

Free Elections Pledged

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VIENNA, Wednesday, Oct. 31—Premier Imre Nagy promised the Hungarian people yesterday free elections and an early end of the one-party dictatorship. If carried out this would mean the certain ending of Communist rule in Hungary.

Fulfillment of Mr. Nagy's pledge, made in a broadcast speech to the country, hinged on the Soviet Army. The Budapest radio said Soviet troops had started to move out of the battered capital. The announced arrangement between the Hungarian Defense Ministry and the Soviet commander was for the evacuation to be completed by dawn.

The Hungarian news agency announced that Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty had been released after eight years of imprisonment. The Cardinal was reported on his way to Budapest.

Reliable reports from Budapest reaching here this morning said sizable Soviet forces had left the Hungarian capital during the night. Armed patriots started guarding Parliament on the Danube embankment and

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other public buildings in the Government district.

All during the night shots and explosions were still heard in the central parts of Budapest. It was assumed that these were from fighting between anti-Communist and remnants of the Hungarian Communist political police.

Late reports said the "Freedom Fighters" were determined to annihilate the secret police formations. It was also reported that the Hungarian Air Force had presented an ultimatum to the Soviet troops to evacuate Budapest before 4 A. M. or it would bomb such Soviet detachments as were still in the capital. No such attack from the air was reported up to late this morning, however.

The entire Hungarian Army went over to the "Freedom Fighters" during the night, according to information received here.

Premier Imre Nagy was said to be negotiating with the "Revolutionary Committee" to end the bloodshed. It was not immediately known here whether this body represented all the groups that took part in the anti-Communist uprising.

The Budapest radio opened its broadcasts with appeals from several factories to their workers to return to work today.

The Austrian radio said it appeared that Hungarian patriots in firm control of virtually all important cities and towns outside Budapest, had adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward the promises of the Nagy Government.

The news from Moscow that the Soviet Union was prepared to reconsider the position of its troops stationed in Hungary, Poland and Rumania had delirious reception in the streets of

Budapest, according to a late broadcast.

The regime's retreat from communism as Hungarians have learned to know it during the last twelve years was made known in an extraordinary broadcast. Premier Nagy was followed at the microphone by Zoltan Tildy, leader of the smallholders party, and Janos Kadar, the new Communist chief. Mr. Kadar not only stamped the party's approval on the Government's new policies but urged the rank and file members to cooperate with the "fighters for freedom."

Mr. Nagy told the country the decision last Tuesday to call in the Soviet Army had been taken without his knowledge by Erno Gero, deposed First Secretary of the Communist party, and Andras Hegedus, former Premier. These two "will have to answer for this grave guilt before the nation," Mr. Nagy declared.

He said that elimination of the one-party system had been forced by the strength of the revolutionary movement and the progress of democratization in Hungary.

The immediate effect was the restoration of the Smallholders and Social Democratic parties to legal participation in Hungarian politics.

Mr. Tildy and Bela Kovacs, Minister of Agriculture, both of the Smallholders party, are already in the Government. Mr. Nagy said that Social Democrats would also be invited to join a new coalition.

The new inner Cabinet is to include Vice Premier Ferenc Erdei, Mr. Kovacs, Mr. Kadar and Bela Losonci in addition to one Socialist who was unnamed.

The national Government extended immediate recognition to the Revolutionary Councils now in control of most provincial cities and towns. Mr. Nagy went on to beseech their support of the new national Government.

Mr. Tildy told the radio audience that the policy of the new Government was to work for peace and friendship with all countries including the Soviet Union.