

Eckhardt

NY Herald-Tribune,
Sep. 27, 1941.

Written by Nicholas
Roosevelt, former
U.S. minister to
Hungary
(See: John F. Mont-
gomery's letter to
Paul Nadanyi,
Jan 30 - 1942)

A Hungarian Protest Against Hitler

The organization of a movement to free Hungary from Nazi domination is announced today by Mr. Tibor Eckhardt, one of the leading political figures of Hungary, who has recently arrived in this country. In this movement he is joined by Mr. John Pelenyi, for years Hungarian Minister in this country, and a number of other distinguished former Hungarian officials.

If this were but an incident in the internal political affairs of Hungary it would be of little interest to the American people. But, coming on top of acts of violence and resistance in all of the countries conquered by Germany, it is a further reflection of the resentment which Hitler's policies are causing throughout Europe. Hungary, it will be recalled, was forced at the muzzle of a gun to follow Hitler's dictates. As Mr. Eckhardt says in his proclamation, Hitler's army marching into Hungary deprived its government of freedom of action and silenced public opinion.

Inasmuch as this army of occupation also has imposed the strictest sort of censorship, it is the hope of the executive committee on independence to be able to use the radio to penetrate this censorship and to mobilize the forces which are against Nazi domination in that country. All reports that have trickled past the censor from private sources indicate that the dislike of the Nazis in Hungary is increasingly bitter. It appears that the Germans have not even hesitated to requisition so much of Hungary's food supplies that the daily food ration of the Hungarians is now lower than that of the Germans. This is what it means to "co-operate" with Hitler.

It is interesting to recall that just ninety years ago the great Hungarian revolutionary leader, Louis Kossuth, came to this country on a mission which resembles that of Mr. Eckhardt. Kossuth in his day fought against the domination of the Hapsburgs, who, to the Hungarians of that period, represented an interfering and hostile German influence. The Eckhardt proclamation calls on the Hungarians of today to fight against the Hitler domination. Even if it does not succeed in curtailing German power in Hungary immediately, it serves notice on the world that a large and important group of Hungarians would welcome effective action to make Hungary independent of Hitler's influence. It would not be surprising if this movement more accurately reflected the bulk of Hungarian opinion than does the policy of acquiescence adopted by the government now in power in that country.