

Eckhardt

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A Free Hungary

#1 Tibor Eckhardt Lauded for His Anti-Axis Stand

To the New York Herald Tribune:

True friends of freedom and those who genuinely hope for a renaissance of Europe, now blacked out under Nazi terror, will appreciate the editorial which appeared in the Sept. 28 issue of the Herald Tribune concerning the independent Hungary movement launched by Mr. Tibor Eckhardt. Despite some attacks from uninformed sources against this movement, those who know the situation and who have no ax to grind realize that Mr. Eckhardt is the person best qualified to follow the footsteps of Louis Kosuth and lead a fight for a free Hungary.

Since Hungary is such a distant country and so little is known of her, it may be appropriate to record briefly why the overwhelming majority of Hungarians living in the United States and in other free countries have accepted enthusiastically Mr. Eckhardt's call.

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Mr. Eckhardt, in his early youth, occupied comparatively high positions in the civil service of his country. In the turbulent years after the first world war, when Hungary was suffering from the effects of revolution and counter-revolution, his activities were centered on the restoration and maintenance of law and order. When in 1923 he was elected to Parliament he joined the opposition and remained there for the last eighteen years. For the last ten years he was acknowledged lead-

er of the opposition as the head of the democratic Small Farmers' party. No one in Hungary's political life during these last eighteen years has advocated so vigorously and so consistently democratic, progressive reforms (among others a most far-reaching agrarian reform and social legislation) as has Mr. Eckhardt. Ever since the Nazis assumed power in Germany Mr. Eckhardt has conducted a permanent crusade, in and outside Parliament, against totalitarian influences. As late as November, 1940, he protested publicly in Parliament against Hungary's adherence to the Axis—a protest which was voiced with the approval of the other opposition parties, including the Social Democrats.

In the United States and Great Britain informed political and diplomatic circles regarded him for many years as the most determined and consistent advocate of a policy of friendship with the Anglo-Saxon world. Indeed, when he decided last March to leave his native country in order to battle for its liberation he had to travel a round-about way to escape interference by Germany or Italy, and it is noteworthy that he crossed the Mediterranean in a British convoy and that his trip through Africa was made possible by British authorities.

This is, then, the record which entitles Mr. Eckhardt to the unqualified support of Hungarians who desire to see their country again sovereign within and independent without. This is the record which entitles him to the sympathetic understanding of all those who appreciate the value of such a staunch fighter against a common enemy.

FRANCIS DEAK.

New York, Oct. 6, 1941.