

4 - 7 April 1958

NEWS ITEMS RELATING TO HUNGARY

1. The Situation of Imre Nagy and General Maleter (Associated Press)

Budapest, 5 April - Communist leader Janos Kadar last night dodged the question of a trial for ex-Premier Imre Nagy but confirmed that Gen. Pal Maleter, a leader of the 1956 revolution, is held in Budapest.

Nagy served briefly as Premier in the uprising. Maleter was arrested by the Russians while negotiating the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Kadar declined to say where Nagy is.

"He is in a Summer resort, where he wanted to go," the Hungarian leader said at a reception for Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Nagy is believed to be in Romania.

As for Maleter, Kadar said: "We are taking good care of him. He is in Budapest, under charges."

2. Foreign Relations

(a) The Visit of Premier Khrushchev to Hungary

(1) Associated Press

Washington, 4 April - The United States accused Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev today of distorting U.S. summit conference policy while standing amid scenes of Soviet "slaughter . . . and treachery" in Hungary.

A State Department statement sharply chided Khrushchev for demanding a show of "good will" on the issue of suspending nuclear weapons tests. It prodded him to reply quickly to a Western proposal for beginning diplomatic talks later this month on summit conference arrangements.

The United States reaction was voiced by State Department press officer Lincoln White after Khrushchev, on a visit to Budapest, called on this country and Britain to follow the Soviet example and announce suspension of the testing of nuclear weapons. Khrushchev said he was prepared to accept international supervision of a ban on tests, but White noted that Khrushchev did not say what he meant by international supervision.

On this issue the Eisenhower administration is now engaged in a top level review, with a prospect of decisions possibly modifying U.S. policy in two or three weeks. But there is no prospect of any American suspension of tests by agreement with other nations until after the imminent Pacific test series is completed next Summer.

The State Department statement indicated a considerable irritation in Washington with what some authorities consider Khrushchev's successful propaganda campaign. It also showed a readiness to throw hard punches back at the Soviet Premier in the first on-the-record comment made in response to public statements by him since he took over the Premiership from Nikolai Bulganin last week.

White recalled that a United Nations resolution, opposed by the Soviet bloc but overwhelmingly adopted by the rest of the General Assembly, last November had outlined a step-by-step disarmament program beginning with a test ban under international inspection. Picking up Khrushchev's use of the "good will" idea, White said that this resolution represented "the greatest expression of intention of good will" which had been made in recent months but it was rejected by the Soviet Union.

"It is perhaps significant," White added, "that this statement by Mr. Khrushchev is made in Budapest where the U.S.S.R. demonstrated its 'good will' by the slaughter of Hungarian people just over a year ago when they sought to lift from their backs the yoke of a foreign imposed domination.

"The world will long remember the use of Soviet tanks and treachery on that occasion.

"Mr. Khrushchev's statement that 'no Member State of the United Nations could possibly consent to authorizing anybody to discuss its political system' is a case in point. It is Mr. Khrushchev who stands in Budapest -- not in Moscow -- and interprets the political situation in Hungary."

Stalinvaros, 5 April - Nikita Khrushchev warned the West today to keep hands off Hungary. But he told Hungarian Communists they had better be ready to fight their own battles if another revolt breaks out.

The Soviet Premier said his Government thought long and hard before it sent troops to crush the 1956 uprising. He told Hungarian Communists to toughen up.

"You should not think that if the counter-revolution comes again, you can depend on the Russians to come again and help," he declared. "You must help yourselves."

Apparently Khrushchev did not mean to imply he was imposing a strict ban on Soviet armed help. Rather, it seemed he was speaking as a father telling his son that he was getting big enough now to take care of himself. Then he implied that if the son got into real trouble the father would be there to help.

Shaking his pudgy fist, Khrushchev warned the West:

"We tell the enemies of socialism and communism that we do not care if you curse us, but if you touch us, you will regret it."

(In Washington, authorities saw in Khrushchev's speech an order to speed up a purge of non-Communists from positions of potential power or influence. They expected Khrushchev's visit to Hungary would be followed by a wave of arrests.)

Though Khrushchev said he had not intended to make a speech here in this industrial city named after Stalin, he ended up by giving the Hungarian Communists both a lecture and a crack on the knuckles. He spoke with great seriousness and with some ferocity about putting down the 1956 revolt.

"We had to make a decision," he said. "Should we help or stand aside? We thought a long time what to do. Then we decided we could not stand by to watch the hanging of Communists and the best sons of the working class."

The Russians recently ordered many of their troops home from Hungary, but foreign military observers here estimate that from 60,000 to 80,000 will remain.

Urging the Hungarian Party led by ex-Premier Janos Kadar to tighten up its ranks, the Soviet leader said:

"I advise you not to look just in front of your noses. Look beyond. Your class consciousness should be stronger and you should see more clearly who is a friend and who is an enemy. You must be tougher, so tough that your enemies will always know that the Hungarian working class will not waver for a minute."

Dressed in black coat and hat, Khrushchev came to Stalinvaros in an entourage of Russian, American and German automobiles. It was the fourth day of his visit to Hungary. He stopped on the 40-mile route along the Danube from Budapest to wave to cheering crowds, listen to a gypsy band and on some occasions to say a few words. Kadar was with him.

He took a quick tour through the Stalinvaros steel works, a movie theater and a few apartments.

At the mass meeting in Gorki Square, he climbed to the speakers stand and cracked that he hadn't planned to speak. He had no notes.

"But they told there was going to be a lunch," he said, "and you know we have a slogan -- no work, no eat."

Khrushchev said guests should not criticize but he urged the Hungarians to increase their productivity and strengthen their labor discipline to raise living standards.

He said he had been urged in a message from a non-Communist overseas not to come to Hungary, but that if he did to go with a strong bodyguard.

He has one with him.

"Our delegation came here and we were very proud to come," he said.

"We helped you. It was unselfish help. As part of our help our soldiers had to shed their blood for your freedom."

(ii) United Press

Budapest, 7 April - Frol P. Koslov, who came to Hungary as Nikita Khrushchev's new lieutenant, is on easy and affable terms with his chief but keeps well in the background at public events.

Western observers said Koslov seems to be feeling his way and as yet is anxious to remain just a No. 2 man as shown during the four days he has spent here with the Communist Party boss.

The Russian delegation today planned to visit agricultural areas of Hungary, journeying to Szeglec, 45 miles East of Budapest, Zsolnok, 60 miles to the East, and Karcag, 90 miles to the East. They were visiting collective farms in the areas.

Yesterday the Soviet delegation took a day off.

(The London News Chronicle speculated that Khrushchev might have used the opportunity to meet secretly with Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia in hopes of patching up the erratic relations between the two countries).

(b) United States-Hungarian Relations (Associated Press)

Budapest, 4 April - Khrushchev was guest of honor at a night reception in parliament building. He talked and joked with many of the 2,000 guests.

Hungary's Communist boss Janos Kadar disclosed at the party that he has discussed Hungarian-U.S. relations with Khrushchev several times.

"You can expect an interesting move on our part," Kadar said. "I have never been a businessman but as a worker I have dealt with businessmen. They are very intelligent. They know that it is useful to have good relations." Kadar declined any further details.

Endre Sik, a Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, later told a reporter Hungary wants to exchange Ministers with Washington. The United States has maintained only a Charge d'Affaires here since last year, after Soviet troops crushed a Hungarian revolt in 1956.

The Charge d'Affaires, Garret Ackerson Jr., made one of his infrequent appearances at a Hungarian Government reception. Like other guests he shook hands with Khrushchev and with Hungarian leaders. But he left the party early.

Kadar, who recently yielded the Premier job to limit his public role to that of Party boss, talked gaily with Western newsmen. He joshed American correspondents about the good jobs some American political figures get after they quit Government service.

But he showed some bitterness about the partial diplomatic boycott of Hungary by the United States and other Western nations.

"If you were at the mass meeting today you could see we are not isolated," Kadar said. "Sometimes diplomats come to our parties, sometimes they do not, we can stand it."

Washington, 5 April - Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev has apparently ordered Red leaders in Hungary to broaden and speed up a purge of non-Communists from positions of potential power or influence.

That was the probable significance seen by experts here today in Khrushchev's declaration in a speech at Stalinvaros, Hungary, that that country's Communists must not count on Soviet help if a new revolt develops.

Washington authorities did not interpret this as a reversal by Khrushchev of the Soviet policy of October-November 1956 when Moscow's armored divisions were used to crush an anti-Communist revolt.

They took Khrushchev's words to mean, instead, that he wants to impress on Hungary's Communist ranks that they must be ruthless in eliminating what the Reds call "bourgeois" or middle class influences in Hungary's political life -- in other words, speed the process of consolidating Communist power.

If this is true and new waves of arrests follow, there is little likelihood of any early change in the strained relationship which has existed between Washington and Budapest since the unsuccessful revolt.

Red Premier Janos Kadar said in Budapest last night that the problem of Hungarian-U.S. relations was gone over in his talks with Khrushchev during the last few days. He said there would be some interesting move on Hungary's part. An aide said later Hungary wants to exchange Ministers with Washington.

The last U.S. representative assigned there was Edward T. Wailles, a career diplomat, who arrived in the Fall of 1956 as the revolution was developing. After the Kadar regime was formed under the protection of Soviet guns, Wailles was instructed not to present his credentials -- in other words, not to do anything which would imply U.S. approval of Kadar. Kadar subsequently demanded that he either check in formally or get out. Wailles got out.

Since then neither country has had high level diplomatic representation with the other. The United States has somewhat relaxed travel restrictions on Americans going into Hungary since the end of 1956. Officials say any U.S. citizen with a good reason to go there would probably be permitted to do so. But they also say there has been no active consideration here of any change in Washington-Budapest diplomatic relations.

(a) Polish-Hungarian Relations (Associated Press)

Warsaw, 4 April - The Communist Party newspaper Trybuna Ludu today for the first time gave full support to the Soviet line that the 1956 Hungarian revolt was part of a Western imperialist plot.

"The counter-revolutionaries and their imperialist protectors dreamed of Hungary as a springboard for aggressive plans against the countries of Socialism," the paper said.

"The marching in of the Soviet armed forces once and for all disrupted the calculations of internal and international reaction," it added. "The rule of the people was saved. The plans of imperialism were frustrated."

Trybuna Ludu has reflected more independence from the Soviet lines since Poland took a turn away from the Kremlin in the fall of 1956. It has not previously condemned the Hungarian uprising in such terms. There were some Polish expressions of sympathy for the Hungarians at the time of the revolt.