

3 July 1958

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON IMRE NAGY, PAL MALETER  
AND OTHER PERSONS TO WHOM REFERENCES WERE  
MADE IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE HUNGARIAN  
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON 16 JUNE 1958

B.

Notes on other persons mentioned in the Communiqué

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(1) BIBO, Istvan

Born 1911. Father was a well-known ethnologist and Director of Szeged University Library. Studied law at Universities of Szeged and Vienna (1933-34); studied political science and international law at Geneva (1934-35); attended Academy of International Law, The Hague (1936). Member of Secretariat of League of Nations (1938); official of Ministry of Justice at Budapest (1938); Lecturer at Philosophy of Law Faculty, Szeged University (1940). Imprisoned by Nazis for underground activity during World War II (1944). Department Head, Ministry of Interior, charged with re-organization of public administration, territorial reforms, and preparation of 1945 elections (1945-46); Professor of Political Science, Szeged University, and Deputy Chairman, Eastern European (formerly Teleki) Scientific Institute (1947); research librarian, University of Budapest (1951). Appointed Minister of State in Nagy cabinet (November 3, 1956), representing the Petofi (Peasant) Party. Mr. Bibo was in the party of Imre Nagy which found asylum at the Yugoslav Embassy (4 - 22 November 1956). Prior to that, on 4 November, he issued a declaration which he handed over personally to the Commander of the Soviet troops besieging the Parliament building. Before his arrest, which reportedly took place early in May 1957, Mr. Bibo managed to send out of Hungary a plan on the possible compromise solution of the Hungarian problem, which was published in Die Presse (Vienna) of 3 November 1957. 2/

x 1/ Part A (Notes on those whose sentences were announced in the Communiqué) was circulated on 1 July 1958.

2/ See also Report of the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary, paras. 295, 584, 589.



(11) DERY, Tibor

Is about 60 years old. During World War II, he was a member of the then illegal Communist Party and took an active part in the national resistance movement against the Nazis. After the war, he continued to be active in the Communist Party and together with Gyula Hay was among the most important writers in Hungary. In 1953, when Imre Nagy became first time Prime Minister, Mr. Dery, with a group of writers, initiated the Irodalmi Ujsag. This Press organ, from the Autumn of 1955, published several articles by him and Mr. Hay attacking the Soviet doctrine of party allegiance in literature as well as continual interference by party bureaucrats in literature and art. At the end of 1955, Mr. Dery issued a memorandum considered as the first manifestation of organized resistance in Hungary. After the outbreak of the uprising, Mr. Dery appealed to the freedom fighters to lay down their arms. On 25 October, after having found out that Imre Nagy was a prisoner of the AVH, he joined openly the uprising. On 24 April 1957, after the disbanding of the Hungarian Writers' Union by the Government of Mr. Kadar, Mr. Dery was taken into custody by the police "on a well-founded suspicion of having committed a crime against the State". It was announced on 13 November that Mr. Dery was sentenced by the People's Court of the Supreme Court for activities hostile to the State and for leading an organisation with the aim of overthrowing the state order of the people's democracy, to 9 years' imprisonment. 1/

(111) FAZEKAS, György

Writer and journalist. In asylum at Yugoslav Embassy, Budapest, (4 - 22 November 1956).

(iv) HAY, Gyula

Is about 62 years old. As a young man, he took part in the Bela Kun Communist regime in Hungary. After its defeat, Mr. Hay lived in the Weimar Republic during the 1920s, and after 1933, he spent several years in the Soviet Union. There, he attracted attention for the first time with his writings, mostly with his dramatic compositions. Nearly all his works were translated into Russian. He returned to Hungary in 1945 with the Soviet Army.

After the fall of the first Government of Imre Nagy, Mr. Hay wrote a famous article in the Irodalmi Ujsag exposing "the immorality, lawlessness and corruption" of the Rakosi regime. In another article, published

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1/ See also Report of the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary, paras. 379, 697.



in September 1955 in the Irodalmi Ujsag, Mr. Hay declared his loyalty to the regime, but complained that State and party control were killing literature. Mr. Hay took an active part in the uprising and after the second Soviet intervention he was openly critical of the Kadar regime. It was announced on 13 November 1957 that Mr. Hay was sentenced by the People's Court of the Supreme Court, for activity hostile to the State and for participation in an organization with an aim of overthrowing the State order of the people's democracy, to 6 years imprisonment. 1/

(v) HARASZTI, Sandor

Journalist, father-in-law of Geza Losonczy, who was one of the codefendants of Imre Nagy and who, according to the Communiqué of 16 June, died during the preliminary proceedings. Responsible editor of Szabadsag (1945); Secretary-General of Hungarian-Yugoslav Society (1947); imprisoned on charges of "Titoism" (1950-54); member of the National Peace Council (1955 - November 1956); president of the preparatory committee, Hungarian Writers' Union (September 1956); expelled from Hungarian Workers' (Communist) Party for "rightist deviation" (1955); re-admitted to Party (1956). In asylum at Yugoslav Embassy, Budapest (4 - 22 November 1956).

(vi) KARDOS, Laszlo

Born in 1918. During World War II, took an active part in the national resistance movement against the Nazis. Director of the "Gyorffy College" for gifted children of peasant origin (1945). The same year he became a member of the Communist Party, and started a movement called NEKOSZ (National Association of People's Colleges), which by promoting the submission of workers' and peasants children to Party ideology, was to build up the leading intellectual strata of the nation. Deprived of his mandate as Deputy in the National Assembly in connexion with the Rajk trial, he was expelled from the Party in 1948. After 1953 he became a strong supporter of Imre Nagy; was appointed Director of the National Demographic Museum and University Professor and became one of the leaders of the Petofi Club. According to reports, he was arrested in May 1957.

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1/ See also Report of the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary,  
paras. 121 and 379.



(vii) SZABO, Istvan B.

A farmer at Bekescsaba, was in 1930 one of the founders of the Independent Smallholders' Party together with Gaston Gaal, Zoltan Tildy and Ferenc Nagy. In 1945 he became a member of Parliament and Minister of State. In 1947 he lost his mandate, his land was confiscated and he was forced to take a job as an unskilled worker in a trunk factory in Budapest. During the uprising, he took an active part in the revival of the Smallholders' Party and became a Minister of State in Mr. Nagy's Cabinet of 3 November. After the second Soviet intervention, he was arrested by the AVH and suffered serious injuries as a result of it. According to reports he was arrested in May 1957 and has not been heard of since. 1/

(viii) TANCZOS, Gabor

Secretary of the Petofi Club 2/ (June - November 1956); Secretary of Social-Political and Legal Committee of People's Patriotic Front Council in October 1956. In asylum at the Yugoslav Embassy in Budapest (4 - 22 November 1956). 3/ 4/

- 1/ See also Report of the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary, paras. 295, 346, 589.
- 2/ See also Report of the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary, paras. 49, 88, 383 - 384.
- 3/ See also Report of the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary, para. 630.
- 4/ The group of Hungarians who sought asylum at the Yugoslav Embassy in Budapest on 4 November 1956 consisted of the following persons: Imre Nagy; Geza Losonczy, Minister of State; Zoltan Szanto, Ferenc Donath and Gyorgy Lukacs, Members of the Preparatory Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party; Peter Erdos, Gyorgy Fazekas, Sander Haraszti, Ferenc Janosi, Ferenc Nador, Julia Rajk, Jozsef Szilagyi, Gabor Tanczos, Szilard Ujhelyi, Zoltan Vas, Miklos Vasarhelyi, as well as fifteen women and seventeen children. (Radio Beograd, 21 November 1956, 2300 hrs. GMT; Nepakarat, 22 November 1956).