

ACZEL Tamás

és Meray Tibor

## Disillusionment Comes to Two Hungarians

By Edwin D. Gritz

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**THE REVOLT OF THE MIND.** By Tamas Aczel and Tibor Meray Praeger. \$5.

LIKE A storm which rises small on the horizon and then bursts forth in transcendent fury, so this book forms and strikes with frightening impact.

Why frightening? Because in this testament by two celebrated Hungarian Communist writers, now disenchanted, is the story of both Communist perfidy and man's susceptibility to evil.

With moving brilliance, sometimes suspect because of the very malleability of the minds they expose, Tamas Aczel and Tibor Meray nevertheless lay open the seldom-seen entrails of Red totalitarianism.

Yes, they and other writers, poets, journalists "had become Communists because they had believed they had found in the theory of communism the sacred ideals for a changed society, and

because moral indignation caused by the injustice and poverty and the crimes of fascism had driven them straight into the Communist camp . . ."

THEN, AT FIRST unaware, later unbelieving and finally shaken to the core of their being, they saw through the Party's "all-wise" guidance to discover:

"Truth was not that which was true . . . The writer should not describe a given situation or fact or force as it was . . . He should portray it according to some 'historical truth,' taking into account . . . some undefinable 'future-forming' force . . ."

But the appalling thing about all this is that the moral awakening was not entirely caused by sudden idealism—much as everyone likes to ascribe lofty motives for personal reforms. The unfolding facts reveal that the writers and their colleagues were largely seared to hell by the mounting case histories of political brutality and sadism of Communist leaders which came to light following Stalin's exposure.

"The tortures, the hangings, the suffering faces of those in the cells un-

rolled before their inner eyes like a film . . ."

YET ACZEL and Meray, with another kind of courage born of the purifying storm, face the situation:

"To the writers, Rakosi was now the head of a criminal gang, and Reval, Gero and Farkas were his accomplices, and the picture grew ever darker. Yet, this was not the most unbearable aspect. There was a more unbearable one. When the young writers asked themselves the question of who was really responsible for everything that had happened in the country, they had to admit with aching hearts and disturbed minds that they, too, had been accomplices, and that they, too, had been responsible . . . they had been helpers, agitators, and propagandists."

In the course of this frank and most revealing self-criticism, a term used here to convey both a simple action and a familiar Communist methodology, the writers tell much about little-known Communist events in recent Hungarian history. But the haunting thing of it all is the depicted incomprehensibility of mere mortals.

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