

2. Foreign Relations

(a) USSR (Reuters)

Budapest, 4 March - The majority of the 17,000 Soviet troops due to be withdrawn from Hungary have already left the country, chief Government spokesman Laszlo Gyaros said here today.

It was announced in Moscow Jan. 6 that the Red Army was cutting forces by 300,000 men and withdrawing 41,000 troops from East Germany and 17,000 from Hungary.

Gyaros said today that the withdrawal in Hungary would be completed "in about three months" from the date of the Moscow announcement. According to Western estimates, Russia will still have upwards of 60,000 troops in Hungary after the withdrawal. Gyaros said: "... I want to state again that Soviet troops did not come to the territory of Hungary to crush the counterrevolution (of October, 1956). They were already here under the Warsaw Pact." He added that last May Hungary and the Soviet Union signed an agreement "on the legal status of Soviet troops temporarily stationed in Hungary."