

(H) - HUNGARIAN COMMUNIST ANOTHER ATTACK ON WRITERS

News Background

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MUNICH, 17 December (REASON).... Discussing the present situation of Hungarian literature in yesterday's issue of Nepszabadsag; Lajos Nesterhazi said that if one considered the "point of departure", the cultural balance of the year 1957 is not "negligible".

The "opposition" attitude of "certain groups" of writers had ended. They were now working and nearly 33 per cent were members of the party.

Their change of heart was due to: political and historical events of the past few months, among them the affirmation of the international position of the Soviet Union and the "socialist camp"; the process of consolidation in Hungary; discussions between party and non-party writers; and the administrative measures taken — "but in a feeble measure".

Nesterhazi said that a number of writers had played a "more or less important role" in the preparation of the events of October 1956. They have "already comprized but they have still not begun the process of correcting their faults". They write but they evade real problems. One cannot say that the vestiges of foreign and dangerous ideologies have disappeared. It is still necessary to struggle against these vestiges by Marxist criticism.

This was the latest in a number of recent attacks against Hungarian writers, many of whom are apparently still holding out against regime demands that they confess their past mistakes and support the present regime line.

The most flagrant "administrative measure" yet taken — so far as is known here -- was the sentencing last month of the writers Dery, Fay, Tardos and Salk to varying terms of imprisonment for their parts in the Hungarian Revolution. There have, however, been other reports of arrests of Hungarian writers and intellectuals.

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The Hungarian Marxist philosopher Georgy Lukacs was sharply attacked in the last issue of the Hungarian monthly theoretical journal "Társadalmi Szemle" for his "revisionist" views — specifically his warning that "Leninism" might turn into a "dogmatic religion" just as "Stalinism" had, unless necessary precautions were taken.

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A speech delivered by Gyorgy Maroson on December 6th was a long harangue against the writers who remain silent. His speech was in honor of the poet Attila Jozsef and was later printed in "Nepeszkudlak" and the People's Patriotic Front newspaper "Magyar Hossz". The central point of the speech was the warning: "and we say it plainly: the writer, the poet and artist who keeps silent now and who shuts himself up within his four walls is alien to the people which fights its heroic struggle for socialism and a better tomorrow."

End

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