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BARANKOVICS Stephen

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HUNGARIANS WORK TO SAVE CULTURE

Barankovics, Refugee, Heads Drive Here to Counteract Soviet Destruction Effort

In a move to counteract the Soviet effort to destroy the national and western bases of Hungarian culture, the Hungarian National Council, headed by Msgr. Bela Varga, has named Dr. Istvan Barankovics to develop cultural activities among Hungarian refugees.

Dr. Barankovics, famed Budapest anti-Nazi newspaper editor who headed the last anti-Communist opposition party in Hungary, was brought here two weeks ago by the International Rescue Committee from Austria. He and

his wife, Livia, had escaped to Austria in 1949.

He told yesterday about the new effort to preserve what has been salvaged of Hungarian culture against the day when the Russian occupiers are driven from the country. At the offices of the committee, 62 West Forty-fifth Street, Msgr. Varga introduced him. His wife and Dr. Bela Fabian of the Hungarian National Council translated for him.

"In Hungary our culture has been suppressed in favor of Russian Bolshevist Pan-Slavism," he said. "Scientific and artistic workers are completely isolated from the West. Goods can still be traded across the Iron Curtain, political ideas can be exchanged, but cultural interchanges have been completely stopped.

"The Hungarians are an Eastern people, but our culture has always been oriented toward the West. Now the occupiers from the Soviet empire seek to force upon our people a culture oriented toward Russia. But the Communist regime is hated by 98 per cent of our people. Under these conditions our

culture can only survive among the emigres in the free world."

Dr. Barankovics, a 44-year-old sociologist, began his career in journalism as a contributor of articles to the daily press and scientific periodicals. In 1936, as a leader in the opposition to the Nazi groups, he edited a political and scientific magazine, took part in the activities of political and scientific organizations set up to fight the Nazis and became editor of the large anti-Nazi daily, Magyar Nemzet.

He escaped arrest when the Germans occupied the country by disguising himself as a monk. A Catholic, he helped to found the Democratic People's party, a Christian democratic group, after the war. It polled a majority of the votes in the 1947 election, rigged by the Communists against it. When he refused to help organize a Communist-front national church in 1949, Matyas Rakosi, Communist leader, threatened him. He dissolved his party and fled.

In his new post he will organize scientific and artistic activities among the Hungarian exiles here

and abroad, building for the day when they can return home. To escape, the International Rescue Committee is setting up nine "underground railroad" frontier stations in Central and Eastern Europe.