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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

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VISIT TO BRITAIN OF MATYAS SZUROS, SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY.

SUMMARY

1. SZUROS RATES WITH, IF NOT ABOVE, MARJAN AS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL HUNGARIAN TO VISIT BRITAIN SINCE WORLD WAR II. HIS VISIT SHOWS THAT THE HUNGARIANS ARE NOT TO BE DEFLECTED FROM THEIR POLICY OF OPENNESS TO THE WEST. IT COMES AT AN IMPORTANT TIME. INTERNATIONALLY, THE SOVIETS MAY BE PREPARING FOR SERIOUS TALKS WITH THE WEST, AS THE EAST EUROPEANS WANT. DOMESTICALLY, THE HUNGARIANS ARE PREPARING FOR A SERIES OF MAJOR EVENTS EARLY NEXT YEAR: MORE REFORM, PARTY CONGRESS, LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY AND ELECTIONS. WE CAN RESTATE OUR SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR SOME OF HUNGARY'S INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC POLICIES. THIS SHOULD HELP KADAR TO PURSUE THEM FURTHER. AND THERE COULD BE LONGER TERM DIVIDENDS, LASTING BEYOND THE DEPARTURE OF KADAR AND HIS GENERATION.

DETAIL

2. AS ONE OF THE SIX CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIES, MATYOS SZUROS BELONGS TO THE INNER CIRCLE WHICH FORMULATES POLICY INSIDE THE PARTY, WHERE REAL POWER LIES. HE IS THIS PERHAPS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL HUNGARIAN TO VISIT BRITAIN SINCE WORLD WAR II. AS SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HE IS THE SENIOR HUNGARIAN, UNDER KADAR, RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN POLICY. HE PLAYS IN THIS FIELD A ROLE COMPARABLE WITH MARJAN'S IN ECONOMICS AND TRADE.

3. SZUROS HAS HAD THE JOB FOR A LITTLE OVER A YEAR. HE HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY EXECUTE FOREIGN POLICY BUT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT FORMULATE IT. SZUROS HAS PLAYED TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY MORE THAN HIS PREDECESSORS DID, MAKING A NUMBER OF MAJOR PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HE HAS BROKEN NEW GROUND BY ENCOURAGING PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AND HE HAS MADE HIMSELF THE PRINCIPAL ADVOCATE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL THESIS THAT EACH MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST BLOCK SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF ITS NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND INTERESTS IN FORMULATING ITS FOREIGN POLICY.

4. AT 51, SZUROS IS A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE NEW BREED OF SECOND GENERATION HUNGARIAN COMMUNISTS WHICH WILL REACH THE TOP IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. HE IS GOOD LOOKING IN A FLESHY SORT

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OF WAY. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT GERMAN AND A LITTLE ENGLISH. HE IS SUAVE, SOPHISTICATED AND SELF-CONFIDENT. YOU WILL FIND THAT HE TALKS SUBTLY AND WELL ABOUT FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ALSO ABOUT THE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EVEN POLITICAL CHANGES WHICH THE LEADERSHIP ARE TRYING TO BRING ABOUT. ON ABILITY AND INTELLECTUAL FIRE POWER, SZUROS COULD GO FURTHER. BUT HE IS NO HORNY-HANDED SON OF TOL. AND THE FACT THAT HE IS THE ONLY CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY OUTSIDE THE POLITBUREAU SUGGESTS THAT THE OLD MEN WHO RUN THINGS HERE ARE NOT YET READY TO ADMIT QUITE SUCH A SMOOTHIE INTO THEIR RANKS. ALL THE SAME, SZUROS HAS A CHANCE OF MAKING IT TO THE VERY TOP.

5. SZUROS COMES TO BRITAIN AT A CRUCIAL TIME IN INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC HUNGARIAN TERMS. THE SOVIETS MAY BE PREPARING TO RESUME SERIOUS CONTACTS WITH THE WEST. THE HUNGARIANS WELCOME THIS. SZUROS'S VISIT EXEMPLIFIES THE HUNGARIAN DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN THEIR POLICY OF CONTACTS WITH THE WEST AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO EAST/WEST CONTACTS GENERALLY. THAT POLICY SEEMS LESS AUDACIOUS NOW, AFTER THE REAGAN/GROMYKO MEETING. BUT AT THE HEIGHT OF THE HONECKER DRAMA AND EARLIER, WHEN INF DEPLOYMENT WAS BEGINNING, IT WAS A POLICY WHICH DEMANDED SOME COURAGE AS WELL AS CUNNING.

6. AS A FORMER AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW WHO HAS TAKEN CARE WITH HIS RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS, SZUROS IS WELL PLACED TO GIVE YOU AN ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET INTENTIONS. BUT I BELIEVE HE WILL WANT TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO HUNGARY'S OWN POSITION. WHEN HE DOES SO HE WILL MAKE MUCH OF THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT. THE HUNGARIANS WANT TO BUILD UP THEIR IMPORTANCE AS EUROPEANS, NOT JUST EAST EUROPEANS. THEY FEEL SAFER WHEN, AS NOW, THE WESTERN EUROPEANS ARE TALKING TO HUNGARY'S NEIGHBOURS AS WELL AS HUNGARY. AND THEY ARE NOT ABOVE CONTRASTING WESTERN EUROPEAN REASONABLENESS WITH AMERICAN INTRANSIGENCE. WE CAN REASONABLY ASK HIM ABOUT THE EAST EUROPEANS' ROLE. SZUROS IS NOT GOING TO RISK DISLOYALTY TO MOSCOW. BUT HE BELIEVES THAT ALL THE EUROPEAN STATES HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY. AND HE HAS A SHARP EYE FOR HUNGARY'S INTERESTS.

7. AT HOME, THE HUNGARIANS ARE PREPARING FOR A BUSY AND IMPORTANT PERIOD EARLY NEXT YEAR. THEY EMBARK ON THE NEXT STAGE OF THE REFORM IN JANUARY: PREPARATIONS ARE BEING COMPLETED NOW. THEY ARE ALSO PREPARING FOR THE FIVE-YEARLY PARTY CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN MARCH OR APRIL: FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION ON 4 APRIL: AND FOR THE FIRST PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM OF MANDATORY MULTIPLE CANDIDACIES. ALL THESE EVENTS WILL SET THE TONE FOR HUNGARIAN LIFE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. SZUROS'S VISIT GIVES US A CHANCE TO ENSURE THAT HE, AND THROUGH HIM THE LEADERSHIP, GOES INTO THEM CONSCIOUS OF WHAT WE AND THE WEST CAN DO TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THOSE OF THEIR AIMS WHICH SUIT OUR INTERESTS. A LIBERALISING, REFORMING HUNGARY, CONSCIOUS OF ITS NATIONAL IDENTITY AND INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, SUITS OUR INTERESTS WELL.

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/8. KADAR.

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8. KADAR IS NOW 72. NEXT YEAR'S PARTY CONGRESS COULD BE HIS LAST. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO WILL REPLACE HIM WHEN HE GOES. BUT IT DOUBT WHETHER THE OLD GUARD WILL LONG SURVIVE HIM. SZUROS'S GENERATION WILL BE AROUND FOR ANOTHER 20 YEARS. THE IMPRESSIONS WE MADE ON HIM NEXT WEEK COULD FERMENT AND MATURE USEFULLY FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.

9. ADVANCE COPIES TO THOMAS, JENKINS, BIRCH EED.

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MR. DEREK THOMAS.

MR. JENKINS.

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