

Eckhardt's connection with Hitler's

"Beerhall" putsch, Munich, Nov. 8, 1923

① Hitler, s "Beerhall" putsch was attempted on Nov. 8, 1923 in the Bavarian City of Munich, Germany. Hitler and his Bavarian Nazis were long in steady contact with similar-minded people in Austria and

② Hungary. Extensive preparations were made that on the 8-th of November, 1923, similar coups could take place in Vienna and Budapest.

③ The day before the Munich putsch, Nov. 7, 1923, FRANZ ULAIN, a Deputy in the Hungarian Parliament was taken from the train in Vienna and escorted back to Budapest. As his subsequent trial showed, ULAIN was on his way to Munich, to participate in the putsch. His papers were seized.

Back in Budapest (as a Deputy he enjoyed certain immunity until this privilege was lifted by Parliament) - he was permitted to see Deputy TIBOR

④ ECKHARDT with whom he had a long discussion. He was most anxious to get his papers back. ECKHARDT was "disturbed" about the arrest of his colleague. (A few days later when Parliament lifted ULAIN'S immunity by a majority vote, Deputy ECKHARDT announced a minority protest.) ⑤

⑥ On the same day (Nov. 7, 1923) Dr. Bela Szemere, Director of a Children's Hospital and Architect TITUS

de BOBULA, a reputedly wealthy American citizen who married a "relative" of Charles Schwab, the steel-magnate and at the time published a paper in Budapest entitled: "Amerika" - were also arrested in Budapest.

ULAIN, SZEMERE and BOBULA were charged with conspiracy against the established government and safety of the state.

Next day the Budapest papers announced the Hungarian putsch plans saying, that those plans were carefully timed to be carried out at the same time when the Bavarian and Austrian coups will happen.

⑦ The headline of the old Budapest German-language daily, "PESTER LLOYD" read: (Nov.9,1923.)

SO HATTEN ULAIN UND HITLER ES
AUCH FUER UNGARN GEPLANT

⑧ A few days later (Nov.12) a German, named Fritz Doehmel was taken into custody by the Budapest police. DOEHMEL, as his own testimony shows, was sent to Hungary some months before by HITLER and the Bavarian Nazi leaders. With a letter of recommendation from HITLER himself, DOEHMEL went straight to the antisemitic terror-organization "Awakening Magyars",
⑨ one of the leaders of which (elected ^{Pres.} a few months ^{later Dec 17} ~~before~~) was TIBOR ECKHARDT. THE organization received DOEHMEL with great enthusiasm.



Two days before the arrest of DOEHMEL the papers published the text of the agreement (dated Nov.3,1923,Budapest) between the Bavarian Nazis and their Hungarian accomplices, signed by FRITZ DOEHMEL, Dr. SZEMERE and BOBULA. According to this agreement, the Hungarian putsch had the following revolutionary program:

- 10 1.) Restoration of the 1914 boundaries of Hungary.
- 2.) Overthrow of the Bethlen government.
- 3.) Bloody annihilation of the Jews of Hungary. (Blutige Vernichtung der Juden Ungarns.)

11 There was also an other "state-pact", (Staatsvertrag), according to which the next Hungarian government, to be headed by Deputy Julius Gömbös, (later Premier,1931-36), would take over the obligation to help the future Hitler government not only with wheat shipments, but by sending Hungarian troops to Bavaria. Hitler on the other hand guaranteed that he would send Swastika troops to help the Hungarian antisemitic "Race Defender" groups and establish "order" in Hungary.

In the proposed GÖMBÖS government TIBOR ECKHARDT was designated to be Foreign Minister, ULAIN Minister of Interior and SZEMERE Minister of Public Welfare. BOBULA WAS PROMISED appointment as Hungarian Minister to Washington. (In 1941 he applied for permit to operate a parking lot in Washington, D.C.)

(17) Right after the Munich putsch, when the outcome was still uncertain or unknown outside of Germany and when there were some grounds for the belief that it had been successful, - ECKHARDT published an article in the Budapest paper "A NEP" (The People) in which he hailed the coup as "victorious", announcing that he personally was in contact with the leaders of it. (This article was discussed at the next cabinet meeting.)

(18) The arrest of ULAIN and his accomplices, with the frustration of the Hungarian Nazi putsch was made possible by DOEHMEL himself. Shortly after his arrival in Budapest, this lieutenant of Hitler informed the Budapest police about the plans, placing at its disposal all the papers he had in his possession.

The Budapest police, after sending a detective to Munich to make inquiries about DOEHMEL'S claims with the Hitler group, became convinced about the validity of his claims and started the proceedings against the conspirators. Thus it was found that HITLER himself wanted to go to Budapest after the successful Bavarian coup.

DOEHMEL'S hearings were held mostly in secret and the Budapest papers were unable to report all of its details. Some of these details however, were published partly in the Budapest papers in connection with a speech in Parliament held by Deputy JOSEPH PAKOTS (Liberal), partly in



in some Vienna and Prague papers.

14 Deputy PAKOTS in his speech (Jan.14,1924) pointed out that in DOEHMEL'S testimony the "chief actors" in the planned putsch were: Deputy ULAIN, Dr. SZEMERE, the American Architect BOBULA, Deputy GOMBÖS and Deputy ECKHARDT. He enumerated the main details of the plot: told about the list of 220 prominent persons condemned to death, railroad strike, bloody pogrom, Ulain will bring Hitler officers who will be the guests of Bobula, etc.

15 DOEHMEL, whose testimony was partly published in a Vienna daily in form of a "verbatim" report, said the following: (literal translation from German)

"On the 6th of November I visited ULAIN to discuss some details of the "state-pact" (Vertrag). At this time ULAIN GAVE ME A LETTER, written by ECKHARDT to be taken by me to Rome, but I handed the letter over to Mr. HETÉNYI (Chief of Police of Budapest, who testified at Doehmel's hearings). I had discussions with BOBULA during August and September, who told me that ECKHARDT has been won over to the Movement. He emphasized this as a great triumph, since, as he said, ECKHARDT has great influence on GOMBÖS. "

16 Papers outside of Hungary often repeated the rumor that attempts were made from the "highest places" to save Ulain and his accomplices from severe punishment. Allegedly Regent Horthy himself intervened in their behalf.

(17) ULAIN, SZEMERE and BOBULA were sentenced (Jan.23,1924) to six weeks "Staats-prison" - hotel-lake life and accomodations for gentlemen violating the dueling laws, etc., because of the "mitigating circumstances": no great harm was done, patriotic motives, they had few followers and only a small quantity of weapons, etc.

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(All the foregoing information was gathered from contemporary Budapest, Vienna and Prague papers and can be documented with exact references.)

(Volumes in libr. of Congress
offer references (Proceedings
of H. Parl. in NY Publ. Libr.)

See: Pórnay Pál naplója
("A határban a halál korszak" p.210
1963

