

EASTERN EUROPE

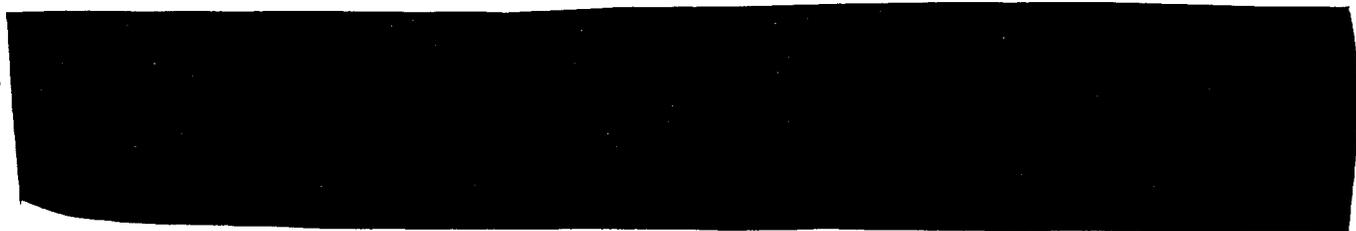
- 1. Hungarian university reforms emphasize "de-Sovietization": Budapest radio on 18 October broadcast a statement of the Hungarian youth organization (DISZ) which endorsed certain university reforms called for by undergraduates and local DISZ organizations at major Hungarian universities. According to a 20 October article in the youth paper Szabad Ifjusag, the regime has already announced measures in compliance with student demands.

The DISZ statement demanded that language instruction in universities be made optional and that instruction in Marxism-Leninism be given in "correct proportion and the number of lecture hours...reduced." The declaration also called for the reduction of "formal physical training" and a "re-examination of the question of national defense instruction in the universities."

An article in the 15 October issue of the party newspaper Szabad Nep condemned the dogmatism prevalent in the teaching of law which arises when attempts are made to demonstrate "Soviet law as the only law, the perfect law to be followed in everything.... Certain aspects of Soviet law are incorrect, particularly as applied to the Hungarian scene, and these mistakes should be criticized." The editorial concluded that the "fundamental principles of socialist state organization must be created in Hungary in a way different from the way they are used in the USSR."

Comment: In contrast to Polish moderates, Hungarian spokesmen in the past have avoided direct criticism of Soviet practices in their recent liberalization of domestic policy.

Efforts by DISZ to remove the more onerous types of training presumably have been encouraged by party moderates who have succeeded, in part, in having their concepts of the youth organization accepted. Last week, a party doctrinaire admitted the validity of the moderate view that the youth organization should be based on nationalistic heritage, which might best be realized under the popular front.



N.R.

13