

Bela Kun Record Cleared As Reds Rewrite History

Special to The New York Times.

MOSCOW, Feb. 21—Bela Kun, Hungarian revolutionary and one of European communism's best-known figures, was restored to grace today. Kun, who supported and was supported by Lenin, was the head of the short-lived Communist regime in Hungary in 1919.

The clearing of his name coincided with the Twentieth Congress of the Soviet Communist

Excerpts from Kaganovich and Bulganin speeches, Page 4.

party. At today's session of the congress, Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin called on the Soviet people to fulfill the new Five-Year Plan. He also urged them to maintain the lead the Soviet Union professes to hold in the peaceful development of atomic energy.

Following the revolution in Hungary and several court trials in Vienna, Kun came to the Soviet Union. He was active here, but in the Nineteen Thirties, when other Communist personalities also went into eclipse, Kun disappeared.

He is not mentioned in the Soviet Encyclopedia. The latest volume of the encyclopedia, issued last September, praises Matyas Rakosi, present-day Hungarian Communist leader, as one of the leaders of the Hungarian revolution.

Today, in Pravda, Eugen S. Varga, economist of Hungarian origin, published an article noting the seventieth anniversary of Kun's birth. He recounts the relationship between Kun and Lenin. An official at the Hungarian Embassy here said Kun was dead, but he was unable to say when his country's most famous Communist had died.

During the Soviet party congress, Anastas I. Mikoyan, a Soviet First Deputy Premier, referred to unjust actions that had been taken against well-known

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Bela Kun Is Restored to Grace; Soviet Purged Hungarian in 30's



Bela Kun



Associated Press

Stanislav V. Kassier

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Communists in the previous era on the basis of false information presented many years after specific acts had been supposed to have occurred.

Hungary Hears of Restoration

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VIENNA, Feb. 21—The restoration to grace of Bela Kun was announced in today's edition of Szabad Nep, central organ of the Hungarian Communist party, the Budapest radio said.

Kun Was a 'Trotskyite'

By HARRISON E. SALISBURY

Bela Kun was one of the most bloodthirsty revolutionaries of our time.

For years after his flight to the Soviet Union, Kun lived the comparatively humdrum existence of the functionaries of the Communist International. Never again in his lifetime was the revolutionary flame to light in Hungary.

Then came the Nineteen Thirties and the purges of the old Bolsheviks by Stalin. Kun vanished into the execution chambers. The date—even the year—is not publicly known.

The only clue to Kun's existence lay in repeated reference by the Communists to "Trotskyite agents" who had "penetrated even into the highest party institutions." But, says the Soviet Encyclopedia, with "profound difficulty" the "Marxist-Leninist core of the party was finally cleansed."

Kun, in other words, was shot as an agent of Leon Trotsky, Stalin's great political opponent.

Thus, Kun's name joined those of two lesser known Soviet Bolsheviks, Stanislav V. Kassier and Vladimir Antonov-Ovseyenko, on the rehabilitation list.

Portrait Was Missing

One bright spring morning in 1938 a United States correspondent in Moscow noticed that the portrait of Mr. Kassier, then Communist party chief in the Ukraine, was missing from a display posted outside his apartment house.

About the same time grizzled old Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko, who led the Bolshevik assault on the Czar's Winter Palace in 1917, sailed from Spain on a Soviet boat for Odessa.

Nothing was ever heard of Messrs. Kassier or Antonov-Ovseyenko again.

A suspicion that they were victims of the purge of the Nineteen Thirties has now been confirmed. Anastas I. Mikoyan, member of the Presidium of the Soviet Communist party, acknowledged in an address to the Twentieth party Congress in Moscow that the two men were the victims of false accusations.

There are no particular lines to link Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko and Mr. Kassier beyond the fact that each man had had some connection with the turbulent Ukraine.

However, in their younger days both were linked with Trotsky.

This link strengthens the sus-

picion that the anathema pronounced on Trotsky's name by Stalin may be lifted by Stalin's heirs, at least as regards the early revolutionary and immediate post-revolutionary years.

A fiery young naval petty officer who had played a role in the 1905 Russian revolution at the Sevastopol naval base, Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko was the principal member of the Bolshevik military committee that carried out the actual uprising in Petrograd (now Leningrad) in 1917.

He had been a member of the opposing Social Democratic faction, the Mensheviks, and had been close to Trotsky while that revolutionary leader was in exile in Paris. Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko was at Trotsky's right hand in the Russian civil war. He led the Red forces that finally established Soviet power in the Ukraine.

After the Revolution, Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko wrote his memoirs and dabbled a little in politics as a Trotsky supporter, but threw his allegiance to Stalin after Trotsky had left the Soviet Union.

Visit to Spain Cited

Stalin sent Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko on various diplomatic missions abroad. When civil war broke out in Spain, Stalin shipped him off to Barcelona. There, it was said, his task was the liquidation of anarchist and Trotskyite elements among the Spanish Loyalist forces.

In 1938, Stalin ordered Mr. Antonov-Ovseyenko back home. He was supposed to take up a job in the Ministry of Justice. Apparently he walked straight into the hands of the secret police.

Mr. Kassier was one of the tough hard-mouthed, hard-fisted young party lieutenants upon whom Stalin founded his control of the Communist apparatus.

Mr. Kassier was in the Ukraine at the time of the revolution. He went into the Communist trade union movement and by 1921 was a rough young Moscow union organizer, and a supporter of Trotsky. However, Mr. Kassier quickly cast his fate with Stalin.

By 1930 Mr. Kassier had become a member of the Politburo. He was party secretary of the Ukraine in the grim days of peasant collectivization and the ensuing famine.

When the great purge finally got underway publicly in 1936, Mr. Kassier was named as one of the intended victims of the first band of old Bolsheviks tried—the group headed by Lev Kamenev and Grigory S. Zinoviev. He became a victim of the purge just two years later.

One possible clue is that Mr. Kassier worked closely in the late Nineteen Thirties with Sergo Ordzhonikidze, Communist party boss of heavy industry and like Stalin a Georgian.

Mr. Ordzhonikidze died in 1937, presumably of a natural death. But there has long been a suspicion that Mr. Ordzhonikidze had broken with Stalin over the purges. Possibly this break cost Mr. Kassier his life.