

BARTHA Albert, Gen.

*1877, Kolozsvár

+ 1960 Dec. 2, New York

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Book Review

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Studies concerning the Soviet Union's manifold and extremely complex problems are becoming more and more discriminating. Of course, this is a good and encouraging sign, for now, perhaps, we may begin to get better and more truthful pictures of the Soviet reality.

Straightforward direct methods are not always the most appropriate tools with which to examine Soviet phenomena. Sometimes the method used by psychoanalysts to uncover the deep causes of their patients' disorders is one that can more effectively be applied to an analysis of Soviet phenomena. But such an approach is more demanding and difficult than that based on a straightforward application of Western terminology and concepts to the special phraseology and situation of the USSR, which may appear to resemble ours but actually mean entirely different things. The more specialized psychoanalytical method requires a vast knowledge of Communist history in theory and practice, as well as a great deal of perception and sophistication in sampling and analyzing Soviet data.

Professor Cantril's background is most appropriate for one who has ventured upon such a specialized approach in his latest book, *Soviet Leaders and Mastery Over Man*. Known as an outstanding psychologist and a very prolific writer in his field, he has devoted about three years of research to the present study -- a measure of both the complexity of the work attempted and the conscientiousness of the author as well.

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General ALBERT BARTHA

A Meritorious Hungarian Leader

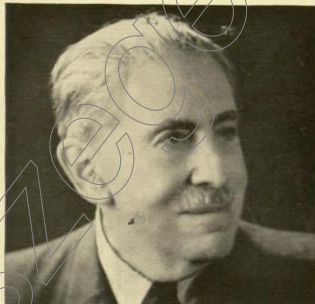
On December 2 there passed away in New York City, at the age of eighty-four, a distinguished leader of the Hungarian exile who was a member of the Hungarian Peasant Association in exile and a member of the International Peasant Union.

The late General Albert Bartha was among those Hungarian leaders who, after World War II, made tremendous efforts to build up a new, democratic Hungary from the ruins and damaged remnants left by the devastating war, which had annihilated so many material values and taken so many lives. His fight, and the fight of all those who worked so desperately and heroically to bring a new and decent life into their war-torn country, was almost hopeless from the beginning. The presence of alien forces of occupation on Hungarian soil weighted the odds heavily against their efforts. Still, their fight against insurmountable obstacles, their struggle, their sacrifices appeared to the nation even more encouraging and gallant than if it had all taken place under more favorable circumstances.

General Albert Bartha was a product of the "old school", of the last decades of the nineteenth century. His wealthy parents, country noblemen from Transylvania, went into exile after the collapse of the Hungarian Revolution in 1848-1849. After the Constitution was restored, they returned to Hungary and took advantage of every opportunity to give their children the best possible education. Clearly, the late General Bartha had every reason to become a man spoiled by destiny, and yet his guiding principle, throughout his entire life, became the defense of the oppressed and the struggle for greater progress and more democracy. A distinguished officer of the Austro-Hungarian General Staff, he served in the international arena before 1914 and held several outstanding posts during World War I. He fulfilled all of his posts with great distinction and courage.

At the end of World War I, he heeded the appeal of the leaders of the day, and accepted the portfolio of Minister of Defense which he held until the Communists took over in 1919.

During the period of the Regency which followed the short-lived Communist coup, General Bartha did not collaborate with those in the camp of the governing regime. Instead, he formed a political party which included liberal elements, and



during the Second World War he defended the rights of the persecuted with great personal courage and saved many lives.

After the war, General Bartha and his party, the Kossuth Party, joined the Smallholders' Party, which in 1945 won the municipal elections in Budapest and later emerged victorious in the general elections, in which the Communist Party was soundly defeated. Soon after that, Mr. Ferenc Nagy, President of the Smallholders' Party and of the Hungarian Peasant Association, offered him the post of Minister of National Defense in 1946, at a time when the country was beginning the work of reconstruction. General Bartha's task was to reorganize the Hungarian Army on a democratic basis, to save the valuable elements from the old Army and to bring in new, young elements. He fulfilled his duties with honor and showed great understanding towards the younger generation.

Nevertheless, historically the die had already been cast. No democracy would have survived in Hungary, for the country had already become a part of the Soviet global strategy in Europe. The young democracy in Hungary was overthrown by the well-known Communist methods. General Bartha was forced to resign, and, finally, in 1948 he left the country with his wife. At an advanced age, he undertook the life of an exile, as did his parents in 1849 when they were a young couple. After residing in Austria and in Belgium, he arrived in the United States in 1951.

Separated by thousands of miles from his beloved country, he remained the epitome of modesty, dignity and moderation in his speeches and writings. His disappearance from the earthly scene is a great loss for all men of good will.

B.B.