

## JANOS PETER'S BIOGRAPHY

(information from Mr. Sandor Kiss)

Professionally, he was a Presbyterian Minister. Before 1945 he was the Minister of the Bethesda Hospital in Budapest (Hermina Street). He was known as a very well qualified and cultured person. He has written several books and regularly wrote articles for church papers.

In 1946 he became Secretary to President Zoltan Tildy. During that time he was in close contact with the Secret Police (AVH). This fact became known only in 1948 when Victor Chornoky, the son-in-law of Tildy was recalled from his Foreign Service post by a fake telegram. Chornoky was a member of the staff of the Hungarian Legation in Washington. At the time of his recall, Chornoky was in Cairo and the telegram reached him there.

Chornoky was preparing for the escape of Tildy from Hungary. Probably, as he was not careful enough and as Janos Peter was near Tildy, the AVH received all the information they wanted.

Chornoky returned in August 1948 and was immediately arrested and executed. Tildy was forced to resign as President of the Republic and Szakaszi, a former Social-Democrat, became President.

Chornoky's wife and child remained in the U.S. and now is married to an American industrialist.

Since 1948, Janos Peter became the most ardent collaborator of the Communist regime. Although he never joined the Party, officially he was serving the regime faithfully. As a result of the pressure of the regime on the Presbyterian Church in Hungary and on Janos Peter's intervention, at first Geza Ravasz, Bishop of the Presbyterian Church in Budapest, was forced to resign and his place was taken by Albert Bereczky. After Ravasz, other Presbyterian Bishops and several pastors who refused to cooperate with the regime were removed or transferred to less important posts.

The Calvinist Bishop in Debrecen, Imre Revesz, was forced to resign in 1950 and Janos Peter became Bishop in Debrecen, one of the most important posts in the Presbyterian Church in Hungary.

Janos Peter became the most hated person in his Church. He was responsible for the election of Ferenc Erdei as General Superintendent of the Presbyterian Church in Hungary; Ferenc Erdei was Minister of Agriculture in all the Communist Governments up to 1956; he has just been elected Secretary General of the Hungarian Academy of Science. Ferenc Erdei never had anything to do with the Church before; he is an atheist.



By Janos Peter's intervention, the removal and imprisonment of the Presbyterian Ministers who resisted or opposed the regime, continued. The Minister in Szeged was transferred to a small village in Trans-Danubia and two Ministers in Debrecen were deprived of their church posts and became factory workers because they openly opposed the regime.

He caused the arrest of the Minister in Karcag.

When the Revolution started in October, he fled from Debrecen because he was afraid of the wrath of the people.

After the defeat of the Revolution he again became active and became a member of the Presidential Council. In August - September 1957 he went with Karoly Szarka, Deputy Foreign Minister, on an Asian-African tour and visited India, Ceylon, Indonesia, Egypt, Sudan and Syria. They had "talks with the leaders of these countries' governments and exchanged views about the Report of the U.N. Special Committee on Hungary".

It is known that he has ambitions to become Foreign Minister. He speaks English and French very well. As a scholarship winner he studied at the Edinburgh (Scotland) University.