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Free Hungarians Act

Government-in-Exile Is Planned

By LUDWIG LORE

Yesterday the Oversea News Agency reported an interesting item from London: "Hungarians here," it said, "are pushing plans for formation of a Free Hungarian Council in view of the rupture of Hungaro-British diplomatic relations. They hope to form a broad coalition

Behind the Cables

body, including Catholics, Conservatives and Nationalists and are counting on strong support from the large Hungarian colony in the U. S. A. for their movement. One Hungarian leader pointed out that there are 4,000,000 Hungarians living abroad, about one-third of the Hungarian population. In addition to the Free French movement and the various governments-in-exile, Free Rumanian and Free Italian committees have been established here."

I sincerely hope that the anti-fascist Hungarians of London will succeed in their efforts to organize what would probably develop into a Hungarian government-in-exile. When Regent Horthy, acting as Hitler's tool, declared Yugoslavia dissolved and invaded Yugoslav territory, he drove all genuinely democratic Hungarian elements into opposition to his regime and forced thousands of them out of the country.

I spoke to Ferenc Gondor, a Hungarian-American, who for more than fifteen years has been the publisher and editor of the democratic Hungarian Weekly 'Az Ember (The Demand)' in New York. Mr. Gondor founded Az Ember in Budapest, moved it to Vienna when the Horthy reaction made its publication in his fatherland impossible, and finally came to this country after he found that Austrian Christian Social Fascism was equally intolerant of genuine democracy.

Tremendous Indignation

Mr. Gondor, whom I have known ever since his arrival in the U. S., assured me that an overwhelming majority of the Hungarians in America are enraged at the attitude of the Horthy regime. "Hungary," he said, "is today the vassal of the Third Reich. Nothing can be done without Hitler's consent. It was once a democratic country. Today nothing distinguishes it from Nazi Germany.

"When Horthy made Hungary the absolute tool of Nazi foreign policy, the Hungarians in this country decided to organize in a wide anti-fascist front. A conference was called in Washington about eight weeks ago, attended by delegates from a large number of fraternal Hun-

garian organizations, Protestant and Catholic churches and by other well-known American-Hungarian personalities. This meeting unanimously adopted a memorandum condemning all dictatorships and declaring for democracy at home and abroad and sent it to President Roosevelt as an expression of American-Hungarian sentiment.

"This was, however, before we knew how far Horthy would go in his support of Hitler's war against Yugoslavia and Greece. Now a committee is at work to call another conference in Washington at which a much more decided stand must be taken.

"It will now be necessary to come out in open opposition against present Hungary by organizing a Hungarian government-in-exile. Such an organization, of course, must be created by and must consist of Hungarians, not citizens of this or other countries. I feel certain that both Washington and London and its allies would not only recognize but welcome our addition to the free governments already in existence."

Tibor Eckhardt

When I asked Mr. Gondor what he thought of Tibor Eckhardt, the leader of the Small Peasant Party, who is on his way to the U. S., he assured me that he would gladly co-operate with him. He is convinced of Mr. Eckhardt's determined opposition to—not to say hatred of—Hitler and Nazism.

"Whatever Tibor Eckhardt may have been in the past," he said, "he is today an honest democrat and will go along with our program for the establishment of a Hungarian regime outside of Hitler's Hungarian domain. If he refuses, then, of course, co-operation with him would be impossible. We must have uncompromising clarity among those who work with us."

