

Two Brothers Reds Jailed Return Home

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brother was "quicker on the draw."

"I just wanted to do something," Michael said, describing his shock at seeing the political poster. "It was just a reaction. I made the change without thinking of the consequences. You could do it in America."

But in Hungary they didn't laugh. The brothers were accused of inciting the Hungarian people, a crime which could have brought jail terms of from 6 months to 5 years.

Seized on Street

They were first taken to a police station near the broad, store-lined avenue of Lennon Kerut where they were arrested in mid-evening on June 30, the young men said.

It was more than a month later—and after the brothers' incarceration in three separate jails—that their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Savko, 15033 Killion St., Van Nuys, heard from them.

For the first 21 days of their imprisonment, they were questioned separately and frequently by Hungarian police officers trying to determine whether they were spies, the brothers said.

After that, they were allowed to write U.S. officials and their parents and on Aug. 8 the U.S. embassy in Budapest became aware of their arrest.

Another Prison

But it was Aug. 30 and in another prison before they were brought to trial in the cavernous headquarters of Budapest's Central District Court.

The Savkos insisted the poster change had been made as a witticism, not to make a political point, but they were forced to admit that no matter how small the change was, it had been made. For the judge that was enough.

During their imprisonment, the Savkos said, they were treated well.

On Sept. 30, the young men were taken by car to the border at Graz, Austria, where an American opera singer, Mrs. Peggy Alch, took them across the border. She has been living in Graz for 15 years and happened by at the time the Savkos were crossing.