

U. S. CAN'T SEE 'CONFESSION' OF KOVACS: RUSSIA

Reds Threaten to Banish American Oil Men

BUDAPEST, Hungary, June 9.—(P)—Russia rejected tonight a United States request for copies of the purported "confession" of Bela Kovacs, which paved the way for the recent Communist-inspired coup d'etat against the regime of former Premier Ferenc Nagy.

A similar request by the British was denied last week. Statements from Russian sources asserted that the "confession" of Kovacs, former secretary general of the Small Holders party, implicated Nagy in a plot to overthrow the Hungarian republic.

A reliable American informant said Hungarian Communists had tried unsuccessfully to buy out private American oil interests in Hungary, and had threatened to banish American executives of the Hungarian-American oil company, Maort.

Deny Clearance for CARE

Other developments included: 1. United States sources said Russian occupation authorities had denied clearance for CARE, the Co-operative for American Remittances to Europe, and to its representative designate for Hungary, a former United States army officer in the American military mission at Budapest.

2. Rumors spread over Hungary that anti-Communists would denounce communist pressure within the national assembly, at a meeting of parliament tomorrow. The session will be the first since the resignation of Nagy, who is now in Switzerland, and the flight of Assembly Speaker Bela Varga, both moderate members of the Small Holders party.

Elections in September

3. The Social Democrat newspaper Vilag quoted Minister of Justice Istvan Rics as saying that a new national election was "scheduled for the first half of September," and that a new election law was being written which would disfranchise "enemies" of the state and their relatives.

[In London, British Minister of State Hector McNeil told the house of commons that the British ambassador to Moscow had been instructed to obtain clarification of the soviet policy toward Hungary.]

Russian refusal of the American request for copies of documents allegedly implicating Nagy was contained in a terse note from Lt. Gen. V. P. Sviridov, acting chairman of the allied control commission for Hungary, to Brig. Gen. George H. Weems, commander of the American military mission.

Bid Made by Rakosi

Sviridov said that all the information was in the hands of an inquiry commission of the Russian occupation forces, and that, since the control council had nothing to do with the documents, he could not produce them.

Kovacs has been under Russian arrest since Feb. 25, on a charge of espionage against the soviet union.

The reported offer to buy out American holdings in Maort, which was developed and is principally owned by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, was said to have been made personally last week by Deputy Prime Minister Matyas Rakosi, a Russian citizen who has become virtual dictator of Hungary.

[Standard Oil Co. [N. J.] said in New York it had no information about the reported communist offer.]

The United States source said that Rakosi had offered to pay Paul Ruedemann of Hartsdale, N. Y., local representative of Standard Oil, "twice Standard's original investment" if the Americans would get out. This offer of about \$5,000,000

Welcomes Fiancee



William Clay Ford, grandson of the late Henry Ford, greeting Martha Firestone, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey S. Firestone Jr., on her return to New York from a vacation in France and England. They will be married in Akron, O., on June 21.

was refused, the informant said, and Rakosi was told that Standard Oil had refused a German offer of \$25,000,000 for the same properties at the beginning of the war.

Russia Shares in Royalties

The threat of banishment was made last February, the American source said, shortly after Russian occupation forces released the oil holdings following repeated protests by the American government. The oil company has accused Russia of causing more than \$25,000,000 damages to the fields thru over production and waste in 1946.

The informant said communist controlled political police had told Ruedemann at that time that he and three or four other American representatives of the company would be thrown out of the country. The source added that the Communists now wanted to nationalize Hungarian oil fields, but were faced by the embarrassing fact that Russia owns half the Hungarian royalties of the Maort company.

AUSTRIAN RED ASSERTS FIGL OFFERS TO QUIT

VIENNA, June 9 (P)—Ernst Fischer, a communist member of the Austrian parliament, said tonight Chancellor Leopold Figl had offered to resign his post, but Figl later denied officially that he had made such a statement.

Fischer, one of four Communists in parliament, quoted Figl as saying he would quit his post if such action were necessary to bring about greater participation in government affairs by the Communist party.

"I am prepared to resign," Fischer said Figl told him. "I will then merely take over the leadership of the Peoples party and prepare for the new elections." Figl added, however, said Fischer, that there would be no elections in Austria before the spring of 1948.

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MADRID CHEERS MRS. PERON FOR FALANGE SALUTE

MADRID, June 9 (P)—Thousands of Spaniards sang and cheered today as Mrs. Juan Peron, wife of the Argentine president, appeared on a balcony with Generalissimo Franco and raised an arm in the Falange salute.

The 32 year old former actress, clad in a strawberry colored dress trimmed in black, had just received the diamond studded grand cross of Isabel the Catholic from the Spanish chief of state.

In her acceptance speech she contrasted what she called the "true distributive democracy" of Spain and Argentina with the "false, deceptive democracy" of other nations she did not name.

Expresses Thanks

To the crowd masses in the heat outside the royal palace Mrs. Peron

expressed thanks for the homage "rendered me by my motherland."

She said she knew what caused tears to fill the eyes of Franco when the people acclaimed him because it was the same emotion experienced by her husband when he was acclaimed by Argentine followers, "the shirtless ones."

She said she had come "from one just people to visit another just people" and cited her husband's message to Franco when the United Nations adopted a resolution against the Franco regime: "We love Spain and truth."

20 Persons Faint

The heat was so great that at least 20 women and children fainted among the multitude which jammed the Plaza Oriente before the palace.

Franco said of her visit to Spain that Peron had sent "the heart of Argentina" to this country and he asked the crowd to "give her your Spanish heart in return" and "entone your hymns of war and peace."

The crowd responded with the Falange song "Cara Al Sol" (Face to the Sun) and Mrs. Peron gave the falange raised arm salute.

U.S. 1ST MARINES TO LEAVE CHINA WITHIN 10 DAYS

PEIPING, China, June 9 (P)—The remainder of the 1st division of United States marines, stationed at Tientsin, will complete its evacuation from China within about 10 days, headquarters announced today. The first group to depart is scheduled tentatively to board ship on June 12; a second group, June 16, and the last, June 19.

When the approximately 1,500 men have sailed for Camp Pendleton, Cal., the only marines remaining in Tientsin will be a group of service troops processing surplus property and terminating leases.

Gen. Marshall announced at the recent Moscow foreign ministers' conference that American forces in China would be cut to their minimum strength by early June, but his schedule was slowed by communist troop actions around the departure port of Chinwangtao.

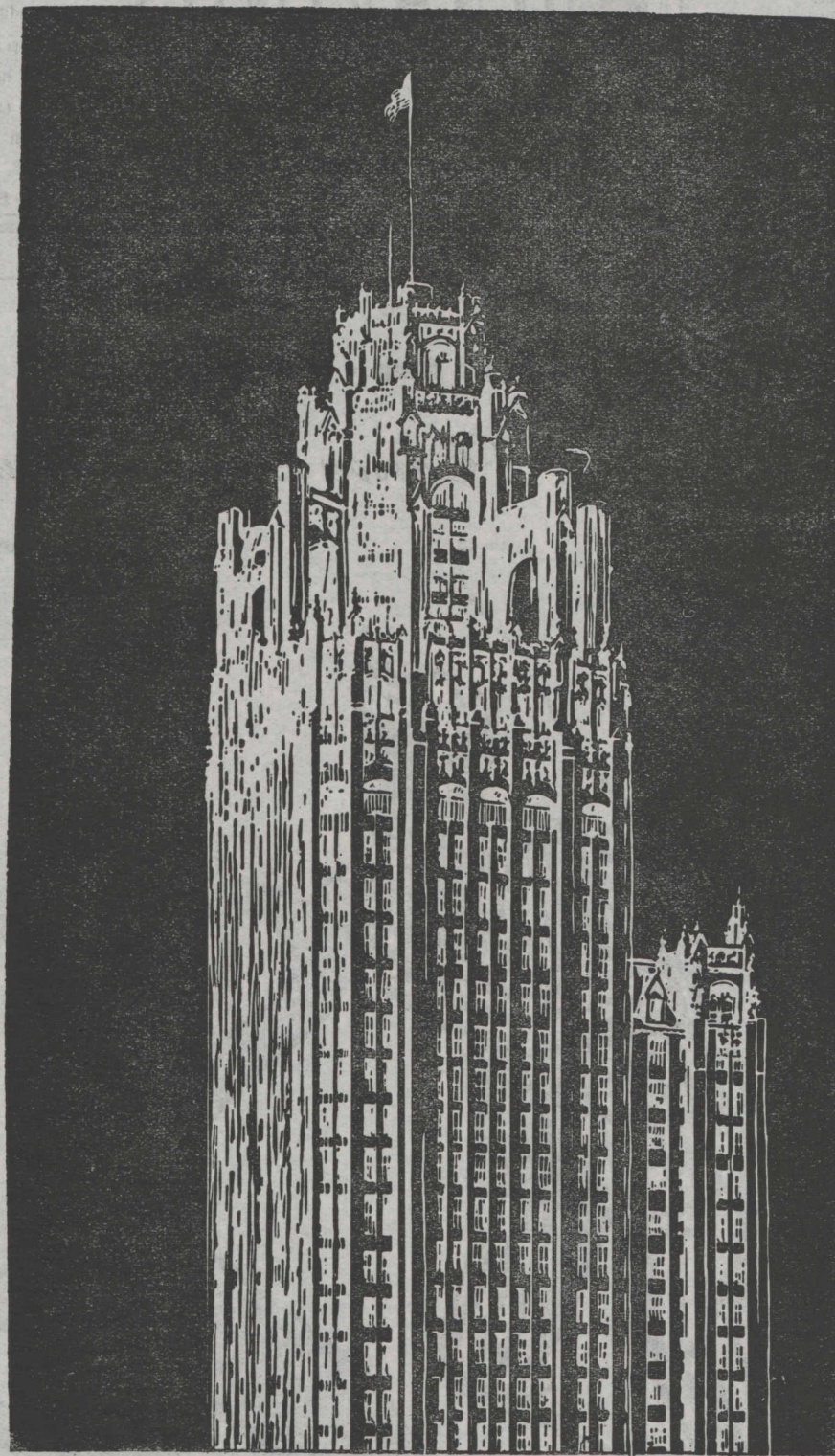
Meanwhile, the Chinese Nationalist defenders of Mukden asserted the Communist offensive in Manchuria appeared to have spent its force.

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