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The imposing, dignified pile of the ancient Hungarian Parliament building on the bank of the Danube gives an impression of solidity that belies the tension outlined below.

Second Thoughts in Budapest

THERE are few Hungarians in Budapest who have not heard of the notorious "Green House," the infamous headquarters of the Allamvedelmi Aatosag—the political police. Although it is situated in the capital's busiest thoroughfare, the "Andrassey-ut," the building with its well-kept garden and carefully-nursed window flower boxes is shunned by all who happen to be in the vicinity.

When people do come near, they prefer to cross on to the other side, as otherwise they would be scrutinised immediately by stern-faced guards patrolling the perimeter.

The secrets of this prison in the cellars of the building are an inexhaustible topic for the inhabitants of the Danube city. They do not talk about them openly, for the capital is thronged with informers, but the newcomer is soon made aware of the House's evil reputation.

AN average of 30 to 40 prisoners are interviewed every week in the cellars, which have been extended since the hurried departure by members of the Fascist "Arrow Party." These green-shirted supporters of Hitler had carried out their own reign of terror, and many political captives were badly ill-treated in the small cells.

Because of the many green uniforms that were seen around the house, it was soon known as the "Green House."

When the Communists took control they decided to make further use of the building, and instructed a former tailor, Gabor Peter, to set up a new and escape-proof political prison.

Peter went to work immediately, creating from scratch an highly efficient, though ruthless political police. For

memory after interrogation and were released on signing a declaration that they were not maltreated.

However, the Green House of Budapest is not the only prison in Hungary. Only important political suspects are held there. Most country districts now have "political supervisors" who are in close contact with the local state police organs. The bitterest fight with the peasant is yet to come.

By
K. Frank Feldman

this achievement the 40-year-old ex-tailor has been awarded the rank of General and made a member of the Directorate of the Hungarian Communist Party.

In Hungary he is known as "The Grand Master of the Inquisition" and is regarded as the most powerful man behind Matyas Rakosi, the Party's secretary-general.

Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty, Hungary's Catholic Primate, who is now serving a life sentence, also passed through the examiners at the Green House. Afterwards the world was amazed when the Prelate publicly confessed to his alleged treason in court.

THE men in No. 60, Andrassey-ut, the Hungarian Lubjanka, had done their work well. They have, according to reports by refugees streaming into Austria at the rate of thirty a week, all the latest gadgets and torture paraphernalia at their disposal.

Several men have lost their

RAKOSI always wary and proud of his prestige among Cominform members, does not want an open showdown with the country's farmers. He is proceeding according to the old adage "divide and rule."

A political refugee whom I met near Furstenfeld, in the British Zone of Austria, was quite definite on Rakosi's plans.

"The assault against all Church organs," he declared, "will be carried on with such assiduity until all effective resistance has been crushed. The peasants have been leaning on Church advice for such a long period that they will flounder helplessly without it, and that will be the moment for large scale farm dispossessions."

HUNGARY'S rulers are anxious to maintain the small people's Republic as the showpiece of the Cominform. Nevertheless there are plenty of frowns from watchful Moscow.

Rakosi was recently called to the Kremlin to be

Hungarians are finding the pace set by their Communist rulers so hot that there may soon be another political purge.

briefed on three important points, according to usually well-informed emigre quarters in Vienna.

He returned to Budapest with sad news for his friend Zoltan Vas, economic dictator of Hungary. Russian experts had stressed the importance of speedier collectivisation and the overthrow of dissident "Kulaks"—rich farmers. Vas, who has already spent sixteen years of his life in prison, does not feel strong enough to disagree, but several of his advisors have, according to the most reliable reports coming into Austria, advised a "go slow" policy.

The peasants are of hardy stock, and have for centuries been bound to their land. It is feared that many will simply stop delivering their products, and thereby upset the already shaky economy. Hungary has been one of the chief sufferers since the Cominform ordered a boycott of Yugoslavia. Both countries had previously enjoyed a lively exchange of trade which has virtually been whittled down to a trickle.

MATYAS RAKOSI also brought bad news for his other Cabinet colleagues. He had been ordered to stop the illicit flow of refugees into Austria, and for this purpose was promised a large detachment of M.G.B. sleuths. These Russians are trained spies who operate outside the Soviet Union's frontiers, but are still part of the secret police.

They are now being assigned to known frontier trouble spots. It is known that numerous Hungarian soldiers have sought freedom in the west in recent months and have been aided across the border by the guards. This troubled the Inspector-General of the army so much that at Christmas he published an Order of the Day in "Nephad-Sereg," the organ of the people's army:

"We shall follow in the tracks of the Victorious Red Army," the order declared, "and our main task will be the immediate execution without trial of all Hungarians found in the West."

However, the revealing statement by the Inspector-



MATYAS RAKOSI
Secretary-General of the Communist Party.

General proved too much for the Communist Party which hastily withdrew most of the paper's copies.

The third order which the Hungarian Communist secretary-general brought back with him to Budapest looked easy on paper, but even Soviet police have drawn a blank so far.

In the last twelve months an underground anti-Boishevik newspaper has been circulating in the Red Army stationed in Central Europe.

IT is of the same size as the official organ and even bears its title: "Za Tschest Rodinji" (to the honour of our homeland). Only by scrutinising the paper closer do soldiers become aware of the anti-Bolshevik flavour. Leading articles demand the "liquidation of the liquidators" and underline the importance of passive resistance. According to neutral observers the paper is being printed in Hungary and then even sent by mail to Russian commanders.

Despite failure so far to trace the originators of the illegal newspaper, the Grand Master of the Inquisition has been ordered to redouble his efforts.

Hungary is today a country devoid of humour. One refugee who is eagerly awaiting emigration to America gave this short sketch of present life in the people's Republic.

"Hungary used to be known for its gaiety and constant laughter," he declared. "All

this has vanished. In Budapest's night clubs the comedian has been replaced by the policeman. Humorous publications have run out of acceptable stories as censorship, though not openly conducted, soon clamps down on a paper that does not toe the official line.

"The people are tired and apathetic, hoping for a miracle to help them out of their economic difficulties. Their only sign of passive resistance manifests itself in the overcrowded churches to which they flock every Sunday despite official exhortation to make Sunday a special workers' day."

The general opinion of men and women who manage to slip over the frontier from Hungary is that the pace set by the most ardent supporters of the Communist creed will soon even prove too much for many of the administration's members with the inevitable result of another purge and the arrival of fresh reinforcements of Soviet "advisors" and specialists.

