

8. REVOLUTION OF HUNGARIAN WORKERS

An account of the activities of the Revolutionary Committees from 23rd to 26th October, transmitted by the Hungarian Telegraph Agency.

**BUDAPEST :** A Revolutionary Socialist Committee was set up with the consent of the Party Committee. Among the 20 members of the Revolutionary Committee are workers, scientists, students and peasants. The Committee keeps strongly in power since its setting up and is supported by the Armed Forces. The Committee took a series of measures in the field of public supply, transportation and hygiene. In the factories the first provincial Workers' Councils were set up in this city.

**ODER :** On 26th October a provisional National Council was set up which took over power and disbanded the AVN. The Commander of the Hungarian Army in the city announced that he had decided to join the Council.

**BRATISLAVA :** The local population fought without arms the AVN formations and 39 civilians were killed. The local police joined the insurgents, disbanded the AVN formations and the National Committee was set up.

**OPPER :** The local population with the support of the workers of Győr and Mosonmagyaróvár disbanded the AVN formations. The provisional National Council of Győr took note with pleasure of the election of József Nagy to be head of the Government. The competence of the National Council covers the whole county. In the villages local National Councils are being set up.

**KISPEST :** On 26th October a Workers' and Soldiers' Council was set up, and accepted solidarity with the insurgents fighting in Budapest. They published a statement and requested equality with the Soviet Union and the

withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary, as well as the liquidation of the Stalinist cliques. On 26th October the crowd marched before the police building and requested that the arrested young people should be released. Police formations shot at the crowd. Miners and workers attacked the police building, exploded the doors with dynamite and killed a police officer and several members of ANH. By the evening of 26th October the Workers' Council became masters of the situation.

ISLAMPOLSK : On 26th October a crowd of several thousands demonstrated before the county building and requested the resignation of the president of the County Council and started negotiations with him. In agreement with the president of the County Council a Workers' Council was set up. The president of the County Council resigned but in the course of the demonstrations shooting started and two persons died and many were wounded. The police, the Army and ANH did not interfere in the fights. The Workers' Council met and decided to disarm the ANH and took over their arms and buildings.

BOULONNE : On 27th October the Revolutionary Council transformed itself into a Workers' Council. In different parts of the County Workers' Councils were set up and forced to resign all former leaders of the people who lacked its confidence.

VERDUN : By 26th October order was completely restored. The Revolutionary Council, supported by the Army, is completely master of the situation. Among members of the Revolutionary Council are several officers of the Hungarian Army.

REIMS : On 26th October a military administration took the place of the City Council. New party leadership was elected and the President of the City Council resigned. On 27th October the first Workers' Councils were set up.

SEPARATELY : In this city National Councils for the County and for the city were established. In the county of Hegrad a provisional Revolutionary Council was set up. The Council expressed confidence in the new Government. The Council organised Armed Guards from workers.\*

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\*The Hungarian Telegraph Agency stated in the conclusion of this article that "wherever the new local organs were set up they have power quite solidly in hand with the support of the population and the Army". The demands of these local organs as well as those the population had put in their place are, on the whole, identical and essentially socialist and democratic in character. They do not wish to destroy the people's power. This is proved by the fact that wherever Party organisations identified themselves with the aims of the democratic revolution no actions were taken against these organs. In the provinces, just as in the capital, the movement did not start as an armed upsurge but only as a peaceful demonstration of elementary power with the democratic demands of the Hungarian people. . The armed upsurge came from the manifestation only on the evening of 23rd October when, after the provocative speech of Erno Gero, members of the IWN attacked with arms in many places the peaceful and harmless crowd. Therefore it is the opinion of the country:

1. Soviet troops should be withdrawn as quickly as possible.
2. IWN formations should be disbanded.
3. The local organs and their measures should be recognised.
4. The insurgents should not be called counter-revolutionaries and robbers but the democratic, socialist, national and revolutionary character of the movement should be recognised.

5. The demands for a reconstruction of the Government should be executed at once and certain persons should immediately leave the National Government.

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Source: Detroit Mirror (Sunday paper), 29th October, 1956.