

# Charles warns of ecology 'follies'

9.5.90 pg10

Susan Viets in Budapest

**W**ITH a bronzed Karl Marx perched at his right hand, the Prince of Wales yesterday pleaded with Hungarian entrepreneurs not to forsake the environment in their race from socialism to capitalism.

"Central Europe has itself been the victim of ideological experiment and the worst follies of a command economy. Somehow we must find a way to help reverse this apparent ecological Armageddon," Prince Charles said, in the main hall of the Budapest University of Economics.

Lead emission in one region of Budapest is already 40 times the accepted level.

Prince Charles warned against the example of Western capitalist countries, which degraded both the environment and quality of life in ill-considered industrial growth.

Prince Charles was strident in his condemnation of Stalinism.

"In the name of Karl Marx, Lenin and Stalin charted a course that divided Russia from Europe and then, after the second world war, forcibly removed Hungary from Western Europe, turning half of Europe into a form of Marxist prison camp," he said.

Holding out hope that Russia "may one day return to the West," he praised Hungary's role in the revolutions of

1989. "One after another the nations of Europe rejected an imposed system which had repressed, impoverished, and stultified them, consistently failing to live up to its promises," he said.

"All of the re-emerging democracies of Europe owe Hungary a debt," he said, noting that Hungary was the first Warsaw Pact country to cut the Iron Curtain.

Prince Charles yesterday participated in a three-day meeting of the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum to determine how to promote small business development in Hungary.

George Soros, a Hungarian American businessman, announced a \$250,000 fund to finance up to 25 per cent of any businesses started in Hungary with Western support.

The Hungarian Democratic Forum, the party which will dominate the coalition government, has already targeted small businesses as a key to economic growth in Hungary.

● A UN conference heard yesterday that a doubling of the world's population in the next century, combined with falling world food production and increased pollution, was leading to disaster, *Joe Kirwan reports from Bergen.* The former Norwegian Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Bruntland, said failure to curb growth and increase food production was the principal environmental problem.

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9 May 1990