

YUGOSLAVS CHEER CLEARING OF RAJK

Communist Paper Declares Trial of Hungarian Was 'Most Monstrous' Ever

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PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia, March 29—The official newspaper of the Yugoslav Communist League hailed tonight the rehabilitation of Laszlo Rajk, executed Hungarian Foreign Minister, as a reversal of the verdict of the "most monstrous trial ever held in the world."

"Yugoslavia always has expressed the opinion that sooner or later the truth would be victorious," the newspaper Borba said of the Hungarian Government's action in restoring the reputation of Mr. Rajk.

"From the very beginning of the trial Yugoslavia stressed the fact that it was all based on lies," Borba said, according to word from Belgrade.

For many months Yugoslavia's leaders have been demanding "deeds not words" to back up the Soviet bloc's proclaimed desire for renewed comradely relations. One of the deeds they wanted was the recantation of the charges against Mr. Rajk.

Trial Key Cause of Break

Testimony at the trial of Mr. Rajk was used by the Soviet Union and all the satellites as the main support for their decision to break relations with Yugoslavia in 1949 after Mr. Rajk had been executed.

Mr. Rajk was accused of having plotted the murder of Stalin as a tool of President Tito of Yugoslavia. He was accused of

having received instructions at a frontier meeting with Alexander Rankovic, then Yugoslavia's Minister of the Interior.

Observers in Belgrade believed that Mr. Rajk's rehabilitation would go a long way toward restoring formal party relationships between the Yugoslav Communists and the Communists of the Soviet bloc. Party relationships have recommenced on an informal basis since the Twentieth Congress of the Soviet Communist party in Moscow. The Rajk trial was one of the major stumbling blocks to placing these relations on a formal basis once again.

The Hungarian Government's actions probably also presaged a decision to come to terms with Yugoslavia on outstanding economic problems. The Yugoslavs have asked for more than \$100,000,000 from the Hungarians as

reparations and compensation for damages caused by the breaking of economic and trade agreements.

There was some expectation in Belgrade that the rehabilitation of Mr. Rajk would be followed by similar Albanian action in the case of Koci Xoxe, Minister of the Interior, and by similar action by Bulgaria in the case of Traicho Kostov, Vice President, both of whom were executed as Titoists.

There is less certainty regarding the cases of Rudolf Slansky, former First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist party, and Dr. Vladimir Clementis, former Czechoslovak Foreign Minister. The charges against these two and nine other leading party officials hanged with them were far broader than Titoism.

Among other things, M. Slansky and Dr. Clementis were accused of espionage on behalf of the West. M. Slansky also was charged with economic sabotage.

Yugoslavs believe the Czechoslovaks will have the most difficult time of all the Soviet bloc countries in restoring the memory of those Communist leaders who died in purges inspired by Marshal Tito's defection from the Cominform.

There was no official Yugoslav reaction to the Hungarian action. But there was no doubt that Yugoslavs would be delighted by it and would consider it as still another vindication of their defiance of Stalin.