

Hungary 13 Sept. 1956

Carl Altman on Post-Rakosi (H)

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 Budapest, September 11 - (AP) - Rakosi's name has disappeared very quickly from the Hungarian political dictionary but corrections of his policies seem to be carried out much slower, according to IMRA (Belgrade) of September 9. In an article entitled "New Threads of Confidence", Gyere Altman in general favorably evaluates present trends in Hungarian political life. In his opinion they will bring about a rebirth of confidence by party members in their leaders which "suffered a serious crisis especially in the turbulent months after the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party". Altman said "it was one of the essential, if not the most essential, problems of the country, party and its leadership".

Altman added: "The responsibility for this crisis is divided between the policy followed after 1948 and before 1953 and indecisiveness and inconsistency in reversing the consequences of such a policy. It must not be lost from sight that in Hungary already in 1953 - earlier than in any country of Eastern Europe - a rather radical program of democratization was proclaimed, but its implementation suffered for years because of resistance waged by Stalinist elements.

"First of all because of Rakosi himself whose own political burden, i.e. the responsibility for old policies, made it impossible 'to open a new, clear page of the Party history'. All in all, it could be said that the zig-zag line of party policy after 1953 was chiefly responsible for party members losing their confidence in the leaders of the Hungarian Workers Party. The Hungarian Communists have in the meantime become witnesses of the fact that an essentially positive program was proclaimed but greatest part of it was not implemented until recently.

Cont. - 19 June paper on (H) JOURNALISTS
REHABILITATION

The rehabilitation took place, however, only a year later when Marcus Saknai at a provincial meeting announced this important fact with a few words. One day after the speech the press published it, only very modestly and unobtrusively in the text while this important fact was not mentioned in the headlines or in sub-titles. Repitals took place. Some newspapermen with positions of responsibility editors and members of the editorial board of the Party paper ISKRA, of the Patriotic National Front NAZAR KAZAK and other prominent papers were, according to the decision of the biggest party forum, expelled from the ranks of the BCP and dismissed from the newspapers. Others got away with a minor Party punishment and were relieved from their duties.

"All in all their views were officially strongly condemned. Until a short time ago their situation did not change. However, after the plenum of the CC in July, at an initiative from 'above' a positive process of rehabilitation started, although not one of the expelled party members or the above mentioned newspapermen renounced his previous point of view. A special commission consisting of members of the Central Committee, members of the Central Commission and officials of the CC apparatus investigated the matter. The newspapermen received full satisfaction after several discussions; those who have been party members were re-admitted to the Party, the punishment of those who have been punished, was cancelled and all were offered their former duties in the editorial offices. Some received at once a material indemnification for the time that they had been removed from their jobs. However, the most important in the entire matter is the fact that not one of the rehabilitated has renounced his previous point of view. This has not been requested. The request of 'non culpa' (no guilt) was omitted; all have been re-admitted with the same point of view for which they have been expelled. Fine, the further development of events and also the Party line confirmed any of these views.

(Art. (2) YUGO paper on (H) *REALISTS'*
REHABILITATION

"A certain confusion has been created among many observers in Budapest. The question has been put what is the meaning of these rehabilitations, to which extent is this a recognition of the asserted, not recognized "Sagris"? Is this not perhaps a step in resolving the problem which, as it seems, will be subject of further discussions on a higher level as up to now? Is this not perhaps an inquiry for making further important steps toward realization of unity of the Party?"

"It is difficult to give an answer today. Nevertheless, the very facts speak for themselves in a positive language."

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