

HUNGARY IS TENSE AS WORKERS GIRD FOR WIDE STRIKE

General Walkout and Martial Law in Effect Today—

Phones Are Cut Anew

By **JOHN MacCORMAC**

Special to The New York Times.

VIENNA, Dec. 10—The showdown between the Soviet-imposed Hungarian Government and the workers' councils remained undecided today, according to reports from Budapest.

The issue was joined yesterday when the Government of Premier Janos Kadar dissolved the councils after they had called a forty-eight-hour general strike to begin at midnight tonight.

[Communications with Budapest were cut again Monday night after having been briefly restored, news agencies reported. Reports reaching Vienna by courier said the strike was virtually complete long before the midnight deadline.

[The United States in a note to Hungary protested loss of contact with its Legation in Budapest.]

Workers Debate Strike

Workers assembled in factories and debated their response to the councils' appeal for a general strike. Meanwhile, the Budapest radio repeatedly warned them that a strike would shatter Hungary's economy, now in painful process of restoration.

Since no newspapers appeared in Budapest today, its citizens heard only through the radio that martial law had been declared. The Government has announced that all serious crimes will be tried summarily by military courts starting at 6 P. M. tomorrow. The courts will handle all cases of murder, manslaughter, looting, illegal possession of arms and damage to state property.

It is reported that 137 members of the workers' councils have been arrested during the last few days. Against many of them the charge has been that they released from their factories goods for sale to retail outlets or that they sold food to workers.

Tension Grips Budapest

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Dec. 10 (AP)—The Budapest central Workers Council defiantly stood today by its call for a strike. Workers in several big factories said they intended to obey the call.

Tension gripped this rebellion-torn city as the midnight deadline neared. The Government threatened new bloodshed if the workers struck.

There were strong rumors that Georgi M. Malenkov, a Soviet First Deputy Premier, was a visitor in Budapest Friday and Saturday and planned to return again tomorrow to help Premier Kadar deal with the strike.

Police patrols, backed by Soviet tanks, came out in force and set up road blocks throughout Budapest. They carried long lists of names, and checked the identity cards of passers-by with the lists. One of their tasks was to search for arms. Under the proclamation of martial law all

Continued on Page 19, Column 1

The New York Times

Published: December 11, 1956

Copyright © The New York Times

HUNGARY IS TENSE ON EVE OF STRIKE

Continued From Page 1

civilians caught with arms are liable to be shot.

Meanwhile more details came to light concerning the clash at Salgotarjan last Saturday, in which eighty persons were killed by the Hungarian police.

The story was brought to Budapest by a three-man miners' delegation that came to report to the Central Workers Council. The three told Western reporters that 10,000 "peacefully demonstrating workers" had requested the release of their leader and another member of their local

council, who had been arrested for distributing leaflets.

The miners said they had sent a delegation to request the release of the two men, while miners and factory men from neighboring plants had joined in "parading silently in front of the local police headquarters."

They said the crowd had been unarmed and had not acted aggressively. But a few shots were heard and "within a minute or two the Hungarian police began firing," the miners said.

"The police kept on firing even when the crowds fled," they added. "We had eighty dead. The Russian soldiers just stood by."

An official version of the incident, contained in a leaflet signed by the Salgotarjan Communist party committee and brought to Budapest by the three miners, said provocateurs had thrown grenades at the police.

The New York Times

Published: December 11, 1956
Copyright © The New York Times