

PO 210 WWS (71) CWSF

5 April 1960

Dear Monsignor Varga,

I am directed by the Secretary-General to acknowledge your communication of 30 March 1960 enclosing the text of the appeal and the signatures concerning an amnesty for political prisoners in Hungary.

Your communication, as well as the declaration attached to it, will be immediately brought to the attention of Sir Leslie Busro. It will also in due course be brought to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights.

Yours sincerely,

William M. Jordan
Officer in Charge,
Department of Political and
Security Council Affairs

The Right Reverend
Monsignor Bela Varga
Chairman
Action Committee
Amnesty for Political Prisoners in Hungary
125 East 72nd Street
New York 21, N.Y.

c.: Mr. Egon Schwellb
Deputy Director
Division of Human Rights

(copies of file sent to Legation)

End copy to
Sharon Richey,
marked:

Approved by

J. Carson

Ray

copy sent April 6
1982

DA FORM 128-100

ROUTING SLIP

Comments for the report should not be written on this slip. Referred items FT-200 should be used instead.

To:

M. Conner

From:

DATE:

APPROVAL	YOUR INITIALS
REPLY DIRECTLY	NO REPLY
SEE ME, PLEASE	FOR ACTION
YOUR SIGNATURE	REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE
NOTE AND FILE	FOR FILE (ONLY)
NOTE AND RETURN	ATTACH RELATED PAPERS
YOUR COMMENTS	FOR CLEARANCE

*you probably
not with this one*

AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN HUNGARY
ACTION COMMITTEE

125 East 72nd Street

New York 21, N. Y.

EFHinslander 4-8210

Chairman:
MR. BELA VARGA,
Past President, President of the
Hungarian Parliament, 1946-47

Vice-Chairman:
MR. JOSEPH KISS,
Mayor of Budapest, 1945-47, 1948

Members:
MR. FERENC KUTV,
Prime Minister of Hungary, 1946-47

MR. JOSEPH ADORJAN,
Co-President, World Federation of
Former Hungarian Political Prisoners

MR. ISTVAN SZABONOVICS,
President, Council of the Christian
Democratic Union of Central Europe

MR. LAJOS RAJDO-KENETI,
Former, Former Member of the
Hungarian Parliament

MR. FERENC JOKAI,
Chairman of the Petró Circle

MAJOR-GENERAL BELA KISZEL,
Commander-in-Chief of the
Hungarian National Guard, 1946,
Executive President of the
Hungarian Freedom Fighters Federation

MR. SANDOR KISS,
Director of the Hungarian
Peasant Federation

MR. IMRE SZABO,
Writer, Representative for the
United States of the Hungarian
Writers' Federation Abroad

MR. SZILVUS FRECHPPE,
Lawyer, Former Under-Secretary
of Justice

MR. FERENC SZABO,
Former Under-Secretary of
Public Welfare

MR. LASZLO VARGA,
Lawyer, Acting Chairman of the
Federation of Free Hungarian Jurists

MR. FERENC VALL,
Professor of International Law

MR. FERENC VIDOVICS,
President of the World Federation of
Former Hungarian Political Prisoners

His Excellency,
Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld,
Secretary General of the
United Nations Organization,
Secretariat Building,
United Nations, N. Y.

March 30th, 1960

X Ref. SO 215/1 Hung.

Excellency,

after the news got world-wide circulation that Hungarian political prisoners are awaiting execution and terror increased in Hungary, anxious of the fate of Hungarians suffering in the prisons and concentration camps, an Action Committee was formed to obtain the support of prominent Americans to an appeal for amnesty for Hungarian political prisoners.

For Your Excellency's kind information I enclose the text of the appeal and the signatures so far obtained to this appeal with the request to forward them to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the standing Rapporteur of the United Nations General Assembly on the Problem of Hungary, Sir Leslie Munro.

Availing myself of this opportunity I beg Your Excellency to acknowledge the expression of my high esteem.

Sincerely yours,

Magr. Béla Varga

[Magr. Béla Varga]
Chairman

Enclosures.

AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN HUNGARY

DECLARATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

We, the undersigned, fully recognizing the great responsibility incumbent upon us in this age when man has the means of total destruction, solemnly declare our intention to serve the most important cause, the preservation of peace.

We agree that all efforts must be directed to that end and every possibility must be employed to ameliorate those problems which result in the present dangerous world tensions. To attain the desired goal all nations must show evidence of their good faith.

We firmly believe that one of the disturbing elements in the effort toward mutual understanding is the fate of those Hungarians who participated in the revolt of 1956. If there is a spirit which radiates understanding and forgiveness, we think that those Hungarian political prisoners, regardless of their age and sentences, must be forgiven, too.

Therefore, we are appealing to the understanding and consideration of the Communist leaders to grant an amnesty to Hungarian political prisoners, gratifying those throughout the world who are yearning for peace and justice. We hope that the Communist leaders will recognize their own responsibilities in connection with our demand and they will act according to their conscience, and with humanity.

Done in the month of March, 1960, in the United States of America.

Conrad Allen
Andreas Alföldi
Eugene Barnothy
Magdolna Barnothy
Charles E. Bennett
Alvin M. Bentley
P.W. Bridgman
Clifford P. Case
Leo Cheme
Richard Cardinal Cushing
Richard J. Daley
Thomas J. Dodd
Mark van Doren
Christopher Dawson
Ralph Ellison
Paul Fejfs

Harry Emerson Fosdick
Israel Goldstein
Oscar Halecki
Dietrich von Hildebrand
Henry W. Hobson, Right Rev.
William E. Hocking
Sidney Hook
Theodor de Kármán
Kenneth B. Keating
Frank Lausche
Ashley Montagu
Marianne Moore
Thomas Merton, Rev.
Robert M. Meyner
R. J. McCracken
John W. McCormack
Lewis Mumford

Charles Munch
Ernest Nagel
Katherine Anna Porter
Eleanor Roosevelt
Budd Schulberg
George N. Shuster
Upton Sinclair
Albert Szentgyörgyi
Joseph Sziget
Norman Thomas
Charles de Tolney
Eugene P. Wigner
Thornton Wilder
G. Mennen Williams
Alexander Wolsky
Lajos Zilahy