
Nagy execution was illegal say Hungarian Communists

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Susan Viets and Reuter
in Budapest

THE ruling Communist Party yesterday declared that Mr Imré Nagy, hanged for treason for his role as premier during the 1956 Hungarian uprising, was executed illegally after a show trial.

The statement by the party spokesman, Mr Laszlo Major, after a session of the 118-member Central Committee, overturned more than three decades of official party dogma.

"It can already be determined that it was a fabricated political trial," Mr Major told a news conference. "... Imré Nagy's execution was certainly judicially illegal."

The statement is clearly an attempt to mollify public opinion before Mr Nagy's funeral on June 16.

The request of Mr Sandor Rajnai, Hungary's ambassador to Moscow, to be relieved of his post on the Central Committee was also made public yesterday. Mr Rajnai led the investigation into the 1958 Nagy trial.

These announcements are the latest in a series of manoeuvres designed to win credibility for the party before a party congress this autumn, followed by a national election.

The Hungarian daily newspaper, *Mai Nap*, has reported that the general secretary, Mr Karoly Grosz, offered to step down before the congress.

A member of the politburo, Mr Imré Pozsgay, is continuing his campaign as the party's leading reformer and said in a radio interview he envisaged "a new type of party based on European Socialist and social-democratic ideas." The Central Committee said these were ideas "never formulated in a central-committee meeting."

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