

ECKHARDT

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## HUNGARY REPORTED SPLIT ON AXIS PACT

Belgrade Says Former Premier  
Bethlen and Other Leaders  
Were Opposed to Swing

### BRITISH DEFEAT DOUBTED

Dissident Group Said to Hold  
Nazi-Fascist Claims Are Not  
Based on War Facts

By The Associated Press  
BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Nov. 30  
—Diplomatic dispatches from Hun-  
gary revealed today how Count  
Stephen Bethlen, Hungary's venerated  
statesman, told the Foreign  
Affairs Committee of the upper  
house of Parliament that the Hun-  
garian Government should not believe  
the Axis powers would win the  
European war.

He severely criticized Hungary's  
signing of the tri-power pact.

The dispatches said that Tibor  
Eckhart, former Hungarian dele-  
gate to the League of Nations;  
Baron Pronay, Hungarian states-  
man, and other members of the up-  
per and lower houses, also criticized  
the signing of the pact in a session  
of the Foreign Affairs Committees  
of both houses of Parliament.

The disclosure coincided with  
other reports from Budapest that  
the Hungarian Minister to Wash-

ington, John Pelenyi, had resigned  
because of Axis pressure on his  
government to find a man more  
willing to work for the Axis in  
Washington.

[In a Washington dispatch, dated  
Nov. 28, it was reported that  
John Pelenyi had resigned as  
Hungarian Minister to the United  
States because of his country's  
swing to the Axis.]

Dispatches quoted Count Bethlen,  
former Premier, as declaring that  
the government should not believe  
in an Axis victory, as "from day to  
day there are contrary indica-  
tions."

"The government acted very  
rashly," he was quoted as saying.  
"No one has the right to jeopardize  
the foundations of this nation just  
because of vanity," he was reported  
to have added.

Apparently explaining the use of  
the word "vanity," Count Bethlen  
said:

"It is not true that Hungary re-  
ceived an exceptionally good recep-  
tion at Vienna (where she signed  
the Axis pact). Slovakia, which is  
a musical comedy country, received  
one just as solemn."