

# THE EVENTS IN HUNGARY

NOBODY who wishes the people of Hungary well can be happy over the terrible news from Budapest. It is a tragic moment when, under whatever circumstances, blood stains the city streets. For us it is doubly a tragedy that it is in a country of socialism that this violent eruption occurs.

What happened in Hungary? Counter-revolutionaries and outright supporters of the former Horthy dictatorship have taken advantage of the widespread popular demonstrations and pressure for democratization. The action of these anti-Socialist forces is applauded by our State Department which has worked together with exile groups dedicated to the overthrow of socialism in Hungary and the other East European countries.

The belated restoration to leadership of Imre Nagy, the once-deposed Prime Minister, sheds light on the present events.

There is a forward movement in Hungary. This advance is symbolized by the restoration of Imre Nagy to the premiership, similar in many ways to the return of Wladyslaw Gomulka to leadership in Poland after several years in prison.

Nagy had been ousted from the government because of his program. But this program was just what Hungary needed—the democratization of the country, adoption of a Hungarian national road to socialism, improvement in the standards of living, abandonment of enforced collectivization, amnesty for political prisoners, abolition of internment camps, a halt to deportations.

The results of Nagy's ouster and of the halting of his program can be seen in the events of today.

Now Nagy has been returned to leadership. But this should have come much sooner. The government and the Communists evidently underestimated the extent of the changes that were needed and of the speed that was required.

Make no mistake—although counter-revolutionaries are making the most of the situation, there is a vast difference between them and the majority of the people. Hungarian people, by and large, do not want the fascist Horthy regime of pre-war days; they do not want the landlords and capitalists restored to power. But they do want vast changes to democratize their country and improve the standards of living and they are determined to get them.

In his appeal to the people to avoid further bloodshed, Premier Nagy declared:

"I shall develop my program on the basis of the 1953 government declaration before Parliament soon. . . . We cannot permit that our sacred national program be soiled by blood. The government is ready for the task of peaceful construction. . . . I know we understand each other, because the government and the majority of the people want the same."

Our best wishes go out to the new socialist government of Hungary in its efforts to surmount this crisis. Out of these tragic events, we are confident, socialism will be strengthened in Hungary and throughout the rest of Eastern Europe—not weakened as is counted on by the reactionaries in our own country.

At the same time, we are confident, the friendship between Hungary and the Soviet Union—essential for the peace of Europe—will be maintained on a new and equal basis as is already taking place in Poland.

The cause of socialism is not advancing easily and without tragedy. But advance it will.

The American people can only hope for an early end to the disorders in Hungary so that the Nagy government can carry out its program of reform and construction. We can never forget that the old Horthy regime, which many a reactionary here is pining for, was an ally of Hitler and helped him in his fascist war of devastation. A people's Hungary, which the Nagy government now proposes to strengthen, is in the best interests of the peace and well-being of our own country as well.