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News BackgroundHUNGARIAN PAPER ON "LOVE AND THE CLASS STRUGGLE" INHUNGARY

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30 Munich, December 15 (Stankovic) -- Hungarian poets are facing a dilemma. "Can they write poems about love while the class struggle continues?" -- asks Tenzing's correspondent in Budapest Milosh Chorovich.

Chorovich's thoughts were published in the December issues of the Sarajevo Daily "Oslobodjenje" and Ljubljana daily "Delo" under the title "Love and the Class Struggle". The Yugoslav journalist was reviewing a book of poems by György Szilagy in an edition of 3,400 copies by the Budapest publishing house "Eriny". According to Chorovich this book of poems is very strange one. To prove this he quotes the introductory poem by Szilagy, which reads:

"They tell me I am only a Party poet.
Fools. There is nothing more
Precious than this.
I am happy to deserve the name.
Let dogs bark... I shall have
Time enough to write poems on love
When the class struggle is only a memory
Or I am very old..."

Chorovich further said that with his 37 poems Szilagy "discloses to any patient reader the sources of his poetic inspirations" for he writes poems "about the greyness of the Budapest suburbs in the past, about exploitation, class struggle, the Party congress, about the May 1, workers' militia, about the Russian tanks penetrating the city on 4 November 1958. He is today 31 years old and he states the following in one of his poems:

"Thirty years passed by,
But this thirty first is the
Most beautiful,
Because in this year
I became a member of the
Workers' militia."

Szilagy greets "guns from the Russian tanks" forcing their way into Budapest on 4 November 1958 and writes about a father telling his little son:

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"Do you hear how glib are
Singing a poem,
A poem about the renewed brotherhood."

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The preface for Sallagy's book of poems was written by János Földes, whom Cherevich criticizes for his "dictatorial attitude". Földes, according to the Yugoslav journalist, "has condemned everybody in advance... who would repudiate Sallagy's poetry". Földes called Sallagy "a poet -- politician".

The Hungarian Party organ "Nepszabadsag", Cherevich said, expressed "its dismay about some poems" in Sallagy's book, but "did not claim that the book should not have been published". It only criticized Földes "for his dictatorial attitude in not allowing anybody to have an opposite opinion".

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