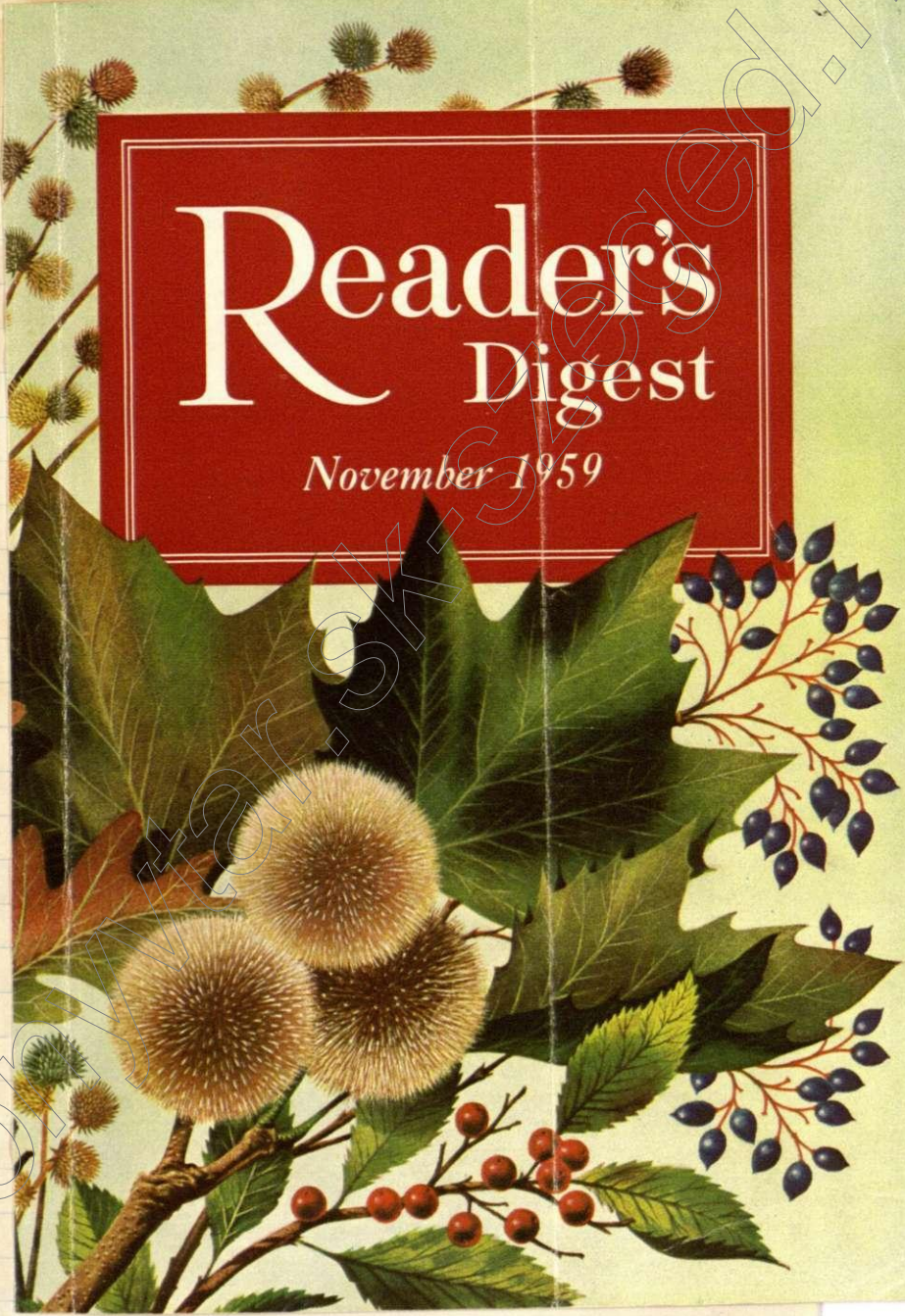
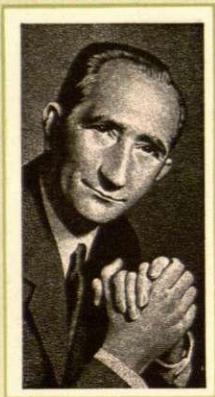


Reader's Digest

November 1959





"One of Freedom's Strongest Voices"

By Josef Kovago Former mayor of Budapest;
vice chairman, Assembly of Captive European Nations;
author of "You Are Not Alone"

HUNGARIAN Communists not only forced me to resign as mayor of Budapest in their *coup d'état* of 1947 but kept me for three years under the scrutiny of the AVO, the dread secret police. Arrested finally, I was tried in secret and sentenced to life in prison as an "enemy of the people."

Yet a curious circumstance made this period one of hope rather than despair. Just two days before my arrest, a former secretary had risked coming to our cottage to show me an article from *Sélection*, French edition of *The Reader's Digest*. Although my jailers confiscated the magazine, its contents were stamped indelibly on my mind.

In prison the shared memory of those articles helped me and my fellow prisoners endure hours of utmost despair. One of the strong factors in buoying our courage was the knowledge that this voice of freedom was on our side.

Then, unexpectedly, freedom came. Under Hungary's "de-Stalinization" program I was released in 1956 and promised a new trial. But before it could be arranged, my countrymen rebelled against the Red tyranny. Once again I became mayor of Budapest—until Russian tanks crushed our last hope of freedom. Forced to escape, I came eventually to the United States.

In America I turned again to *The Reader's Digest* for knowledge of the strength and determination of the free world. After years of hopelessness it helped me become reacquainted with hope.

Having seen at firsthand the brutality of Communism, I am convinced that we of the free world must make clear that we are resolute—that while we abhor war, we will fight, if necessary, to preserve liberty.

The clarity and forcefulness with which *The Reader's Digest* expresses these ideas throughout the world make it one of freedom's strongest voices, helping to gain new respect for democracy. I only wish it were required reading in the Kremlin.

Readers Digest
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VOL. 75, NO. 51, November 1959 • Published each month simultaneously in the United States by The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., Pleasantville, N. Y., and in Canada by its Canadian subsidiary. Rates: 35 cents a copy, \$4 a year. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office, Pleasantville, N. Y., Dec. 13, 1927, under act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at the Post Office, Dayton, Ohio.