

KÖVÁGÓ József



By Arthur Ellis, Staff Photographer

JOZSEF KOEVAGO

... ousted as mayor

## Ex-Mayor Of Budapest Here Today

The former mayor of free Budapest — whose four-day term in office was ended abruptly by Russian tanks — places the future of Hungary squarely in the hands of the Western World.

"The Hungarian nation has done its duty," Jozsef Koevago said here yesterday. "It has produced a great heroism in modern times, not only for itself but the world."

After 6½ years in a Communist prison cell in Hungary, Koevago was freed last September as the Reds threw bits of freedom out to quiet a restless Hungarian populace. He returned to Budapest just as the now-famous revolution began Oct. 24.

A week later he was elected president of the National Committee of Budapest, the city's governing body. In 1945-47, Koevago had held the same post, named in free elections sandwiched between Nazi and Communist tyranny.

As mayor of the historic capital, he watched the step-by-step betrayal of Hungary's short-lived freedom.

"I can see the sophisticated intellectual march alongside the simple uneducated man," he recalls. During the revolution "I can see 14-year-old boys in the fight. I can see an old woman carrying a flag and seizing a Russian tank."

Koevago will speak at the Hungarian relief benefit dinner of the International Rescue Committee at 7:30 p. m. today at the Mayflower Hotel. As a refugee now, Koevago, a 45-year-old, one-time engineer, is touring the country for Hungarian relief.

Before his appearance today, he wants to visit the Jefferson Memorial. He read about Jefferson in a 26-volume Encyclopedia Britannica, which a wealthy Hungarian family brought with them into the Communist prison.

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