

Peace rally in Sports Hall

Budapest declared City of Peace

Budapest, May 9 (MTI) — Participants of the current Budapest session of the Presidium of the World Peace Council Friday afternoon met with the representatives of Budapest's workers in the Sports Hall.

István Sarlós, member of the HSWP Political Committee, general secretary of the National Council of the Patriotic People's Front, took the floor and addressed the gathering.

István Sarlós, HSWP Political Committee member and General Secretary of the Patriotic People's Front, recalled that the struggle against fascism was the manifestation of the will of the peoples.

Hungarians now use the opportunity of celebrating the anniversary to pay tribute to the heroes who had laid down their lives here and lie buried in Hungarian soil—Soviet, British, American, French, Romanian, Bulgarian, and Yugoslav soldiers. We hope their sacrifice has not been in vain, and that the time will come when cooperation in friendship among the peoples will be the decisive factor in international life. He said Hungarians believe that there are possibilities for preserving peace. The major means to achieve this is to show good intentions and willingness to negotiate, to engage in disarmament, and to make joint efforts to set up economic and cultural links.

In this endeavour, he said, a decisive role is being played by Europe. Experiences of two world wars have shown to the peoples of our continent that the achievements of many years of work can be destroyed in a flash. It was from this city, Budapest, that the initiative was taken to convene the European security conference, as a means to rule out such a possibility. The initiative has turned into success, and the recommendations of the Helsinki Conference of 1975 serve well the upholding of détente, the expanding of cooperation, and the halting of the arms race.

The socialist countries have worked in this spirit ever since. They support the proposals made and steps taken by the Soviet Union in 1979 on arms reduction talks. We demand that the Salt negotiations be continued, and protest the so-called Euro-missile project. We expect all governments to prove through actions their opposition to war, their commitment to the reduction of tension and the advancement of the policy of détente, Sarlós stressed.

Romesh Chandra's tribute to Budapest's people

President of the World Peace Council Romesh Chandra told participants of the rally that an Appeal will be issued from Bu-

dapest, an appeal for peace, that would in our opinion be supported by all the peoples of the world. The Appeal calls on everyone, irrespective of political party affiliation, to join us in the effort to stem the dangers of war. The Appeal calls on socialists and social democrats, communists, religious people, everyone.

The World Peace Council has decided to give a title of distinction to Budapest—to declare that Budapest, the capital of Hungary, is the City of Peace. Throughout the history of the peace movement, Budapest has been a bastion of the peace movement and of the fight for peace. All people regard the population of Budapest as their true allies and as their true friends against oppression.

Budapest Mayor Zoltán Szépvölgyi then rose to speak, and said it was a great honour that the Presidium of the World Peace Council declared Budapest the City of Peace. In fact, Hungarians, and especially the people of Budapest, know very well the horrors of war. They have the great wish to live and work on in peace, so that they can contribute through their constructive work to a happier and richer future. The people of Budapest know that the cause of peace is in danger, and that they cannot remain inactive. They are for ever ready to take their share in this fight, for their own sake as well as for the benefit of all mankind, Szépvölgyi emphasized.

At the plenary sessions of the first two days of the consultations, in the debates on documents, and at sessions of standing committees, over 110 delegates spoke.

Delegates, speaking at Friday's plenary session of the World Peace Council's Budapest meeting, underlined in unison that the future and well-being of mankind can only be conceived in peace, amid increasingly wide economic and cultural co-operation.

At Friday's session—chaired by James Lamond, Labour MP, former Mayor of Aberdeen,—several speakers underlined that this day marks a day of remembrance for the peoples of this continent, as the 35th anniversary of the victory over fascism. Europe has already seen two conflagrations, and both wars set the whole world ablaze. Never has such great responsibility devolved on the world's peace movement as at present. Summoning all its strength it must act to stop factors that keep stirring up a cold-war atmosphere, speakers emphasized.

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