

## Hungary and the Axis

### Author Sees Obstacles to Central European Cooperation

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Let me correct a few points in Anthony Balassy's letter published June 28.

There is no contradiction between what I wrote in the book "Tornado Across Eastern Europe" and what I said in the letter published in THE NEW YORK TIMES on June 14. Hungary was indeed "manipulated into submission by economic and cultural penetration and flattering promises of aggrandizement," and Hungary also "joined the Axis of her own volition."

The following quotation from the book may elucidate the point:

"Hungary proved herself to be most cooperative in facilitating the German drive to the Balkans. She shared with the Axis powers the hatred for the Slavs, and her post-war policy, bent on a territorial revision of the World War settlement, made her a natural ally of German and Italian revisionism. As early as 1923, the year of the Munich beer-cellar putsch, her one-time Premier Gömbös wanted to come to an understanding with Hitler.

"In 1927 another Hungarian Premier, Count Bethlen, signed a military treaty with Mussolini, the first such treaty concluded by Fascist Italy with a foreign State. Systematic opposition by Hungary to any comprehensive Danubian arrangement made her a willing instrument in the Rome-Berlin hands.

"Richly rewarded for her services at the partition of Czechoslovakia and Rumania, the Budapest Government

was expected to reciprocate, and thus it placed itself in even greater indebtedness and dependence upon the Axis. On Nov. 20, 1940, the government signed the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo military pact. Hungary undertook to let the German armies use her territory and to adjust her economy to the Nazi pattern."

Not only the Horthy régime in Hungary but also the dictatorial régime in present Rumania would be an obstacle to cooperation. It is indeed inconceivable to reconstruct a cooperative Central Europe on any other than democratic principles. Complete victory of the United Nations will have to result in the collapse of all the anti-democratic régimes and especially that of Hungary, whose records have been particularly bad and in need of thorough overhaul.

I did not say that the Czechoslovak or any other government will decide who is a representative Hungarian. The decision will lie with the Hungarian peoples themselves. It should be the wish of all sincere believers in democracy that the common man of Hungary will get his chance at last. I do believe, however, that any friendly cooperation with the Magyars will be conditioned by the amount of good faith that can be placed in their government's deeds.

In that respect the example of the invasion of Yugoslavia almost immediately after the conclusion of a pact of eternal friendship was not encouraging.

There was indeed very little difference between this act of breach of faith and calculated aggression and similar acts of unilateral abrogation of treaties by the Nazis.

JOSEF HANC.

New York, June 30, 1942.