

'The Russians Must Get Out of Hungary'

The Communist Party of New England publishes a party discussion organ called Opinion, in which CP members have their say on the problems facing the CP in its present crisis. The current (January) issue contains a contribution signed "A. E." entitled "Lessons of Hungary" which is noteworthy for the vigor and political sweep of its defense of the Hungarian Revolution against the Russians. We reproduce here for the interest of our readers.—ED.

By A. E.

At the present crossroads of history in our organization all questions concerning Party organization and outlook invariably return to Hungary as a test.

When Josef Revai spoke to the Party leaders of the Hungarian Workers Party in March of 1949, he said two interesting things among others. One, that the workers' state should not overlook its coercive and repressive powers as secondary, and two, that the state had no need to fear civil war specifically, since "the Soviet Army is always here to support us."

Revai was a leading figure and had the authority of the Kremlin. This method of government could lead to only one result. The people of Hungary eventually protested.

That protest was met by tanks. A small group of men, without even a shadow of popular support, who were the heads of the Communist Party of Hungary, carried on a civil war against all of Hungary with the use of foreign troops.

The song and dance of "fascists" was raised. But this was used so often before. During the trials of Rajk, Kostov, Slansky and Gomulka, such words as "mad dogs," "Fascists," murderers, "assassins," were commonplace.

The fact remained that the Hungarian people followed only one government, that of the Workers Councils. Even now, after seven weeks of terror and bloodletting, the Workers Councils are still the only agency commanding respect from the Hungarian people. The Kadar shadow group has no other purpose now except to front for the orders that come from the Soviet Union. It is a horrifying spectacle and has nothing in common with socialism or socialist democracy.

The Russians have got to get out of Hungary. It will be not at all difficult if the government is turned over to the Workers' Councils as it should have been long ago, if the Red Army turns over military equipment to the Councils, promises to repay the damage they committed during their invasion and help

restore the destroyed industries. On that basis the Red Army could leave any day of the week. And it could leave as a friend of the Hungarian people.

What sort of government would this bring? The actual form no one can foretell. But during this whole terrible time there has never even been a hint that the land would be returned to the big landlords or the industries to the capitalists. This was not a counter-revolution, but a revolution to establish socialism in content in Hungary.

What about the small group of men who are now sitting on a ruin and who call themselves the Communist Party? Will they still be able to dictate every phase of Hungarian life under penalty of the secret police? This small group, who had been the heads of the Communist Party of Hungary had long been deserted by the Party. The membership, the real Party, has been with the rest of the Hungarian people. The Communist Party of Hungary has nothing in common with Kadar and his cohorts. The Communists will play a part in Hungarian life, but Kadar's role is all over as soon as the foreign tanks leave Hungarian soil.

There is reason to have every confidence in the Hungarian people. No

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people will give up what they have in the way of progress, material progress. The Hungarians merely want to throw off the repression.

There are people who think that this repression is a necessary part of socialism, and that whoever resists repression strikes at the roots of socialist life. That thinking comes as much from Moscow as from the Kadars in Budapest. That thinking is false and has nothing in common with socialism. That sort of repression could only be to maintain a small clique in authority, and could have a final result like the one in Tirana, when the Albanians in 1950 voted "to erect a statue of Stalin, the deity."