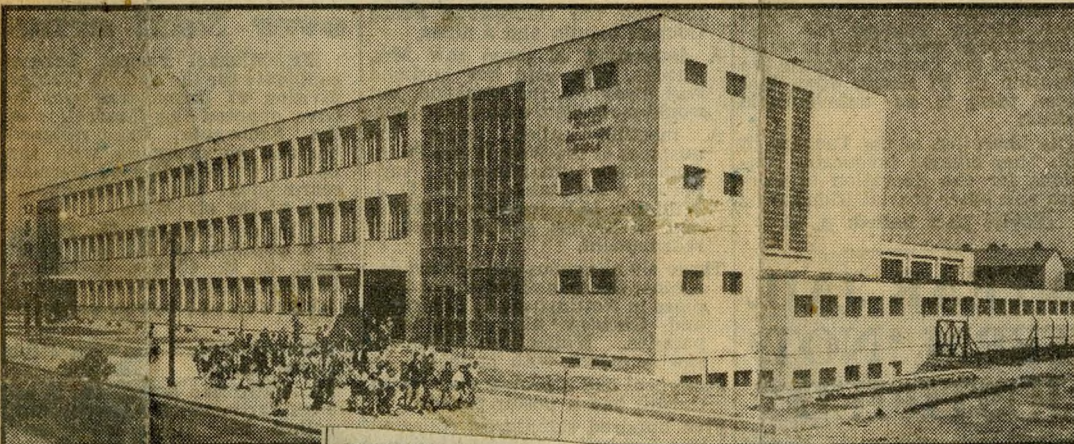


Budapestre vonatkozó ujságcikkek		Osztályozás	
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WHEN the people of Budapest crept out of the smoking ruins of their city ten years ago today, after the last of the Germans had been thrown out, they found 30,000 buildings—84 per cent of the total—destroyed or damaged, water, gas and electricity supplies wrecked, health, education and other public services crippled.

Twenty-eight thousand citizens had died as a direct result of the seven-week siege, 6,500 from earlier bombing and 24,000 men forced to fight for the Germans during the siege were dead.

Look at the scene through the eyes of Dr. Imre Szabo, Catholic Archbishop of Budapest: "I went for long walks all over the capital. . . . Everywhere I met emaciated, starving people of beggar-like appearance, pushing wheelbarrows or prams with baggage salvaged from the ravages of war, in search of a new home. . . ."

But out of the ruins also came men and women with the will and determination to rebuild and, what is more, to rebuild better than ever before.

The vicar saw that too. "The results achieved are almost unbelievable," he declared. "We who have lived through it . . . have perhaps not really comprehended the enormous change that has taken place.

"It has been a change not only in concrete values, in building, industry, communications and agriculture, but in the souls of men and women as well."

It was a task appalling to any but the boldest. First, every bridge linking Buda with Pest across the Danube was down. Four were entirely rebuilt and two new ones were added. This feat was one of the most decisive factors which won not only the people of Buda-

pest but the whole of Hungary as well to the policy of the Working People's Party.

Today Budapest is a healthier and happier place than it has ever been.

There is no unemployment. The death rate has been cut from 12.3 thousand to 10.6. The tuberculosis death rate has been slashed to only a quarter of the 1941 figure.



Before the war there were 20,600 hospital beds in the capital, after the siege only 11,000. Today there are 23,100.

Every one of the 22 districts of the city has been given a big health centre. There are 132 district surgeries where none existed before. There is one physician to every 300 patients.

In ten years Budapest has built up a sports organisation unexcelled in the world, multiplied the number of university students

several times over, trebled industrial production and enriched cultural life with more theatres, cinemas, houses of culture and art galleries than ever before.

Housing is still a major problem. Held back at first by the rebuilding of industry, schools and health services, the pace of house-building since July 1953 has been stepped up. In the first nine months of 1954 1,584 flats were finished, and in September 4,856 were under way.

But the rebirth of Budapest does not stop at restoration. The city council has just sent to the Government for approval a ten-year plan for modernising the city and has announced the first competition for architects to re-plan some of the principal squares.

The programme, discussed and criticised by architects and public leaders for nearly two years, visualises:

1. Building of 100,000 new flats.

Typical new school in a working-class suburb, the Gyorgy Kilian mixed school has 1,200 pupils, and there is a nursery school and creche on the same site.

2. Development of an inner Green Belt with radial spokes leading down to the Danube, cut by ring roads to ease central traffic congestion.

3. Radical overhaul of central area, involving demolition of closely packed buildings to let in sun and air.

4. Development of five new industrial areas, modernisation of railway stations, electrification of suburban lines, abolition of level crossings.

5. Linking various small-town suburbs with the mother city so that the whole of Budapest is a closely integrated, modern metropolis.

Lawrence Kirwan