

## Hungarians in Czechoslovakia

### Ambassador Discusses Position of His Government on Minority Question

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Permit me to refer briefly to the letter of Aladár Szegedy Maszák, the Minister of Hungary, published on Feb. 4 as a reply to my letter which appeared in your issue of Jan. 27.

It is not correct that there are 652,000 Hungarians in Czechoslovakia. Neither is the assertion that there are only 100,000 Slovaks in Hungary correct. At the Paris Peace Conference the Czechoslovak delegates proved that there are not more than 500,000 Hungarians in Czechoslovakia, Slovaks who were Magyarized included.

The Czechoslovak mission for the exchange of population between Czechoslovakia and Hungary, which was preparing the transfer in Hungary last summer, had estimated the number of Slovaks in Hungary to be 450,000. The pre-war statistics could not be depended upon, as there were changes in the number of population through war losses, the murder of the Hungarian-speaking Jews, etc. When 100,000 Slovaks had applied in Hungary to be exchanged, the Foreign Minister of Hungary, Mr. Gyöngyösi, declared that only a small part of the Slovaks living in Hungary asked to be transferred to Czechoslovakia.

#### Loyalty to Republic

The Hungarian minority living in Czechoslovakia was a pretext for dismembering Czechoslovakia, as was evidenced by the settlement of Vienna. The Hungarian minority, as a whole, did not act loyally toward Czechoslovakia and no Czechoslovak statesmen could say otherwise. Neither has Mr. Clementis written "enthusiastically about the real democratic feelings of the Hungarians." During the war I also spoke to the Hungarians from the London British Broadcasting Company, but it is necessary to distinguish between war propaganda, when the aim was to gain the Hungarians for the anti-Nazi and anti-Fascist policy, and the facts, which are evident.

Concerning the agreement of the exchange of population of February, 1946, the fact is that it was not limited to 100,000 persons. Because of the Hungarian pressure and persecution of the persons who volunteered for the exchange, only 100,000 Slovaks applied for the exchange. Hungary is doing everything possible to prevent even this exchange of population which was voluntarily agreed upon from taking place. She also has made no steps toward realizing the transfer of 200,000 Hungarians, as stipulated by Article 5 of the Hungarian peace treaty.

Since December, 1945, Czechoslovakia has been suggesting a general solution of the problem of the Hungarian-Slovak minorities to Hungary, but Hungary persistently offers only the revision of the frontiers, a solution which Czechoslovakia cannot accept. Such a solution does not take into consideration such realities as Hungarian participation in the two World Wars on the side of Germany and the Hungarian part in creating and spreading fascism. Hungary could have asked for a solution of that kind only after the victory of Hitler and Mussolini.

#### Report on Labor Draft Quoted

Referring to the transfer of population in accordance with the labor mobilization, may I quote from a report of a correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor which was published in that daily on Jan. 30: "If one concedes that the Czechoslovak Government is right to do, in the existing economic emergency, what Great Britain and other Allied Governments did in wartime—namely, make people work temporarily away from their homes—then there seems no evidence of inhumanity in the way the mobilization has been carried out."

I agree with Minister Szegedy Maszák in that "a solution must be found," and that "both Hungary and Czechoslovakia need good neighbor relations." This is in the interest of peace and security in central Europe. Czechoslovakia wishes, however, never again to be exposed to the possibility of the Hungarian as well as the German minority being used as a Trojan horse and a pretext for the dismemberment and the endangering of the life and the existence of the Czechs and Slovaks, who always were, are and will be the bastion of democracy and freedom.

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Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Washington, Feb. 5, 1947.