

NY Tim. Apr. 20.

Movement for Independent Hungary

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Tibor Eckhardt's letter in THE NEW YORK TIMES of April 12 merits a reply. Mr. Eckhardt, who is the leader of the so-called movement for independent Hungary, asserts that his movement never sought recognition from the United States, and therefore objects to an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES of April 10 which quoted Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles's letter to Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, chairman of the Union for Democratic Action, asserting that the State Department has not extended "any form of recognition, formal or informal," to Mr. Eckhardt's committee.

In spite of Mr. Eckhardt's admission that his movement has no official status, Hungarian-language papers in this country supporting his venture continue to stress the existence of a "complete understanding" between our government and Mr. Eckhardt. A typical statement to this effect was published in Szabadsag of Cleveland last September. Dr. John S. Sebestyen, president of the Hungarian Society of Pittsburgh, in an article which correctly assumes complete identification of the American-Hungarian Federation with Mr. Eckhardt's cause, wrote:

"Having already received recognition from members of the United States Administration and made friends in the circle of statesmen, the American-Hungarian Federation is now able to take a stand officially in the interests of our brethren in the old country."

The same article boasts that neither Nazi Germany nor the present Hungarian Government has any objections to Mr. Eckhardt's movement.

JAMES LOEB JR.,
Executive Secretary, Union for Democratic Action.

New York, April 16, 1942.

Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr answering Mr. Sumner Welles, said:

"On the basis of the information we have concerning the thoroughly indemocratic record of Dr. Eckhardt, we trust that the State Dept. will at no time contemplate according him recognition, either formally or informally.

It is heartening to have directly from you a complete, unqualified denial of the claims that are being made in the Hungarian colony that Dr. Eckhardt's movement has official or semi-official sanction."

News flashes from Czecho-Slovakia,
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