

4

Mr Facey (EESD)

HUNGARY: LEADING PERSONALITIES REPORT 1980

1. I attach the 1980 LPR for Hungary.
2. It was happily unnecessary to make any corrections to this year's draft. I have however supplied some additional material to fill out some of the necessarily rather thin entries on newcomers to the Hungarian government.

RECEIVED IN
 REGISTRY NO. 15
 11 SEP 1980
 ENH 010/1

Ann Burke

Ann Burke
 East European Section
 Research Department
 G60/3 233 8877

19 August 1980

Done one
R Pearce 17/9. R.
 check all
 is in order
 and then
 send for
 priority.

Draft in file at ①
Additions are included
Please: one 11/9.
 where in the draft?
 Have these additions
 been included.

RAJ 12/9.

Please see to me on
Notes one 11/9.
RAJ 12/9



3

BRITISH EMBASSY

BUDAPEST

26 August 1980

R A Facey Esq
East European & Soviet Department
FCO

RECEIVED IN
REGISTRY NO. 15
10 SEP 1980
ENHO10/1

a RO. ✓ done ✓ noted
Mr Ferguson ✓ G 1/4
o.v.

In response to
your minute
regarding about
Puja's status.
R. Facey
29/8

Dear Robert

HUNGARIAN MINISTERS

2

1. Thank you for your letter of 12 August. The ministerial list attached to the Ambassador's letter of 2 July was not in fact arranged in any order of precedence, but was merely copied from the press announcements of the Government changes.
2. It is difficult to establish a precise "pecking order" for Hungarian Ministers, mainly because Kádár's "collegiate" style of government and his known intense dislike of anything approaching a "cult of personality" lead most Ministers of the Government deliberately to adopt low profiles.
3. From the amount of press coverage they receive, we might deduce that the Ministers of Foreign Trade, Agriculture and Food and the "Industrial Ministers" (heavy industry, metallurgy and light industry) would all come fairly high up in the hierarchy, with perhaps - tentatively - the top place being allotted to the Minister of Finance. Puja would come in about the middle. I do not think that this rating would reflect either Puja's individual standing or the importance of foreign affairs in Hungarian eyes. Puja has been described as "a wooden-headed old Communist" and it is no doubt useful to the Hungarians to have someone like that as Minister of foreign affairs to demonstrate their unequivocal loyalty to Moscow. In such a position, Puja is, almost of necessity, rather hors concours amongst the other Hungarian Ministers.

Wes eve.

W

J R Nichols

Wm
RAF
29/8



Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

2

Telephone 01-

J Nichols Esq

~~DUCHANIST~~

BUDAPEST

Your reference

Our reference

Date

12 August 1980

Dear John,

RECEIVED IN
REGISTRY NO. 15
12 AUG 1980
ENH014/1

HUNGARIAN MINISTERS

1. I would be grateful if you could give me some idea of where the Minister of Foreign Affairs rates in the Hungarian pecking order, either formally or informally. Does this rating reflect Puja's own individual standing or the importance of Foreign Affairs in the Hungarian firmament?
2. I presume that the Ministerial list attached to the Ambassador's letter of 2 July was not arranged in strict order of precedence, though perhaps I am misled.

(23) ENH014/2

Yours ever,
Robert

Done 12/8

R A Facey
Eastern European & Soviet Department

Please cc to Mr Nichols
BUDAPEST
as this may have gone
astray. RAJ 12/8
He pa.
RESTRICTED

①



British Embassy
Budapest

East European & Soviet Department
FCO

Your reference

Our reference

Date 21 July 1980

RECEIVED IN
REGISTRY NO. 15
25 JUL 1980
ENH 010/1

R please
hold RAJ 1/10
3 months

Dear Department,

1980 LEADING PERSONALITIES REPORT

Further to the Ambassador's letter to Mr Mallaby of 3 June, we attach our updated version of last year's Leading Personalities Report which has taken account of the 1980 Party congress, the elections and the Government and other changes announced at the end of June.

Miss Burke
Rexard Dept.
Chancery

Yours ever,

Grateful for any
comments as soon
as possible.

M. Facer
9/21/77

RAJ 28/7.

CONFIDENTIAL

Please Return to EESD Registry

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

W104

ENH 010/1

ENH 010/1		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 15		
30 NOV 1979		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

 *
 * LEADING PERSONALITIES *
 *
 * IN *
 *
 * HUNGARY, 1979 *
 *

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

ENH 010/1

LEADING PERSONALITIES IN HUNGARY, 1979

I N D E X

	Page No
Abrahám, Kálmán	7
Aczél, György	8
Ajtai, Miklós	9
Antalpéter, Tibor	10
Apró, Antal	11
Bácskai, Tamás	12
Bányász, Rezső	12
Barcs, Sándor	13
Bartha, János	13
Bartha, Tibor	14
Benke, Valéria	14
Benkei, András	15
Bényi, József	15
Berecz, János	16
Berend, Iván	16
Biszku, Béla	17
Bognár, József	18
Boldizsár, Iván	19
Bondor, József	19
Borbándi, János	20
Borbély, Sándor	20
Cserhati, József	21
Cseterki, Lajos	21
Csikós-Nagy, Béla	22
Czinege, Lajos	22
Darvasi, Istvan	23
Eörsi, Gyula, Professor Dr	24
Faluvégi, Lajos	24
Fekete, János	25
Fock, Jenő	26
Garai, Róbert	26
Gáspár, Sándor	27

Gyenes, András	28
Győri, Imre	28
Havasi, Ferenc	29
Házi, Vencel	29
Horváth, Ede	30
Huszár, István	30
Illyes, Gyula	31
Kádár, János	32/33
Kádár, László	34
Kállai, Gyula	34
Kallós, Odón	35
Karakas, László	35
Katona, Imre	36
Katona, István	36
Keserü, Jánosné	36
Korom, Mihály	37
Lakatos, Ernő	37
Lázár, György	38
Lékai, László	38
Littvai, István	39
Lőrincz Nagy, János	39
Losonczi, Pál	39
Marjai, József	40
Markoja, Imre	40
Maróthy, László	41
Marta, Ferenc Dr	41
Miklós, Imre	42
Nagy, János	42
Nemes, Dezső	43
Németh, Károly	43
Nyerges, János	44
Nyers, Rezső	44
Ovári, Miklós	45
Pál, Lénard	45
Péter, János	46
Pethő, Tibor	46
Petrán, János	47
Polinszky, Károly	47

Pozsgay, Imre	48
Puja, Frigyes	48
Pullai, Arpád	49
Rácz, Pál	49
Ránki, György	50
Rényi, Péter	50
Romány, Pál	51
Rónai, Rudolf	51
Roska, István	52
Sághy, Vilmos	52
Salusinszky, István	53
Sarlós, István	53
Schultheisz, Emil	54
Sebestyen, János	54
Simai, Mihály	55
Simon, Pál	55
Soltész, István	56
Szalai, Béla	56
Szarka, Károly	57
Szekér, Gyula	57
Szentágothai, János, Professor Dr	58
Szépvolgyi, Zoltán	58
Szita, János	59
Timár, Mátyás	60
Tömpe, István	60
Török, István	61
Trautmann, Rezső	61
Trethon, Ferenc	61
Várkonyi, Péter	62
Véress, Péter	62

HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

First Secretary	Kádár, János
Central Committee Secretaries	Borbély, Sándor Gyenes, András Györi, Imre Havasi, Ferenc Korom, Mihály Németh, Károly Ovári, Miklós
Political Committee (Politburo)	Aczél, György Apró, Antal Benke, Valéria Biszku, Béla Fock, Jenő Gáspár, Sándor Huszár, István Kádár, János Lázár, György Losonczi, Pál Maróthy, László Nemes, Dezső Németh, Károly Ovári, Miklós Sarlós, István

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

President (Prime Minister)	Lázár, György
Deputy Prime Ministers	Aczél, György Borbándi, János Huszár, István Marjai, József Szekér, Gyula
Minister of Agriculture and Food	Romány, Pál
Minister of Building and Urban Development	Abrahám, Kálmán
Minister of Culture	Pozsgay, Imre
Minister of Defence	Czinege, Lajos
Minister of Education	Polinszky, Károly
Minister of Finance	Faluvégi, Lajos
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Puja, Frigyes
Minister of Foreign Trade	Véress, Péter
Minister of Health	Schültheisz, Emil
Minister of Heavy Industry	Simon, Pál
Minister of Interior	Benkei, András
Minister of Internal Trade	Sághy, Vilmos
Minister of Justice	Markoja, Imre Dr
Minister of Labour	Trethon, Ferenc
Minister of Light Industry	Keserü, János (Mrs)
Minister of Metallurgy and Machine Industry	Soltész, István
Minister of Transport and Postal Affairs	Pullai, Arpád
Chairman (Ministerial rank) National Planning Board	Huszár, István

PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL

President	Losonczy, Pál
Vice Presidents	Gáspár, Sándor Trautmann, Rezső
Secretary	Katona, Imre
Members	Barcs, Sándor Bartha, Tibor Bodonyi, Pál, Mrs Borbély, Gábor Györe, Sándor Horváth, Richard Kádár, János Kállai, Gyula Kárpáti, Marta, Mrs Katona, Imre Méhes, Lajos Nánási, László Németh, Károly Petri, Gábor Pióker, Ignác Somogyi, József Uzta, Gyula Vass, István, Mrs Vida, Miklós

ABRAHÁM, KÁLMÁN

Minister of Building and Urban Development since June 1977.

Born 1931. He has a mechanical engineering diploma from Budapest Technical University and a diploma and a doctorate (1962) from the Building Industry and Transport Technical University. From 1958 he was chief of the Planning Office at the Road and Railway Planning Enterprise. In 1964 he became the enterprise's technical director, then chief engineer at the Ministry of Transport and Postal Affairs. He accompanied the then Deputy Minister of Transport and Postal Affairs to London in 1973. In June 1974 he was appointed State Secretary over the heads of the Deputy Ministers and some higher officials, and visited the UK as the guest of HMG in September 1974 and April 1977.

Married: one daughter. He speaks German and some English; understands more.

He is approachable, friendly and able. He has a keen interest in sport. He is fond of classical music, particularly opera.

ACZÉL, GYÖRGY

Deputy Prime Minister; Member of the Political and Central Committees. Member of the Agitprop Committee of the Central Committee.

Born 1917. Of Jewish origin.

Worked as a labourer, having failed as an actor. According to his official biography, he joined the Communist Party in 1935. Avoided military service. In 1944 was Secretary to the Jewish lawyer, Kastner, who was in touch with Eichmann. After 1945 he was a close associate of Rákosi and became a County Party Secretary. Arrested in 1949 in connection with the Rajk case and imprisoned until 1954. Came back to prominence after 1956 and was elected to the Central Committee in February 1957. Appointed Deputy Minister of Culture in April 1957 and in 1958 First Deputy Minister with responsibility for music and the theatre. At the 9th Party Congress (1966) elected to the Agitprop Committee. In 1967 gave up his Government post on appointment to a Secretaryship of the Central Committee. At the 10th Party Congress (1970) was elected to the Politburo.

As a Party Secretary, he held one of the top six places in the HSWP hierarchy but was demoted to Deputy Prime Minister in March 1974, with responsibility primarily for cultural, intellectual and ideological matters. Said to be flexible rather than dogmatic in his approach. He retained his seat on the Politburo at the 11th party Congress (1975). He is responsible for culture, research, science, health and environmental questions. He acts for the Prime Minister in his absence.

Received Mr Callaghan in July 1975. He visited London privately with his wife in September 1975 and was entertained officially to lunch by Mr Hattersley. He received Lord Donaldson, Minister for the Arts in May 1976; the Archbishop of Canterbury in May 1979. He has a rambling discursive style, dodges awkward questions and gives the impression of the intellectual rather than a practical politician. More recently he has associated himself with the public, if controlled, discussion of political issues and problems.

Aczél is a close friend of several of the French Communist Party leaders. He is widely read. His wife is a doctor and he says she speaks English. Two daughters.

AJTAI, MIKLÓS

Member of the Central Committee; Member of the Committee for Scientific Policy.

Born 1914. Joined the Party in 1944. According to Dr Salusinszky (qv), as a young man he threw the bomb which broke up a Facist (Arrow Cross) meeting in the Erkel theatre. First Deputy Minister of Light Industry in 1951. 1956, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Office, and Chairman in 1961 when he was also elected to the Central Committee. Gave up his post in the Planning Office in 1967 when he became a Deputy Prime Minister under Fock (qv). From 1962 to 1970 he was an alternate member of the Politburo. He was a member of the Party Economic Policy Committee from 1962 until 1973. In the Government and Party changes of March 1974 he retired from his post of Deputy Prime Minister. President of the National Committee for Technological Development (OMFB) from 1970 to 1978.

In 1969 he met Mr Benn, then Minister of Technology; in 1971, Mr Grant, Parliamentary Under Secretary, DTI; visited Britain as the guest of HMG in May 1971; and was host to Mr Peter Walker in October 1973, with whom he subsequently corresponded about industrial co-operation. Speaks German, some French and a little English. An agreeable, quick and intelligent man who seems well disposed.

In the late 60's Ajtai married Dr Magda Jóboru who was First Deputy Minister of Culture under Rakosi and a protégé of Gerö. She lost her position in 1958 and became Director of the National Library. She had a British Council scholarship and was also Hungary's Chief Delegate to UNESCO in Paris for four years. She was given a British Council scholarship in 1974, but did not take it up. She speaks English, French, Russian, German, and knows Latin and Greek.

ANTALPÉTER, TIBOR

Under Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Trade, responsible for trade relations with non-socialist countries.

Born 1930. Trained as an economist. In his younger days played for Hungary at volleyball. Worked at the Trade Delegation, London, 1956-60, then became Head of the section dealing with Britain in the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Promoted in 1964 to supervise trade with North-West Europe and later given responsibility for the West and the EEC. Participated in the First Anglo-Hungarian Economic Colloquium in 1969. From 1962 to 1972 he was the chief Hungarian negotiator in the annual Anglo-Hungarian Joint Commission. Commercial Counsellor in London 1973 to 1977.

In October 1972 he was the first Hungarian to attend a course at the Administrative Staff College, Henley, where he was described as "excellent value - forthcoming and highly articulate".

He speaks excellent English. Married with two daughters. His wife speaks some English.

Physically impressive, he seems well disposed and is often outstandingly helpful to us. He has a shrewd intelligence, good sense and an easy manner, and appears to be doing a very good job. Well regarded by British businessmen.

APRÓ, ANTAL

President of the National Assembly; Member of the Political Committee and the Central Committee; Chairman Soviet/Hungarian Friendship Society.

Born 1913. Joined the Communist Party in 1933 and was associated with Rajk in the Trade Union Movement. During the war he was imprisoned but escaped to Moscow before returning illegally to Hungary. In the post-war period he was involved in Trade Union organisation and became a member of the Presidential council in 1949 and Minister of Building in 1952. In 1953 under Imre Nagy he lost his Party post and was demoted to Deputy Minister but by 1954 was reinstated and appointed Deputy Prime Minister. His rôle in 1956 is obscure but he seems to have supported Kádár throughout and in the November Government became Minister for Industry. His position in the Party was confirmed in 1957 when he was also appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Chief Deputy Prime Minister in 1958. In 1961 however he moved down to Deputy Prime Minister rank with responsibility for foreign trade including CMEA. It was increasingly evident that it was Nyers (qv) who was framing economic policy and in 1971 Apró was "kicked upstairs" to become President of the National Assembly. Later that year he was made Chairman of the Hungarian/Soviet Friendship Society.

Received British IPU delegation in June 1978.

One of the few party leaders to have served both Rákosi and Kádár and to have survived politically. He used to be considered a leader of the Left-wing but is probably no longer very influential. A man of paternal appearance who is pleasant to meet though past his best. His daughter is married to Gyula Szekér.

BÁCSKAI, TAMÁS

Managing Director of the Hungarian National Bank (also Director of International Department).

Born 1925. Before he joined the Bank he spent a considerable time in Africa working in Ghana, Zambia and Tanzania. He was Hungarian Bank representative in Vienna from 1962-68. He accompanied the Governor of the Bank of England throughout his visit to Hungary in 1975 and interpreted for him at calls on Ministers.

Married with two daughters, his wife has an economics degree and is a devoted teacher. She speaks quite good English but better German. He appears in public more often with one of his daughters, who teaches Norwegian at a Budapest university, than with his wife.

A member of the Bank's inner circle and although essentially an economist has very wide interests and experience. He speaks several languages, including English, fluently. He is extremely friendly and able. Well educated, he converses as a non-Marxist. He has visited England several times and has been awarded a visiting fellowship at St Antony's College Oxford which he has as yet been unable to take up.

BÁNYÁSZ, REZSŐ DR

Head of Press Department, MFA, since March 1978.

Born 1931.

Graduated from Budapest University Faculty of Law in 1954: became Foreign Editor of "Magyar Ifjúság" and then "Népszava" until he joined the MFA in 1961, working in the Press Department. Press Attaché in Stockholm 1962-68, then Deputy Head and later Head of Press Department, MFA, 1968-72. Personally chosen by the Foreign Minister to be deputy Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations 1972-76. Secretary of the Committee for European Security and Co-operation 1976-78. Deputy Head of the Hungarian Delegation at the Belgrade Conference.

Married with two children. His wife speaks English; he speaks English, German and Swedish. A pleasant and helpful, but undynamic man.

He accompanied Foreign Minister Puja on his official visit to London in 1977.

BARCS, SÁNDOR

Director-General of the Hungarian News Agency (MTI); Member of the National Assembly and the Presidential Council; Chairman of the Hungarian Group of the IPU; Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly; President of the Hungarian Football Association; Hungarian representative to FIFA.

Born 1912. A sports journalist, he was imprisoned by the Germans in 1944 and joined MTI on his release. A member of the National Assembly since 1947. He became Vice-President of MTI and of Hungarian Radio in 1949 and Director-General of the former in 1950. He has retained the position ever since and at the same time taken on his other responsibilities. A People's Judge at the trial of László Rajk in 1949.

An effective host to the British IPU delegation in June 1978.

Twice married, with two sons by his first marriage and one by his second. He speaks excellent English and his wife some French.

BARTHA, JÁNOS

Head of Vth Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (dealing with Britain, West Germany, the Benelux countries, Canada and the USA).

Born 1927. His early career included postings to Rome and Washington. He became acting Head of the Vth Department of the Ministry in 1963 and was a member of the Hungarian team visiting Britain for cultural talks in March 1964. Later that year he became Charge d'Affaires in Ottawa. He returned to the Ministry in 1969 as Head of the Vth Department and participated in the Anglo-Hungarian colloquium in the UK in November that year. Helped with the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Hungary in 1971. Appointed Ambassador in Ottawa in 1972. In 1976 he was again appointed Head of the Vth Department. Retains, and values, the rank of Ambassador.

Married with two adult children. His wife is pleasant and attractive. She speaks good English.

He is sensible, cooperative and forthcoming. Fond of the arts, he is quick-witted and well informed. He speaks fluent English.

BARTHA, TIBOR BISHOP

Bishop of Trans-Tisza diocese and the Reformed Church.

Born 1912.

Professor of the Academy of Theology in Debrecen when elected Reformed Bishop of Trans-Tisza diocese in 1958. Has been active in international ecumenical church organisations and Christian Peace Conferences. A member of the National Assembly, Presidential Council, Patriotic People's Front Council, and Parliamentary Deputy for Hajdu-Bihar county. Was President of the Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church in 1968 and is a member of the Hungarian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Married with two children. Gloomy but not unpleasing personality. Received Bishop of London 1978.

It is apparently believed in Reformed Church circles that Bishop Bartha's days in high office are numbered for he is unpopular among the faithful. It is thought that his usefulness to the regime will have diminished in the much improved climate of the State's relations with the Churches. Karoly Toth is regarded as a possible successor.

BENKE, VALÉRIA

Member of the Political and Central Committees; Editor of Társadalmi Szemle.

Born 1920. She trained as a schoolteacher and joined the Party in 1941. Elected to the National Assembly in 1949, she was Secretary of the National Peace Council until 1954 when she was made President of Radio and Television. A former supporter of Imre Nagy, she supported Kádár in 1956. As a Director of Hungarian Radio, she was present in the building when it was attacked by demonstrators in October 1956. She became Minister of Culture in 1958 but resigned in 1961 to become Editor of Társadalmi Szemle, the Party theoretical journal. She did not stand for re-election to the National Assembly in 1971. A member of the Central Committee since 1957, she was elected to the Politburo at the Xth Congress in 1970. She went to Moscow in September 1974 as a member of the high-level Party and Government delegation led by Kádár.

Married to the Director of the Gondolat Publishing House.

She is the only woman on the Politburo and is regarded as a Stalinist survivor.

BENKEI, ANDRÁS

Minister of the Interior; Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1923. He worked as an engine fitter and became involved in local Party and trade union matters. From 1954 to 1963 he was First Secretary of a County Party Committee before being appointed to the Interior Ministry. Reputed to be a man of rigid and unyielding views. He is said to be at home in Russian. He is rarely mentioned in the Press. We have no dealings with him.

BÉNYI, JÓZSEF

Head of XIth Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and simultaneously responsible to Janos Nagy for superintending the Vth, VIth and XIth Departments (together dealing with Western Europe) and the International Security Department.

Born 1928. Qualified as a lawyer and worked in the Hungarian National Bank and the Ministry of Finance before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the early 1950s to deal with international financial questions. He served with the Hungarian delegation to the UN in Geneva from 1961 to 1966 then returned to the Ministry as Deputy Head of the International Law Department. He was made Head of the International Organisations Department in 1969 and Ambassador to Italy in 1970. He was appointed to his present post in 1975.

Married with one son.

He is smooth, pleasant, courteous, and speaks excellent English and French.

BERECZ, JÁNOS

Head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Central Committee.

Born 1930 of peasant parents. He attended the English College at Sárospatak where he was a schoolmate of János Nagy. He joined the Party about 1950 and started as an official of KISZ. From 1956-59 was on a study course in the Soviet Union and wrote a dissertation on the Hungarian Revolution. On his return he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the early 1960's he was an instructor in the Party School. Later he became deputy head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Central Committee and in 1974 Head of the Department. He received Mr Hattersley in December 1974, and met Mr Callaghan at two social functions when he visited Hungary in July 1975. Received Sir R. Hibbert at Party Headquarters in September 1977 and Lord Goronwy Roberts in September 1978. He visited the United States, at the invitation of the State Department, in May 1978. He writes frank and illuminating articles about the ideological struggle, world revolution, the international communist movement etc for the Party press.

Speaks Russian and some English.

He looks young and gives the impression of being quick, confident and relaxed. Well-dressed, he looks like a capable executive. His wife is head of the International Relations Department of Hungarian Television. She is alert and pleasant, speaks Russian and German, and shares with her husband a love of tourist visits to the Soviet Union.

BEREND, IVÁN

Rector of the Karl Marx University of Economics; Corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Born 1930, of Jewish origin: in Dachau during the war. A well-known economic historian, and author of several books on Twentieth Century Hungarian economic policy. He is a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Spent several months at St Antony's College Oxford during the summer of 1973 during which time he was appointed to his present post. Attended the IVth Anglo-Hungarian Economic Colloquium in September 1973 and the First Anglo-Hungarian Round Table Conference at Siklos in 1977, and the Second, Cambridge 1979.

He and his wife speak fluent English.

Both are very friendly and forthcoming and are on excellent terms with the Embassy. Closely associated with Professors Pách and Ránki (both historians). He is very fond of music. Civilised and frank and holds a key post in the university world here.

BISZKU, BÉLA

Member of the Political and Central Committees.

Born 1921. Having trained as a locksmith, he joined the workers' movement in 1938, and the Party in 1944 when he took part in the Resistance movement against the Germans. Active in local Party politics, he came to prominence after 1956 when he rallied support for Kádár in one of Budapest's main industrial areas.

In 1957 he became a member of the Central Committee and the Politburo and then Minister of the Interior. In 1961 he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister responsible for defence and internal security. In 1962 he gave up his Government rôle to become a Secretary of the Central Committee in charge of internal security and armed forces affairs. He was a member of the National Assembly from 1958 to 1971. Was retired as CC Secretary April 1978. Awarded Order of Red Banner.

His wife is a senior official in the Ministry of Education. They have four children. He speaks fluent Russian.

Until 1978 he was one of the top seven in the Party hierarchy, and next in seniority after Kádár. Biszku's long-standing friendship with Kádár dated from the early post-war period. He had at one stage been regarded as a possible future First Secretary. He was mainly responsible for internal Party organization and 'cadre' matters. He travelled widely as the Party representative at Congresses etc. By reputation he is a hard liner and his pro-Moscow line is rumoured to have contributed to his removal.

BOGNÁR, JÓZSEF

Member of the National Assembly: Chairman of the Budgetary and Planning Committee of the National Assembly: President of the Scientific Council of World Economy: President of the World Federation of Hungarians: Vice-President of the PPF: a Dean of the Karl Marx University of Economics: Vice-President of the Hungarian Economic Association: Chairman of the Hungarian/British section of the Hungarian group of the IPU; Member of the World Peace Council; Member of the Hungarian academy of Sciences, and Director of its Research Institute for World Economy.

Born 1917: of Jewish origin. Began as a schoolteacher. Took part in the Resistance and after the war was active on the left of the Smallholders Party. Elected to the National Assembly in 1945, he became Minister of Information in 1946, Mayor of Budapest in 1947 and Minister of Internal Trade in 1949. In 1956 he moved to External Trade. He lost his Government post in 1956. He was Head of the Institute for Cultural Relations from 1961 to 1969, during which time he took on many of his other positions. He moved in 1970 to the Scientific Council of World Economy, a body concerned with the influence of World Trends and their effect on Hungarian economic development. He has been a Vice-President of the PPF since 1972. He led the Hungarian delegation to the World Conference on Development (organised by the World Peace Council) in Budapest in October 1976. He has also had connexions with other international communist front organisations including the International Institute for Peace and the World Federation of Scientific Workers.

He has visited Britain on many occasions, has acted as co-chairman in the Anglo-Hungarian Economic Colloquia. He has a history of heart trouble and was seriously ill in 1973-4; he is now better but still a bit frail.

Married, his highly intelligent wife is an archaeologist. Both speak excellent English.

Friendly and communicative, he is apparently well disposed to us. Used by the authorities as a link man with the West particularly in connection with economic matters. He is a good propagandist. He seems to have good relations with the top levels in the Party and to be influential in the economic field.

BOLDIZSÁR, IVAN

Editor of The New Hungarian Quarterly: President of the Hungarian Pen Club: Vice-President National Peace Council.

Born 1912: of Jewish origin. Studied medicine in Budapest and Berlin. He fought on the Eastern Front before going underground in the Resistance movement. He later joined the National Peasant Party and worked on various newspapers before becoming Deputy Head of the Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1947. He was editor of Magyar Nemzet (PPF) from 1951 to 1955. Since then he has been editor of The New Hungarian Quarterly which first appeared in 1960. He travels widely in the West and spent six months in 1966 in the USA on a Ford Foundation scholarship. A prolific writer and translator, his guidebook to Hungary and Doing England on a Giraffe have been published in London. He is one of Hungary's principal propagandists, and clearly believes that he understands the intellectual life of Western Europe.

He is married with three children. His wife is French and a hard-line Communist. He speaks excellent English and several other languages.

Intelligent but pompous. Because of his reputation for sailing with any wind he is distrusted by his fellow intellectuals both inside and outside Hungary. Professes to be well disposed.

BONDOR, JÓZSEF

Member of the Central Committee. Co-opted Member of National Council of Patriotic People's Front since January 1978.

Born 1917 in what is now Romania. Worked as a stonemason. Joined the Party in 1945 and held various posts in the provinces until 1951 when he was put in charge of various industrial reconstruction projects and of the building of the new industrial city of Dunáújváros (1951-61). From 1961 to 1965 he was Chief Engineer and then Vice-Chairman of the Budapest City Council before becoming Head of the Construction Department in the Ministry of Building with the rank of Deputy Minister. Minister of Building and Town Planning 1968 to 1977.

He visited Britain in 1975 as the guest of HMG. Host to Mr Freeson, September 1975.

Married, his wife is in poor health. He speaks Romanian, some French and understands some English.

While a Minister he was an active member of the Government dealing with one of the most inefficient and corrupt industries. He was accused publicly of handling the unions over-roughly: called "Bondor Pasha" because of his autocratic style. He became a member of the Central Committee in 1975.

BORBÁNDI, JÁNOS (MAJOR GENERAL)

Deputy Prime Minister; Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1923. An engine fitter, active in workers' affairs, he became Party Secretary in the Csepel Factory before moving to Party HQ. Between 1953 and 1955 he spent three years at the Soviet Party High School. (At some time he also took a degree at the Budapest University of Economics.) From 1958 to 1961 he was Party Secretary for a Budapest district before being appointed Deputy Minister of Defence, a position he held until 1966 in conjunction with that of Head of the Army Political Department. In 1966 he became Head of the Administration Department of the Central Committee and was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in March 1974. A member of the Control Committee between 1962 and 1966, he was elected to the Central Committee in 1970.

Apparently a close friend of Kádár and previously one of the principal figures in the background of the Party organisation. He is responsible in the Government for "administration" and local councils, as well as security and military matters. Is not normally in touch with Westerners.

BORBÉLY, SÁNDOR

Secretary of the Central Committee; Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1931. He has taken part in the Workers' Movement since 1947 and has been a member of the Party since 1950. Until 1949 he worked as a tool mechanic in the Csepel Works. Thereafter he worked in a variety of places dealing with youth affairs. In 1955 he completed a course at the Komsomol College in the Soviet Union. From 1957 he was a secretary of the KISZ Central Committee and also First Secretary of the Budapest KISZ Committee. In the same year he was elected supernumerary member of the HSWP Central Committee. From 1959 to 1962 he spent three years at the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Party College. From 1962 to 1966 he was a secretary of the Party Committee of the Csepel Iron and Steel Works. Thereafter he became the First Secretary of the Party Committee of Budapest District XXI. From 1970 he was the First Secretary of the Party Committee of the Csepel Iron and Steel Works. He was made a member of the Central Committee in 1970. In 1975 he became Head of the Industrial, Agricultural and Transport Department of the Central Committee, a post he held until October 1976 when he was made responsible for party matters and mass organisations. Has dealt increasingly with economic matters since April 1978.

CSERHATI, JÓZSEF

Bishop of Pécs and Secretary of the Bench of Bishops.

The leading intellectual of the Catholic hierarchy, he favours a Christian-Marxist dialogue. Awarded a State decoration in 1974.

A large man. He speaks good English.

CSETERKI, LAJOS

Member of the Central Committee: (Ranks equal to Deputy Prime Minister).

Born 1921. A schoolteacher. According to his official biography he went over to the Soviet side while serving on the Eastern Front. (Others say that he was a prisoner of war before being indoctrinated.) Joined the Party in 1947 and taught at the Party High School between 1951 and 1953. Secretary of the NTUC from 1953 to 1956 and First Secretary of two County Party Organisations from 1957 to 1963. Elected a Member of the Central Committee in 1959. He was an alternate member of the Political Committee between 1962 and 1966 and a Secretary of the Central Committee from 1964 to 1967. He has been a member of the National Assembly since 1958. Retired as Secretary to the Presidential Council (with rank equal to Deputy Prime Minister) April 1978. Awarded Order of Red Banner.

Acted as host, in the absence of the President, to the Duke of Edinburgh in 1971 and again as escorting host in 1973.

Married but his wife, who is Kádár's sister, never attends public events. He speaks no English.

CSIKÓS-NAGY, BÉLA

Head of the National Price and Material Supply Board (with the rank of State Secretary):
President of the Hungarian Economic Association: Director of the National Bank.

Born 1915. During the War he is said to have been a member of the (Nazi) Arrow Cross movement and to have held the post of lecturer on Nazi economic theory at Budapest University. His official biography starts with his joining the Party in 1945. Worked in the Planning Office and other economic institutions until appointed a Deputy Minister of Light Industry in 1952. Became President of the National Prices Office in 1957 and of the Prices and Material Office in 1967. Given the rank of State Secretary in 1968.

A participant in Anglo-Hungarian Economic Colloquia, he also visited Britain in 1973 as the guest of the GB/East Europe Centre and spoke at Chatham House. Visited Britain in 1976 and lectured at Oxford. Must have been in his element there as he is rumpled and puckish.

Married with two daughters. Speaks good English. His wife also speaks English but is more at home in French.

Holds an important post in connection with the price structure arising from the new Economic Mechanism. He is undoubtedly very influential and is regarded as one of the fathers of the NEM. He was reportedly at the centre of the 1972 debate with the Soviet Union over economic planning and led the Hungarian delegation at the important meeting of Hungarian and Soviet economists in October that year. Talks freely and interestingly about economic problems to Western diplomatists and economists and is on good terms with the Embassy. Highly intelligent.

Both he and his wife are very lively, and slightly bourgeois, but his wife is much less serious and less discreet than he. He has a villa on Lake Balaton.

CZINEGE, LAJOS (ARMY GENERAL)

Minister of Defence: Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1924. An agricultural worker who joined the Party in 1944. Having worked in the Party youth movement from 1945 until 1951, he served in the Army between 1951 and 1954 during which time he studied at the Military Political Academy. He worked in the Party Administration from 1954 to 1957 and played a significant rôle in helping to crush the 1956 Revolution. In 1957 he became First Secretary of a County Party Committee and was elected to the Central Committee in 1959. He became Minister of Defence in 1960, was promoted to Colonel-General in 1962 and Army General in November 1978.

Does not speak any Western language, or Russian. Moody, pompous and has been seen to behave extremely arrogantly towards even very senior HPA officers.

He owes his position to his rôle in the events of 1956 but his appointment as Minister still came as a surprise. Rumours of his retirement have been spread for years, but he is still there. Also rumoured corrupt, and to keep at least one mistress. A politician, not a real soldier.

DARVASI, ISTVAN

Editor-in-Chief Magyar Hirlap; Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly since October 1978.

Born 1924. Participated in Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Started his career in the provincial security police, moved to journalism in 1948 and worked for the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) foreign staff from 1952 to 1957. Appointed Deputy Head of Government Information Office in 1957 and Deputy Head of the Central Committee Agit-Prop Department in 1958, where he had particular responsibilities for radio, TV and press. Editor-in-Chief of Magyar Hirlap since 1972.

Elected member of the National Assembly and member of its Foreign Affairs Committee in 1967. Visited Britain for 62nd IPU Conference in 1975.

Married with one son. He speaks French.

Intelligent and reputedly ambitious; a powerful personality who speaks well, and sometimes helpfully.

EÖRSI, GYULA PROFESSOR DR

Appointed Rector of the Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest in 1978 for a three year term.

Born 1922. Graduated in law in 1945. Has had long professional experience of international law and conference work. Was visiting professor at the International Faculty of Comparative Law in Luxembourg 1962-64 and in 1966; Chairman of the Commission for Social Studies of the Hungarian UNESCO Committee; visiting professor at the Faculty of Law of the East African University in Dar es Salaam. Has also worked as a Head of Department in the Ministry of Justice, with responsibility for compiling the Hungarian Civil Code. Professor of the Civil Law Faculty in the Eötvös Loránd University and then its Deputy Dean. Head of the Civil Law Section, and then Deputy Director, of the Institute of Law of the Academy of Sciences. Elected a corresponding member of the Academy in 1962.

Co-Chairman of the Anglo/Hungarian legal conference organised by the Great Britain/East Europe Centre in 1975.

Married, with 2 children. Speaks excellent English, is entertaining, well educated and seems well disposed. Almost certainly of Jewish origin. His wife also speaks English.

FALUVÉGI, LAJOS

Minister of Finance: Member of the Central Committee: Member of the Economic Policy Committee of the Central Committee.

Born 1924. A graduate of the Karl Marx University of Economics, he joined the Ministry of Finance in 1948. Appointed Deputy Minister in 1968 he became Minister in 1971.

He understands and speaks a fair amount of English. An important and able Minister, he has visited the UK (privately) the Middle East and the United States. He became a member of the Central Committee in 1975.

FEKETE, JÁNOS

Vice President of the National Bank of Hungary: Chairman, Hungarian International Bank (London).

Born 1918; of Jewish origin. Fought with the Russians and also with the Yugoslav Partisans during the War. An expert on international finance, he joined the National Bank as a foreign exchange adviser and rose to become Managing Director in 1963. He is closely involved in deals to raise finance for Hungary on Western money markets.

He has attended several of the Anglo-Hungarian Economic Colloquia. He travels widely and is a regular visitor to London.

He speaks fluent English, German, French and Russian.

He is married with one daughter. Mrs Fekete is a Vice-President of the National Council of Hungarian Women. She speaks German and a little English, and is very agreeable.

Very articulate and forthcoming, with unlimited self-confidence, he has close relations with leading British bankers most of whom have a very high regard for his professional competence particularly in the field of foreign exchange. He makes a great impression on those meeting him for the first time.

FOCK, JENŐ

Member of the Political and Central Committees: Member of the National Assembly.

Born 1916. He trained as a mechanic and joined the Party in 1932. In 1941 he was imprisoned for three years for communist activities. According to his official biography he was sent to do military service in 1943 but deserted the following year. In 1945 he was elected to the National Assembly but left in 1947 and worked in the Ministry of Heavy Industry. By 1952 he was Deputy Minister of the Machine Industry but moved in 1954 to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and spent several months as head of the Hungarian Trade Office in East Berlin. He returned in early 1956 to be Secretary of the National Trades Union Council and was elected to the Central Committee later that year. Little is known about his rôle in the 1956 Revolution but he continued to be active in Trade Union affairs as Deputy to Sándor Gáspár (qv). Appointed to the Party Secretariat in 1957 he resigned his NTUC position and later that year joined the Politburo. In 1958 he was elected to the National Assembly and in 1961 became Deputy Prime Minister at which time he gave up his Party Secretary post although remaining a member of the Politburo. In 1967 he became Prime Minister. He made a self-critical speech at the XIth Party Congress in March 1975 and in May was retired from the post of Prime Minister "on health grounds". He nevertheless led the Party delegation to the French Communist Party Congress in 1976.

Speaks good German, and reads and understands, but does not speak, English.

Fock was one of the originators of the New Economic Mechanism. A modest but knowledgeable and congenial person. Before his "retirement" he was seen by some as a possible successor to Kádár. He is still a member of the Politburo and by no means a spent force. He is impressive to meet, coming straight to the point, swift, incisive and businessmanlike. He obviously has a very good mind.

GARAI, RÓBERT

Deputy Foreign Minister.

Born 1922. He worked in the Hungarian Mission in Israel from 1955 to 1959 during which time he rose from attaché to Chargé d'Affairs. Ambassador to Indonesia from 1962 to 1964, he joined the Foreign Affairs Department of the Central Committee on his return to Budapest. Appointed a Deputy Foreign Minister in 1972, he has responsibility for Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab countries and the Asian non-Communist countries.

Married with one daughter, he speaks fluent English.

Has a cheerful, extrovert manner. Has been unwell.

GÁSPÁR, SÁNDOR

Secretary General of the National Trades Union Council: Vice-President of the Presidential Council: Member of the Political and Central Committee: Member of the Political and Central Committees: Member of the National Assembly: Member of the National Council of the PPF. Elected President of WFTU at Prague meeting, May 1978.

Born 1917 in Pest County. The youngest of 12 children. A motor mechanic, he became active in the Trade Union movement and joined the Party in 1936. By 1947, when he was elected to the National Assembly, he was already working in the Party organisation and was elected to the Central Committee in 1948 while retaining his post as Secretary General of the Iron Workers' Union. After a year in Moscow at the Party College, he returned to Trade Union work and by 1953 was Secretary General of the National Trades Union Council and in 1955 became its President. In 1956 he became a member of the Politburo in October. The next month he declared (on 13 November) that the trade unions stood by the people's demand for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary and in a speech reported in the Daily Worker on 15 November said that it was "unthinkable that any one political party should in the future take over alone the government of the country", adding, "We are for the freedom of the trade unions and their independence from the Government and political parties . . .". But he advised workers to trust the Kádár Government. In 1957 he came out strongly against the "counter-revolution". In 1959 he became First Secretary of the Budapest Party Committee, a post he held until 1961 and again from 1963 to 1965. In the interval he was a Secretary of the Central Committee, a member of the Politburo and a Vice-President. In 1965 he returned to his Trade Union post. He travels widely on Union business and has attended the Scottish Trade Union Congress. He was host to the TUC delegation led by its then General Secretary Len Murray, which visited Hungary in 1974. He paid a return visit to London from 4-9 May 1977.

Married with one son.

One of the "old Brigade" Gáspár has played an important task in persuading the Unions to accept the New Economic Mechanism but he and Németh (qv) are believed to have opposed the economists over the gradual embourgeoisement of Hungary and to have engineered the fall of Nyers in 1974. A close follower of Kádár. He is very urbane and sociable and looks a bit like Sir John Gielgud. He radiates confidence and intelligence. He is keen on shooting.

GYENES, ANDRÁS

Secretary of the Central Committee; Member of the Central Committee: Member of the National Assembly; Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly.

Born 1923. Originally a trade union official, he was Deputy Chairman of the Council for Sport and Physical Education before becoming Deputy Head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Central Committee. In this capacity he worked for Frigyes Puja (qv) and became Head of the Department in 1968 on Puja's return to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In 1970 Gyenes was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister responsible for relations with communist countries, but he returned to the post of Head of Foreign Affairs Department of the Central Committee in 1971. In November 1973 he received Mr Julian Amery and HM Ambassador at Party Headquarters. He became Ambassador to the GDR in 1974 but after only six months was appointed a Central Committee Secretary at the XIth Party Congress in 1975.

GYÖRI, IMRE

Secretary of the Central Committee: Member of the Agitprop Committee: Member of the Central Committee: Member of the National Assembly.

Born 1924. A painter, he was appointed First Secretary of the Csongrád Party Committee in October 1962, a position he held until he moved to his present post in March 1974. He was elected to the Central Committee in 1966 and has been a member of the National Assembly for Csongrád since 1963.

Little is known about him, and his promotion to one of the top seven posts in the Party came as something of a surprise. His Party responsibilities include "Agitprop" and the Press.

HAVASI, FERENC

Member and Secretary of the Central Committee.

Born 1929. Active in the Youth Movement since 1945 and a member of the Building Workers' Trade Union since 1947. He became a Party member in 1948, and graduated from the CP Party College in the Soviet Union.

In 1952 he became head of department in the Komárom Party Committee and in 1954 second secretary of the Committee. In 1966 he became First Secretary of the Komárom County Party Committee and held this position until July 1975 when he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister responsible for industry and agriculture. Appointed CC Secretary April 1978, with responsibility for economic policy.

In 1970 visited Northern Ireland at the invitation of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Northern Ireland.

A short, squat, brisk and business-like man. He seems more obviously proletarian than most Hungarian ministers and a good deal less quick on the uptake.

HÁZI, VENCEL (DR)

Deputy Foreign Minister.

Born 1926. Originally trained as an engineer but then became a career diplomat. His career started as Press Attaché in London in 1951. He later served in Sweden, Iraq and Greece. From 1964 to 1968 he was Head of Department V in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Western countries including Britain), then Deputy Foreign Minister before being appointed Ambassador to London in 1970. He became Deputy Foreign Minister again in September 1976 on his return from London. He is responsible, amongst other things, for the Asian Communist countries, Cuba, the Press and the Diplomatic Service Bureau (which looks after the needs of Embassies in Budapest).

He returned to Hungary from London for the visits of Mr Walker and Mr Amery (1973) and Mr Callaghan (July 1975). Called on the Prime Minister with Dr Biró in November 1974.

Married with one daughter. He and his wife speak fluent English. His wife is half Austrian and a charming person. She probably understands Western European ways of thought better than he does.

A clever and ambitious man, he was quite effective as Ambassador in London. He is agreeable to deal with and claims to be very friendly.

HORVÁTH, EDE

General Director of the Hungarian Wagon and Carriage Works: Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1924. From 1938 to 1951 he worked in the factory of which he is now Director. He was then put in charge of a neighbouring factory but by the end of 1951 he was also Director of the Machine Tool Factory and in 1963 was appointed to his present position. A member of the National Assembly between 1953 and 1967, he was an alternate member of the Central Committee from 1957 to 1966 and became a full member in 1970. He visited Britain in 1973 to inspect Kearney and Trecker equipment.

Married with two children.

A dynamic manager with proven powers of energy and leadership who is well-known as one of the outstanding enterprise managers in Hungary. He has a restless wide-ranging mind. Ruthless, efficient and unscrupulous, he is reputed to be an ambitious man whose power is resented by other managers and by some elements in the Party.

HUSZÁR, ISTVÁN

Deputy Prime Minister: Member of the Political and Central Committees. President of the National Planning Office. Member of the Economic Policy Committee of the Central Committee.

Born 1927. He joined the Party in 1948 while a student of economics at the Karl Marx University, Budapest. Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics 1951-53. He worked in Party Headquarters until 1963 when he became Deputy Head of the Department dealing with the national economy. From 1963 to 1969 he was Deputy Chairman of the Central Statistical Office and then its Chairman until 1973. Elected to the Central Committee in 1970. In July 1973 became Vice President of the National Planning Office and later that year the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for planning. In May 1975 he became President of the National Planning Office, and in July 1975 a member of the Politburo. He received Lord Shackleton (President of EETC) in November 1978 and Mr Edmund Dell in July 1978.

A highly intelligent man who seems well disposed and is of particular importance from the point of view of our economic relations.

ILLYES, GYULA

Writer: Vice President International PEN Club.

Born 1902. Spent the early twenties in Paris where he was a student at the Sorbonne. A popular writer, his first poems were published in 1926 and his work went on throughout the War. In 1945 he was active in the formation of the National Peasant Party and was a member of the National Assembly from 1947 to 1948. In 1951 he was openly criticised, but was too prominent to receive arbitrary treatment. He was one of the intellectual inspirers of the 1956 Revolution and continued his resistance to the Kádár régime until 1960, after which he seems to have come to terms with it. In recent years he has written several plays and his 70th birthday was marked by official celebrations.

He has visited Britain many times, the last being in 1976 for the 35th International PEN Congress.

Married with two daughters. He speaks French.

In failing health, he is seen as one of the "front" figures of the present régime. The most prominent member of a group of intellectuals concerned about the treatment of Hungarians in Transylvania.

KÁDÁR, JÁNOS

First Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP: Member of the Political Committee: Member of the Presidential Council: Member of the National Assembly: Member of the National Council of the PPF.

Born 1912. His original name was Czermanik. Thought to have been the illegitimate son of a servant girl. Having served his apprenticeship as a toolmaker, he joined the (illegal) Party in 1932 and was imprisoned several times for Communist activities. In 1942 he became a member of the Central Committee. Arrested by the Germans in 1944, he escaped and reappeared early the following year in charge of the reorganisation of the police forces in Budapest. Later in 1945 he assumed responsibility for organising the Budapest Party structure and by the end of 1946 was its Deputy First Secretary. In 1948 he was elected to the Politburo and subsequently became Minister of the Interior. In this capacity he was responsible for the trial of Mindszenty and the trial and execution of his close friend Rajk. He is said to have promised Rajk, mendaciously, that his life would be spared if he made a full "confession". In 1950 he gave up his Ministerial post to concentrate on Party work but in April 1951 he was arrested, and charged with espionage, treason and Titoism. After being brutally treated in prison (he is said to have been castrated), he was released in 1954 and although not completely rehabilitated filled various minor Party posts.

After the fall of Rakosi in July 1956, Kádár was re-elected to the Politburo and gave his support to the Nagy Government. He is reported to have at first defied the Russians, at one point threatening to fight their tanks with his bare hands, but he then broke with Nagy, apparently over the question of Hungarian neutrality and withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact, and fled to the Soviet Embassy. Soon after he set up a Soviet-backed Government, at first on Soviet territory.

By early 1957 he was indisputably the head of the new régime and became a member of the new Central Committee, First Secretary, and Prime Minister. By 1958, when he resigned the Premiership, he had been responsible for the liquidation or suppression of those who had been prominent in the Revolution (including many young people) although it is not clear what his role was in the subsequent execution of Nagy. A visit by Khrushchev in April 1958 confirmed his position. He resumed the post of Prime Minister from 1961 to 1964. Since then, he appears to have reinforced his position in the Party while in 1967 ensuring the appointment to the Government of people capable of launching the economic reforms. In 1972 he presided over a compromise between the reformist and conservative groups in the Party and at the end of the year had his position reaffirmed by a visit from Brezhnev. There are frequent rumours that he wishes to retire. But the power struggle over the succession and popular pressure have prevented him from standing down. In September 1974 he led a high level Party and Government delegation to Moscow. At the XIth Congress in March 1975 he was re-elected First Secretary. In July 1975 he received the then Ambassador, and a few days later he saw the Foreign Secretary, Mr James Callaghan. In December 1976 he made a highly successful visit to Austria and acquitted himself well at a Press Conference. In 1977 he made further successful and well-publicised visits to West Germany, Italy (and the Vatican). Visited France in November 1978.

Married, his wife works in the Government Information Office. He does not speak English.

He is a formidable man who has been in charge of Hungary for over twenty years. Memories of his lurid past and the crimes and betrayals of the fifties have, in Hungary, been overlaid by the

conciliatory policies of the last 20 years. He is now generally respected and identified with the gradual improvement of conditions for Hungarians in recent years. His style is quiet and there is no trace of any "cult of the personality" in Hungary.

He is a keen football supporter and chess player, and enjoys shooting. To meet he is impressive, alert and vigorous, and handles discussions in a crisp businesslike way. He seems in reasonable health, though he is not very robust.

KÁDÁR, LÁSZLO

Archbishop of Eger since March 1978.

Born 1927.

Apostolic administrator and then Bishop of Veszprém (1975-78). One of the youngest of the Hungarian archbishops, he is very able. He was a member of the Hungarian Catholic delegation to the World Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia in August 1976.

KÁLLAI, GYULA

President of the PPF: Member of the Central Committee; Member of the National Assembly and Presidential Council.

Born 1910. Joined the Party whilst at University and through political connections worked as a journalist during the War. By 1947 was Head of the Cultural Department of the Central Committee. In 1949 he became Foreign Minister but (with Kádár) was arrested in 1951 and spent the next three years in jail. Released (with Kádár) in 1954 he became active in the Patriotic People's Front, was appointed Deputy Minister of Culture and reassumed Party responsibilities for culture. He apparently took no part in the events of 1956 and reappeared the following year as Minister of Culture. Elected President of the PPF he resigned his ministerial position and by 1960 was Deputy Prime Minister, with responsibility for external affairs. Made Prime Minister in 1965 he was demoted (on the appointment of Fock) two years later to become Speaker of the National Assembly. He gave up this position in 1971. Apart from his PPF rôle he is a leading participant in "front" organisations such as the National Peace Council and the National Committee on Security and Cooperation.

Married.

He visited Britain in 1956.

Politically and personally a close friend of Kádár. An intelligent man whose lack of economic expertise was probably the cause of his demotion in 1967 since when his career has been on the decline. He lost his membership of the Politburo and the Agitprop Committee at the XIth Congress in 1975 but remained on the Central Committee.

KALLÓS, ODÓN

President of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce.

Born 1917 of Jewish origin. Comes from a wealthy commercial family. Studied for some time in London and served in the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. He was Hungarian Commercial representative in Cairo from 1948 to 1955 and in Delhi from 1956 to 1959 before being appointed to his present post.

He is a regular visitor to Britain (most recently in July 1979 for Second Anglo-Hungarian Round Table Conference) and has close relations with the London Chamber of Commerce. Host for the visit of Lord Shackleton (President of the East European Trade Council) in November 1978.

Married with one daughter. He speaks English, French and German with equal fluency. His wife works in the Foreign Trade Bank. She also speaks good English.

He has been extremely helpful to the Embassy in commercial matters, and is conspicuously friendly, and forthcoming. He is very hard-working and tries, with a good deal of success, to make the Chamber an effective instrument of trade promotion. Likes music.

KARAKAS, LÁSZLÓ

Member of the Central Committee. Head of the Central Committee Department for Administration and Party Economy since June 1977.

Born 1923. A graduate from The Party College in the Soviet Union. From 1949 to 1963, he worked in various departments of the National Trade Union of Food Workers, and was its president for 10 years. From 1963-6 he was a secretary of the National Trade Union Council. First Secretary of the Party Committee of County Hajdu-Bihar, 1966-73. Minister of Labour 1973-77.

Speaks Hungarian and Russian.

He appears short of breath and breathes heavily. In discussion he tends to be rambling. Quite agreeable.

KATONA, IMRE

Secretary of the Presidential Council. Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1921. A shoemaker who joined the Party apparatus in 1948. His rôle in 1956 is not known. Between 1957-63 he worked in the Budapest Party Headquarters, rising to become a Head of Department. He then became Party Secretary in Budapest's VIth District before becoming Secretary of the Budapest Party Committee in 1964. In 1966 he was elected to the Central and Agitprop Committees of the HSWP. He took over from Németh as First Secretary of the Budapest Party Committee and then succeeded Cseterki as Secretary of Presidential Council in April 1978.

KATONA, ISTVÁN

Member of the Central Committee. Head of the Office of the Central Committee, since April 1977.

Born 1928. He joined the Party Secretariat in 1949 and worked as a journalist between 1952 and 1959. During this period he studied philosophy at Budapest University and at the Party High School. He joined the Central Committee Secretariat in 1961 and became a member of the Central Committee in 1970. He was deputy head (later head) of the Agitprop department of the Central Committee from 1967 to 1974 when he was appointed Editor-in-Chief of Népszabadság. He is an ideological expert.

He is said to be a close friend of Kádár.

KESERÛ, JÁNOSNÉ (MRS JÁNOS KESERÛ)

Minister of Light Industry: Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1925. An economics graduate, she joined the Party in 1945 and occupied various Party and State positions before becoming a Deputy Minister of Internal Trade in 1967. She was appointed Minister of Light Industry in 1971, and a member of the Central Committee in 1975. She is also occupied with the general questions of a more economical structural reorganisation of Hungarian light industry. She is the only woman on the Council of Ministers. Visited England as the guest of Her Majesty's Government in 1975.

No iron lady but a short brunette who is intelligent, agreeable and lively but something of a "light weight". Married to an animal husbandry expert.

KOROM, MIHÁLY

Member and Secretary of the Central Committee.

Born 1927. An agricultural worker; he joined the police in 1945. He became a member of the Party in 1946 and served in the Ministry of the Interior until 1951 when he moved to a Party appointment. Between 1955 and 1959 he attended the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest and the Soviet Party Academy in Moscow. After a further year at the Ministry of the Interior he was Commander of the Frontier Guard from 1960 to 1963 during which period he became an alternate member of the Central Committee (1961) and subsequently a full member (1963). Appointed a Secretary of the Central Committee in 1963 he gave up his Party position in 1966 when made Minister of Justice. April 1978 appointed CC Secretary with responsibility for the armed forces and internal security.

He has been responsible for the general revision of the Penal Code and of the Constitution as well as the new laws on Youth, Labour and Elections. He gives the impression of being an able administrator and is a good public speaker.

LAKATOS, ERNŐ

Editor-in-Chief and First Deputy to Director General of the Hungarian News Agency (MTI).

Born c 1933, of poor parents. A professional journalist and Party member who rose, through activism in the Party Youth Organisation (KISZ) to be Editor of Magyar Ifjúság. Appointed general Deputy President of the Information Office of the Council of Ministers in 1971 and promoted to be Vice President in 1974. Transferred to MTI in 1977.

Married. Speaks only Hungarian.

A very able and hard working man, who is widely regarded as the likely next General Director of MTI. Pleasantly jovial and capable of speaking with remarkable frankness.

LÁZÁR, GYÖRGY

Prime Minister: Member of the Political and Central Committees: Member of the Economic Policy Committee of the Central Committee.

Born 1924. Having attended Technical College he worked as a draughtsman from 1942 to 1948. He joined the Party in 1945. He joined the National Planning Office in 1948 and rose to become its Vice President in 1963. Appointed Minister of Labour in 1970, he was given the job of implementing statutory wage increases as part of the New Economic Mechanism. In June 1973 he was promoted to Deputy Prime Minister with apparently overall responsibility for planning at both Party and Government levels. In May 1975 he was appointed Prime Minister in succession to Fock. Since then he has made several visits abroad.

He owns a fine library and is a nature-lover who likes rambling and hunting. His wife is a secondary school teacher of Russian and Hungarian. They have one son born in 1951 who graduated from Budapest University in 1976.

LÉKAI, LASZLÓ (DR)

Archbishop of Esztergom and Primate of Hungary; Chairman of the Bench of Bishops; Member of the Presidium of the Patriotic People's Front.

Born 1910. Ordained 1934. He began his career as a village curate at Ukk in West Hungary. He was Professor of Dogmatic Theology at the Seminary of Veszprém from 1938 to 1943 when he was appointed Episcopal Counsellor and a year later Episcopal Secretary. He was imprisoned by the Hungarian Nazis in Sopronkőhida from November 1944 to February 1945. After the War he acted as parish priest in a number of places in Hungary until 1972. He was appointed Chamberlain to the Pope in 1946 and from 1956 to 1958 ran the diocesan office of the Veszprém diocese. In March 1972 he was appointed Apostolic Administrator of Veszprém, Apostolic Administrator of Esztergom in 1974 and Archbishop of Esztergom in February 1976. Created a Cardinal in April 1976. In August 1976 he led a delegation to the World Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia. The following month he spoke at the Patriotic People's Front Congress and became a member of the Presidium of the PPF.

He has consistently maintained his loyalty to the Holy See and to the Church. A small elf-like man with plenty of energy and humour. Speaks Italian, German and fractured English. His appointment to Esztergom completed the Church hierarchy in Hungary for the first time since the War. Is friendly and ecumenically-minded; is anxious to increase his Church's international links. Intensely interested in history, he organised the revival, in December 1977, of annual ceremonies in memory of St Thomas a'Becket.

Received the Bishop of London in April 1978, and Dr Coggan, Archbishop of Canterbury in May 1979.

LITTVAI, ISTVÁN

Deputy Minister of Metallurgy and Machine Industry since October 1975.

Born 1925.

Efficient, business-like and with a good technical background. Has visited UK several times on official business, most recently as COI Category I visitor in January 1978 (after two postponements).

Speaks only Hungarian and Russian.

Married, has a teenage son.

LÖRINCZ NAGY, JÁNOS

Hungarian Ambassador in London.

Born 1931. A career diplomat. He joined the Diplomatic Service in 1953. He served in Peking and Jakarta before becoming Head of the Personnel Department of the Ministry in 1961. He was appointed Ambassador to Ghana in 1968 and returned to the Ministry in 1972 as Head of the Press Department. He served a brief period as Ambassador and Head of the Hungarian delegation to the ICCS in Saigon in 1974 before being appointed Ambassador to Sweden in 1975. He served only one year there and was transferred to London in September 1976.

Married with one adult daughter. His wife is pleasant and friendly.

As far as can be judged from Budapest, seems capable and effective behind a modest exterior. He is quiet and relaxed and has a sense of humour. Speaks good English.

LOSONCZI, PÁL

President (of the Presidential Council) and Head of State; Member of the Political and Central Committees. Member of the National Assembly. Member of the Praesidium of the PPF.

Born 1919. Of peasant stock, he worked on the land until 1948. Having joined the Party in 1945 he was instrumental in getting his old landlord, Count Széchenyi, safely out of Hungary. He became chairman of a cooperative farm, a position he held until 1960. During this period he became a member of the National Assembly (1953), an alternate member of the Central Committee (1954), and then a full member (1957). He was Minister of Agriculture from 1960 to 1967, when he was made President. He was appointed to the Politburo in July 1975.

Performs his ceremonial duties with dignity and address. He gave a dinner in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh in February 1973 and again in August 1978. He received Mr Callaghan in July 1975.

Married. He speaks only Hungarian.

MARJAI, JÓZSEF

Deputy Prime Minister since April 1978 with responsibility for industry, agriculture and relations with Comecon. Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1923. He entered the Foreign Service in 1948 and having been Chief of Protocol and Head of Political Guidance was promoted to the rank of Minister (Counsellor) in 1955. He served as Minister to Switzerland between 1956 and 1959, and as Ambassador to Czechoslovakia from 1959 to 1963. He returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before being appointed Ambassador to Yugoslavia in 1966. He returned in 1970 to become Deputy Foreign Minister with responsibility for Western Europe, during which time he was host to Mr Anthony Royle, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the FCO. On the promotion of Puja to the rank of Minister in 1973, he was made State Secretary. In January 1974 he visited the Soviet Union and was received by Mr Kosygin. In December 1974 he was host to Mr Hattersley. He was elected a member of the Central Committee in July 1976 and appointed Ambassador in Moscow the next month. Received Lord Goronwy Roberts in September 1978.

Married with one son. He speaks German, some French, but no English. A small, dowdy man, he is treated with respect by senior officials. An odd, somewhat enigmatic character with a cryptic sense of humour. When he was in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he was said to work late every night, and was sometimes described as the "intellectual" of the Ministry. Is reported to be a hard bargainer.

MARKOJA, IMRE DR

Minister of Justice since April 1978.

Born 1931.

Party member since 1948. Graduated in Law from Eötvös Loránd University and then worked on 'Társadalmi Szemle' and at the Central Committee. 1963 appointed Deputy Minister of Justice, then First Deputy Minister in 1967. State Secretary for Justice 1973-78.

Member of the Presidency of the Hungarian Lawyers' Society, the legal committee of the Academy of Sciences, and the editorial committee of 'Hungarian Law'.

MARÓTHY, LÁSZLÓ

First Secretary of KISZ Central Committee. Member of the Political and Central Committee.

Born 1942. A graduate from the University of Agricultural Sciences from which he holds a doctorate in agricultural engineering. He joined the Communist Youth League (KISZ) in 1960 and the Party in 1965.

In 1968 he became Secretary of a local branch of KISZ in Budapest and in 1970 First Secretary of the Party Committee of Szentendre. In June 1973 he was appointed First Secretary of the KISZ Central Committee and became a member of the HSWP Central Committee in November 1973. He was elected to the Politburo at the HSWP XIth Congress in March 1975. He is much its youngest member.

MARTA, FERENC DR

Secretary General of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since May 1975.

Born 1929. Worked in youth organisation as a young man and was secretary of the Party Committee of the Jozsef Attila University of Szeged for five years while a student. Became a Candidate in chemical studies at the University in 1960, and Head of its Physical Chemistry Faculty in 1962; Rector there 1963-1967. Gained his Doctor of Sciences degree in 1966 and in 1970 was elected a corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Elected member of the HSWP CC at X and XI Congresses.

Awarded a UK Atom Research Fellowship in 1961 and worked on inorganic chemistry for 1 year at Cambridge University. Now responsible for the running of over forty Hungarian research establishments under the aegis of the Academy of Sciences. A dominating figure in scientific research and intellectual life. Has become well known in Hungary through his youth organisation activity.

Married, with one daughter. Speaks good English.

MIKLÓS, IMRE

Chairman of the State Office for Church Affairs.

Born 1927. A graduate in philosophy from Budapest University, his early career is obscure. According to his official career he worked from 1948–51 in the Youth Movement. He joined the State Office for Church Affairs in 1951 and became its deputy Chairman in 1969 and Chairman in 1971 with the rank of State Secretary. Since his appointment as Chairman there have been important developments in the machinery of Church/state relations, including the enforced retirement of Cardinal Mindszenty, and the appointment of Cardinal Lékai as Archbishop of Esztergom.

Received Bishop of London in April 1978, the Archbishop of Canterbury in May 1979.

He has a comfortable and well-fed appearance and is rather glib. But he is agreeable and forthcoming and has a reputation as an honest man who, when he says something, sticks to it. He speaks only Hungarian.

NAGY, JÁNOS

A deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and party member.

Born 1928. Of peasant stock and brought up as a Calvinist, he attended the English College at Sárospatak from 1939 to 1947 when he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In London from 1950–52. He was appointed Ambassador to Indonesia in 1957. Serving in the Ministry from 1960–63, he was Ambassador to India (plus Burma, Cambodia, Nepal and Ceylon) from 1963–67. From 1967–68 he was Head of the Asian and the Press Departments of the MFA before spending 3 years as Ambassador to the United States. In June 1971 he was appointed Deputy Minister responsible for relations with Britain and other Western countries. He was in charge of the arrangements for the visits to Hungary of the Duke of Edinburgh in 1971 and 1973. He was also primarily responsible for the visits of Sir Denis Greenhill (March 1973), and Mr Julian Amery (November 1973), and was host to Sir John Killick in June 1974. He paid an official visit to Britain in May 1975 and took a prominent part in the visit of Mr Callaghan in July 1975. He accompanied Gyula Szekér on his official visit to Britain in July 1976 and conducted talks in Budapest with Mr Hibbert in September 1977. Visited London in January 1979 for talks.

Married to an agreeable wife, with one daughter who is studying languages. He and his wife speak excellent English. She also speaks good French and German.

A small, practical and self-confident man, he is direct and well disposed, though he has a tough and dour manner. His service outside the Bloc has made him one of the most sophisticated Ministers in the MFA; he is very able with the mind of a first-class barrister.

NEMES, DEZSŐ

Member of the Political and Central Committee: Member of the Agitprop Committee of the Central Committee: Director of the Party Academy. Editor in Chief of "Népszabadság", the party daily.

Born 1908 in Locse (now Levoca, Czechoslovakia). An upholsterer, he joined the Party in 1926 and served three years in prison for Communist activities between 1928 and 1931. On his release he went to the Soviet Union returning in 1933. In 1936 he went back to Moscow where he remained until 1945. During this period he attended University and was active in Propaganda work directed at Hungarian prisoners of war.

In the post-war period he was active in trade union and agitprop affairs but not apparently a strong supporter of Rakosi. In 1956 he sided with Kádár and was in charge of the publication of The White Book which gave the régime's version of the uprising. Between 1957 and 1961 he was editor of the Party daily, Népszabadság, and an editor of Társadalmi Szemle, a post he still holds. A Secretary of the Central Committee from 1962 to 1965, he became Director of the Party Academy in 1967. 1977 began second term as Népszabadság editor.

He is one of the "old brigade" and his health is apparently poor.

NÉMETH, KÁROLY

Secretary of the Central Committee: Member of the Political and Central Committees: Member of the Presidential Council: Member of the National Assembly.

Born 1922. A butcher, he joined the Party in 1945 and between 1946 and 1954 worked in various minor posts in the Party organisation. Until 1960 he was First Secretary of the Csongrád Party Committee during which time he was elected to the Central Committee (1957). From 1960 to 1965 he worked in the Secretariat of the Central Committee for part of which time he was Head of its Agricultural Department. In 1965 he became First Secretary of the Budapest Party Committee and was elected to the Politburo in 1970. He acted as host to Mr Brezhnev during much of the latter's visit to Budapest in 1972. He became a Secretary of the Central Committee in March 1974, with responsibility for economic policy. Since joining the Politburo he has risen to prominence in Party affairs and in April 1978 was given new responsibilities (for party administration, cadres and mass organisations) after Biszku's departure which confirm him as Kádár's No 2. However Németh did not inherit Biszku's responsibility for the armed forces and internal security, which went to Korom.

NYERGES, JÁNOS

Head of International Organisations and Tariffs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Born 1918, of Jewish origin. He was employed in various capacities by the Ministry of Foreign Trade (MFT) including a period as Commercial Secretary in Berne and a member of the Economic Council for Europe. He is the leading official dealing with East/West policy and in this capacity travels extensively to international conferences. As Head of Delegation, he negotiated Hungarian accession to GATT and is similarly involved with UNCTAD and with Hungarian relations with the EEC.

Divorced. He speaks excellent English, French, German and Spanish.

He is an extremely intelligent and forthcoming personality and an astute economist. He thoroughly enjoys a ding-dong argument in which he can employ all the dialectical tricks.

NYERS, REZSŐ

Member of the Central committee and Member of the National Assembly. Head of the Economic Institute of the Academy of Sciences.

Born 1923.

A printer, he joined the Party in 1940. From 1948 to 1951 he worked in the Party Secretariat before moving to the Ministry of Internal Trade. During this time he also studied economics at the Karl Marx University. Between 1960 and 1962 he was Minister of Finance before becoming a Secretary of the Central Committee, one of the top six positions in the Party. He lost his position in March 1974 when he was appointed Head of the Economic Institute of the Academy of Sciences. He lost his seat on the Politburo at the XIth Party Congress in 1975.

He was the leading Party figure associated with the New Economic Mechanism and his confirmation in his Party posts at the Congress of 1970 guaranteed the continuation of economic reform. He appeared to be on the "liberal" wing of the Party and his removal from the Party Secretariat aroused speculation on future economic policy. Although he is a good publicist, he is for the present set aside from the central leadership although still well connected. He has a keen interest in tennis. Believed to be Jewish. Speaks slow, laboured English. He is one of the very few official Hungarians who seem willing to admit the existence of current differences of opinion within the Party. He ought to know!

OVÁRI, MIKLÓS

Secretary of the Central Committee: Chairman of the Agitprop Committee: Member of the Political and Central Committees.

Born 1925. A school-teacher, he taught at the Party Academy between 1945 and 1958 before becoming Deputy Head, then Head of the Central Committee Agitprop Department. In 1961 he moved to the Scientific and Cultural Department and later to the Scientific and Publicity Department of the Central Committee. Elected an alternate member of the Central Committee in 1962, he was made a full member in 1966. In 1970 he became the Secretary of the Central Committee responsible for cultural affairs and occupies one of the top seven positions in the Party. He was responsible for the ideological agreements drawn up between Hungary and various communist countries in 1973.

He is reputed to have a moderate rather than reactionary influence on cultural policy and this has been borne out during his period of office. In 1972 it was rumoured that he would become Minister of Education and Culture but it seems that he is more concerned with ideological rather than purely education policy. Following the changes of March 1974 he took over responsibility for ideology and culture and is now reputed to be the senior Party Secretary. He became a member of the Politburo at the XIth Party Congress in March 1975.

PÁL, LÉNARD PROFESSOR

President of OMFB (National Committee for Technical Development).

Born 1925.

Reputedly of peasant origins and now with good Soviet connections.

Deputy Director of Central Research Institute of Physics in the Academy of Sciences 1957-66. Then promoted as First Deputy Director and finally Director in 1970. Elected member of Central Committee at HSWP XI Congress in March 1975. During 1960s, served as member of Hungarian Atomic Energy Commission and member of Scientific Council and Joint Institute for Nuclear Research. Took over from Miklos Ajtai as Chairman of OMFB in January 1978. Spent 1 day as guest of HMG during a business trip to London in January 1979.

Now married to a former secretary at the Bolyai János Mathematical Society. One son. Previously married and divorced.

Both he and his wife speak good English, are good conversationalists and have a pleasant manner.

PÉTER, JÁNOS

Vice President of the National Assembly: Member of the Central Committee: Member of the National Assembly.

Born 1910. Having studied theology in Budapest, Paris, Glasgow and Berlin, he was ordained a Calvinist Minister in 1933. After the war he spent a short time in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and then went back to the Church, rising to the position of Bishop of Debrecen. In October 1956 he resigned his clerical appointment and became Head of the Institute of Cultural Relations. But the following year he went back to religion before being appointed First Deputy Foreign Minister in 1958. He became Foreign Minister in 1961 and held this position until December 1973 when he retired for health reasons. He paid an official visit to Britain in 1965. In June 1974 he visited Britain as leader of a Hungarian Parliamentary Delegation. Gave a lunch for British IPU delegation: June 1978.

He is married but his wife is rarely seen. He speaks excellent English, German and Russian.

Although intelligent he acquired a reputation of being an expert trimmer. Nevertheless he was one of the more popular communist Foreign Ministers and spoke regularly (in English) at the UN General Assembly. Now semi-retired.

PETHO, TIBOR

Editor-in-Chief, Magyar Nemzet: Vice President National Peace Council. Member of the National Assembly.

Born 1918. A Catholic. The son of a newspaper editor, he served in the Army before the War and turned to journalism in 1942. Active in the Resistance until the end of hostilities he later joined Magyar Nemzet as a foreign affairs commentator and eventually became Foreign Editor. He became Editor-in-Chief in 1972. As Foreign Editor, he visited Britain regularly, and twice went as the guest of the Great Britain/East Europe Centre (1970 and 1972).

Married, his wife works in the National Bank. He speaks fluent English, and several other Western languages: she speaks German.

A sophisticated but unexciting person who is probably the best newspaper editor in Hungary. Although only Vice-President he is in fact head of the National Peace Council.

PETRÁN, JÁNOS DR

Leader of Hungarian delegation to CSCE.

Attended High School in USSR and joined Hungarian Foreign Service in 1958. Trained lawyer. Posts include Warsaw (Consul and then Press Attaché) and Sofia (Consul). Appointed Assistant in international and Local Law Department of MFA in 1967. Head of Hungarian delegation to MBFR in 1974. Head of International Security Department MFA in February 1975 with a rank of Counsellor (2nd Grade). In 1976 was switched to concentrate on CSCE follow-up work and given Ambassadorial rank. Probably Hungary's leading expert in multilateral diplomacy.

Extremely amiable, and well disposed to Britain. Speaks Russian, Polish, Bulgarian and fair English. A jovial bachelor.

POLINSZKY, KÁROLY

Minister of Education; Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Born 1922. A graduate in chemical engineering, he first worked at the Technological University before being appointed an assistant lecturer in 1945. Doctorate 1948. Between 1954 and 1963 he was a Professor and later Rector of the Chemical Industry University at Veszprém and also Director of the Heavy Industry Research Institute. In 1963 he became Deputy Minister of Education and Culture with responsibility for higher education. He became Minister in May 1974. In June 1974 when the Ministry was split he retained the Education side.

Polinszky is the only member of the Government known to be of part gypsy extraction. He has done much to improve the standard of technical education, and seems reasonably popular in the academic world.

He is friendly, businesslike and forthcoming.

POZSGAY, IMRE

Minister of Culture; Member of the Editorial Committee of Társadalmi Szemle.

Born 1933. A Party member since 1950. From 1957 to 1965 he was Head of the Evening University of Maxism-Leninism of County Bács Party Committee. In 1965 he became Head of the Agit-Prop Department of the County's Party Committee. Also worked as a television interviewer. In 1970 he took over the post as Deputy Head of the Agit-Prop Department of the Central Committee and subsequently became the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Társadalmi Szemle. Appointed Deputy Minister of Culture in July 1975, he was promoted to Minister in July 1976. He entertained Lord Donaldson to lunch when he visited Hungary in May/June 1976.

Married. He and his wife both seem to speak only Russian apart from Hungarian. She is quite pleasant and works in a teacher training college.

He was promoted Minister at 43 over the head of the State Secretary in the Ministry and he could be destined for high places. He does research in sociology, philosophy and aesthetics. He is highly intelligent, and radiates confidence and energy.

PUJA, FRIGYES

Minister for Foreign Affairs: Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1921. He trained as a typesetter and worked as a printer between 1934 and 1945. He joined the Party in 1944 and worked in local Party organisations for a number of years before joining the Foreign Service. His first important post was as Minister to the Scandinavian countries, resident in Stockholm between 1953 and 1955. He then served in Austria from 1955 to 1959 before being appointed Deputy Foreign Minister responsible for Western Europe and the Americas. In 1963 he became Head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Central Committee and became a member of the Central Committee in 1966. He returned to the MFA in 1968 as First Deputy Minister and in 1973 succeeded János Péter as Minister. He paid an official visit to Britain in 1972 and was host to Sir Denis Greenhill and to Mr Julian Amery in 1973. He received Mr Hattersley when he visited Hungary in December 1974 and was host to Mr Callaghan in July 1975. He again visited Britain in 1976 as the guest of Dr Owen. He was seen by the Prime Minister during his visit to Britain from 27 February to 2 March 1977. Received Mr Edmund Dell in July 1978. Travels very extensively.

Married with one daughter. He speaks German but his wife speaks only Hungarian. However both understand some English and are reportedly taking lessons.

A muscovite who takes a hard line though he now frequently emphasises in public the need for détente in Europe and his devotion to the spirit of Helsinki. There are reports that in Vienna in 1956 he "wobbled" over backing the Imre Nagy Government and fled to Prague. This may explain the orthodox line he takes now.

PULLAI, ARPÁD

Minister of Transport and Postal Affairs; Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1925. Of peasant origin, he qualified as an oil engineer. In the post-war period he worked in various posts on the Youth movement, was an editor of the Party journal *Partelet*, taught at the Party High School, and became a County Party Secretary. He came to prominence after 1956 when he was involved in the reconstruction of the then discredited Youth League (KISZ). By 1958 he was one of its Secretaries and between 1961 and 1964 its First Secretary. He became a member of the Central Committee in 1962 and of the National Assembly in 1963 and was subsequently Secretary of its Foreign Policy Committee. In 1964 he became Head of the Central Committee Department dealing with Mass Organisations and in 1966 was promoted to Party Secretary, one of the top seven positions in the hierarchy. He was, however, demoted from this position in October 1976 and appointed Minister of Transport and Postal Affairs.

Intelligent, he is intellectually vigorous and has a charismatic manner. Seems well disposed to us and has said that he will accept an invitation to visit Britain in 1979.

RÁCZ, PÁL

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1928. He joined the Party in 1944 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1948. His early career included Berne, Belgrade and Washington. In 1956 he moved to the Hungarian Mission to the United Nations in New York and in June 1957 was declared persona non grata. Between 1957 and 1960 he was Counsellor in Paris before returning to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In July 1963 he was refused agrément as Ambassador in London and was appointed instead to Cairo where he served until 1968, accredited also to the Yemen, Ethiopia, Libya and the Sudan. From 1968 to 1970 he was Head of Protocol in the MFA before being promoted Deputy Minister. In 1971 he moved to the Ministry of the Interior but returned to the MFA in December 1973 and was responsible for relations with the Asian countries including Australasia. He became a member of the Central Committee in March 1975. In August 1976 he was promoted to State Secretary to replace József Marjai.

Host for the visit of Lord Goronwy Roberts in September 1978.

Has one son, by a previous marriage, and speaks English, French and presumably Russian, (see below). His English is quite good.

His father lived in the Soviet Union for many years before the War and it is likely that RácZ was brought up and trained in Moscow. The Hungarians maintain that his expulsion from the United States was a retaliatory move by the Americans, but this is not borne out by our papers.

He is youthful and pleasant in appearance, and clearly intelligent.

RÁNKI, GYÖRGY

Deputy Director of Institute for Historical Researches, Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Born 1930 of Jewish origin.

A well-known economic historian and author of several books mainly about East European economic problems in the Twentieth Century but including a full history of the Second World War which was critical of the Russians.

He spent the academic year (1972–3) as Visiting Fellow at All Souls and has visited Britain on several occasions.

Divorced, he has one grown-up daughter. He speaks good English.

A brilliant intellectual, he is friendly towards the Embassy and is closely associated with Dr Berend. A "liberal" who is keen to increase contacts with Western historians. He knows exactly how far he can go and is very careful not to overstep the limits. He is rather timid and of no political importance.

RÉNYI, PÉTER

Deputy Editor in Chief, Népszabadság.

Born 1920 in Temesvár (Romania). Of Jewish origin. His family lived in exile in Germany until 1934. He worked as a printer and was active in workers' movements until becoming a journalist in the post-war period. Having served in the Party Secretariat from 1948 to 1954, he joined the Party daily in 1954 and after 1956 became its Deputy Editor, a position he has held since. He visited Britain in 1961, and again in 1972 on a COI Category I tour. He is a film and theatre critic of some repute.

Married, his wife is rarely seen. They have three children. He speaks English, German and Russian.

An influential man but unpopular with his colleagues for his rigid views. He has many enemies — his Jewish background, his German education, and his reputation for speaking better German than Hungarian do not help. An ideologist rather than a journalist.

ROMÁNY, PÁL

Minister of Agriculture: Member of the Central Committee: Member of the Economic Policy Committee of the Central Committee.

Born 1929. Graduate from the University of Agrarian Sciences in Gódólló, he joined the Party in 1950.

From 1952 he worked in the Ministry of State Farms and Forestry and in the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1954 he became manager of a state farm, in 1956 deputy head of the management of state farms in County Pest-Nógrád, and from 1958 head of the management of state farms in counties Borsod and Heves and Member of the County Party Committee of Borsod. From 1960-70 he worked in the department of economic policy of the Central Committee, then became first secretary of Bács-Kiskun County Party Committee. In 1973 he became head of the department of regional economic development in the Central Committee and held this post until appointed Minister of Agriculture in July 1975.

A keen horseman and much interested in horses. Married to a teacher.

RÓNAI, RUDOLF

President of the Cultural Relations Institute.

Born 1921. He was a pilot in the Air Force during the War and was responsible after the War for forming the new Hungarian Air Force. He became the Head of the Air Directorate in the Ministry of Posts and Communications in 1957 and Head of the Board of Civil Aviation in the Ministry in 1959. He visited the UK for negotiations on air traffic in 1960 and for MALEV's inaugural flight in 1961. He was appointed Deputy Minister of Posts and Communications in 1963 a post he held until he was appointed Ambassador to Finland in 1967. He returned from Helsinki in 1976 and spent a year in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before being appointed President of the Cultural Relations Institute in January 1977.

Married with one son.

A talkative, self-confident man, who enjoys hunting and social occasions. A hardliner and apparatchik par excellence.

ROSKA, ISTVÁN

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Also President of Danube Committee Board of Executives since 1978.

Born 1926. Originally a factory worker. Before joining the Foreign Ministry in 1959 he was a provincial liaison official in the Party. Appointed Ambassador to Bulgaria in 1966. On his return in 1971, he was promoted to Deputy Minister in charge of Administration, Finance, and relations with Communist countries other than the Soviet Union. After internal MFA reorganisation, he is now responsible for geographical departments dealing with USSR and Communist countries. He was host on the shoot organised for Mr Amery on his visit in November 1973.

Married with three sons. He speaks a few words of English.

An agreeable rugged character with a sense of humour.

SÁGHY, VILMOS

Minister of Internal Trade.

Born 1922. After the War he worked in business and then became assistant lecturer at the Economic and Technical Academy. He worked in various Party and State posts between 1952 and 1956 and was appointed Deputy Minister of Food in 1957. He became Vice-President of the National Planning Office in 1963 and then returned to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food as First Deputy Minister in 1967. He became First Deputy Minister of Internal Trade in 1970, State Secretary in 1973 and Minister in October 1976.

Married, he has two adult sons.

SALUSINSZKY, ISTVAN (DR)

President of the Foreign Trade Bank.

Born 1918. Probably Jewish. Comes from a wealthy publishing family. We know little of his early career although he did spend some time in the Soviet Union in the late 40s. In 1957 he was Head of the Department in the Ministry of Foreign Trade dealing with Britain and from 1958 to 1962 he was Commercial Counsellor in Rome. He became General Manager of the Foreign Trade Bank in 1963.

Married with three children, his wife is a director of NOVEX, a foreign trade agency. He speaks good English and German.

A member of the Party, and an able propagandist for the regime, he is influential and active in encouraging cooperation agreements with Western companies. Approachable and articulate, he readily attends Embassy functions, and is very well disposed towards us. He was seriously ill with nervous depression from 1976-78 but is now fully recovered. Intelligent in a rather zany way.

SARLOS, ISTVAN

Secretary General of the PPF: Member of the Political and Central Committees. Member of the National Assembly.

Born 1921. An arts graduate from Eotvos Lorand University, he joined the Social Democrat Party in 1939 which was merged or submerged in the Communist Party of 1948.

He was active in the Party and in various mass organisations after the War and in 1959 became First Secretary of the Budapest District VI Party Committee. From 1963-70 he was Mayor of Budapest. From 1970-4 he was Editor-in-Chief of Nepszabadsag. He was appointed to his present position in March 1974 and became a member of the Politburo at the XIth Congress of the HSWP in March 1975.

He visited Britain in 1967 for the Edinburgh Festival and met Mrs Castle, then Minister of Transport.

He is married with one daughter. His wife works in the Ministry of Education.

A self-confident, cheerful man. Not particularly impressive. He seems quick, intelligent and relatively sophisticated. He is the one member of the Politburo who was formerly a Social Democrat.

SCHULTHEISZ, EMIL (DR)

Minister of Health.

Born 1923. Probably Jewish. First studied History and Philosophy but switched to medicine and graduated in 1949. Appointed a Deputy Minister in 1972 he was promoted over the heads of three other Deputy Ministers to the rank of First Deputy in August 1973. In this capacity he was host to Lord Aberdare, then Minister of State, DHSS, in September 1973. He became Minister in February 1974.

Host to DHSS Minister of State for Health Mr Moyle in October 1978 when Anglo-Hungarian Health Services Agreement was signed.

Married with one daughter who works in the Museum of Medical History.

He speaks German and some English.

He continues the tradition that the Minister of Health (and his Deputies) are doctors. Smokes like a chimney!

SEBESTYEN, JÁNOS

Managing Vice President of the National Committee for Technological Development (OMFB).

Born 1911, of Jewish origin. An electrical engineer. He was First Deputy Minister of Mines and Power for several years until the Government changes of 1957, when he was appointed Head of the Trade Delegation in Frankfurt before becoming a director of OMFB. In 1962 he became Managing Vice President, a post which he has since retained.

He has visited Britain on several occasions, once in 1967 as the guest of HMG, in 1968 to look at ICL computers, and again in 1972 with Dr Ajtai.

Married with two children. He speaks good French and German.

An impressive and pleasant man who can on occasion be touchy. He is alleged to be anti-German and anxious to reduce the volume of imports from West Germany. The visits to ICL in 1971 was badly organised and is believed to have had some part in the Company's failure to achieve much business in Hungary since then.

SIMAI, MIHÁLY (PROFESSOR)

Director of Graduate Studies in International Economic Relations at the Karl Marx University: Secretary General of the Hungarian UN Society: President of the World Federation of UN Associations: Vice President of the Society of Economists: Vice President of the National Peace Council. Corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Deputy Director of its Research Institute for World Economy.

Born 1930, of Jewish origin. Spent several years in the late 60s with the Hungarian Mission to the UN in New York before taking up his present post. Has been closely involved with the organisation of the Anglo-Hungarian Economic Colloquia. He paid a short visit to Britain in 1973 as the guest of the Great Britain/East Europe Centre and participated at the first Anglo-Hungarian Round Table Conference in November 1977, and the second, Cambridge July 1979.

Married with one daughter. He and his wife (an economist who works at the National Bank) speak good English.

A very international person and well disposed to us. A pupil of József Bognár and a friend of Iván Berend. His earlier nervousness in Western company has given way to remarkable confidence and frankness. He has good contacts in British academic circles.

SIMON, PÁL

Minister of Heavy Industry.

Born 1929. Graduate from Budapest Technological University in Chemistry in 1952 and studied also at the Moscow Technological Institute (1955-59).

From 1959-62 he worked at the Hungarian Oil and Natural Gas Research Institute, most of the time as deputy director. From 1962-73 he was director of the Duna Mineral Oil Company, then until 1974 director general of the National Oil and Gas Industry Combine. In 1974 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Heavy Industry and was promoted to Minister in July 1975.

Speaks no English.

Forthright and pleasant.

SOLTÉSZ, ISTVÁN

Minister of Metallurgy and Machine Industry.

Born 1927. Party member since 1947. 1941 graduated from Faculty of Foundry Engineering at Sopron Technical University, and then taught at Miskolc Technical University of Heavy Industry. Later worked in Ministry of Education and Ministry of Metallurgy and Machine Industry. 1954 Director of Apc Fémthermia Company; 1955-64 Director of Metallochemia Company. 1964 Director of Iron Works at Csepel Iron and Steel Company, later general deputy to Managing Director. Appointed Managing Director 1974.

Member of COMECON Permanent Government Committee on metallurgy and also of Hungarian-Soviet Committee on Science and Technology co-operation. Friendly to this Embassy.

SZALAI, BÉLA

State Secretary for Foreign Trade.

Born 1922. Studied economics and joined the Party in 1944. He served four years in executive positions in the youth federation before being co-opted to the Central Committee's apparatus in 1949. He was however elected to the National Assembly in 1947. Considered one of Rákosi's "boys" (men recruited from amongst the most trusted and reliable leaders of the communist youth movement) he had a meteoric rise in the early 1950s becoming head of the secretariat of the Council of Ministers in 1952, Chairman of the National Planning Office in 1953, Minister of Light Industry in 1954, and a member of the Central Committee Secretariat in 1955. He also became a member of the Central Committee (1953), an alternate member of the Politburo (1953), and then (1954) a full member of the Politburo. At the end of 1955 and early 1956 he was even spoken of as the heir to Rákosi as leader of the Party.

He escaped to the Soviet Union during the 1956 Revolution and in November 1956 Kádár listed him as one of the group of Rákosi followers who were barred from all state and Party offices and were ordered to return to their original professions. His banishment from office, however, did not last long for he was sent to East Berlin as Commercial Counsellor in 1957. In 1960 he became head of a foreign trade textile enterprise before being appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade in 1963. Since 1967 he has been in charge of trade relations with the non-communist world. He headed a trade delegation in Britain in 1969 and opened the British Technical Week on Budapest in 1971. He has headed the Hungarian team at the annual Anglo-Hungarian Joint Commission talks since 1973. In July 1975 he was promoted to State Secretary for Foreign Trade. He travels widely.

Received British IPU delegation in June 1978 and Lord Shackleton (President of EETC) in November 1978.

Married, with one daughter, he speaks Russian, German and quite good English.

He is friendly, sensible and helpful. There is no sign that he will reach the Party heights again and he is not now a member of the Central Committee.

SZARKA, KÁROLY

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Born 1923. Entered Foreign Service under Rákosi in 1948 and served in London, New Delhi (1951-3) and in Washington (1954-6). During the 1956 revolution it was he who conveyed to foreign Missions that the Nagy Government had decided to take Hungary out of the Warsaw Pact. Nevertheless succeeded in remaining in office and was a Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1959-68, responsible for relations with Africa and Middle East. Toured Africa in 1962, visited Middle East in 1967, and was also a member of the Hungarian Government delegation which toured Latin America in 1967. Ambassador in Cairo (with dual accreditation to Libya) 1968-70, Permanent Representative to the UN 1970-4; appointed Deputy Foreign Minister responsible for the international organisations 1974. Since internal MFA reorganisation in 1977 also responsible for Protocol and Administration Departments.

A big, burly man believed to have started out as a blacksmith. He appears to be an efficient though unimaginative bureaucrat who will not again make the mistake of thinking for himself, but restricts himself to carrying out his instructions to the letter. Married with one son. Speaks competent English and has a pleasant though nervous manner. His wife is also agreeable and speaks good English.

SZEKÉR, GYULA

Deputy Prime Minister: Member of the Central Committee.

Born 1925. A Graduate, he joined the Party in 1948. Between 1950 and 1953 he studied in Moscow and on his return became an engineer in the aluminium industry. Appointed Deputy Minister of the Chemical Industry in 1956, he moved to the Ministry of Heavy Industry the following year and became First Deputy Minister in 1963. An alternate member of the Central Committee since 1962, he became a full member in 1966. In 1970 he paid a visit to Britain at the invitation of ICI to study the organisation of the chemical industry. He became Minister of Heavy Industry 1971 and was promoted to Deputy Prime Minister in 1975. He is responsible for international economic relations. In 1976 he paid official visits to the USA (where he was received by the President), Canada (received by the Prime Minister) and Britain (received by the Prime Minister).

He speaks Russian and a little English.

Youthful in appearance, he is competent and has all the facts at his finger tips. His staff respect him and find he demands instant faultless service. He is agreeable and friendly. His wife is Antal Apro's daughter.

SZENTÁGOTHAI, JÁNOS PROFESSOR DR

President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 1977.

Born 1912. After completing his studies at the Budapest Medical University, he became a private tutor at the medical faculty there in 1942. Appointed Head of the University's Institute for Anatomy in 1963. Rector of the Pecs Medical University for many years.

Elected a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences in 1948 and a full member in 1967. Has served twice as Vice President of the Academy and was acting President before being elected to the full Presidency.

A distinguished neurophysiologist specialising in the brain. A Foreign Member of the Royal Society since 1978 and a member of many other foreign and international scientific societies and academies. Received an honorary Doctorate from Oxford in 1978. Also active in fields of education and scientific organisation.

An articulate and outspoken non-party member who frankly admits to being a practising Lutheran. His age and eminence licence him to speak out more freely than is usual here. He is useful to the authorities as an example of a distinguished declared non-Communist who still believes in amicable cooperation with the Party (eg as expressed in his speech to HSWP CC on 19 November 1978, the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Party). Received Archbishop of Canterbury May 1979.

Married with three children. Both he and his wife speak fluent English. His wife is of Swiss extraction and has relatives in the United Kingdom.

SZÉPVOLGYI, ZOLTÁN

Chairman of the Budapest Municipal Council (Mayor of Budapest); Member of the Central Committee; Member of the National Assembly.

Born 1921. He started work in an iron foundry. Called up in 1942, he served two years on the Russian front. Joined the Party in 1945. From 1946 to 1949 he worked in the State Health Insurance Office then in the Central Statistical Office. From 1950 he worked in the State Planning Office first as head of department and later as head of division. In 1959 he became Secretary of the Party Committee in the State Planning Office. From 1964 to 1971 he was Secretary of the Budapest Party Committee. He then became Chairman of the Budapest Municipal Council.

He was host to Sir Desmond Plummer (then Chairman of the Greater London Council) when he visited Budapest in 1972. He visited Britain himself in 1976 as the guest of HMG. Although he is widely travelled this was his first visit to Britain. Received British IPU delegation in June 1978.

Married. His wife is charming.

He speaks only Hungarian. He is agreeable and businesslike.

SZITA, JÁNOS (DR)

Head of the Secretariat for International Economic Relations of the Council of Ministers (of Deputy Minister rank).

Born 1922. A graduate in economics. He was one of the chief executors of the nationalisation of agriculture and industry in the post-war period and became a Vice-President of the National Planning Office. He later served as Commercial Representative in Prague before becoming First Deputy Minister of Finance in 1955. From 1957 to 1961 he was Permanent Representative at the United Nations in Geneva. On his return he was appointed a Head of Department in the Planning Office and Secretary of the Committee for Economic Relations. In 1968 he was promoted Deputy Minister. His main concern is international economic cooperation and he strongly favours closer and freer economic contacts between East and West. He participated in the first two Anglo-Hungarian Economic Colloquia and visited London in 1971 as the guest of the Great Britain/East Europe Centre. Hungarian Co-Chairman of First Anglo-Hungarian Round Table Conference 1977, and of second, Cambridge 1979.

His wife, who was educated at the University of Geneva, is Vice-President of the Telecommunications Association. Both speak good English. She also speaks excellent French and good German.

One of the main background figures in the New Economic Mechanism. A man of ability and influence, he is friendly and urbane and talks interestingly about CMEA and international economic matters. One of our most attractive regular contacts.

TIMÁR, MÁTYÁS (DR)

President of the Hungarian National Bank (with the rank of State Secretary): Member of the Central Committee: Member of the Economic Policy Committee of the Central Committee: Chairman of the Committee of Economic Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Born 1923. Probably Jewish. A leather worker, he joined the Party in 1943. He then studied law at Budapest University and in 1949 joined the Ministry of Finance of which he became Minister in 1962. He held this post until 1967 when he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and a member of the Central Committee. Later that year he became Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee but lost his position in June 1973. He is also Dean of the Economics University. He received Mr Peyton, Minister for Transport Industries, in 1972, Mr Julian Amery in 1973, and Mr Roy Hattersley in 1974. In July 1975 he moved from his post of Deputy Prime Minister and became President of the Hungarian National Bank.

His English is halting. He is slightly better in French and German but prefers to use an interpreter. His wife is an immunologist in the Biological Research Institute in Budapest. She speaks quite good English. They have two daughters, one of whom is married.

He is pleasant and highly intelligent. He is impressive and speaks with authority.

TÖMPE, ISTVÁN

Chairman of State Radio and Television Committee: Member of the Central Committee: Member of the Agitprop Committee of the Central Committee.

Born 1909. Joined the Party in 1929 and lived in exile in France until 1934. He fought in the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War and was interned in France in 1939 but escaped and returned to Hungary in 1941 where he was imprisoned. He later joined the Resistance movement and in the late 40s was active in various provincial Party organisations. In 1950 he joined the Ministry of Agriculture. After the 1956 Revolution he became a member of the Central Committee and Deputy Minister for the Armed Forces. In 1957 he moved to the Ministry of the Interior and the following year to the Ministry of Agriculture as Deputy Minister. In 1962 he became President of the Radio and Television Authority. He visited London as a guest of the BBC in 1956 and again in 1971 as the guest of the FCO on a COI sponsored tour. In 1974 he became Chairman of the State Radio and Television Committee. He was host to Sir Charles Curran, Director General of the BBC when he visited Hungary in 1975.

Married, his wife works in the Party Secretariat. He speaks German, Spanish and French.

He is large and cheerful, tough, a keen angler and hunter.

One of the "old brigade" who keeps his job by virtue of his career and contacts. His brother, who had a similar career, resigned as Ambassador to the GDR after the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and committed suicide in 1971.

TÖRÖK, ISTVÁN

Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade since 1975.

Born 1925. Worked in oil industry for 10 years and then with the Ministry of Foreign Trade as Commercial Counsellor in Turkey 1954–8: Head of International Department 1958–63 and Senior Commercial Counsellor in Rome 1963–7.

Before succeeding Béla Szalai as Deputy Minister, he was Director General of the Foreign Trade Company, Chemolimpex 1967–75. He has responsibility for Anglo-Hungarian trade relations. He accompanied Gyula Székér when he visited London in July 1976.

Married with 2 children. Speaks French and some English. He is well disposed, friendly and easy to talk to.

TRAUTMANN, REZSŐ

Vice President of the Presidential Council.

Born 1907. Studied architecture. Worked in Poland for several years in the early 30s. In 1949 he became a construction engineer on the Building Planning Undertaking and then rose to be head of the Technical Department in the Ministry of Construction. In 1951 he became Deputy Minister of Construction. In 1953 he became President of the National construction Bureau and in May 1957 Minister of Building and Construction. He retired from this post in 1968 but in July 1975 he was appointed Vice President of the Presidential Council.

Speaks German. He has a pleasant, avuncular manner.

TRETHON, FERENC DR

Minister of Labour since June 1977.

Born 1923.

Party member since 1948. Technical background in coal mining industry, then moved to Coal Mining Ministry and subsequently became Head of Department in Ministry of Heavy Industry 1957–74. 1974–77 Deputy Minister of Finance. Titular University lecturer. Has had Union leadership experience and also served as member of Industrial, Economic and Organisational Science Committee at the Academy of Sciences.

VARKONYI, PÉTER

Head of the Information Office of the Council of Ministers: Member of the Central Committee: Member of the Agitprop Committee of the Central Committee: Member of State Radio and Television Advisory Committee.

Born 1931. Having graduated at the Foreign Affairs Academy, he was declared persona non grata by the United States Government in 1951 in retaliation for the expulsion of an American diplomat from Hungary. He served in London from 1951 to 1953 and in Cairo before becoming Head of the MFA Press Department. He joined the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in 1961 and from 1965 to 1969 worked as Kádár's Private Secretary. He later became Deputy Head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Party before taking up his present post in 1969. He holds the rank of State Secretary. Seriously injured in late 1975 and took several months to recover.

Married. He speaks excellent English.

In his diplomatic career he had a record of intelligence work. As Kádár's Private Secretary he enjoyed an influential position and he has been named as a possible candidate for high position in the Government or Party. An important man, close to members of the Hungarian leadership.

VÉRESS, PÉTER

Minister of Foreign Trade since March 1979.

Born 1928 in Transylvania. Having served as Commercial Counsellor at Damascus and Tel Aviv, and as a Deputy Head of Department in the Ministry of Foreign Trade, he was appointed Deputy Minister in March 1971. Responsible for general economic and theoretical questions, he frequently acted as publicist for his Ministry. In 1972 he attended the Third Anglo-Hungarian Economic Colloquium organised by the Great Britain/East Europe Centre. In November 1973 he received Mr Amery during the Minister of State's official visit. He was appointed Ambassador to France in December 1974. Succeeded Jozsef Biro as Minister of Foreign Trade, 30 March 1979.

Married, he speaks fluent English.

Very westernised. He has a relaxed, easy manner and answers questions frankly.