

Bernat, Erno

Követségéi zse listás, diszidáták 1967
may

see: Radványi, János

1967 June

Defection of Hungarian Press Aide Before Radvanyi Action Is Revealed

Associated Press

A lower-ranking official of the Hungarian Embassy here defected almost a month before the similar action of János Radvanyi, the top-ranking Hungarian diplomat, it was learned yesterday.

Ernoe Bernat, 33, a third secretary who had been in charge of press relations since 1965, asked for political asylum April 21. Radvanyi, who was Charge d'Affaires, defected May 15. The State Department formally announced Radvanyi's action at the time, but there was no similar disclosure of Bernat's request.

Robert J. McCloskey, the State Department's press officer, confirmed Bernat's defection when asked about it at a news briefing. He provided little further information, and declined to say where Bernat and his family are now.

U.S. officials declined to say why Bernat defected but acknowledged that his request has been honored and he will be permitted to stay in this country permanently. His wife, three sons and his mother-in-law are with him. One of his sons was born in the United States.

Meanwhile, it was understood that the two high-rank-

ing Foreign Ministry officials dispatched to Washington after the Radvanyi defection are still in Washington. They came here for a personal confrontation with Radvanyi, who confirmed to them his request to remain here.

The Hungarian government asked that the visas of Frigyes Vadasz and Janos Lorincz-Nagy be extended and the request was granted, officials said. The two Hungarian diplomats, both deputy directors in the Hungarian foreign service, are understood to be working in the Embassy now.



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