

-X H- MUNNICH BIOGRAPHY

REF INFO & INFORMATION  
EVALUATION & RESEARCH

1958

Name Background

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MUNNICH, January 27, (Hungarian Evaluation & Research) -- Born in 1896, MUNNICH studied in the northern part of Hungary and in KOLOSEVAR (Transylvania) where he read for the bar. He joined the army in World War I as a cadet, was transferred to the Russian front and was soon taken prisoner. In 1917 he recruited Hungarians into the Red Army in the TCHIE prisoner-of-war camp and later fought himself in one of the Red regiments.

He returned to Hungary in 1918 and became one of the founders of the Communist Party. During the period of the 1919 republic he was appointed commandant of the REDARIST Red guards, later the political representative of the sixth Red division and finally the political representative of the Red army headquarters.

After the defeat of the 1919 republic MUNNICH fled to the USSR where he became one of the leaders of the mineral oil industry. In 1936 he volunteered for the Spanish front where, under the name of Otto FLATTEK, he became head of one of the revolutionary divisions, then commandant of the 11th International Brigade.

After the defeat of the Spanish Government forces he was interned in France, then returned to the USSR. He also took part in World War II and was present at the battle of STALINGRAD.

MUNNICH returned to Hungary in autumn 1945, was first appointed High Sheriff of PEST, then Chief Commandant of the REDARIST police. Later he entered the diplomatic service, was ambassador in Finland (1949), in Bulgaria (1950) and in MOSCOW (September 1954).

Following the fall of RAKOSI at the beginning of August 1956 MUNNICH was appointed Ambassador in BELGRADE. At the beginning of the revolutionary events he was called back. On 24 October 1956 he was elected to the new Central Committee of the NWP and on 27 October 1956 was appointed Minister of the Interior in the first Imre NAGY government.

MUNNICH was not included in the second Imre NAGY government which was formed on 1 November 1956. According to reliable private information, MUNNICH left the House of Parliament without prior notice in the morning of November 2, accompanied by KASAR, and

X H - ① - MUNNICH BIOGRAPHY.

NEWS BACKGROUND, INFO. EVAL. & RESEARCH], January 27, page 2

dress to the Soviet Embassy in BUDAPEST.

F 94

MUNNICH was one of the founders of the EADAR government on November 4 in which he held the post of Deputy Premier and Minister of the Armed Forces and Public Safety.

MUNNICH was also founder of the HSWP and was elected member of the Central and Executive Committee on 18 February 1957. He was also made First Deputy Premier.

On 10 June 1957, when the HSWP worked out its final organization, he was confirmed as member of the Central Committee and was also made member of the Politburo. He still holds both positions.

According to several, as yet unconfirmed, sources MUNNICH was during the war for a time one of the editors of the MOSCOW Hungarian broadcasts.

It is worthy of attention that on 23 October 1957 MUNNICH wrote a commemorative article on Bela Kun. The article was hailed by "Kommunist" as the first to give an accurate picture of the personality and fighting life of Bela Kun.

End

JFW.