

# Hungary -- An Appeal

By an Eyewitness

**C**OMRADES! Workers all over the world! Men and women! Wake up to your undoubted duty to protest by some action, both collectively and individually, against the temporary conquest of Hungary by the combined forces of reaction!

Only those of us who have actually been in Hungary during the recent regime of the Communist Government can realize the perfidy and double-dealing of the Allies, with the Roumanians as willing tools, and the enormous loss to humanity and the workers all over the world if the short-lived success of the Imperialists dims for one moment the vision of Internationalists or allows them to become victims of discouragement. You who have not been there to see for yourselves the constructive work done by the Communists, read the facts and disseminate the knowledge broadcast. If you are speakers, thrill your audiences with the hope which the new ideal inspires. If you are organizers, gather together small groups everywhere to consider action. "Workers of the world unite!" Demonstrate your solidarity and use the power so feared by those "in the saddle" just now.

Fortunately a Hapsburg has been chosen by the Allies to set up a "truly representative government" in Hungary. Happily no pseudo-Socialist government, as in Germany and Austria, camouflages for the unintelligent and unsophisticated workers, organized or unorganized, the true designs of the Council of Five.

How funny it would be if it were not so tragic for our comrades in Hungary. Five men in Paris having encouraged the Roumanians in their perfidious aggressions for months, calmly expecting them to give up the "loot" as soon as the "Bolshevist Beast" is safely locked up; and, finding their ally obdurate, clamping on the new blockade. That's the way. Starve everybody! Of course tactful intervention was only countenanced by Paris to save the starving women and children of Hungary dying under the wicked Communist "misrule." The "Times" stated in a recent dispatch from Paris:

"It is also stated in official dispatches that Roumanians in Budapest are pillaging and committing atrocities. Mr. Polk has announced that supplies to Hungary have been stopped, and declares that the Allies' view is that the new government (meaning the Roumanians) cannot possibly expect countenance from the Allies since it is so definitely reactionary as TO BE CERTAIN TO ENCOURAGE BOLSHEVISM."

You see. Everything encouraged "Bolshevism." It is feared by the "respectable" Paris Press, that the nice little Hapsburg Archduke so conveniently near the scene at the proper moment, "may encourage Bolshevism." One correspondent from Vienna began his dispatch the other day by saying that the Bolshevik terror was beaten and that the streets of Budapest no longer ran with rivers of blood spilled by the Red Guards. And in the next paragraph he said: "My information comes over a private wire from Budapest, and doubtless the inhabitants of the city do not know of their deliverance yet, but will be apprised early tomorrow morning."

Knowing something of the racial hatred between the Roumanians and the Hungarians, I would hazard a guess that the inhabitants of Budapest have been sure of their "deliverance" every minute of these last terrible ten days.

At a meeting which I held in the Budapest House of Parliament with the leaders of the revolutionary women in June, they told me what the Roumanian occupation was already bringing forth in some of the provinces. Women were beaten, outraged, brutally murdered because they wore a small red ribbon pinned to their waists.

Hundreds of them were even then suffering imprisonment.

What is the fate of the twenty women members of the Budapest Soviet now that the City has been "delivered"? I can see them now as they told me of the way they had worked for years under the Hapsburgs organizing and inspiring faith in their cause until they saw the fruits of their victory. They recounted to me how they had already secured equal pay for equal work, so that scrub-women received the highest wage paid. Women teachers had been given a living wage, public baths had been organized so that every child got a bath a week. They had adapted confiscated villas on Lake Balaton for the use of sick children. The orphan children were no longer isolated in hideous orphan asylums. The young girls under eighteen were sent out of factories back to schools and paid while they studied. The older women received at least two hundred per cent more wages than ever before, etc.

I can see Bela Kun, overworked, heavy eyed, but absolutely direct and decided in every answer to my enquiries, working at least sixteen hours a day, speaking at as many as twelve meetings some days, but always available and ready to reveal his every move for the welfare of Hungary. I can see Havesi, the twenty-nine year old Commissaire of Social Production, with his prematurely seamed face and his dead-gone look as he came in night after night to dinner at the Soviet House as late as 9:30 o'clock, but never too tired to explain to me his latest solution for making production both democratic and efficient for the workers, and his plans for using every factory as soon as the Allies would allow imports of raw materials. I can see Hamburger, the Commissaire of Agriculture, bending over his charts dotted with co-operative societies for the distribution of food products which he had already, within two months, organized in the various provinces, or showing me the maps of these provinces where formerly 75 per cent of the land was owned by landed nobility and was totally unproductive. I can see Erdilyi poring over his district maps of Budapest, pointing out where he was going to distribute the food that was brought from the country, and I can see

each and every one of the earnest faces of the Commissaires as they moved about the Soviet House utterly devoid of any show of ostentatious power and seemingly unconscious of their elevated positions. Everybody in the Communist Government worked.

And I can see the various members of the Entente "Missions" strutting about in the streets of Budapest watching which way the cat would jump. Bela Kun welcomed them there, as he had nothing to hide. And then I can see the American Captain Gregory, one of the present voters for Joseph. He tells me that he is watching things closely as he knows no government can stand without food, and then he relates how he expects to feed Vienna better next week when the food comes from the southern provinces of Hungary. He did not say Jugo-Slavia.

And then the last thing I remember is the beautiful pale face of young Maria Gosthonvi, as she sat up in her bed at the socialized hospital recovering from an automobile accident, and with her blue eyes filled with the youthful hope of twenty-one years calmly said to me:

"It really makes little difference whether the Entente succeeds in starving the government of Hungary or not, as the seed of Communism is planted and cannot be killed. I am not nationalistic or individualistic enough to care very much whether this particular government lasts or not, as Communism is sure to triumph by the mere establishment of it in Russia and Hungary, so that the workers can see that it can be done."

Yes, it has been done and can be done again. I wonder how Count Andrássy feels as the Roumanians pillage Budapest. Inasmuch as he was in Switzerland frankly working for the monarchists, does he congratulate himself that he has substituted the foreign conqueror for the native Communist? Having talked with him for three hours I think he will be just as mad as the five are in Paris. And what about the Queen of Roumania? Will she make another trip to Paris and England to "arrange" how small nationalities are to be allowed to practice self-determination, so that Roumania can become the great state fitting for such a Queen to rule? Time will tell. Meanwhile, Comrades, make up your minds what you will do about it.

A. R. H.

## Help Us Build It Strong and Quick

The Communist Party is organized at a moment when a great opportunity for propaganda and organization work is open before it. Industrial unrest is sweeping the country. Strikes great and small, are developing everywhere.

It is our work to direct and organize this unrest. It is our work to clarify the protest against Capitalism and establish the Communist Society.

A great opportunity lies before us now and we must develop our organization quickly in order to take advantage of this opportunity.

Money is needed for this purpose. We must have a big organization fund with which to establish the powerful party machine which is necessary for our work and to begin the work of agitation and organization among the yet unconscious workers.

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