

Wife Rejects Hungarian Farmer's Plea To Seek New Life in America

Schutzen, Austria—(UP)—A young Hungarian farmer stood today in the no-man's land of the Austro-Hungarian frontier and pleaded in vain for his wife and children to join him in seeking a new life in America.

The farmer was Ignac Habetler, 30. He enacted the one-hour dramatic drama with his wife, Maria, within earshot of Hungarian border guards standing by with their guns at the ready, and in view of passing Soviet soldiers. Habetler begged his wife to accompany him to New York.

In the end Maria turned back to Hungary with tears in her eyes. She said she feared even shattered Hungary would be a better place to live than New York if war comes.

"If war breaks out it will be worse in America than here," she said. The most she would promise was that she might join Ignac when it seemed "feasible."

Habetler fled across the border one dark night two weeks ago, leaving his wife and two children behind in the one-room shack they called home. He returned to the Austrian border post Tuesday afternoon and asked for help in getting word to Maria to join him.

He had received a letter from his sister, Mrs. Anna Gruber of

New York, containing money and the promise of financial aid to bring the Habetler family to New York.

Hungarian-speaking Austrian border guards hailed a horse-drawn cart on the other side of the Iron Curtain and asked the driver to tell Mrs. Habetler.

Grim Journey

The driver agreed only reluctantly. He said he was taking home the body of a Hungarian patriot, shot by the Russians in the woods above the village. During the shouted conversation a Soviet truck filled with Russian soldiers roared past down the highway.

Soon afterward the Austrian guards spied a woman running across the flat fields toward the safe border crossing. Habetler rushed into the no-man's land until he stood separated from his wife only by a ditch that once contained land mines.

Habetler pleaded with her to bring the children to the border so they could leave for the United States. She refused, and during their argument two Hungarian soldiers dressed in khaki topcoats walked up. The Austrian guards unsung their rifles.

Habetler tossed an Austrian cigarette lighter across the ditch

The lighter is worth more in Hungary than a week's pay for a private soldier.

Young Soldiers

The Austrians told reporters that young recruits, in military service only ten days, are being rushed into the border area. They had been drafted from Hungarian villages near the Romanian border. The Austrians added that the new soldiers took easily to bribes.

The Red soldiers were not satisfied, however, and Habetler handed over two more lighters and a harmonica on a promise they would help Maria escape. They were joined by Maria's mother, an old peasant woman who wore a black shawl slung over her head. She asked Habetler to return to Hungary.

Hungarian villagers rode past on bicycles, starting. One Hungarian leaned his bicycle against a stone cross near an unmanned guard tower and listened open mouthed.

At last in desperation Habetler shouted to his wife, "If you don't come, I'll go to America anyway. I don't want to go back to Hungary."

She wept as she turned away, but Habetler was confident his wife and children eventually would join him.

Topics for Decisions Program Are Listed

New York—The Foreign Policy association today called upon citizens across the country to share in considering eight vital foreign policy questions in the light of violently shifting world relations.

The plea was made in conjunction with the association's "Decisions . . . 1957" program at a conference for national organizations.

Topics Announced

Representatives of more than 100 groups, including veterans, labor, religious, business, educational, youth, and service, heard John W. Nason, association president, announce eight "Decisions."

The questions were chosen with the assistance of a committee of experts as those most likely to confront the American people in the year ahead. They are:

1. How should the United States compete with Russia?
2. What United States policy for Europe?
3. What United States stakes in the Middle East?
4. Should the United States deal with Red China?
5. United States—for or against "Colonialism"?
6. Are "neutrals" against the United States?
7. What United States military strategy in the nuclear age?
8. How much trade—how much aid?

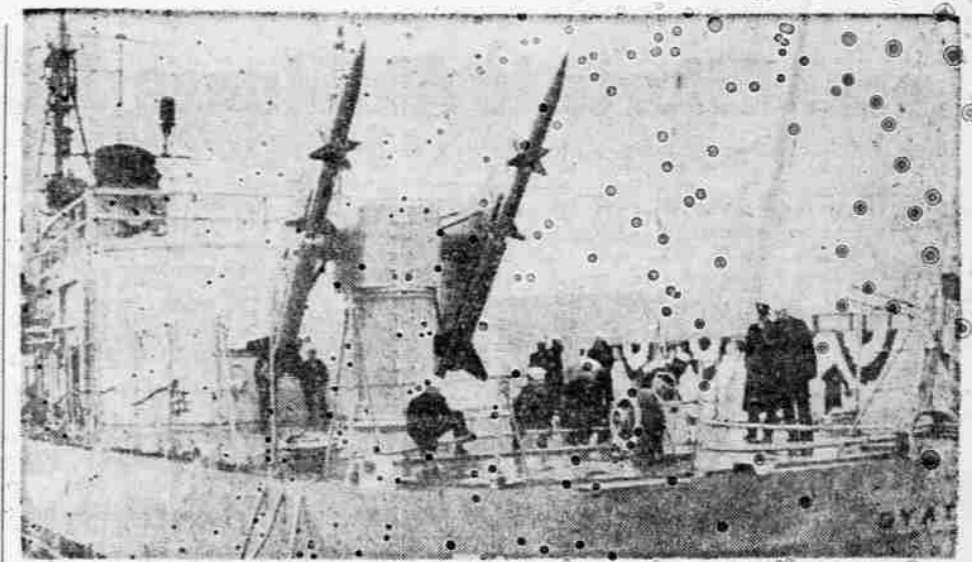
The association has urged individuals in all parts of the country to consider the questions and express their conclusions as they see fit. Many groups have been working this fall on advance plans for "Decisions . . . 1957" programs.

Major Project

The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce has adopted the program as its major international relations project for 1957, and several hundred of its local chapters are expected to take part.

The association said community programs, in most cases involving the cooperation of civic groups, churches, schools and colleges, newspapers, radio and television stations, are being organized by local leadership in California, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and Washington. State-wide programs will be under way about the first of February in Connecticut, Michigan, Ohio and Oregon.

The 38-year-old association, non-profit and non-partisan, exists "to help the American people inform themselves on world affairs."



COMMISSIONED—The USS Gyatt is shown at the Boston Naval Shipyard where she was commissioned as the Navy's first guided missile destroyer. The Gyatt is equipped with Terrier guided missiles, shown above in launching position on stern of the ship.

Ashland Officer is Hurt When Attacked

Ashland—Ashland police officer Bruce Hoy suffered cuts and bruises after being attacked by three men in front of the Bohemian club on East Main st. here Saturday evening.

The three were lodged in the city jail to appear in municipal court later. They were charged with assault and battery, resisting arrest and drunk and disorderly conduct.

They were identified as Ray Floyd Harpham, Leo Leroy Freudenthaler and Ralph Martin, all of Ashland. Martin and Freudenthaler were released Sunday on \$100 and \$50 bail. Harpham was held under \$200 bond.

The fight began Saturday evening in an Ashland cafe where the three men were reportedly causing a disturbance. Officer

Hoy was in plain clothes, showed his credentials and warned them. The men left after "considerable argument," police said.

About a half hour later, according to police, the three men, reinforced by two others, accosted Hoy and a companion while they were walking along East Main st.

Botanists declare one-fourth of all the known species of plants in the world flourish in Brazil.



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