

Czechoslovakia's Democratization Spurs Demands by Hungarians for More Freedoms

By DAVID BINDER
Special to The New York Times

BUDAPEST, June 10 — The process of democratization in Czechoslovakia has given a new impulse to liberalization tendencies in Hungary during the last month.

Acting apparently with the tacit blessing of the Communist party chief, Janos Kadar, Budapest intellectuals have begun to inquire into new aspects of Hungary's Stalinist past with the aim of widening their present liberties. One of their ultimate targets is the elaborate system of press censorship.

Last week the end of the dominance of the secret police was demanded by Andras Hegedus, a former Stalinist high official.

Writing in the monthly Kortars, just out, Mr. Hegedus declared that secret police rule had been established on a

mythical pretense that imperialism had encircled the Communist nations of Eastern Europe and was threatening their existence.

Mr. Hegedus, a former member of the Politburo and associate of Matyas Rakosi, the Stalinist leader, was Premier of Hungary from April, 1955, until the anti-Stalinist revolt of October, 1956. After a period of exile in the Soviet Union, Mr. Hegedus was permitted to return to Budapest in 1958. He now heads a sociological research institute.

Trotsky's Role Conceded

Another taboo recently broken concerns Trotsky, the Russian revolutionary who was exiled and ultimately assassinated in Mexico City on orders of Stalin.

In an interview published in the April issue of Kortars,



Janos Kadar, Communist party chief, is said to approve intellectuals' actions.

Gyorgy Lukacs, a Marxist philosopher, said:

What will a man of the West say of a party history in which 1917 is discussed without mentioning the name of Trotsky and his functions at that time? This is an impossibility. I am really far from sympathizing with Trotsky. But to deny that Trotsky played a great role in the events of 1917 would mean that henceforth anything we say would not be given credence in history."

According to Tibor Petho, editor of the newspaper Magyar Nemzet, the faint anti-Soviet undertone evident in these articles should not be exaggerated.

"If Hungary were a capitalist country, we as a neighbor of a superpower should still be pro-Soviet," he said.

A non-Communist writer said the new critical current in the Hungarian intellectual journals "would not have happened

without the Czechoslovak events."

But Mr. Petho, striking a more cautious note, said:

"The reason was not so much the Czechoslovak events because this approach had been agreed upon before. The Czechs gave an added impulse to deal with problems which had not been discussed in public."

He remarked that Hungarians had already reassessed their national past, with the exception of the Rakosi period.

"The point of Lukacs is that we have to analyze the Rakosi era, too," Mr. Petho continued. "As a philosopher he is right. But practical politicians must be more careful."

Mr. Kadar is said to view the process of democratization in Czechoslovakia as a complement to his own policy of gradual liberalization.

Mr. Kadar was the first Com-

munist party chief to visit Czechoslovakia after the new leadership of Alexander Dubcek took over.

He is understood to have expressed initial support to Mr. Dubcek during their February meetings in the border town of Komarno and again in Prague.

The Hungarian leader is preparing to receive Mr. Dubcek here this week to sign a friendship pact.

Mr. Kadar's positive attitude toward Czechoslovakia's changes is unusual among the European Communist leaders who are tightly allied to the Soviet Union. Wladyslaw Gomułka of Poland and Walter Ulbricht of East Germany have scarcely disguised their anger and fears over the developments in Czechoslovakia.

However, informed sources discount recent Western re-

ports that Mr. Kadar had played a mediating role at East European Communist conferences between Czechoslovakia and the rest of the Soviet bloc.

"That would be overstating the case," said one source, adding that Mr. Kadar acted more as a friendly adviser both to Moscow and to Prague.

There is an enormous contrast between the treatment of the Czechoslovak situation in the Hungarian press and the polemics against the reforms in the newspapers of East Germany, Poland and the Soviet Union.

In a time when more orthodox Communist nations were assailing the Czechoslovaks as antisocialist, newspapers and magazines in Hungary have been publishing extensive interviews with Czech and Slovak politicians and writers.

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