

# RAKOSI GIVES UP TOP HUNGARY POST, ADMITTING ERRORS

## Party Chief Also Cites Age and Ill Health as Reasons

### —Gero Succeeds Him

Dispatch of The Times, London.

VIENNA, July 18 — Matyas Rakosi, First Secretary of the Hungarian Workers (Communist) party, has resigned. He is to be succeeded by Erno Gero, a First Deputy Premier.

The Budapest radio reported that Mr. Rakosi had announced his resignation in a letter to a meeting of the party's Central Committee today that he himself attended. The reasons given for the resignation were his age (64) and his ailments, which he said had worsened in the last two years.

According to the Budapest radio, Mr. Rákosi's letter added that since the Twentieth Congress of the Soviet Communist party last February he had come to realize that his mistakes, "which resulted from the cult of personality and were opposed to the laws of socialism," were more serious than he had first thought.

The "cult of personality," a euphemism for one-man rule by Stalin and other Communist leaders, and infractions against Socialist legal procedures were assailed at the Soviet party congress.

Mr. Rakosi acknowledged that he had done great damage to the party and that to stay at his post would hamper the development of socialism and give its enemies a basis for attack, the radio said.

It added that the meeting, over which Premier Andras Hegedus presided, accepted the resignation and adopted a resolution stressing Mr. Rakosi's "historic merits."

#### Warning on Nagy Given

The resolution warned that the right-wing group around Imre Nagy, former Premier, who was unseated last summer and who has been expelled from the party, would exploit Mr. Rakosi's resignation. The leadership of the party therefore appealed to the populace to preserve discipline and unity.

Speculation has been rife about Mr. Rakosi's position ever since the beginning of anti-Stalinism in Eastern Europe and even more so since the reconciliation of the Kremlin with President Tito of Yugoslavia. Marshal Tito seems to have done his best to see that heads should roll among his old enemies of whom Mr. Rakosi was one.

Mr. Rakosi also has been under attack for some time within Hungary. At meetings of the Petofi Youth Club last month he personally and explicitly came under attack. Mme. Laszlo Rajk, widow of a Hungarian leader who was executed in 1948 on charges of Titoism and treachery, accused Mr. Rakosi of having been responsible for false charges against her husband.

Hints were dropped by Mr. Rakosi himself that his retirement might be pending. He had remarked at Budapest parties on his growing age and poor health.

It is too early to say what

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the change in the Hungarian leadership will mean. But the appointment of Mr. Gero, who Rakosi, and the explicit warning against Mr. Nagy's followers, would seem to indicate that no major change of course is intended.

Rather, it seems, the Hungarians may be trying to get rid of a personage who has become a center of criticism and thus a liability both at home and abroad.

## Gero Warns on a 'Poznan'

VIENNA, July 18 (Reuters)—Shortly after he had been named to succeed Mr. Rakosi, Mr. Gero outlined his program for the party.

The new party leader said that while Hungary still had its enemies, there would be "no second Poznan" there. This was in reference to worker riots last month in the Polish industrial town.

He said Mr. Rakosi's main error had been his inability to adjust himself to the new post-Stalinis situation, a factor that had hampered the development of collective leadership in Hungary.

Mr. Gero declared that Hungary regretted the dispute with Yugoslavia and called for friendship between the two countries. He summed up the party's future tasks as the strengthening of collective leadership and the complete liquidation of the cult of the individual, a euphemism for one-man rule.

The meeting of the Central Committee that accepted Mr. Rakosi's resignation also elected four new members to its Politburo. Three of them had fallen from grace in the Rakosi era.

They were: Gyorgy Marosan, former Social Democrat arrested in 1950 and only recently rehabilitated; Janos Kadar, former Minister of the Interior, also arrested in 1950 for Titoism and recently freed; and Jozsef Revai, a former Minister, who was removed from the Politburo in 1953.

The fourth additional member is Karoly Kiss, president of the Hungarian party's Control Commission.

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