

# BULGARIA CLEARS NAME OF KOSTOV

## Vindicates Leader Executed in '49—Premier Chided on Shunning Joint Rule

By JOHN MacCORMAC

Special to The New York Times.

VIENNA, April 3—Bulgaria has now restored to grace the name of a leader who was executed for high treason and Titoism. The Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist party cleared a former Deputy Premier, Traicho Kostov, who was put to death in 1949.

Vulko Chervenkov, Bulgarian Premier and the man chiefly responsible for Mr. Kostov's condemnation, was censured by the same body at a meeting over the week-end for having failed to install collective leadership in Bulgaria.

The party resolutions involved have not yet been officially announced. News of them has reached Vienna through diplomatic channels.

The vindication of Mr. Kostov had been expected after Hungary last week cleared the name of Laszlo Rajk, former Hungarian Foreign Minister, who like Mr. Kostov was executed in 1949 and for similar reasons.

Like Mr. Rajk's, the reinstatement of Mr. Kostov's name is interpreted here as a gesture toward President Tito of Yugoslavia. Mr. Kostov had been accused of conspiring to murder Premier Georgi Dimitrov of Bulgaria and to include Bulgaria in a South Slav federation with Yugoslavia.

### Soviet Pressure Indicated

The Hungarian Workers (Communist) party in rehabilitating Mr. Rajk did not censure Matyas Rakosi, Hungarian party leader, who had him executed. The fact that the Bulgarian party joined criticism of Mr. Chervenkov with the reinstatement of Mr. Kostov was attributed in a report reaching here to strong Soviet pressure.

This pressure, it is believed, was brought to bear in the interests of reconciliation with Marshal Tito, who was denounced in 1948 for departing from the Moscow line.

Until last week-end Bulgaria had been slow to react to the decision to downgrade Stalin, taken at the recent congress of the Soviet Communist party in Moscow.

Two weeks ago the Sofia Communist party organ *Rabotnichesko delo* published mild criticism of the "injurious cult of personality," a Soviet euphemism for Stalin's one-man rule. The newspaper said the cult had "found an echo even in the Communist party in Bulgaria," had "thrown false light on social development and class war and led to distortion of historic facts."

In the course of the trial Mr. Kostov repudiated in open court a previous confession of treason. The court was promptly adjourned and Mr. Kostov was hustled out. Six hours later, when the court reconvened, the defendant had again been brought to "reason."

### Szakasits Release Reported

VIENNA, April 3 (UP)—Hungary has released former President Arpad Szakasits from prison with a group of about thirty other Social Democrats, it was reported here today.

Reliable sources said that

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Gyorgy Marosan, former Socialist Cabinet Minister, also had been freed in the wholesale release. Mr. Szakasits and Mr. Marosan were reported to have been the last prominent Socialists still held by the Hungarian Government.

Thirty to fifty Social Democrats, including Anna Kethly, former deputy Socialist party chairman, were released from prison last year.

Mr. Szakasits was President of Hungary from 1948 until April, 1950, when he resigned because of a sudden "illness," according to a Hungarian news agency report at the time. Informed sources said the former President had been imprisoned shortly after his resignation.

He was one of the few Hungarian Socialists who advocated the party's union with the Communists. As soon as that union was established he became President.

Mr. Marosan, former Minister of Light Industry, was arrested in 1950 and sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment by a military tribunal.

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