

Magyar Országos Levéltár (MOL) – Hungarian National Archive

KÜM TÜK 1984, IV. fej., ANGLIA, 30. doboz

6-13 0080/21 Mrs Thatcher brit miniszterelnök magyarországi látogatásának csehszlovák sajtó visszhangja – Echoes in the Czechoslovakian press about British prime minister Mrs Thatcher's visit to Hungary

[Additional information: The letter has been written in telegram form, therefore special Hungarian vowels (e.g. á, é, ü, ö etc.) are marked with double plain vowels: for example, 'á' is rendered 'aa'. The text does not contain capital letters and sometimes commas; these have been included by the translator.]

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[On the top there are two comments in different handwriting: "To file [illegible] topic: Cr Varju Fe" different handwriting: "Echoes in the Czechoslovakian press about British prime minister Mrs Thatcher's visit to Hungary"]

PRAGUE
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Checked by: [illegible signature]

CIPHER TELEGRAM

- Urgent -

About the plan of M. Thatcher British prime minister's visit to Hungary the CTK's [Czech News Agency] bulletin entitled Internal Foreign News gave information on the 4th November. It quoted the prime minister's London speech, in which she announced her plan to travel to Hungary.

Before the visit the CTK's bulletin published some material one more time: it described the *Guardian* article on Hungary's development and Eastern-Western relations. Mass media tools did not give information on the plan of the visit and did not pay [original Hungarian 'devote'] much attention to M. Thatcher's arrival to Budapest. Central daily newspapers /*Rudé Právo*, *Pravda*/ published one-sentence-long news of the event. The *Rudé Právo* at the bottom of page on foreign politics, the *Pravda* amongst small news on world news reported the event. The *Új Szó* [Hungarian-language Czechoslovakian newspaper] did not even report the arrival. The event was not included in the programme of radio or television either. The *Rudé Právo* on the 4th February under the title "24 hours in the big world", amongst its short foreign political news, on the 9th spot, in two sentences reported that Hungarian-British negotiations started in Budapest, and also Comrade János Kádár met prime minister Margaret Thatcher staying on an official visit,

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the Bratislava-based *Pravda* on the 4th February published in a highlighted spot the gloss of B. Zagar entitled "Somersaults on the trampoline of Reagan". The author of the article labels Thatcher's calls "of the last days" for dialogue to be cynical, he stresses that Thatcher adapts in everything to the foreign political line of the Reagan government, therefore also to the tactics of "understanding" the East. He closes his train of thought [*original Hungarian "run of idea" it can have a negative, mocking meaning depending on context*] that "the somersaults taken on the trampoline of Reagan are not appreciated even by the public."

On the 6th February central daily newspapers briefly reported of the British prime minister's leaving. The *Új Szó* published on this day B. Zagar's mentioned writing. The *Rudé Právo* returned to the visit on the 8st February with its gloss entitled "How things can be distorted" published in a highlighted form.¹ This commentary manipulates with ascertainties taken from the British press. It gives voice to its doubts concerning the soundness of the statement of M. Thatcher according to which the Budapest visit was a contribution to Eastern-Western relations. Quoting the *Morning Star* it calls it self-deception. Alluding to the *Morning Star* it reminds [*the reader*] that the British prime minister in the last five years has not missed any opportunity to refuse any peace suggestion. The author of the gloss calls Thatcher's Budapest statements as barren rhetorics, empty quibbling, which cannot lead

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to agreement. He grades the British prime minister's initiatives for dialogue as conjunctural and as a try pointing to unveil her historical responsibility due to her agreement to the deployment of American missiles.

Addressing the prime minister he points out that noone has to convince the socialist countries of the usefulness of dialogue. At the same time he points out [*original Hungarian "pins down" i.e. tells it as an unchangeable truth*] that one cannot continue the dialogue with socialist countries in the shadow of threat of missiles pointed at them, and that nothing can be achieved at socialist countries with the theorem formulated by Reagan according to which "strength and dialogue walk hand in hand."

The quoted commentary of the two central party papers – although they address their ascertainties exclusively to M. Thatcher – obviously question the up-to-dateness [*actuality*] of the prime minister's visit to Budapest. The foreign political review author of *Rudé Právo*

¹ See KÜM TÜK 1984. ANGLIA 30. doboz 6-13 0080/26 for the article.

by raising uncertainties concerning the sincerity of the British prime minister questions the usefulness and achievements of the Hungarian-British prime ministerial discussions as well. Although commentators refrain from directly naming the other partner of the discussion, by debating Thatcher's statements which underline efficiency of Thatcher's visit to Budapest in an indirect way they contain the criticism of Hungarian foreign policy for accepting the British prime minister in Budapest.

I remark that this tone mirrors the Czechoslovakian foreign policy propaganda's present line of conduct. This policy line was created by the secretaries of socialist countries' brother parties occupying with foreign and ideological questions referring

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to the agreement accepted at the meeting on the 9th December /see my report no. 28/1984/. I remark summerising the press echoes of here about the Hungarian-British prime ministerial meeting that right after its realisation, the *Új Szó* published a constructive spirited grading of the meeting which was published in its 4th February issue, in the habitual foreign political summary entitled "A week in the big world." The Slovakian Hungarian-language daily newspaper – probably by taking the tone of commentaries from Budapest – put Thatcher's visit in connection with the pursuit of socialist countries that our countries contrary to the tense world political situation cannot close into themselves, but they seek for the opportunity of dialogue with Western states. The dialogue contrary to the fundamental differences in views may be efficient as well. The *Új Szó* in this commentary sets the Hungarian-British discussions in the line of Gromyko-Shultz meeting realised in Stockholm, of P. Trudeau's discussions in Berlin, Prague and Bucharest, of Cheysson's discussions in Berlin, of Srchipov's discussions in Paris.

After a few days the *Új Szó* took the two above described writings of the *Rudé Právo* and the *Pravda* of Bratislava, which arrive to different conclusions concerning M Thatcher's visit to Budapest. =

= 38 Kovács =

Should see: Cr. Szentesi
Fro.: 8,35,

I have seen:

I have taken action:

[Next to "should see" and around it different signatures: Cr. Bólski, Cr. F. Varga, Cr. Golub, Cr. Ábriné, Cr. Lajos Nagy]