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HUNGARIAN DAILY BACKGROUND

(To 1200 hours December 21.)

1. Mass Unemployment Imminent.

Statements made by the government and state union leaders, and the catastrophic coal situation, show that large-scale unemployment is impending. (See detailed background information in Hungarian Daily Background of December 20.) Hungary's trade unions are urging an unemployment date, to ensure at least "minimum subsistence" for workers expected to lose their jobs, while the country's industrial machine still grinds along in bottom gear with insufficient raw materials, coal and electric power. Leuter reported from BUDAPEST that an official government statement said that metallurgical and engineering plants were on "short time," working only three days a week, because of shortage of electric power.

Sandor GAIKAR, chief secretary of the trades union council, said: "The workers in our country are faced with two grave dangers: inflation and mass unemployment."

It is difficult to give an estimate of how many people will be dismissed from their jobs. One of the Radio Kossuth commentaries which first mentioned the danger of mass unemployment said that "several thousand" unemployed was to be expected.

2. New Political Police To Be Set Up.

Dr. Genn SZENESI, chief prosecutor, declared at the chief prosecutors' department session on December 19 that political investigation sections would be organized within the police "to deal with the clearing up and the prevention of criminal acts committed against the state." He denied rumors that the government would take over the disbanded AVN.

Ferenc NEMTAL, head of the Ministry of Justice, also spoke at the meeting. He held out the prospect of measures to guarantee the independence of the courts. There should be a guarantee, he said, that "our decrees safeguarding the independence of courts should

be fully effective, in order that our judges can pass sentences in accordance with their conscience and their convictions as judges, and be void of all outside influences." KISSAL denied rumors of a return to political life of Erno GERO and declared that "Erno GERO could return to Hungary only as an accused man, to account for the crimes he committed against the Hungarian working people."

The AP report on the decree of the Presidium contrasts with statements on the continuation of liberalizing lawfulness. This decree, published in the official gazette, said that "persons whose activity or behavior endanger public order, especially production, can be placed under detention of public security." The decree, which noticeably did not mention internment but "detention of public security," was not published in the government press, which is on sale to the population, but only in the official gazette, which has a very limited circulation. The decree said: "On the recommendation of police authorities, the state prosecutor can order the detention, which will be carried out by the police. The chief prosecutor must investigate the cause of the detained person within 30 days, and the "detention of public security" can last a maximum of six months. The decree is valid for one year. So far Radio Kossuth has not announced this decree.

1. Writers in Exile and Prison.

During the past few weeks five noted Hungarian writers escaped. János ACSELI, Cometh- and Stalin-prisewinner, is at present in BRUSSELS. He played an important role in the months of the peaceful revolution. He was elected to the last leadership of the Writers' Union and attracted attention with his poem "Ode to Europe," in which he wrote about the Hungarian people's belonging to Europe. In BRUSSELS he told a "New York Times" correspondent: "I am not a Communist anymore; perhaps you could call me a Socialist. I used to think that Marxism-Leninism was a good theory. But I have seen its evil results and I, for one, cannot stop at blaming STALIN and Stalinism." He said he would like to emigrate to the US.

Fal INOTTUS, a Socialist, is at present in LONDON. He was released in March 1956, after almost seven years in prison. On September 17, at the general meeting of the Writers' Union, he was elected to the Presidium although he had not been one of the candidates.

Syrgy FAUDY, also a Socialist, whose name became known for his Villos translations, is in VIENNA. He spent five years in various

internment camps, the last being the notorious REOSE camp, the cruellest of all.

Sadre ERSELI, writer, arrived in VIENNA a few days ago. He is not a significant writer and had no important part in the revolution of intellectuals. He intends to emigrate with his family to New Zealand. Gyorgy FALCOIT HOSFATH, writer, is also in LONDON. During the days before the revolution he wrote strongly critical articles in "Irodalmi Ujsag."

According to an article in "Mai Nap," several writers were arrested during the last week. The article mentions Tiber BERTY and Miklos MOLNAR (since released) and Gyula FEKETE and Eoltan MOLNAR, who are still under arrest. BERTY's part is well-known. Miklos MOLNAR is a former Peasant Party journalist. On November 1 an article of his appeared in "Szabad Nap" in which he attacked the "Pravda" allegations of a counter-revolution in Hungary. Eoltan MOLNAR was the Party secretary of SURAPENTHEIS (formerly SZALINYAROS.) Gyula FEKETE, a former Peasant Party journalist, wrote a sensational article in "Munkalt Nap" and "Irodalmi Ujsag" in the weeks preceding the revolution.

We have no reliable information on the fate of other writers.

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