

21 april 1959

U 3585/59 - C 46 - P4/PS9.

F.H. 9 702/17

GEHEIM

Land: Hongarije.  
Onderwerp: The political situation in Hungary (March 1959).

Referenties:

Datum van  
waarneming: Eind maart 1959.

Bron: Van bevriende zijde.

Opmerkingen:

Verzonden aan: de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

Aan Zijne Excellentie Prof. Dr L.J.M. BEEL  
Minister-President

Plein 1813 no. 4

'S-GRAVENHAGE.

21 April 1959

U 3585/59 - C46 - P4 / P59

HUNGARY

The political situation in Hungary (March 1959)

GEHEIM

1. The political climate in Hungary has changed considerably since Kádár's return from attendance of the XXIIst Congress of the G.P.S.U. in Moscow. Great efforts are being made to extend collectivisation of the land and as a result, the peasantry is being subjected to a number of "administrative measures". By way of contrast, the remainder of the population is now being treated somewhat more leniently with, of course, some exceptions and some inconsistencies. Thus, for instance, the concentration camp in Kistarosa has been disbanded, and many of the Hungarians who took an active part in the 1956 Revolution have had their sentences remitted, providing always that they had not been convicted of the use of arms.
2. According to a member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee, a meeting of the Central Committee took place shortly after Kádár's return from Moscow, and the following transpired. Kádár reported on his visit to Moscow saying, inter alia, that he had been asked by Khrushchov to see that Hungary followed the Russian example and aimed at completing the transition from socialism to full communism within the next seven years. In the ensuing discussion, Istvan Friesz was the principle speaker in favour of collectivisation of the land, pointing out that, Poland apart, Hungary was the last socialist state where only 25% of the peasantry worked in the socialist sector and that, in his opinion, it was impossible to build even a socialist state whilst at the same time allowing peasant capitalism. These ideas were opposed by Prieszol a member of the Central Committee, who argued that it would be wrong to deprive the peasantry of their incentives now that they were producing good results and that, in any case, there were an insufficient number of tractors in the country to permit collectivisation of the land. Prieszol went on to say that he knew of a district in which only two tractors were to be found. Both speakers had their supporters, and it seemed evident that on the issue of

/ collectivisation ....

collectivization of the land, the Central Committee was divided.

None-the-less, it was eventually agreed to enforce a larger degree of collectivisation and Dögei, who is in any case in favour of it and is, incidentally, an opponent of Kádár, was made responsible for taking the necessary measures.

3. In a later conversation, the member of the Political Committee mentioned that collectivisation had made good progress in three districts near the Austrian Frontier, mentioning by name the districts of Győr and Sopron. The method used had been to send police and army reinforcements to these areas and to assemble the peasants in the villages for the purpose of criticising their productivity and of enjoining them to participate in the work of the kolkhozes. In other districts less drastic measures were in use. However in one area threats had been made to professional men whose fathers were peasants that they would be liable to dismissal unless they visited their parents and persuaded them to join a Kolkhoz.

4. It was considered unlikely that Russia would allow Hungary to be included in a neutral belt now that very rich uranium deposits had been discovered at ZANKO and AKALI, near Lake Balaton. As regards Kádár's standing in the country, many people thought that he did not always make the best use of his opportunities. Thus Kádár had succeeded last year in having Col. Farkas of the A.V.H. sentenced and hanged. This had been done in great secrecy, when to have given wide publicity to the execution of Farkas might have gained Kádár considerable popularity among the population.