

which, 16 September 1969 (East Europe Research and Analysis - Hungarian Unit) -- In contrast to recent years in the literary field in Poland, the Hungarians are openly calling for closer contact between writers at home and abroad, recognizing the need to deal with émigré writers on a strictly individual basis, and calling for widespread publication and distribution of the works of those émigré writers in Hungary if Hungary is to expect them, the émigrés, to display an equal amount of interest in what is being published in Hungary today.

An article on this subject has appeared in the latest issue of the Hungarian literary weekly, Népszava. It is written by Gábor Hegedus, one of the representatives of the Hungarian PEN Club at the recent International PEN Club Congress held in Bled, Yugoslavia. Hegedus is a well-known, middle-aged writer who is the holder of several Hungarian regime literary awards. He points out that while there were only "six of us from Hungary at Bled, 15 other Hungarian writers from various parts of the world lent additional weight to the representation of Hungarian literature," and goes on to stress the unfortunate fact that all too many of these, along with many others, are unknown to readers in Hungary. "Even if we judge them pessimistically, saying that nine out of 10 books [published in Hungarian abroad] are poor, insignificant, hostile or boring, only a little optimism is needed to permit us to state that there might be one out of every 10 in which we are interested. And we cannot renounce even that small number. (Is every one of the literary products written at home a masterpiece?)"

Hegedus then points out that "We must begin with the statement that, in the West, too, there is a leftist Hungarian literature, which reflects an ideology ranging from a leftist bourgeoisie to a definitely Communist one. Neither can we leave out of consideration those writers who, although they philosophically deviate from us, agree on the policy of peaceful coexistence. There are émigré poets and writers with whom I could never agree, if it is a question concerning some public matter, but to whom I cannot deny their artistic importance and humanitarian attitude." Putting these objectives into practice, Hegedus then lists a number of writers living outside Hungary whose works he would like to see published at home, including Lajos Zilahy and

Senior Tardai (an LIA contributor), who are US residents, Dr. Imbo of the JSC, and three writers who are RFE staffers: Milton Spake, James Tessie and Peter Bickich (although they are not identified as such). Among other named writers whom he singles out for the excellence of their work are Pal Takori, a long-time resident of England, László Gere, a 1954 refugee, and translator into French of Hungarian works, and György Tóthgyóti, a Hungarian aristocrat who, in Horthy times, was a district administrator.

Magdas concludes his article by stressing that "We have to cooperate with this work. Sooner or later, we must secure the Hungarian literature of all the continents. We have to find contacts with the Hungarian literature of every continent. If we expect them, the remote ones, to know and acknowledge us, then surely they, too, can expect us to publish their most outstanding works."

A translation of the full text of this article is available in Hungarian Press Survey, No. 1840 of today.

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