

NY Times, Aug. 16, 1942

## Magyars Seek a Leader

### Many Refugees Still Hope for an Independent State

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Some of us, devoted readers of THE NEW YORK TIMES on this side of the Atlantic, have followed with a great deal of interest the letters you published under the title "Peace Obstacles."

While Dr. Hanc may have stated badly his case in THE TIMES of June 14, Anthony Balasy, speaking for Hungary, made it even more obvious that certain Magyars are still at the stage of "Justice for Hungary" in THE TIMES of June 28.

Those of us who are struggling over here to find a formula for a friendly collaboration among the peoples of the Danubian Basin have tried vainly to discover within the mass of the Magyar nation a section which might be styled as democratic and at the same time not to be unreasonably irredentist.

#### An Old Constitution

Hungary has always broadcast that it has a thousand-year-old Constitution and an unimpeachable parliamentary life.

With the consent of that Hungarian Parliament, Horthy was the first head of state "to visit the Reich officially

since Herr Hitler had come into power." (Page 323, "The Authorized Life of Admiral Horthy," by Owen Rutter.) His biographer told us that on the occasion of that visit "the Regent and Herr Hitler had been extremely happy, while the diplomatic conversations between the Ministers of the two countries laid the ground for even closer cooperation in the future, particularly in the problems affecting Czechoslovakia."

That was in February, 1938. No Hungarian at that time raised his voice to say that such friendly contacts between Horthy and Hitler were laying the foundation of the present "peace obstacles."

Of the three countries to which Mr. Balasy referred in his letter, none has enjoyed a similar magnanimity as that cast by Hitler on Hungary and accepted by the Magyars without any lack of grace.

#### Rumania Also Paid

The sad and tragic plight of Bohemia and Serbia needs no extra emphasis. Even the so-called satellite Rumania has paid a heavy toll—scores of patriots murdered and some 4,000 democratic and peasant leaders lingering in concentration camps.

Hungary has no Lidice, or the cetniks of General Mihailovic, or the countless saboteurs of Rumania. In the Hungarian Parliament, as Radio Budapest tells us daily, Hungarians of all political shades dream of the revived glory of the Crown of St. Stephen and brag about "Der Tag," when their country will be the leading power of the Danubian Basin.

Hungarians abroad who listen to those broadcasts have never denounced them as obstacles to peace. On the contrary, they are wasting their time and ours telling us of the Hungarian minorities which are still "oppressed" in Hitler's Europe.

In many of the Magyar political refugees wandering in the democratic countries we have recognized some of the leaders of Horthy's white terror. And Mr. Balasy should not accuse us of being Hitlerians when we cannot trust such Magyars.

We are still hopeful and diligently search for at least one honest and sin-

cere Magyar who, as Dr. Oscar Jaszi did at the end of the last World War, might help us, those of the Danubia, remove all obstacles for a lasting peace.

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London, July 29, 1942.

