

FABIAN, Bela

1955

Conditions in Hungary

New Wave of Terror Reported Under Way in Country

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

The April 19 issue of The New York Times carried a report about the changes in the Budapest Government. These changes—a switch back to the Rákosi regime—actually took place some months before.

In the spring of 1954, Rákosi had gone to the Soviet Union for "medical treatment." People in Budapest believed that he would return in the same manner as the former Bulgarian Premier, Georgi Dimitrov, returned to Sofia—in his casket. Rákosi, however, was very much alive when he returned to Budapest on Nov. 29. Since then arrests and death sentences—among them five death sentences brought in a conspiracy trial—have again become the order of the day. Deportations, too, have once more been resumed in Budapest.

This new wave of terror aims to suppress the silent revolution threatening to paralyze industrial and agricultural production throughout the country.

New deportations began four weeks ago. They differ from former ones in that some of the victims are now permitted to choose their own place of residence outside of Budapest and other larger cities.

Hungary, as well as the Baltic States, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Rumania, has sunk to the level of Soviet colonies. While the liquidation of the remnants of colonialism in Asia and Africa is being demanded at the currently held Bandung conference, we may witness how the once free countries of Europe, such as Hungary, are being transformed into colonies by the Soviets.

Citizens of Hungary are turned out of their apartments, and the better ones—complete with furnishings, linen and household equipment—are requisitioned for the invaders. Budapest's former fashionable residential districts are now exclusively inhabited by Russians. There are special stores in which only Russians are allowed to trade, where practically anything may be purchased, and at a lower price than in ordinary stores.

In factories and offices, in the army as in the police force, the right of disposal, openly or covertly, lies exclusively in the hands of Russians. All others have to perform their jobs as ordered by them. The Russians are the No. 1 privileged, seconded in rank by their tools, the native Communists. All others are considered pariahs.

BELA FABIAN,

Member of the Executive Committee of the Hungarian National Council.

New York, April 19, 1955.

Publ: May 2-1955

Ekony