

Esti Hirlap and Magyar Nemzet, December 8, 1957

Press Conference in the Hungarian Foreign Ministry

Robert Boros, Deputy Press Chief of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, held a press conference attended by 40 representatives of the Hungarian press and 4 foreign reporters representing Associated Press, Reuters, AFP and Izvestija.

The correspondent of AFP asked Boros whether the Hungarian Government has the intention to discuss with the Soviet Government the date of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungarian territory.

"Your colleague in Washington might ask the question in the State Department" replied Boros. "As Janos Kadar and responsible Soviet leaders have said several times, as soon as American troops will leave Western Germany, there will no longer be a threat of imperialist attack and then there will no longer be any reason for stationing troops in Hungary and the other people's democratic states under the Warsaw pact."

To another correspondent's question whether the Government is planning to issue a decree concerning amnesty for "dissidents" who want now to return home, Boros replied:

"Hungarian citizens who fled abroad, after submitting individual applications and after a favourable verdict, can return home. Tens of thousands of Hungarians who left for abroad returned already in such a way. Such a possibility of return will also exist in the future."

Answering a question concerning the U.N. resolution regarding refugees, Boros stated:

"We consider it as one of our most important task to promote, in co-operation with the international organizations, the voluntary return of the exiles. Especially we are paying great attention to the problem of those unfortunate minors who are straying in the world without parents and who are still prevented to return."

A question was raised about the situation of the Hungarian "dissidents" in Canada.

Boros answered the question in great length and stated among others:

"With the ending of seasonal work the number of the Hungarian unemployed has grown to 12-15 thousand in Canada. The situation of the women is even more desperate. If they can get an employment at all, they can go as domestic servants or waitresses. The hopeless future forces them to become prostitutes. The initial sympathy toward the dissidents has changed into protests against the outrage of jailbirds using the mask of "freedom fighters." The conditions deteriorated so much that the population demanded action from the Government. The energetic demand of the population forced the Government to promise to pay the return trip to Austria of all those "dissidents" who were in possession of a "return permit" to Hungary. But the implementation of this decree was given to the sister and aid-de-camp of the former Hungarian Nazi leader Szalasi and they do everything to prevent the refugees from returning to Hungary. We have drawn the Canadian Government's attention to this fact and we hope that the 6,000 Hungarians who requested their repatriation, will soon arrive in Hungary.