


# TODAY ABROAD

by Joseph Clark

## The Latest Events In Hungary



WHAT STARTED as a popular upheaval against Stalinist repressions in Hungary was transformed by the end of last week into a situation bordering on anarchy. Rightist extremists were trying to turn the clock back to Horthyism.

Was the intervention of Soviet troops in Hungary the only barrier to fascism?

Eleven years ago the greatest war of all time was fought against fascism. Mankind recoils from the idea fascism should return anywhere and of all places, in Eastern Europe. It was there that millions perished in the gas ovens at the hands of fascist regimes. It was there that Soviet troops bore the greatest burden and shed torrents of blood to defeat fascism.

Authentic evidence is at hand that supporters of the old Horthy regime slipped across the Austrian border into Hungary during the past few weeks. Within Hungary a clerical right wing political movement was shaping up. Verified reports describe anti-Jewish outbreaks by the right-wing extremists. The rightists had taken advantage of the popular upheaval to such a point that they were even burning books as in Hitler Germany.

It is, nevertheless, a misreading of postwar history, in my opinion to say that only the Soviet army could have successfully barred the way to fascism in Hungary. That was true in World War II, and its immediate aftermath. It was not true after the defeat of the fascist axis and peoples' democratic victories throughout the world.

FINLAND, like Hungary suffered under a totalitarian regime before the war. Finland, like Hungary, was an ally of Hitler in the war. But even though So-

viet troops did not intervene in the internal affairs of Finland fascism did not return to power there. On the contrary, democratic rights were established, and although a conservative government took over, it made friendship with the Soviet Union a cornerstone of its foreign policy.

Even in Western Germany, where U. S. occupation forces supported the rebirth of reaction, fascism did not return to power. The recent elections in the Rhineland and Ruhr districts of West Germany show that the Social Democrats have become the leading party of West Germany. All signs point to a victory for the Social Democrats in the national elections next year. And the West German Social Democrats have opposed the draft and have fought against incorporating a new Wehrmacht in NATO.

Also in Japan, where U. S. occupation forces grossly intervened in the internal affairs of that country there was no return to fascism. On the contrary, democratic rights have been preserved. The left wing is strong in the Socialist movement and collaborates with the Communists. And even the conservative Hatoyama government has signed a peace treaty with the Soviet Union.

Why then was it considered inevitable that the Hungarian working-class—after eleven years of a socialist regime—would not be able to bar the way to fascism? Why was fascism barred in Japan, in Finland, in West Germany? Why are the Hungarian working people considered incapable of defeating fascism?

It seems to this observer that the only way to eliminate the dangers of a Hungarian fascist

revival is through the activity of the Hungarian working people—no other forces. The Soviet government has, in an important statement, admitted its grave mistakes made in relation to the countries of peoples' democracy. They have indicated their responsibility for violating Lenin's principles of national equality.

IT HAS BEEN argued that the \$100 million voted by the Congress in Washington made it impossible for the Hungarian people to defeat fascism themselves. This seems to me a theory which throws the class struggle and history itself out of the window. If all American imperialism has to do is appropriate dollars and thereby decide the course of history, mankind is in a bad way indeed.

There was and is a danger of fascism regrouping in Hungary. But that danger arose because in the past eight or nine years the socialist regime of Hungary failed to build up a popular base. The danger to socialism came because the false theory was followed that socialism could be exported to Hungary. Lenin condemned such nations a long time ago.

Furthermore, although the program of the new Hungarian government is one which was needed long ago, instead of the Stalinist program of Rakosi and Gero, it can be carried into life only when it develops out of the struggles of the Hungarian people themselves. It cannot be imposed on them from outside. That is a major lesson of the post-war world. Neither socialism nor security for the Soviet Union can come from substituting foreign troops for the Hungarian working class.

The new Kadar government in Hungary has declared its support of such principles and hopes to negotiate a withdrawal of Soviet troops.