

# Hungary paper ridicules leader

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in Budapest

**A**HUNGARIAN newspaper ridiculed the Communist leader, Karoly Grosz, yesterday by commenting that political punditry was no fun any more — one just had to watch what he was saying to know the opposite would happen.

"It's child's play to figure out everything in advance," said the evening tabloid, *Mai Nap*, part-owned by the Communist Party.

"You just have to watch what Karoly Grosz is against, what he is denying."

Though written in a humorous manner, the unsigned editorial was unusually disrespectful of Mr Grosz, who is criticised by reformers as having been overtaken by events only a year after he removed the veteran Janos Kadar as party general secretary.

Such mockery of a leader would be unthinkable in any other Eastern bloc country, and even in liberal Hungary it suggests that Mr Grosz's position is weakening fast.

"If he is telling the papers a reassessment of 1956 is not timely, then we can be sure debate will soon start about the events of that time. And this is what happened," *Mai Nap* said.

It recalled that during his visit to the US last year Mr Grosz said that political rehabilitation was inconceivable for Imre Nagy, executed for treason in 1958 for his role during

the 1956 uprising: "But look, the moment has arrived."

The paper was published as the party's central committee met in a closed session to reassess Mr Nagy, whose body was exhumed in March for reburial on June 16, the anniversary of his execution.

The committee announced late last night that it had "taken a stand" on the issue of Mr Nagy, but refused to disclose what it was.

A central committee spokesman, Mr Laszlo Major, said earlier that "the funeral of Imre Nagy and his associates should become a symbol of national reconciliation."

Sources say that Mr Nagy's political rehabilitation would reduce one of the obvious protest targets for the crowd of 300,000 expected at the service.

Groups such as the Historical Justice Committee have been pressing for Mr Nagy's rehabilitation.

Mr Kadar, installed by the Russians after the 1956 uprising was defeated, was recently interviewed by the weekly, *Magyarorszag*.

"I have never regarded him as a counter-revolutionary," was the verdict he passed on Mr Nagy.

● Politburo member Imre Pozsgay, Hungary's leading Communist reformer, has said he would like to see the Hungarian party giving way to one based on West European social democratic principles. Mr Pozsgay made the statement in an interview broadcast this weekend by Radio Free Europe.

30 May 1989

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