

(H) - FULLER 'BIOG.' OF KADAR.

SEE EVALUATION AND RESEARCH SECTION

BACKGROUND REPORT

(Hungarian Research)

23 October 1954

FULLER BIOGRAPHY OF JAMES KADAR.

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Budapest announced at 12:30 hours that the Politbureau had divested Erno GEMO of his office as First Secretary of the Hungarian Workers' Party Central Committee. The Politbureau appointed James KADAR in his place.

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James KADAR was born on November 9, 1912 in the village of KAPOLY, county Somogy. His parents were poor peasants. The family was very poor and the young KADAR could only finish his higher elementary education by helping his mother (who in the meantime went to live in BUDAPEST) to deliver papers. He was trained to be a mechanic.

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At the age of 17 he joined the youth organization of the Ironworkers' Union. In 1931, two years later, he became a member of the Association of the Young Communist Workers, which was working underground at the time. One year later he joined the Hungarian Communist Party and became secretary general of the youth organization in the same year. He was one of the most active organizers of the underground Communist Party. From 1931 on, he was under continuous police supervision and arrested several times. During this time he spent altogether three years in prison.

In 1935, KADAR became a member of the Party's Politbureau, where he remained uninterruptedly till 1941, when he was imprisoned by HANCOCK. In prison he developed a firm friendship with Soltau VAS.

During the war, KADAR was one of the most active organizers of the opposition, together with Laszlo RAJK. In the Hungarian National Independent Front, in which the Social Democrat Party, the Independent Smallholder Party and the National Peasant Party grouped together against the HORTHY regime and the German occupation, KADAR took part as a member of the Politbureau of the Communist Party. It was his task to maintain relations between the Communist Party and the non-Communist Democratic parties. He directed the Party's underground press, both the editing and distribution. In 1941 it was he who organized the circulation of the Party's newly formed underground paper, Dashed Nap.

In 1944, after the German occupation, the GESTAPO arrested him, but he kept his name secret and was later able to escape.

After the Russians occupied BUDAPEST he was the first to organize the BUDAPEST association of the Hungarian Communist Party. Immediately after the siege of BUDAPEST

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he participated in the organization of the HUNGARIAN police. For a time he was deputy chief of police. At the end of 1948 the Politbureau appointed him to be head of the Party's organization, which had until then been in the hands of László RAJK.

In the 1948 elections, KADAR entered Parliament on the list of the Communist Party for the constituency of county Nagrad. He remained a member until his arrest.

In 1948 he became the Party's deputy first secretary. At that time Matyas RAKOSI was the first secretary. He retained his post also after the fusion in 1948 with the Social Democrat Party.

In August 1948 he received his first government appointment. He was appointed Minister of the Interior in the place of RAJK, who was sent aside in the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was Minister of the Interior at the time of the MINISZENTY and RAJK trials. Up to December 29, 1949, the State Security Authorities came under the Minister of the Interior, then becoming an independent organization responsible to the Council of Ministers, which on December 29, 1949, entrusted János KADAR with its supervision.

In June 1950 he was relieved of the office of Minister of the Interior.

In February 1951, he made an important speech at the second congress of the Hungarian Workers' Party on the question of organization. He demanded the enrolling of more members. He condemned education and developing bureaucracy. After the congress, the Central Committee elected him to the Politbureau, the Secretariat and the Organizing Committee. A few months later KADAR was arrested.

Contrary to the RAJK affair, no official statement was given on KADAR's arrest and the court did not hear his case openly. Several other leading Communists were arrested with KADAR, including Gyula KADAR, foreign minister, Ferenc DONATH and Géza LOSONCZI, former secretaries of state etc.

KADAR was released from prison in 1954, at the time of Imre NÁDY's new course. The release from prison took place but the rehabilitation failed to come about because in the meantime NÁDY fell and RAKOSI resumed power.

After his release KADAR first became the first secretary of the HUNGARIAN XIII. district Party committee, and later was appointed first secretary of the county Pest Party committee.

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His complete rehabilitation took place only on July 18 this year, when the Central Committee forced HANSHI to resign. LASHI became a member of both the Politbureau and the secretariat. It was in this capacity that he led the Party delegation to the Chinese Party Congress and took part in the POLSKIE delegation.

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