

FAD; DA Gross

NAB-RUTGERS LANGUAGE AND ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR HUNGARIAN SCHOLARS

Second Week

January 27 - February 2

- - - - -

DAILY RECORD

- Sunday, Jan. 27 - P.M. Entire group at Chaplain's home for supper, followed by singing, games, recorded music and informal talk by British Quaker on U.N. developments vis a vis Hungary.
- Monday, Jan. 28 - 9:00 - 12:00 and 2:00 - 4:00, English Language classes and study periods.
P.M. - arrival of gift TV.
- Tuesday, " 29 - 9-12 and 2-4, Language classes and study periods.
- Wednesday, " 30 - 9-12 and 2-4, Language classes and study periods.
Noon - Luncheon meeting of the Advisory Committee.
7:30 P.M. - representatives of the Women's League of Rutgers called to meet ladies of the group and discover clothing needs.
- Thursday, " 31 - 9-12 and 2-4, Language classes and study periods.
8:30 P.M. - "The Face of America", and illustrated lecture on the geography of America by Prof. William Wallace, Dept. of Geography, Rutgers.
- Friday, Feb. 1 - 9-12 and 2-4, Language classes and study periods.
4:30 - Optional meeting, over coffee, with foreign students.
- Saturday, " 2 - Nothing scheduled, morning or afternoon.
8:30 - Basketball game in gym (optional)

The Second Week in Review

Sunday night.

January 27 being a between-term Sunday, with most of the students away from campus, the Commons was closed all day and it seemed best to have the entire group come to our home for supper. Thanks to the chef at the Commons who prepared on Saturday a large chafing dish and an ample supply of slaw, the group was fed easily and adequately in our recreation room. Mention should be made of the ceremony on arrival at the house. Mrs. Abernethy's birthday had been on the previous Friday, and I must have mentioned it to Stephen Temessy. At any rate, after they had all come into the hall Charles Wastl (age 12) presented her with a bouquet of red and white carnations, making a very brief (and well rehearsed) birthday greeting "speech", which was then given in Hungarian by Gyergy Gal (age 11). The customary Happy Birthday song followed, in halting English, but with hearty feeling.

A special guest for the evening was Mr. Duncan Wood, a British Quaker whom we had known in Geneva and who is currently in the U.S. as a member of a Quaker team of observers at the U.N. General Assembly. In response to the request of many of the group that he bring them up to date on Assembly talk and actions with respect to Hungary, Mr. Wood spoke about the report submitted to the General Assembly by the U.N. mission headed by Mr. Philippe de Seynes, which had recently visited Hungary. In the discussion which followed there was general support for Mr. Wood's personal opinion that since the primary reason for the revolt was not economic but political (not shortage of food but shortage of freedom), the supplying of emergency economic assistance would not serve to buttress the

Kadar regime unduly. That regime exists only through force anyway, and the presumption is that the people, whether fed or unfed, will not be able to overthrow it without superior force. (Mr. Wood later sent printed copies of the de Seynes report). The interest in this type of discussion leads me to feel that occasional provision should be made for the group to be briefed on current developments in and concerning Hungary. Not many of them are able yet to read newspaper accounts easily.

Language instruction.

Individual language ability had been fairly well estimated during the first week, and with the resumption of the regular college term, the instructors were ready to begin work with three separate groups - two beginners sections taught by Dr. Resnick and Dr. Bishop, and one intermediate taught by Dr. Bertin. For the beginners the program calls for five "contact hours" of English for each person each day, as follows: 9 to 10, group work with tape recorders going over the previous day's lesson; 10 to 11, class session with instructor; 11 to 12, supervised study period (an opportunity to do home work with a "prector" available to answer questions and give help as needed); 2 to 3, class session with instructor; 3 to 4, conversations groups with American students. Dr. Bertin's group operates on a slightly different schedule, but the number of contact hours is the same.

The conversation hour is proving to be of great interest to the students involved, and apparently of real value to our visitors. The aim is to have one American student for every three Hungarians, and although there has been an occasional shortage of students, a

system has now been worked out which should insure a regular supply.

Class sessions are all held in Dormitory 2 classrooms, work with tape recorders in the second and third floor lobbies of Dormitory 3. The instructors are delighted with the progress of their groups to date. In only two instances does there appear to be serious difficulty in learning ability, and these two are receiving special attention in the form of private "tutoring" during the supervised study period and the conversation hour. Otherwise, the group is making steady progress in the text, and one can note improvement in comprehension in casual conversation with anyone in the group.

Special events.

The Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 30 was attended by the following persons: representing the Academy - Dr. Atweed, Dr. Trytten, Dr. Corner, Dr. Twadell, Dr. Cole; representing the University - Dean Easton, chairman, Dr. Allison, Dr. Shrader, Dean Woodward, Dr. Phelps, Dr. Bryson, Dr. Whitmer. President Jones and Dr. Denker also attended the luncheon meeting.

The daily schedule, as outlined above, was approved - the consensus being that five hours of English instruction was the maximum which should be attempted. A good deal of discussion centered around the orientation program: frequency of evening meetings, subject matter, speakers, etc. It was felt that no more than three meetings per week should be scheduled in the evenings - perhaps two would be better, and that the subject matter should allow for variety within each week's presentations, e.g. lectures on American science should be scattered through the eight weeks rather than given conse-

cutively in one or two weeks. The committee approved the suggestion that as soon as feasible, the participants be given opportunities to attend classes in their own fields, for the language training that would be involved. Members of the group should be ready for this step by the end of the fourth week.

Only one evening lecture was given during the second week, on the geography of the United States, by Professor Wallace of the Dept. of Geography. One evening was largely given over to members of the Women's League of Rutgers, who were asked to review the clothing needs of the women and children. As a result of the survey, a considerable supply of clothes of varying sizes and conditions was brought to the dorm.

General welfare.

In order to provide a channel of communication with the group, and to give them a voice in certain decisions concerning the group, I asked for the selection of a committee to meet with me from time to time. A committee of three was chosen - one from each of the language groups: Dr. Foder, Mr. Sallay and Mr. Benedek. The committee has already passed along some suggestions, e.g., re. the urgent need for dental care.

Only one health problem was brought to my attention during the week, but this was not serious enough to warrant referral to the Infirmary.

The TV has been a source of great interest during off-hours, frequently causing me to wish I had a switch in my room to shut the thing off during a particularly inane or horrendous performance.

Three more persons arrived during the latter part of the week, bringing the total to 40, including wives and children.