

NEPSZABADSAG (29 September 1957)

In an article entitled "On the Right Way" the paper comments on the collective protest of the Hungarian writers against the U.N. Report and on the allegation in the foreign press that the writers were forced to sign the protest.

Our public opinion entertains no illusions regarding the protest of the writers, says the paper. Their collective protest is significant and it is hoped that the writers who remained silent up to now have now taken a sincere stand and according to their conviction.

The paper reminds its readers on the role the Writers' Union has played last October and points out that the Union after 4 November took a lead in the walk-out, sympathized with the armed resistance, that at the end of December when work has already started in the country the Union, in a manifesto, still encouraged resistance and spreading nationalistic slogans the writers tried to hinder consolidation, further that even in March and April sheets had to be sent to the stamping mills to be destroyed because they could give only encouragement to the defeated and retreating counter-revolution and finally that in those days some poets demanded that their counter-revolutionary poems should be included in their volumes of poetry.

After a certain time the minds of the writers calmed down and the voice of activity and aggression was followed by a period of silence. This silence was not only the silence of an accomplice but also of a period of indecision and self-examination.

The paper asks: was the protest of the writers a step forward on the right way? Yes, it was an important step, stresses the paper but at the same time it warns: he who would think that the political statement of the writers brought about a change also in the ideological thinking of the writers, is mistaken. It brought only a fixation of limits, a separation from the counter-revolution and therefore it is of great importance. But ideologically it was only the first step, and nothing more.

We have seen how hard it was for the writers to make up their minds in order to make this step and how the Hungarian public opinion - not the AVH - had to force, yes to force, them to give up their reticence and silence. The public opinion has forced them, that public opinion which has changed in the last few months in such a direction that those writers, who took such a great and tragic part in the incitement of the public opinion, had now suddenly to discover that the public opinion not only abandoned them but also that it turned against them.

We are glad that the writers have finally started on the right way and that they have made the first step. They owe it their honour and the nation that the first step should be followed by further steps, by



factual steps in their works not by statements. Of course we shall not give up our right to a Marxist criticism which is our duty. We know also that there will be a few -- we hope that only a few -- who will get stuck where they are now, or even who will go back. On them history will pass sentence. But there will be writers who will find their way back to the bright big road in order to march forward with our people.

The fight for the purity and revival of the Hungarian literature has not started now; it has started in November and December. The collective protest of the Hungarian writers against the U.N. interference is a new milestone on the road which was taken last year by a handful of Communists. We hope that the Hungarian writers will be strong enough to march forward on this difficult road.