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## Danubian Accord Urged

### Czechoslovak-Hungarian Amity Is Regarded as the Key

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

The Memorial Day which recently commemorated the sacrifice made by Americans to preserve their united freedom was the day chosen twenty-four years ago for the signing of an agreement in Pittsburgh which forever linked the fates of the Czech and Slovak nations and founded a free republic based upon American principles.

That Pittsburgh agreement is the torch that now lights the way to restore from the hands of the enemy not only Czechoslovakia but also all of the Danubian peoples whose common destiny is inextricably linked with the enlightened objectives of the Atlantic Charter. The rising of these nations to bring about the internal collapse of Hitler is a major element in the eventual victory of the United Nations.

For the seventy million freedom-loving Czechoslovaks, Hungarians, Rumanians, Yugoslavs and Bulgarians, all in a greater or smaller degree under the heel of Hitler and some of them in active warfare, can make a considerable part of the essential second front, striking at the enemy's vitals, shortening the war perhaps by years and sparing the lives of millions of American fighting men.

But to achieve their unity the division and dissension wrought among them by Hitler must be swept away.

During the past four years, following his thesis of "divide and rule," Hitler has split up the Danubian nations into new categories of "haves and have-nots."

The deepest gulf exists between the Czechoslovaks and Hungarians. Unless these two nations are reconciled, a unified anti-Hitler front is impossible in Southeastern Europe.

### History Recalled

Neighbors for 1,056 years, the Czechs, Slovaks and Hungarians can find many reasons for eternal animosity as well as for eternal friendship. Each has taken advantage of the other's emergency for centuries. For some decades around the middle of the nineteenth century the Czechs were apparently the tools helping to defeat the cause of Hungarian freedom; for some years now the Hungarians have seemed to benefit from Czechoslovakia's distress.

In the Treaty of Trianon, Slovakia was transferred from Hungarian to Czechoslovak administration. In the wake of Hitler's Munich settlement about one-fifth of Slovakia was returned to the control of Hungary. To the Hungarians this seemed but the partial satisfaction of a just claim; to the Czechoslovaks it was territorial robbery, viciously timed at the moment of their greatest national disaster.

Hungary is an "independent" Axis partner, just like Slovakia, with a Regency, a parliament and local administration, continued on good behavior. Without option, Hungary is compelled to provide food and raw materials for Germany and to send increasing contingents of soldiers to the Russian slaughter fields.

So unwillingly is Hungary being dragooned by Germany that the Nazis find it necessary to use large Gestapo outposts to keep her in line. And yet, despite the garrisoning of the country by Germany, Hungary is considered Hitler's satellite. The truth is that the Hungarians would turn upon him the

moment they were freed of the fear implanted by his propaganda that, unless he wins, they will be victims of a revengeful peace because they seemingly benefited under his regime.

The very fact that Czechs, Slovaks and Hungarians are all saddled by Hitler at the present constitutes the first premise of an understanding among them against him. It follows that they want to rid themselves of this slavery. They are all represented by millions of kindred who emigrated to the United States and who are deeply concerned about their liberation.

### **Basis for New Front**

In the light of the anniversary of an occasion when the representatives of distant oppressed races construed themselves the spokesmen of their inarticulate countrymen, and reached an agreement on America's free soil which history has justified, it is appropriate to suggest that once again the representatives of Allied Czechoslovakia and "friendly" Hungary should convene in America and lay the foundations of a United Nations front in Southeastern Europe.

The Czechoslovak-Hungarian accord must clearly, concisely and retroactively eliminate every revenge motive and make the post-Hitlerian world attractive to all, regardless of their rank in the present hierarchy of sufferers.

Presenting a united front toward Southeastern Europe, the proposed accord can be an immediate mighty weapon of short-wave propaganda, coordinating all efforts to defeat Hitler. Furthermore, it would serve as the master chart of a compact to which the remaining three-fifths of the Danubian peoples could readily adhere. It would make possible the organization of Danubian Legions to fight for the United Nations.

A war must be won. A Czechoslovak-Hungarian accord is a key to victory. Time is short and events are moving. Postponing an agreement may make it impossible. Tomorrow is later than today.

GABOR DE BESSENYEY.

New York, June 3, 1942.

