

(A-3)-CABINET

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FROM THE EVALUATION AND RESEARCH SECTION

BACKGROUND REPORT

(Hungary)

27 October 1956

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MEMO ON NEW HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT (third release)

Minister of
Interior:

Ferenc BEREC.

Fought in the Spanish civil war; police commander of post-war HUNGARY. At the time of the RAKE affair he was appointed Minister to Finland; later he became Minister to Bulgaria and then Ambassador to the Soviet Union. In August 1956, became Minister in BELGRADE. He is an old-time enemy of Matyas RAKOSI.

Minister of
Defense:

Karoly JARAI.

Major General, former metal-worker. Was deputy Minister of Defense in former cabinets.

Minister of
Finance:

Istvan KOSZTA.

From May 1951 until May 1953 he was chief of the State Church Office, later became Minister of Metallurgy and Machine Industry. When this ministry was dissolved he was appointed president of the Labor Reserve Office. In January 1955 he became first deputy president of the National Planning Office.

Minister of
Justice:

Erik MOCSAR.

Held same position in the previous cabinet. He is a lawyer, chairman of the Hungarian Federation of Jurists, chairman of the permanent government committee on constitutional and administrative law, and one of the main histerians of the Communist Party. Won the Kossuth Prize twice and is member of the Hungarian Scientific Academy. Held various positions in several former cabinets since 1949, and was for a short time Ambassador to Moscow.

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Minister of Metallurgy
and Machinery:

James ISSEROC.

Has held the same position since 1954. He is a turner by trade.

Minister of
Health:

Arnal BARCIS.

An outstanding urologist, Kossuth Prize holder, former Dean of the Medical School of the BUDAPEST University. In March 1953, when he was director of the BUDAPEST Károlyi Street Hospital (known as the principal hospital of the Hungarian security police) he was suspended from his position and arrested, very likely in connection with the denunciation and arrest of former security police boss Sator FEJER. He reappeared, however, early in 1954. In July 1956 he was awarded the title of outstanding physician and received a 3,000 forint cash prize.

Minister of Mining
and Power:

Sándor GRÖTNER.

He has been Minister of Mining and Power since 1951.

(NONE LATER)