

Eckhardt

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THE RESIGNATION OF TIBOR ECKHARDT AS leader of the Independent Hungary group and the subsequent dissolution of the group itself have caused an elation in some liberal circles which we are unable to share. What is in the wind, apparently, is a reorganization under the auspices of a number of Hungarian ex-diplomats, including Anton Balasy, former counselor of the Hungarian legation in Washington, with a view to obtaining the support of the Association of Democratic Hungarians, led by Rustem Vambery. A respectable cloak for the new setup is to be provided by giving nominal leadership to Bela Bartok, who is being billed as the "Hungarian Paderewski." This unoriginal design is to be credited to the British Foreign Office, but the cutting and finishing are being performed by Harold B. Hoskins of our own State Department, who had previously done his best to disguise Eckhardt's feudal past in democratic homespun. The attempt failed because the odor of the anti-Semitic "Awakening Magyars" clung to the new garments. But even if Mr. Eckhardt has really been dropped, we should examine very carefully the credentials of the self-appointed guides of Bela Bartok, who is entirely without political experience. Before their organization is afforded any kind of recognition they should be required to give proof both that they have shed all allegiance to the Horthy regime and that their democratic sentiments are something more than a concession to American opinion.