Hungarian National Socialist Party and others again had something to hide in their private lives. By Law II of 1952 anyone discriminating against a person who acted as informer for the AVH was punishable by up to six months in prison.

Much testimony was given to the Committee on the subject of inhuman treatment and torture used by the AVH to secure confessions or denunciations. *This evidence agrees with similar testimony gathered elsewhere and* (The Committee has every reason to accept ~~this testimony~~ *it* as ~~being~~ true, but ~~it~~ *however, thought fit* has not judged it desirable in this Report to enter into a detailed description of the sadist barbarities of which many witnesses spoke, ~~and of which authoritative records are available from other sources.~~

For its purpose, the Committee deems it more important to draw attention ~~to~~ in general The

terms to two factors in the situation. *By Hungary the existence of the AVH* First of these is the infringement of human rights which ~~such practices~~ involved. The second is the undoubted fact that ~~virtually~~

the ~~entire~~ population of Hungary lived for years under the shadow of the AVH terror *had more influence* *Hungarian* apparatus and that no single factor ~~was more important~~ in uniting the people against the foreign despotism which maintained it in power.