

## Hungarians to represent B.C. on radio

B.C. will be represented in the Royal Christmas Day broadcast by Hungarians.

The BBC plans to include three Sopron University professors and a Sopron student in the "Commonwealth program" preceding the Queen's address from England.

Theme of the broadcast will be "Twenty-five Years of Change in the Commonwealth." It is 25 years since King George first made a Christmas Day radio address to his people.

Members of the forest faculty of Sopron University at UBC who will be interviewed by CBC commentator Bill Herbert, will be Dean Kolman Roller, Prof. Paul Koller, Prof. Leslie Adamovitch and student Nicholas Gratzner. All speak good English after nine months in B. C.

## Silent Parade Marks Rebellion 25th Anniversary

VANCOUVER (CP)—The Free Hungarian flag flew on the Link University of British Columbia campus Wednesday as 200 Hungarian students staged a silent parade commemorating the first anniversary of the Budapest rebellion.

The Hungarians, members of the University of Sopron forestry faculty, fled with their professors following the uprising and were brought to Canada.

The students, led by a veteran of the uprising, Niklos Gratzner, laid a wreath on a memorial commemorating world war dead.

Not a word was spoken during the 45-minute ceremony.

In Ottawa about 100 young men and women who described themselves as Hungarian freedom fighters Wednesday night assembled silently for about five minutes before the Russian Embassy.

The Hungarians then paraded to the national war memorial where they lit two tiny candles. One man protected the candles from wind and rain while the group sang the Hungarian national anthem.

## Hungarians Doing Well

22-B  
VANCOUVER (CP)—The Hungarian professors and students of the forestry faculty of Sopron University are taking up their studies at the University of British Columbia after months of assimilation in all kinds of work.

As they got together again in temporary quarters lent by the RCAF at Sea Island, they noticed that many had changed considerably since arriving in Canada last February.

Few could speak any English at that time, and now most of them can converse quite easily in their new language. They also have money in the bank and have paid up to \$300 each for the year's tuition.

"They arrived in Canada eight months ago with their possessions in a paper bag," said Philip S. Bird, immigration superintendent, "and now I've been pleased to supply trucks to transport 13 tons of luggage for them to this camp."

The group is composed of 28 professors and their 74 dependents, and 201 students. Twenty of the students are girls.

They have taken over the RCAF barrack blocks and another building which includes study rooms, kitchen and dining-room.

They will cook and keep house for themselves, attending classes on a split-shift system in co-operation with Canadian students. Buses will carry them to and from classes.

"They'll be very comfortable here," said Mr. Bird, "but it is my aim to have them all in private accommodation within a month. They want that, too."

All summer they worked at various jobs, most in the forests. Typical is 22-year-old, Joseph Ronyecz, third-year student who worked in the bush at Jasper, Alta. He started penniless and came back with \$260 and a good command of the English language.

"The experience served me well for the years of study and integration to come, but we must get away from each other again soon. We speak too much Hungarian when we are together."

1957

## Student March Recalls Revolt in Hungary 25/1/57

Two hundred bareheaded Hungarian forestry students marched in the pouring rain at University Hill, Wednesday afternoon.

The procession celebrated the first anniversary of the Hungarian revolt which started with student-demonstrations throughout the country last Oct. 23.

"Only those who took part in the original demonstration in Hungary were allowed to march with us," said Geza Toth, second year student, who carried the red-white-green Hungarian national flag at the head of the lines.

At the War Memorial Gymnasium, two students, in old Hungarian forester's uniform, placed the Sopron Faculty of Forestry's wreath.

The simple ceremony lasted

25 minutes. It was carried out in complete silence.

Another demonstration is scheduled by all the Vancouver-resident Hungarians for Sunday afternoon at the downtown area.

# Aid to Hungarians Opposed by CCFer

## Herridge Against Free Education While Others at UBC Must Quit

OTTAWA—It is "time to halt the enthusiasm" over helping Hungarian refugees, Bert Herridge (CCF—Kootenay West) told the Commons Thursday.

He spoke against special assistance for Hungarian forestry students at the University of British Columbia while many young Canadians were unable to complete their education at UBC because they could not find summer employment.

He said the former Liberal government had spent \$452,190 to bring 305 students of the university of Sopron Forestry faculty to B.C., and he opposed their continued free education.

### "ULTRA-GENEROUS"

"I can't support," he said, "giving this ultra-generous treatment to a small group of people."

The CCFer was immediately attacked by J. W. Pickersgill, former Liberal immigration minister, who accused him of an "utterly ungenerous attitude."

Canada was lucky to get the Hungarian students, he said, and continuing to provide them with free education was a "very, very modest request."

### PAY FEES

Herridge urged that Canadian university students unable to find summer jobs have their fees paid by the federal government, as was done for the Hungarian forestry students.

He also complained that government assistance in finding jobs gave immigrants an unfair advantage over unemployed Canadians.

He said a lumber company with which he was associated hired four immigrants at the request of the immigration department.

They were paid \$12 a day but they quit after four days and lived for four months at government expense in a Nelson, B.C., hotel, he said.

# Sopron<sup>27</sup> Faculty<sup>B</sup> Active

VANCOUVER (CP)—For students and professors of Sopron University, who fled to Canada after the Budapest uprising last year, lights in classrooms burn far into the night as they study English.

Now, 13 months after their flight that gave Canada the entire forestry faculty of the Hungarian university, they are receiving a few facts from their former home.

Sopron University, founded in 1771, lost in a single night its forestry students and professors totalling 300. Its traditions continue today only through the loyalty of retired professors.

### OLDSTERS HELP

"The 48-year-olds have gone back to work," said Prof. M. P. Koller, who now teaches English and forestry at British Columbia's Sopron University.

"They could not bear to think that the old institution that did so much for Hungary would end its work. They are doing their best as a patriotic service."

Dr. Koller for years was a professor at the university near the Austrian border. He was imprisoned by the Russians and sent to Siberia. He was in prison camps for five years before escaping, to join the American forces.

He served as interpreter for nearly five years with the U.S. army and was thereby able to emigrate to the United States and become an American citizen.

When the Sopron faculty reached Canada they got in touch with Dr. Koller in the United States and asked him to help in Vancouver.

The Hungarians hope that as the University of B.C. builds itself up, there will be better quarters for their faculty. Meanwhile, they are making good use of their newly-painted huts.

# Final Exams For 28 Hungarians 22-B

VANCOUVER (CP)—University of British Columbia graduation ceremonies in May will be given additional color—the red and white of free Hungary.

Twenty eight of the Hungarian forestry students transplanted to UBC last September are taking final examinations. They will graduate in the same way and at the same ceremony as other university students.

But their graduation hoods will be something special. The 25 regular UBC forestry students will wear hoods with a brown lining and green stripe on the front, the colors of the faculty. The graduates from Sopron University, Hungary, will also have red and white stripes alongside the green.

Their diplomas will read bachelor of science in forestry, with the words "equivalent to graduate forest engineer (okleveles erdomester)" from Sopron University, Hungary," added.

The graduates will probably go to work in sawmills and logging camps, learning the B.C. business from the ground up.

"They can learn English better

that way," said Sopron Dean Kalman Roller. "Then they can begin to move up."

### GOOD TRAINING

Technical jobs for forestry graduates are not plentiful this year due to a slump in the industry and Canadian forestry graduates will also have to go to the camps.

"It's a good training any way," said Dr. George Allen, forestry dean. "They get the working man's side of the picture before they get the other side."

The Sopron faculty has been free to retain its identity at the university. Students and professors stay in private homes, but the faculty operates from a separate building, a converted army hut.

Dean Roller said the Sopron course, normally 4½ years in Hungary, has been shortened to 3½ years because a year of political subjects were required under the communist regime and these have been dropped, gladly.

Some lectures are conducted in English and will be increased next year. Examinations are in Hungarian and their style has remained European.

1958

The Editor,  
Ubysey.

Dear Sir:

In reply to Mr. Hexter's letter of November 6th, there are several points which I feel should be made clear re the students in Hungary awaiting trial.

This was not dogmatically accepted by the A.M.S. It was felt that there were sufficient grounds to circulate a petition. This opinion was supported by Dean Roller, Dean of Sopron, and President MacKenzie. A wire was sent to Sir Leslie Munro, Ambassador to the U.N. from New Zealand, who is investigating the situation in Hungary.

If there is even a remote possibility that these students are being held, then we have a responsibility to attempt to have them freed.

The Hungarian Premier, Janos Kadar, has denounced these charges as lies perpetrated by the west. He also included the thirty-one young people executed during the summer. The International Commission of Jurists in a report issued recently does not agree with Mr. Kadar.

Our efforts may prove futile, but at least we have the satisfaction of knowing that we at least made an effort.

To bring up the political affiliation of the Hungarian people during the war is irrelevant to the petition. These people who we are attempting to save were at the most four years old and I am sure they were not aware of the political significance of the war.—

Lastly NFCUS did not blindly accept this move. Many member universities have but, as yet, the national executive has not accepted it per se. They have been in touch with Sir Leslie Munro as well. They agree with our work but they have not blindly or hysterically accepted it.

As long as we are free and can think for ourselves then all should not sit back and wait until it is too late for action.

Sincerely,

—Peter Meekison.

## "Soprons Unfortunate Frothings"—Morgan

By FARIDA SEWELL, (Ubysey Staff Reporter)

"Hungarians want to return to Hungary rather than face unemployment in Canada."

Canada's Communist Leader, Nigel Morgan, made this statement Friday to a restless and heckling crowd of students.

"The Soprons are merely a group of unfortunate frothings left over from the Hungarian Revolution," Morgan said.

Morgan denied that 150 Hungarians are in jail waiting to be executed on their eighteenth birthdays.

He had written to leaders in Hungary who had denied this, Morgan said.

"If you don't believe me go to Hungary and see for yourself. Just try going back," Morgan said.

The crowd which had packed the Buchanan lecture hall re-

plied, "Yes, just try!"

Morgan's main message was an appeal for peace.

In developing this topic, he said that "even capitalism can no longer live in a limited part of the world, set off by cold war."

The Communist leader also stated that "influential circles who have vast financial interests in war provisions and colonial exploitation and plunder, and so do not desire peace, can go dig their own bombshelters and graves."

"More and more businessmen are realizing that peaceful co-existence is vital to our economy," he said.

Morgan stated that money spent for nuclear protection is pure waste and that "bomb shelters are merely do-it-yourself kits."

His solution to the fallout problem was peace.

Morgan emphasized that gross expenditures for war materials—100 million dollars a day over the world—could be put to much better use.

THE UBYSEY

November 10, 1959

1959

Dear Fellow Students,

You probably all watched the Ed Sullivan Show last Sunday night and read the "Sun" yesterday. We hope you all understood that executions are still being carried out in Hungary. They are going to execute 150 18-year old students in the near future. The Communist Government has not executed them so far since they are juveniles; but they have been kept in jail for three years. We turn to you now for help. Write to Mr. Khrushchev asking him to stop these executions. Perhaps he will listen to you.

The letters that you might send will cost you a few cents only but they might mean life for these teen-agers.

Write, for we do not know how many other hundreds of Hungarian students are waiting their 18th birthday in jail.  
Sopron Student Body

The UBSSEY  
Oct 27. 1954

1959

## Reasonable Doubt

The Editor,  
The Ubssey.

Dear Sir:

A leader of a refugee organization in the USA makes an announcement. For purely "humanitarian" reasons it is given publicity by a well-known television personality. It is then accepted blindly by NFCUS and then in turn by our own AMS. Did they ever stop to think for one moment that there may not be any truth in the statement? Is it sufficient these days for any anti-communist merely to make a statement in order to start a wave of hysteria? Are our minds so conditioned that we will believe anything we hear merely because a Hungarian refugee declares it to be true. There is absolutely no proof of these charges, the Canadian government has no knowledge as to their veracity and naturally the Hungarian government declares them false.

Let us not be so naive as to imagine that all refugee leaders ensconced in, and supported by the USA are paragons of virtue and crusaders for democracy. There are many reasons why these people want to keep the cold war going but there is no reason why we should give them our support. We are constantly being asked get their cause. Let us then by the Hungarians not to stretch our memories a little further and remember that they were the willing supporters of Hitler during the last war.

Many are the just causes for which the AMS and the student body could voice their protests. The life imprisonment of a Negro in the USA for stealing a few dollars, the French atrocities in N. Africa, the murder of prisoners in Nyassaland.

If the people who signed this petition, signed it for humanitarian reasons let them examine their conscience just a little further. And let the AMS think a little more before they panic into organizing such another petition.

Your truly,

L. Hexter,

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## Sopron Doors Close In April

VANCOUVER (CP) — The doors of Sopron forestry faculty at the University of British Columbia will close in April when the last 23 of the original 196 Hungarian refugee students graduate.

In 1956, all of the 196 students fled their revolution-torn homeland and came to Canada.

Of the original students, 116 have already graduated.

Ninety of these graduates have remained in B.C. while the others found work in different parts of Canada.

Head of the Sopron forestry faculty is Dean Kalman Roller who said: "Industrialists like our graduates very much. They have been quickly assimilated into Canadian companies.

"We didn't dare think about how it would all end when we came here, but it has worked out far better than expected."

Dean Roller said students faced the double task of continuing their studies and learning the English language.

"It was very difficult at first, but the students worked hard and achieved success."

Some students found it harder than others. Fifty of the original students dropped out to enter other faculties, or for financial reasons, said Dean Roller.

Eight students returned to their Communist - dominated homelands.

"I will be very sorry to see our faculty disband," said Dean Roller who hopes to stay on at UBC doing research work. He said other professors in the department will find teaching posts in other faculties.

## Plaque Will Commemorate Hungarian Sopron Faculty

A plaque to commemorate the presence of the Hungarian Sopron faculty of forestry at the University of British Columbia will be unveiled at the campus International House on Monday, April 24.

Kamill Apt, president of the Sopron student organization at UBC and a member of the final graduating class of 23 students, will present the plaque at 10.30 a.m.

Other speakers at the ceremony will be Dean Geoffrey C.

Andrew, UBC's deputy president, and Dean Kalman Roller, dean of the Sopron school which came to UBC four years ago following the Hungarian revolution in 1956.

When the final 23 students receive their degrees at UBC's spring congregation next month, the Sopron school which was founded in 1809 will close its doors forever.

A total of 139 of the original 196 students will have graduated when the school closes.

## Hungarian students graduating

The last of the forestry students who fled from Hungary in 1956 celebrated their forthcoming graduation from UBC Thursday night.

The 23 graduates from the Sopron division of the forestry faculty and 37 other forestry graduates were feted at a banquet at Canyon Gardens in North Vancouver three months before their final examinations.

Of the 196 students who originally fled from Hungary after the revolution against the Communist regime, 116 have already graduated and have been absorbed into the forest industry.

When the last students leave in May, the Sopron division at the university will be disbanded.

Graduates were given rings of a new design which the forestry faculty is asking the Canadian Institute of Foresters to accept as the official ring.

## Roller replies

Editor,  
The Ubysssey.  
Dear Sir:

In connection with the recent anti-communist activity on the campus, your paper referred to the former Sopron Division.

We feel that your opinion of our political conception is not accurate. Therefore I would like to explain a few points concerning our political views to make clear our stand in this interesting discussion.

1. No doubt the members of the former Sopron Division have been anti-communists. However, that does not imply responsibility to any party or organization either right or left. It does mean our ideas, faith and convictions are based not on the convictions of others, but through direct experience with the reality and the theory of Marxism and Leninism. We had served a Communist State for 12 years as scientists, teachers and students.

Feb. 8, 1962

2. There is definitely no official connection between the recent anti-communist organization and the former Sopron Division. Anyone who is participating in the activity of this organization is doing so on his own responsibility. The Sopron Division was not a political group. It was the Institute of Forestry Sciences in Hungary.

3. The Sopron people are deeply grateful to the people of Canada for giving them refuge and a new home. You may be sure that no member of the Sopron Division would take part in any activity that would restrict the peaceful development of this country.

In the past we lived under a feudalistic capitalism. Then there followed in succession dictatorship, fascism, and finally communism. In 1956, after the revolt against terror and tyranny was defeated, we chose the free democratic system of Canada, so that we might enjoy the greatly desired "basic freedoms" as established here.

Yours truly,

**K. J. ROLLER,**  
Dean,  
Former Sopron Division

## Little regard for life

Editor,  
The Ubysssey.  
Dear Sir:

I would like to congratulate Dean Roller for not only taking an interest in the political developments on campus, but also realizing and pointing out that although the members of the former Sopron Division may be anti-communist, there is not necessarily any connection between them and the fascist activities that are taking place here. This is true and should be remembered.

However, the Dean continues to say, "You may be sure that no member of the Sopron Division would take part in any activity that would restrict the peaceful development of this country." This statement is not true and it leads me from one conclusion to a second.

The first is that perhaps Dean Roller is not aware that Geza Benko was a member of the former Sopron Division. This, I think, is unlikely since Benko concludes his letters to the editor: Geza Benko, Graduate, Sopron Division of Forestry Faculty.

Feb. 15, 1962

The second possibility is that Dean Roller considers Benko and company's activity as activity that will not restrict the peaceful development of this country.

The activity of the organization which Benko heads certainly is a threat to the peaceful development of Canada. To illustrate this I will discuss a few statements from Benko's letter, of Feb. 2, to the editor. "There is not time to bicker and argue. The communists are working day and night all around the world to bury you and me. If we fight we might live. If we wait they will surely bury us."

I believe Benko is urging Canadians, as his statements imply, to take up arms against communists all over the world. Today these arms are nuclear arms and a nuclear war will certainly "restrict the peaceful development of this country."

I feel that Benko or any person who defends Benko's position must have not only very little regard for human liberties, but also very little regard for human lives.

**BILL MAHONEY,**  
Arts and Sciences,

Committee for the Peaceful Development of  
Canada