

Save the Victims of Horthy!

By Martin Abern

PROTEST of world labor and liberal opinion has temporarily stayed the hand of death against Zoltan Szanto and thirty other Hungarian workers. The Hungarian Horthy Dictatorship has transferred the cases of these Hungarian workers from the Special Military Court, which either acquits or condemns accused men to death, to the civil courts. The "crime" with which Szanto and the others are charged, is the attempt to organize a Communist Party, of having established Party schools, prepared a demonstration for the anniversary of the proclamation of the Hungarian Soviet Republic, and of having planned to establish a printing shop to issue leaflets.

The incriminated are partly members of the Communist Party and partly of the Hungarian Socialist Labor Party, the Vagi party, which can be compared to the former Independent Social-Democratic party, but by no means a Communist Party.

Zoltan Szanto, the brother of Bela Szanto, one of the People's Commissars for War under the Soviet Government of Hungary, was arrested several months ago on charges of "conspiracy to overthrow the Horthy regime" growing out of his active propaganda among the masses. Stephan Vagi and his supporters independently carried on agitation on behalf of the exploited Hungarian masses. The bloody terror of the Bethlen-Horthy rule drives the Social-Democratic workers to the Left. The hostility and contempt of the Bethlen government toward the workers and their attempts to better their conditions of life is at the root of the opposition and persecution of revolutionary and radical workingmen as Szanto, Vagi, Rakosi.

The political aims of the Horthy regime can be summarized as follows:

1. Restoration of the Hapsburg monarchy.
2. Smashing of the workers' movement.
3. Preparation for war.

Agitation for the return of "The King" continues openly. Elections are carried on with unheard of terror and in this fashion an Upperhouse (Magenatenhaus) was created which is overwhelmingly monarchistic. Politically, Horthyism and monarchy occupy the same ground.

The Bethlen government aims also to destroy every form of workers' organization and for *unconditional submission by the workers to the terrible economic exploitation*. Additional laws are being prepared relative to the

"freedom of work", the trade unions, the right to strike, (which is to be abolished), etc. Trade Unions are not to participate in politics. Scabs will be kept in strike areas. Trade Unions are to be so emasculated that they become mere organs of the government. Such are the aims and the initial steps have been taken toward their summation—aims and purposes which parallel the Mussolini rule in Italy.

Reactionary Hungary's foreign policy has been that of intimate adhesion to the English-Italian imperialistic block. Economically, only lately, the construction of the Electricity Central Works has been given over to the Tal-



Zoltan Szanto.

bot group under colonial conditions of labor. Hungary is being permitted gradually to increase its armed forces, already in excess of the Peace Treaty, England allowing this. There is hope for the restoration of the confiscated goods and estates of the Transylvanian landlords by the Roumanians, in which Bethlen is directly interested. The Bethlen-Horthy policy hopes also toward a new agreement and revision of the Trianon peace with Italy. The English-Italian-Hungarian concord would help toward that end. In all this are to be found the dangers of war in the Bethlen policy.

Because the Hungarian Communists, the Socialist Labor Party members propose resistance to this reactionary program and call upon the workers to organize, the wrath of the White Terror is to be brought down upon them. Arrests, persecutions, brutalities and imprisonments against Szanto, Vagi, Rakosi and the other militant Hungarian workers abound. The attempt to railroad these workers to death thru a special military court has thus far failed and their cases will be reviewed in the civil courts, equally unfavorable,

but upon which international labor must must bring pressure for the freedom of the persecuted revolutionaries.

In the United States, protest has also been effective. On April 14, International Labor Defense sent the following message to the Hungarian Ambassador at Washington, D. C.:

Hungarian Ambassador,
Hungarian Embassy,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

For your information we wish to advise you that the following cablegram was sent to Premier Bethlen, Budapest, and was signed by the following prominent Americans:

Chicago, Ill., April 14, 1927.

Count Bethlen, Premier Budapest.

Cablegram. Deferred rates.

Press reports Szanto and thirty other Hungarian workers now before criminal court for disagreeing your government stop. We ask you intervene for full impartial trial and leniency.

Clarence Darrow, Upton Sinclair, Professor Robt. Morss Lovett, Carl Haessler, Bishop Wm. Montgomery Brown, William Mahoney, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Edw. C. Wentworth, Robert Dunn, Alice Stone Blackwell, Scott Nearing, David Starr Jordan, Victor L. Berger, member of congress; Theodore Debs, Henry Wadsworth L. Dana, David Rhys Williams, Ralph Chaplin, Colonel Chas. Erskine Wood, Carlo Tresca, Sarah Bard Fields, Dun-

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can McDonald, Forest Bailey, Ellen Hayes.

Among other cables sent were those from organizations in New York, Chicago, Perth Amboy, N. J.; Detroit, Mich., and others.

American Labor, together with work-

ers everywhere, must continue to protest on behalf of the persecuted Hungarian worker and to expose the farcical trials accorded radical workers.

The Rakosi-Vagi trial of 1926 was a sample of the methods of terror of the

Horthy domination and the trial of Szanto and his 30 "accomplices" is but a continuation of the attempts of reactionary Hungary to destroy the labor movement. This must be resisted on an international scale.