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REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

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in Hungary

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. In addition to the State Security Authority (Allamvedelmi Hatosag -- AVH), the CP in Hungary has organized several pro-Communist organizations to keep the non-Communist masses under steady control. Four of the most powerful of these mass organizations in Hungary were: the Federation of Working Youth, the Hungarian Freedom Fighters' Federation, the Hungarian-Soviet Society, and the Hungarian Women's Democratic Association. Except for the leaders, the majority of the members of these organizations were not members of the Party.
2. The "membership drive" for these organizations was remarkably simple and effective: namely, no non-Communist who was not a member of a mass organization could get a job in Communist Hungary. Under the Communist system, wages were not high enough to support a family and, in order to fend off starvation, every able-bodied member of a family had to have employment. Since every trade and profession was nationalized, the State was the only employer and it followed naturally that joining a mass organization was, for non-Communists, the only hope of getting a job. Through this system the ranks of the mass organizations were always completely filled. All employees either repeated the slogans of their Communist bosses or faced the possibility of starvation or interference by the AVH. Actually, nobody could escape membership in one or another mass organization. With the old and disabled under the control of block trustees (toebbizalmi) and children under their

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teachers, in addition to the wide-spread membership of the mass organizations, the Communists always had material available for organizing huge demonstrations, marches, and meetings which gave the West a false picture of popular support.

3. The mass organizations were organized generally according to the Party pattern. They were divided into small groups at both the places of work and in the homes. One group controlled the other through trustees or responsible persons (feleloes) and, in case of any failure, the Party called the trustees to account. Naturally, the trustees, interested in saving their own skins, kept a careful watch on the persons for whom they were responsible. This was one of the reasons which made any open resistance against the regime impossible. The whole structure of Hungarian life was entangled with control systems and nobody dared to trust the person next to him.

The Federation of Working Youth (Dolgozo Ifjusag Szoevetsege -- DISZ)

4. The CP considered DISZ a juvenile youth team just like the KOMSOMOL in the USSR, with the main duty of carrying out the directives of the CP among Hungarian youth.

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[redacted] there was a Secretariat for the country (Orszagos Titkarsag). [redacted] there also was a Budapest Secretariat (Budapesti Titkarsag), under which there were city district secretariats (Kerueleti Titkarsagok). There were also county secretariats (Megyei Titkarsagok) with rural district secretariats (Jarasi Titkarsagok) under them. [redacted] there were also town secretariats (Varosi Titkarsagok). Under the Budapest district secretariats and the district secretariats for rural Hungary were the factory and office organizations of this Federation (Uezemi es hivatali szervezetek).

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The Hungarian Freedom Fighters' Federation (Magyar Szabadsagharcos Szoevetseg -- MSZHSZ)

5. [redacted] the organization of this Federation was similar to DISZ, and [redacted] its activities came under strong Soviet military influence. The main purpose of the Federation was the organization and training of the population in such military matters as the use of small arms, driving, communications, parachutes, etc. Probably they gave training in partisan tactics and the use of explosives also. Physical training was stressed more than ideological indoctrination in this particular mass organization, which was not generally the case. However, the instructors used to give such commands as "Take your aim at the imperialist enemy! -- Fire!" The majority of the instructors within the MSZHSZ were Army reserve officers. [redacted] the training progressed very slowly, partly because the members were able to stay away from training for any number of other "official activities". From time to time the CP called for greater efficiency in MSZHSZ activities, but the low intelligence of the organization's leaders precluded any improvement of more than a temporary nature.

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The Hungarian-Soviet Society (Magyar-Szovjet Tarsasag -- MSZT).

6. The official purpose of the MSZT was to spread Soviet culture in Hungary and cultivate friendly relations between the two countries. Its activities included collecting membership fees, producing material for bulletin boards, printing pro-Soviet placards, propagating Soviet motion pictures, and organizing exhibitions on such subjects as Lenin's life, Stalin's life, and "The Constructions of Communism as the Works of Peace". MSZT sponsored cultural evenings to propagate Soviet music, literature and art, and the annual "Month of Soviet-

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Hungarian Friendship", which usually lasted for two or three months. MSZT also printed pro-Soviet fund-raising books and booklets. MSZT was more popular than the other mass organizations because attendance was not so rigidly enforced and the members were not tied down as much with the performance of personal activities. Nevertheless, membership in MSZT provided an excuse for avoiding participation in the activities of other mass organizations. As to the benefits of MSZT membership, occasionally members were able to catch a little nap during meetings and cultural programs. The activities of MSZT had no effect on the Hungarian public they were designed to impress. People were disgusted with everything and everyone Communistic coming from the USSR, and bored with Communist superlatives about the Soviets. Even people who did not have sufficient education to know who Edison, Marconi, Stephenson, etc., were, were tired of Communist propaganda on Russian inventors. Hungarians laughed at Life and Science, the paper published by the Society, which was always full of ridiculous fabrications about Russian inventors and inventions.

The Democratic Association of Hungarian Women (Magyar Noek Demokratikus Szoevetsege -- MNDSZ).

7. Through this Association the Communists forced women to appear in their political theater in a role supporting, emphasizing, and accepting Communist policy. The leaders of this organization were mostly embittered, ugly, stupid suffragette-type old maids whose behavior did not influence Hungarian women.

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