

HUNGARIAN UNIONS RETURN TO PRE-1948 ORGANIZATION

By SAM RUSSELL

BUDAPEST. — The Hungarian trade unions are being radically reorganized. The pre-1948 organization of the Hungarian Trades Unions Congress has been restored.

The provisional central council of unions, which corresponds to the General Council of the T.U.C., has brought back a number of trade union leaders who were removed from their posts in 1949 and 1950 by the arbitrary decision of the former Hungarian Communist leader Rakosi.

A 60-year-old joiner, with an outstanding record in the prewar years in fighting the Horthy fascist regime, Miklos Somogyi, has been elected chairman of the Hungarian T. U. C., replacing Sandor Gaspar, who now becomes general secretary.

Western broadcasts have attempted to present this reorganization as the elimination of Sandor Gaspar and other alleged "Stalinists" from the leadership. It is nothing of the sort.

I spoke with both these trade union leaders. They told me that after 1948 the post of general secretary of the Hungarian trade unions had been abolished on Rakosi's orders and the unions were controlled by a president and presidium.

They have now returned to the old form of organization. Miklos Vas, who was assistant general secretary up to 1948, has been elected vice-chairman and there are four assistant secretaries under Sandor Gaspar.

The new chairman, Miklos Somogyi, is well known and popular among Hungarian workers as one of the leaders of a series of building workers' strikes in 1933, 1935 and 1937.

He dismissed with contempt all the stories alleging that he had kicked out his predecessor or that his predecessor had been forced out.

"I would like to emphasize," he said, "that the charges made against Sandor Gaspar that he was a Rakosi man are completely false."

He told me they wanted to restore the old traditional policies of the trade unions. If the members of a trade union could not achieve their rightful demands in any other way then they must be able to use the strike weapon.

Sandor Gaspar pointed out that the workers' council could not replace the trade unions as many had thought to do.

Major Budapest factories like Mavag, Ganz, Csepel and others

are going ahead electing new trade union organizations — a process which Sandor Gaspar stressed will be continued from the bottom up until a new general council of the Hungarian T.U.C. is elected.

As I was finishing my talk with the new general secretary Janos Kadar arrived. I asked the Hungarian Premier if he had some to Hungary's Transport House because of differences between the government and the trade unions.

They had common aims, he said, and he had come to discuss with the reorganized trade union leaderships just how these common aims could best be achieved.

Martial Law

(Continued from Page 2)

them down with machine gun fire at Saltojarian.

It charged that a similar blood-bath was planned last Tuesday in Budapest when mourning women laid flowers on the tomb of the unknown soldier.

"The counter-revolutionaries," the government said, "have made new attempts to start an armed uprising and have been spreading rumors and distributing appeals for a new strike."

Montgomery

(Continued from Page 1)

country, a point which evoked cries of "Amen" and "That's right."

Solemnly discussing his deep South tradition and background, he told how he sometimes wondered about himself. "I go out to the graves of my South Carolina ancestors and ponder," he said, "and ask myself—am I not right? And everytime the answer comes back—You are right and all the rest of them are wrong."

He was cheered and embraced on the stage by Negro ministers.

At another session of the Institute, the Rev. W. H. Borders, of the Wheat St. Church of Atlanta, dealt with the question of whose South it was.

"I'm not going to New York or Chicago," he said "I'm going to live right here. To me the shortest distance to Heaven is from Atlanta, Ga. It belongs to me as much as to Herman Talmadge."

This is the tenor of the week here. "We can walk another year," was the shout Friday night as young Negro high school children with a richness of imagery and determination which would wipe up the floor in debate with any Dixiecrat Senator.