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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Altercation Among
Hungarian Journalists

INFO. [REDACTED]

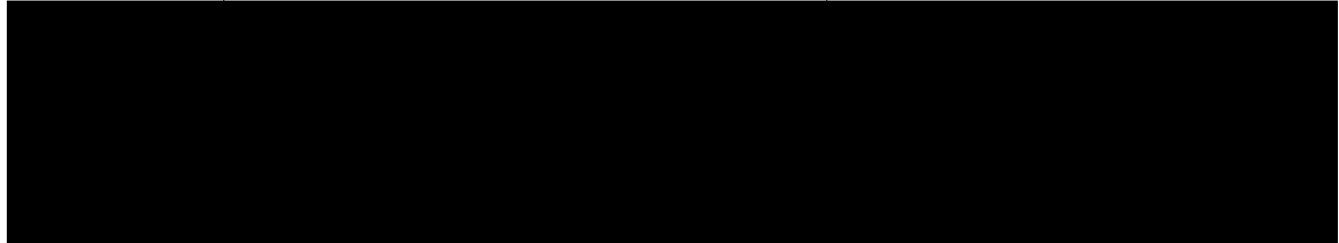
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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]
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1. Nándor Keszthelyi, Chief of the Press Section of the Hungarian Foreign Office, arrived in Paris on 1 December to investigate personally an altercation among Hungarian journalists which had begun during the Paris Peace Conference. Ivan Boldissár, the Hungarian observer at UNESCO, had, in his capacity as head of the Hungarian Press delegation, deleted all information unfavorable to the Russians from Hungarian newsmen's copy. Imre Mikes, of the moderate Smallholders paper Magyar Nemzet, however, evaded censorship by telephoning his copy directly to Budapest. A journalistic conflict developed between the left and the moderates in Hungary.
2. Meanwhile, in Budapest, the Communist Szabad Nép and the Red Army newspaper Szabad Szó, attacked Mikes. Even some moderates such as Secretary of State Father István Balogh, who has great influence over Magyar Nemzet, are endeavoring to use this current unrest to force as many of their political opponents as possible out of responsible positions.

The Hungarian Communists in Paris and Budapest failed in their attempt to muzzle Mikes by offering him membership in the Party and the editorship of their publication Párisi Magyar Szemle, but succeeded in having his appointment as Press Attache at the Paris Legation cancelled. The Legation bulletin, which he was to have edited, has stopped publication. Pál Auer, Hungarian Minister to France, and Foreign Minister Janos Gyöngyössy had both approved Mikes for this post, but Communist Matyas Rakosi demanded that the appointment be withdrawn.

The attacks against Mikes and his reporting of the UNESCO conference continue.

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