

In the broadcast for listeners in Britain, Jozsef Sziki remarked that some Hungarian writers had achieved fame abroad recently not by their writings but for what they had done to prepare and support the counter-revolution. "What I now most deplore is that columnists of the Western papers are not at all interested in present-day Hungarian literature or literary life in Hungary but in working up feeling against our Government," he added. The Hungarian writers' protest against the General Assembly debate on the Hungarian question had caused some confusion among the so-called East European experts of the Western dailies, some of whom had alleged that force had been used to make the writers sign. But the Hungarian writers had "survived" this, remained faithful to the people's democratic system and made their names memorable for the coming generation through their work. "We can firmly state that the thinking of the socialist writers has become deeper as a result of what they have experienced during the October days and a significant part of those writers who had not been socialist got nearer to socialism," Sziki said.

An open letter in the latest issue of 'Kortars', by Laszlo Benjamin, Sandor Erdei, Lajos Konya, Istvan Oerkeny, Gyula Sipos and Lajos Tamasi, protested against the use of their names by Western propaganda and mentioned their own responsibility for giving an opportunity to people to misjudge or misrepresent their attitude. They also called on writers who had left Hungary to return. "At present there is a process of fermentation in Hungarian literary life and there are signs that literary activity will be greater than it has ever been since the end of the war," Sziki added. "I personally feel that the coming period will be a great one for Hungarian literature. At present Hungarian poets are doing their best to acquire all that is valuable in the poetry of Western countries, Great Britain included... They want to revolutionise form and language so that it may become a proper vehicle... I wonder if the Western papers will pay any attention to this development." (Budapest in English 20.00, 14.11.57)

Another bulletin said that the latest issue of the literary periodical 'Kortars' consisted largely of articles of the Great October Revolution. Lajos Kassak and Peter Veres were among the contributors. (Budapest for Hungarians in W Europe 19.00, 13.11.57)