

American Hungarian EDUCATOR

NEWSLETTER
of the
AMERICAN
HUNGARIAN
EDUCATORS'
ASSOCIATION

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1992

Address at the January 1992 Conference American Council of Education

CHANGES IN EASTERN CENTRAL EUROPE: THE HUNGARIAN CASE



The former socialist countries including Hungary had systems of higher education with very similar traits. Central and inadequate planning, fragmented structure, politically motivated selection of staff, ideologically biased curricula, underfinanced budget, inefficient administration. Nevertheless its output is surprisingly good. Thousands of Hungarians prove that the Hungarian universities produce students in almost all branches

of sciences and humanities, who are competitive with their fellow scholars in the US and European community. Some of the reasons are: good high-schools and maturity exams, a very selective admission system, from the seventies on growing possibility for teaching staff and from the early eighties for the students to visit US and West European universities, a relatively great social mobility in the student society, a relative social prestige for university diplomas and a tradition of the pre-communist universities

which could not have been totally wiped out.

The Hungarian universities are confronted now with new challenges. Hungary has to master the following problems:

1. The autonomy of the universities has to be given back while a part of the staff has to be dismissed for reasons of quality and/or structure.
2. The universities have to be reunited (19 "fragment universities" have less than 40,000 full time students) without a direct state intervention.
3. Research, which earlier was concentrated in the institutes of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has to be strengthened at the universities.
4. The universities have to get back their right to give PhD degrees which was granted earlier by a central Scientific Qualification Committee.

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- ✓ *Settlement of Hungarian Restitution*
- ✓ *AHEA Member Donates History Material*
- ✓ *Research Priorities in Migration Studies*
- ✓ *AHEA Conference in April, 1992*

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AHEA

AHEA Conference

April 23-26, 1992

at the University of
Toledo, OH

Programs will be sent out
shortly with registration
information.

Among the speakers
will be **György Tokay**, a
member of the RMDZ,
from Transylvania.

András Ludányi, the
organizer, can be
contacted at:

Ohio Northern
University, Ada, OH
45810
Tel: (419) 772-1932

*Elections are being
held this year and
members in good
standing (those who
have paid 1992
dues) will be
receiving ballots
shortly.*

MEMORANDUM: SETTLEMENT OF HUNGARIAN RESTITUTION

*The memorandum below comes from **Marcel Stein**, husband of **Rozsi Stein**. It addressed the best use of the voucher system being used as compensation in the privatization process, and seems like a good solution to several problems.*

According to a law of restitution people who suffered damage during communism will receive "Bills of restitution" which can be sold either on the open market or be realized on government auctions where either real estate or businesses can be acquired with them. It can be assumed that the free market price of the bills will be lower than their nominal value, but that the full nominal value will be accepted on government auctions.

It would be difficult or not desirable to take part on government auctions for most of the people concerned living in the USA. On the other hand, the free market price of the bills is unpredictable and may amount to 25% to 50% of the nominal value of these bills.

In view of the dismal living conditions of retirees, senior citizens, sick and poor people in Hungary the question arises how they could best be helped by means of the restitution bills - simultaneously reducing the risks linked with selling them on the open market. It seems that the USA Tax Code provides a possibility for this. Namely, of the bills are donated to certain American charities, the dollar equivalent of their forint value be-

comes deductible as charitable contribution in a way described below.

It can be assumed that American charitable organizations being represented in Hungary would have the opportunity to easily participate on government auctions there and sell the donated bills at their nominal value; then use the so acquired property for charitable purposes. If they do so, they can issue receipts on the dollar value of these donations calculated on the basis of the nominal value of the bills and the official rate of exchange. Thus the donor can reduce his/her taxable income under these favorable conditions. This procedure has the following advantages:

1. The Hungarian dependents receive substantial amounts for their support;
2. The donor can reduce his/her taxable income by approx. 35% of the nominal value of the donated bills;
3. Calculated at the official rate of exchange - even if the donor receives a higher forint value otherwise, he/she can buy dollars only at a higher price than the official rate.

Thus, for those who are not willing to buy real estate or businesses in Hungary, this solution appears as the most preferable. In view of the living conditions prevailing in Hungary the settlement described above should be assigned to religious charitable organizations. □

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5. They have to restructure their curricula either making it equivalent to the US system (BA, MA, PhD) or to the European continental system (Promotion and Habilitation).
6. They have to find a new system of financing. The infrastructure is on a low and outdated level because there was no real investment in the last 30 odd years.

All this has to be done while the Hungarian economy is in shambles, inflation rate is at 38%, there is no Hungarian private capital, society is facing new tensions, the labour market is shrinking, and the brain drain is growing. The **Hungarian Parliament** is overburdened with the necessary legislation program and the new *Act on Higher Educa-*

tion is not yet ready to be submitted.

Nevertheless the World Bank, after a detailed study, found Hungary a promising country for reconstructing its higher education and already granted limited credits for projects of development. The Hungarian Rectors' Conference, a new independent body of the autonomous universities is working on a *National Project of the Reconstruction of Higher Education*. On their last meeting in November 1991 the **Hungarian Rectors' Conference**, the **Conference of College Principals**, the **Hungarian Academy of Sciences**, the **Hungarian Student Organization**, the **Trade Union of University Teachers** and the **Ministry for Culture and Education** agreed on the basic guidelines both for the new *Act on Higher Education*

and the principles of financing.

The American universities can help and cooperate in this restructuring in different ways. High on the priority list stands: to send American students and American teaching staff to Hungary, partly to counteract the brain drain. Another idea is to build up American university departments or branches in Hungary, affiliated to but basically independent from the Hungarian universities. There are empty Russian military bases which were given to the Hungarian universities. It would be an excellent idea to turn them into strongholds of scholarship in a new democratic society. □

Prof. András Róna-Tas
Rector of the Attila József University, Szeged

**AHEA MEMBER
DONATES WORK OF 15
YEARS IN COLLECTING
ORAL HISTORY
MATERIAL TO THE
HUNGARIAN
NATIONAL LIBRARY**

Rózi Stein of the Butler Library of Columbia University donated photocopies of the documentation of the oral history project she had undertaken for Columbia University to the Széchenyi Library. Much of the material related to anti-Nazi resistance and rescue operations and contained interviews with Hungarians living abroad. The appreciation of the library is expressed in the attached letter.

Tisztelt Stein Marcellné!

Az Országos Széchenyi Könyvtár felkért arra, hogy tolmácsoljam a Könyvtár vezetőségének köszönetét az Ön ajándék-küldeményéért. E kedves kötelességemnek annál is szívesebben teszek eleget, mivel az immár valamivel több, mint egy éves ismeretségünk alatt magam is meggyőződtem a magyar történelem kutatása, az adatok összegyűjtése s a hazai szakértők részére való továbbítása terén kifejtett fáradhatatlan s pótolhatatlan tevékenységéről. Kérem ezért, hogy fogadja őszinte köszönetemet úgy a Könyvtár vezetősége, mint a Főkonzulátus munkatársai s egyszersmind a magam nevében. További munkájához kívánok jó egészséget, sok boldogságot.

Üdvözlettel: Dr. Fodor János, főkonzul

New York, 1991. november 27.



HELPING RIGHT

**Health and Humanitarian
Foundation**



THE OBJECTIVES are to raise East-European health care to an adequate level and to provide help for people in the East-European countries by developing the health service, social care, environmental protection, culture and technical status by supplying the financial resources, creating a necessary distribution and utilization system, supervising the method and efficacy of the use of the financial and material donations given for this purpose.

The Foundation wishes to serve the harmonic cooperation among the countries of the given area in the interest of materializing the above mentioned ambitions, to develop social and human relationship.

IN THE FIRST PHASE the Foundation would treat in the Hungarian health care system those who are really in need of this care.

IN THE SECOND PHASE they would finance and promote the post graduate training of East-European medical specialists, mainly in Hungarian institutions, but if necessary, also abroad.

IN THE THIRD PHASE the Foundation seeks to place medical equipment at the disposal of the local medical staff, and assures the necessary conditions for the safe and uninterrupted operation of this equipment in order to facilitate appropriate treatment at the local level.

TELEKI LÁSZLÓ FOUNDATION

was established by the Government of the Hungarian Republic to promote the Institute of East-Central Europe and Ethnic Relations, the Institute of International Relations and a Resource Center and Archives.

THE AIM OF THE FOUNDATION IS:

- to establish a scientific basis of international relations;
- to analyze world trends and European integration tendencies;
- to examine the security, diplomatic and foreign trade relations of the East-Central European region;
- to explore the possibilities of international cooperation;
- to improve human rights and the situation of ethnic, language and religious minorities.

In order to accomplish its aim the Foundation:

- organizes and finances research programmes,
- coordinates a network of experts,
- organizes scientific conferences and programmes,
- analyzes and evaluates political processes,
- publishes the result of its activities,
- takes part in the Hungarian higher and postgraduate education,
- grants scholarships,
- aids international researchers and professors; organizes study tours,
- takes part in the activities of international research groups and takes the initiative in organizing international research groups,
- maintains an archive of documents.

Suggestions and recommendations as well as proposals and financial support are welcome.



Teleki László Foundation
H-1015 Budapest, Donáti u. 35-45
Hungary
© & Fax:
(36) 1-201-7373

RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN MIGRATION STUDIES

The INSTITUTE OF EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS is a new independent interdisciplinary research unit formed mainly on the basis of the previous institute for Hungarian Studies and established at the end of 1991. It is operated by the László Teleki Foundation (LTF) launched by the Government of the Hungarian Republic in 1990.

THE INSTITUTE PRINCIPAL AIM is to investigate the East-Central European context of Hungary from historical, social, economic and cultural points of view. Special emphasis is put on research programmes for: nationalism, ethnic relations, ethnic minorities and issues of regionalism and, of course, migration having been neglected for decades.

MIGRATION STUDIES. The basic research purpose covers the migration trends and types of the East-Central European region with special emphasis on the movements of the Hungarian population. A partial list of projects as follows:

- migration trends out of and into Hungary,
- Hungarian labor migration,
- post-World War II emigration,

- Hungarian post-1945 emigrants, refugees in different countries,
- the homeland and the American-Hungarian diaspora in the past hundred years,
- brain drain in the periphery,
- Hungary's transitional position in the East-Central European migration movements,
- migration and Hungarian national identity.

✉
**The Institute of East-Central Europe
and Ethnic Relations**
H-1827 Budapest,
Budavári Palota "F" épület
Hungary
☎ & Fax:
(36-1) 175-1189

The Foundation welcomes funds, matching grants from both other Hungarian and foreign resources, from public domains and any kind of organizations to promote various research activities. ☐



AHEA Membership Form

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Institutional Affiliation:
Address:

*Membership dues: Regular \$15 - Couples \$20 - Students/Retired \$10
Please make check payable to: AHEA Treasurer
Mailing address: Kay Randle Scrimger, Conference of Mayors, 1620 Eye St. NW, Washington, DC 20006*

Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send their 1992 dues by March 1 to ensure receiving further newsletters and to be eligible to vote in the upcoming elections. The number next to your name on the mailing label indicates the last year your dues were received i. e. 91 means last paid in 1991



NEWS

From *Magyar Felsőoktatás*, the new periodical of the Ministry of Education and Culture:

The new agreement signed with the United States provides for 55 positions and a total of 92 months for Hungarian researchers and lecturers to come to the United States. Also, the bi-national office has been set up to coordinate all US-Hungary exchanges. Other on-going programs are the Peace Corps, which added 55 persons to the original 60 volunteers, and the IREX exchange which provides 40 months for 5 persons. □

A new initiative was also explored at the Governors' Conference, namely exchanges with the individual states. (Some of these have borne fruit, for example, the University of Maryland has several programs. E. M. Basa's comment). □

In Canada, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and the Canadian Executive Service Organization have also embarked on several projects designed to aid educational institutions in Hungary. □

Magyar Felsőoktatás, begun in May of 1991, carries articles on the reorganization of the higher education system in Hungary, and general news about the universities, technical schools, etc. It should be of interest to most of our members. The Library of Congress receives it, and selected articles might be available via interlibrary loan.

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◆
Editor:

Enikő Moinár Basa

Layout & Design:

Ilona Lantos

Contributor:

Attila Lantos

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Volume XV. No. 1.

Spring 1992

THE MINUTES OF 1992 MEETING OF AHEA

The business meeting of the AHEA was held at the University of Toledo, Driscoll Center, Toledo, OH on April 25, 8:30 a.m. In the absence of the President, Enikő M. Basa, Kay R. Scrimger, the Treasurer presided and read the President's Report (see abstract on page ...)



Due to the many new participants at the Meeting Ilona Lantos, the Secretary summarized the minutes of the 1991 meeting, which had been published in the spring issue of Educator. She also encouraged people present to contribute to the newsletter with short articles, news, announcements that can be interesting for other educators too.

Kay Scrimger, the Treasurer presented the financial status of AHEA which stood at about \$3300 as of April 25. Last calendar year the Association earned \$178 in interest; expenses did not exceed \$803. She also urged people to become a member of the Association and to be active and pay the dues on time.

The location of the next meeting in 1993 will be College Park, Maryland. After having searched for a site, Kay and Enik found the Univ. of Maryland Conference Center to be the most appropriate. The Hungarian Embassy will have a share in organizing. It will be in late April. The sites and dates of the next conferences are:

1994 Montclair State University or Rutgers University, NJ
1995 U. of Toronto, Canada
1996 Bloomington, IN (not confirmed)

In This Issue:

- ✓ *Conferences*
- ✓ *Resolution*
- ✓ *Fieldtrip to Hungary*
- ✓ *Hungarian Studies*
- ✓ *News*

See **MINUTES** on p.2.

AHEA

MINUTES from p. 1.

The participants were informed about the result of the elections, which are:

President:

Katalin Gatto,
John Carroll University

Vice president:

László Baksay,
U. of Alabama

Secretary:

Ilona Lantos,
Foreign Service Institute

Treasurer:

Enikő M. Basa,
Library of Congress

Members of the Board:

István Csorna
Kálmán Magyar
Éva Szabó
Peter Pastor
Károly Nagy
Magda Mészáros
Kay Scrimger

There were several announcements, proposals and comments. **Marta Pereszlyényi-Pintér** suggested that the AHEA conferences should be open to others, not just for Hungarians. Thus "we could get larger participation and more recognition in central academic and professional fields". She also remarked that more information about nominees would have been useful and helpful in voting.

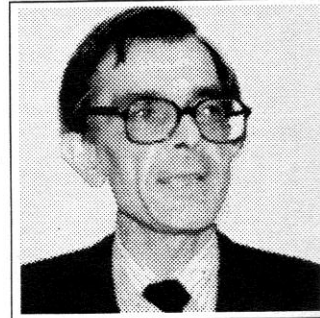
Károly Nagy supplied the audience with some very useful and remarkable information and suggestions. He briefly reported on the Hungarian Institute at Rutgers University. He also expressed his desire to use Hungarian language actively at future AHEA conferences, for example to have at least one panel in Hungarian and have some articles in Hungarian in the newsletter. Károly,

who is a co-president of Anyanyelvi Konferencia, read his proposal in which he urged AHEA to assign a member to represent the Association at the AK which will be held in August, 1992 in Esztergom. And last but not least, he proposed a resolution to be adopted by the AHEA to express our support for our colleagues in education in minority areas (Czechoslovakia, Serbia, Romania) where education in Hungarian is actively suppressed by the governments. The Proposal passed and will be sent out to senators, congressmen, international bodies and can be co-signed by other organizations.

Edith Lauer urged people to send participants to the Human Rights Workshop to be given for college-age students May 29-31, 1992 in Cleveland, OH. The workshop is designed to help these young people become effective lobbyists and activists. Andrew Ludányi supported her comments about the workshop, which has been running successfully for 4 years now, and asked AHEA for further financial support which was accepted (\$200 this time).

Together with others, she also gave some information about the Hungarian American Coalition, the purpose of which is to mobilize and combine the forces of different Hungarian organizations. After voting, the AHEA joined the Coalition and as a member organization and will carry on its own, independent work. A representative (from the DC area, if possible) should be assigned by the President.

Reflecting on the gratitude that Kay Scrimger expressed to the organizers on behalf of the participants, Andrew Ludányi highlighted the names of those who contributed to the success of this Conference. □



Tokay György, erdélyi parlamenti képviselő

“ Itt, Amerikában értettem meg igazán, mennyire fontos az a híd, amelynek építésén dolgozunk. Erdélyből nehezebb észrevenni közös ügyeinket. Az Amerikai Magyar Tanárok toledo konferenciáján ébredtem rá arra, hogy néha ugyanazokat a kérdéseket tesszük fel egymásnak. Azt kérdezik, megőriztük-e magyarságunkat Erdélyben? Mi meg azt, hogy megőrizték-e magyarságukat az új hazában? “

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 21, 1992

(Summary)

Since the last meeting, requests for information from both American and Hungarian agencies and individuals has continued, and even increased. Some of this is for information, others request funds, or else there are requests for language classes or translators. Requests for financial support of educational programs have been publicized in the *Educator*. Requests for information were answered or referred to an appropriate source. In the case of the request from the **American Librarians' Association**, I have forwarded the names of Hungarian librarians who could participate in an exchange program, as well as contact persons who might be able to welcome American librarians to their institutions.

The Association is listed in the *Compendium* of the **Citizens' Democ-**

racy Corps and in the data base on which the printed volume is based. We continue to receive requests as a direct result of this listing.

We have continued to work with various groups working in the area of educational exchanges, for example, the Fulbright program is sending information to the Conference and hopes to recruit actively from among the members. I have also met with **Béla Máder** of the *JATE Library* when he was on USIA tour, and helped to arrange the visit of **Prof. András Róna-Tas**, Rector of the U. of Szeged, particularly his meetings with officials from various universities and programs such as ISEP and Fulbright while here. Also met with **István Bakos** of the *Hungarian Ministry of Education* to discuss issues of common interest.

We meet with the Hungarian interns sponsored by the *National Forum Foundation* who are in the United States to gain practical experience in politics, journalism and management to arrange further contacts for them, share common concerns, and provide some hospitality while they are here.

In the last year, we have made our association with the embassy official. We will be working more closely with the Embassy for the next meeting of the Association. Also, Peter and I will be hosting a reception for Ambassador and Mrs. Tar to enable them to meet those persons most directly involved with programs related to Hungary, both in the private and the public sector. □

The **American Hungarian Educators' Association**, at its 17th annual conference at the University of Toledo expresses its support of the *Anyanyelvi Konferencia* (Native Language Conference).

We are convinced that the international work of the *Anyanyelvi Konferencia* is essential in assisting Hungarian language and culture education and maintenance wherever Hungarians live in the world beyond Hungary's border.

Our Association delegates one of its members - to be appointed by the President - to officially represent the AHEA of the VII. *Anyanyelvi Konferencia*, August 12-15, 1992 in Esztergom, Hungary.

1993 CONFERENCE

The 18th Annual Conference of the AHEA will be held at the University of Maryland Conference Center, College Park, MD, just outside of Washington, April 22-24. The theme is "Hungary--and Hungarians--in the 1990's." Thus, presentations on any current aspect of Hungarian studies, exchanges, cooperative programs, etc. are welcome, as are any papers dealing with Hungarian minorities in East Central Europe or Hungarians in the US. Panels that have been proposed so far are: New technologies and the possibilities for research and assistance; Information on exchanges: academic, governmental, private sector; Hungary in the 1990's. Panels on literature, history and/or political science, language instruction or schools are naturally welcome. For information contact Eniko M. Basa, 707 Snider Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20905. Phone (7-10 p.m.) (301)384-4657. □

RESOLUTION OF THE 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AHEA

Whereas, Hungarian educators from the United States, Canada and other parts of the world, convened at Toledo, Ohio for their 17th Annual Conference, April 23-26, 1992, noted with alarm that all levels of Hungarian-language education for the sizeable Hungarian speaking populations of Rumania, Serbia and Czechoslovakia are clearly and presently curtailed and endangered;

Whereas, Rumania's 2.5 million Hungarians, despite the December 1989 overthrow of the country's dictator, face continuing discrimination and denial of minority-language instruction under the ruling National Salvation Front;

Whereas, Rumanian authorities have adamantly refused this centuries old-ethnic community, comprising the largest national minority in Europe, the right to re-establish the 400 year-old Hungarian Bolyai University in Kolozsvár (Cluj) dismantled under the former dictator in 1959;

Whereas, the National Salvation Front's current draft education law (Nr. E. 26, submitted to Parliament on February 14, 1992),

- in several of its provisions violates the country's own Constitution;
- is clearly aimed at further reducing minority-language education in the country;
- requires that the language of instruction be Rumanian in all medical, technical, trade, agricultural, public administration and business schools;
- expressly prohibits the teaching of geography and history in Hungarian at any level;
- limits post-secondary minority-language instruction to art and teacher training curricula;
- makes no provisions for the teaching of Hungarian history and culture as separate subjects at the secondary school level;

- lacks provision for any manner of independent decision-making authority by Hungarian educators in educational matters affecting their own communities;
- fails to provide the right to establish church-sponsored schools, and makes no financial provisions for existing ones; and

AS A RESULT, the Hungarian minority is struggling with insufficient class space for its students at all educational levels, especially at the post-secondary level;

Whereas, the nearly 400,000 Hungarians of Serbia's Vojvodina region are victimized by the Socialist Party-ruled Serbian government's nationalist policies in the field of education;

Whereas, that government's newly proposed laws on elementary and secondary school instruction make no provision for independent decision-making authority by Hungarian educators in the teaching of geography and the Hungarian minority's political, social and economic history and cultural heritage in the Hungarian language;

Whereas, the currently proposed laws

- turn over all assets of schools in Serbi to the central Ministry of Education, and put these schools under the strict control of the Minister;
- grant the Serbian government sole and exclusive right to establish all schools, except for art schools;
- equate minority native - language education with bilingual education, giving authorities the power to institute further cutbacks in Hungarian language classes;

Whereas, the draft law on secondary schools

- allows Hungarian-language instruction in only those geographical areas where the Hungarian language is officially used;
- prohibits Hungarian - language instruction in all trade and technical schools, in effect denying the constitutional right to minority-language education to more than 80% of currently enrolled Hungarian secondary school students;
- seeks to reduce the number of secondary school teachers of minority background by specifying Serbian instructors in all cases where no qualified instructors of minority background are found, even in minority-language subjects; and

AS A RESULT, if enacted, these draft laws would produce the *near-total assimilation* of Hungarian students in Serbia;

Whereas, Czechoslovakia's 700,000 Hungarians still possess no native-language institution of higher education, forcing many students to conduct their studies in Hungary, and resulting in an abnormally low percentage of Hungarians with college degrees;

Whereas, teachers are in *extremely short supply* since training opportunities for them were severely limited under the Communist regime; and

Whereas, there is an acute shortage of Hungarian-language elementary and secondary schools, as a result of which *almost half* of Hungarian students under 18 are forced to study in the Czech or Slovak languages; and

Whereas, in Slovakia the policy of expanding Slovak-language education in minority schools at the expense of Hungarian-language instruction — begun in the late 1980's under the guise of Communist style "educational reform" — *continues to the present day*; and

Whereas, the October 25, 1990 Law on Official Language Use in Slovakia not only prescribes that in Slovakia, the *language of instruction at all levels must be Slovakian*, but also specifically requires the central government to *institute Slovak-language instruction in the minority-language elementary schools*, further reducing the little autonomy these institutions possessed:

CONSIDERING that the aforementioned regressive policies and practices *contravene* the growing body of international norms protecting the rights of national minorities, including the right to native-language education, as set forth, *inter alia*, in the Helsinki Final Act (1975) as supplemented by the Concluding Documents adopted in Copenhagen (1990), Paris (1991), Geneva (1991) and Moscow (1991); and

NOTING that, in place of government-sponsored provocation of anti-minority animosities, fulfillment of the legitimate aspirations of national minorities in the field of education can serve to defuse tensions, promote mutual respect and lead to general understanding and harmony benefiting the whole of society; and

RECOGNIZING the United States and Canada's longstanding position that a government's compliance with international human rights standards, including its protection of the rights of national minorities, are key factors in determining the level of political and trade relations with that country; and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the specific relevance of the aforementioned issues at the present time, while the U.S. is actively considering the granting of Most Favored-Nation status to Rumania, and both the United States and Canada are active participants in the efforts to resolve the national and ethnic conflict in onetime Yugoslavia; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 17th Annual Conference of the American Hungarian Educators Association

1. Deplores actions by the governments of the Republics of Rumania, Serbia and Czechoslovakia which deprive national minorities of native-language education rights, thereby violating their international obligations regarding the protection of human rights and the rights of national minorities;

2. Encourages the aforementioned governments to adopt enlightened and innovative policies in the field of education designed to embrace and promote, not retard, the maintenance and passing on of ethnic identity, thus actively seeking the support, not provoking the opposition, of these sizeable groups;

3. Urges the governments of the United States and Canada and other international bodies to take every opportunity at international forums and in their bilateral relations to encourage the aforementioned republics to comply with their commitments to promote minority-language education at all levels; and specifically

4. Seeks the support of each Member of the United States Congress to *condition the granting of Rumania's Most-Favored-Nation status on a genuine reversal of that government's repressive conduct, including the removal of artificial restrictions and the institution of meaningful, verified, and real improvements in the area of Hungarian-language instruction*;

5. Calls upon the U.S. and Canadian governments to *specifically raise* the status of Hungarian-language education rights in their ongoing deliberations with representatives of Serbia;

6. Offers the experience, support and expertise of the AHEA membership and the organization as a whole to fellow Hungarian colleagues in the aforementioned republics, in their struggle to fulfill their professional commitments. □

AMERICAN DIPLOMATS TAKE FIELDTRIP TO HUNGARY

As part of the Hungarian language training at FSI (Foreign Service Institute), five American students and three teachers flew to Hungary in March to immerse themselves in Hungarian. The trip was facilitated by the super low airfares and the adventurous spirit of the five students, as well as the enthusiasm of their teachers.

On the agenda were visits to two high schools in Budapest. One school is partially governed by the students, who have modelled their government upon the three branches of the US Government. At the other school, in Városmajor, the students had the opportunity to brush up their knowledge of metrical poetry by attending a literary class covering one of Berzsenyi's poems. Another visit to Szegeged JATE acquainted them with the University's Hungarian Studies Program. The students found these visits invaluable and informative

for their work. Back in Budapest the students had the rare opportunity to lunch in the company of a Hungarian member of Parliament, whom they entertained with flawless Hungarian. Watching the representatives debate the matters of the nation on the floor of the House closed the interesting events of this day. The students unanimously agreed that the most salient part of the trip was the visit to Badacsonytomaj arranged by one of the teachers, **Mari Tamás**. Here they all had a chance not only to enjoy the hospitality of the locals but to keep their throats from drying out with the superb wines of the nearby hills.

Before departure from Budapest back to the States both the teachers and the students agreed that had they had the resources, they would certainly have delayed their return to the realm of FSI. □



György Szönyi (right), of JATE's Hungarian Studies Program with the students.

GRANTS

Internship available at the **Hungarian Human Rights Foundation**

PO Box J, Gracie Station
New York, NY 10028
Tel.: (212) 289-5488
Fax: (212) 996-6268



**The Institute of International
Education (IIE)** announces
fellowships for professional development to East Central Europe (business, economics, law, journalism, public administration and international relations)
Deadline for applications is October 1, 1992.

For information contact:
**Profesional Development
Fellowship**
US students Programs, IIE
809 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Tel.: (212) 984-5326



**Fulbright Scholar Program,
1993-94:**
Research and Lecturing Awards in Eastern Europe and Territories of the Former USSR for Faculty and Professionals.
Application Deadlines:
August 1, 1992.
For information write or call:
Council for International Exchange of Scholars
3007 Tilden Str. N.W. Suite 5M
Box LEESU
Washington, DC 20008-3009
Tel.: 202-686-6250

HUNGARIAN STUDIES

Hungarian for young people organized by *Anyanyelvi Konferencia Védnöksége*:

(ages of 9-14):

Hungarian Studies Camp, Esztergom, July 28-Aug. 8.

(ages of 7-14):

Hungarian Language Camp, Boglárlelle, July 13-24.

(ages of 15-18):

Summer Camp, Sárospatak, July 13-Aug. 7.

(for teachers of Hungarian language):

Summer Camp for Teachers, Szombathely, July 26-Aug. 2.

For more information contact:

Anyanyelvi Konferencia Védnöksége

1905 Budapest, Benczúr u. 15. ☐

Earn credits in Pécs, Hungary.

Central Europe - A world in Transition (3 credits)

(History, Arts and Culture, Politics, Economy, Hungarian language)

Summer semester

(June 29-August 9.)

Fall Semester (Sept. - Dec. 1992.)

Spring Semester (Febr. - May, 1993.)

(History, Political developments, Economics, Arts and Culture, Ethnography, Geography)

For more information contact:

Jannus Pannonius Univ.

International Studies Center

7624 Pécs,

Damjanich u. 30.

Tel.: 36-72-15 932

Fax: 36-72-26 886 ☐

Szeged, József Attila Univ.

Altaic Studies (2-10 semesters)

Non-degree programs:

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Graduate studies extension in Hungarian

Applications by: May 15 each year

Hungarian Studies Program, JATE

Szeged, Tisza Lajos krt. 103.

Tel./Fax: 3662-10894 ☐

Courses of Hungarian studies in Debrecen, Aug. 9-23, 1992.

(Hungarian language and literature, History, Hungarian Studies, Computer Sciences, Postgraduate programs for physicians.)

Ady Endre Akadémia Titkársága

4010 Debrecen, Pf.: 48.

Tel.: 36-52-16-666/130

Fax: 12336

Telex: 72000 ☐



Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send their 1992 dues by March 1 to ensure receiving further newsletters and to be eligible to vote in the upcoming elections. The number next to your name on the mailing label indicates the last year your dues were received i. e. 91 means last paid in 1991.



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Institutional Affiliation:

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*Membership dues (only US \$ is accepted): Regular US \$15 - Couples US \$20 - Students/Retired US \$10
Please make check payable to: AHEA Treasurer
Mailing address: Enikő M. Basa, P.O. Box 4103, Silver Spring, MD 20914.*

NEWS

Élet és Irodalom starts a column on cultural life and events of Hungarians outside the borders. They want continuously to hear about the cultural events at your institutions (performances, concerts, exhibitions, etc.)
Send information to:
Bán D. András
Teleki László Alapítvány
Közép-Európa Intézet
1827 Budapest,
Budavári Palota "F" épület.



VII. Anyanyelve Konferencia will be held in Esztergom, Aug. 12-16, 1992. (in conjunction with the 3rd World Congress of Hungarians)
For information contact:
Anyanyelvi Konferencia Védnöksége
1068 Budapest,
Benczúr u. 15.
Tel.: 122-5405
Fax: 122-8465

The University of Phoenix Joint Venture with **SZÁMALK** in Hungary plans to deliver graduate education in business and management to Hungarian managers through audio and computer conferencing. They have asked for our support in forming a network of individuals nationally and internationally who would be able to assist in this venture.
For further information, contact:
Susan Goldsmith
Consultant to Hungary Project,
Access Division, U. of Phoenix
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2069
Tel.: (602) 921-8014
Fax: (602) 894-2152



Hungarian Studies Association of Canada had its 8th Annual Conference, May 24-25, 1992.
Main topics were: Politics, Canada and Hungary, Teaching Hungarian language, Transylvania, Literature.

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Editor:
Enikő Molnár Basa
Layout & Design:
Ilona Lantos
Contributor:
Atilia Lantos



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American Hungarian EDUCATOR

NEWSLETTER
of the
AMERICAN
HUNGARIAN
EDUCATORS'
ASSOCIATION

Volume XV. No. 3.

Fall 1992

NATIVE LANGUAGE CONFERENCE 1992

The Native Language Conference - The International Association for Hungarian Language and Culture held its seventh meeting in Esztergom, Hungary, Aug. 12-16, 1992. Two hundred Hungarian professionals, living in twenty-four countries of five continents assessed the current state of Hungarian language and Culture maintenance opportunities in various countries. They also made their conclusions about the necessity of native language maintenance to become one of the internationally guaranteed fundamental human rights. □

AZ ANYANYELVI KONFERENCIA ALAPÍTÓLEVELE

Az Anyanyelvi Konferencia - A Magyar Nyelv és Kultúra Nemzetközi Társasága független egyesület, amely a világ bármely részében - különösen a kisebbségekben - élő magyarság magyar anyanyelvének, kultúrájának megtartását, művelését, fejlesztését szolgálja. Feladatait elsősorban kulturális és pedagógiai tevékenysége által végzi. Ennek a tevékenységnek a körébe tartoznak az időszaki tanácskozások és konferenciák, az oktatási és kulturális gyermek- és ifjúsági táborok és tanfolyamok, a diákcseré-mozgalom, a pedagógusok, könyvtárosok, levéltárosok, újságírók és a nemzeti kultúra fenntartását és továbbadását

szolgáló más szakemberek képzését, továbbképzését elősegítő tanfolyamok és találkozók, szakelőadók kiküldetésének és cseréjének megszervezése, továbbá tankönyvek és más kiadványok, valamint a *Nyelvünk és Kultúránk* című negyedéves folyóirat megjelenítése. Feladatának tekinti a céljainak megfelelő tájékoztatást, valamint a magyar anyanyelv és kultúra megtartását és művelését, mint alapvető egyéni és kollektív emberi jogot védő tevékenységet is. Az Anyanyelvi Konferencia együttműködik minden olyan hazai és határokon túli társadalmi, kulturális, tudományos, egyházi és ifjúsági szervezettel és intézménnyel, amely a magyarság nemzeti érdekeinek, nyelvének és kultúrájának védelmét és fejlesztését tekinti feladatának vagy azt támogatja. Az Anyanyelvi Konferencia abban a meggyőződésben vállalja feladatait, hogy a világ minden részében élő magyarság lelki és szellemi egységének helyreállítását, magyar nemzeti tudatának fejlődését szolgálja. Törekeveiben a nemzet iránt érzett és vállalt felelőssége vezérli.

Esztergom, 1992. augusztus 15. □

In This Issue:

- ✓ *AHEA Conference, 1993*
- ✓ *Anyanyelvi Konferencia, 1992*
- ✓ *A Letter from László Tokés*
- ✓ *George Biztray: AHEA Revisited*
- ✓ *Education - Books - News*

AHEA

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are invited for the

19th Annual Conference of the American Hungarian Educators' Association

In the following areas:

- New Technologies in the Service of Hungarian Studies
- Hungary in the 1990's
- Hungarian Literature.

Panels on:

- History
- Political science
- Economics
- Language Instruction are welcome.

The overall theme of the conference is:

(Please keep this in mind in proposing papers or sections.)

Hungary in the 1990's New Possibilities in a new Context

Papers dealing with Hungarian questions in the neighboring countries as well as in the United States and Canada are naturally welcome.

There will be a panel on various exchange programs currently in place between Hungary and the United States. Directors of various foundations have agreed to participate in this panel.

There will be a workshop on computer networks and databases.

His Excellency the Ambassador of Hungary, **Pál Tar**, has accepted our invitation to give the keynote address at the banquet. We also expect to have visitors from Hungary, among them **István Bakos** from the Ministry of Education, and from Transylvania.

Abstracts of papers or suggestions for sections you wish to organize should be sent to:
Enikő Molnár Basa, 707 Snider Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20905
Please note that session chairs have to be members of the AHEA by the time of the Conference.

Place and Date:

**University of Maryland
University College Conference Center
April 22-24, 1993**

AHEA REVISITED

In April I attended the annual meeting of our American sister organization in Toledo, Ohio—something that I had not done since 1988. I am one of the earliest members of the American Hungarian Educators' Association. In 1980 I hosted its conference at the University of Toronto, and agreed to do this every third year. Encounters with visiting Hungarian American teachers and scholars actually kindled the demand for a Canadian association. This demand was first voiced at the 1983 conference. Two years later the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada held its first meeting in Montreal. Since then, the American and Canadian associations shared two more conferences, but it became obvious that they started following different courses. I was wondering how I would perceive AHEA from the perspective of four years.

The conference was organized by professor **Andrew Ludányi**, one of the founding members of AHEA. It was centered around ethnicity and multi-culturalism, and had a modest 10% margin to secure a predominantly Hungarian profile. Various nationalities of the Toledo area (among them the Irish, black and native Americans, as well as Eastern Europeans) also reported on their achievements and concerns, partly in separate sessions, partly in sessions shared with Hungarian participants. Thus the conference had a wide scope and was well attended.

The first thing that struck me was that I hardly knew any of the Hungarian participants. Where were my old-time friends, founders of AHEA

back in the early 1970s? Only four were present. On the other hand, there were quite a few young participants and association members. "Young" is a subjective term which depends on our own age, yet we may agree that forty is a watershed in one's academic and professional career.

In the 1980s there was a strong faction within AHEA that attempted to politicize this association. A number of proclamations were usually circulated at the conferences for signatures, starting or ending with: "we protest," "we demand," "we declare". Also at this conference there were resolutions proposed. At lunch there were excited conversations about lobbying, promoting business ventures in Hungary, and, what Hungarian Americans can do to further current Hungarian government efforts. The mood was definitely activist.

I found it amusing how eager the participants were to speak English. It is true that the conference was culturally mixed, and English was the shared language of communication. But when even Transylvanian guests who knew that I was a professor of Hungarian addressed me in English privately, the term "absurd" came home to me. (The irony that I am putting down these lines in English does not escape me, by the way.)

What I regretted most was a minimal Canadian participation: only two papers, both on Hungarian subjects. Before HSAC was formed, about ten percent of AHEA's members were Canadians. Our stable membership figures demonstrate

that HSAC has satisfied a demand and we are not far behind the American association in actual size (which means that we are far ahead in relative terms). On the other hand, we have very few American members, and AHEA has hardly any Canadians. Apparently the intellectual dialogue across the 49th parallel has been put on the backburner.

My visit to Toledo was interesting, not only because of the well selected presentations but also because it confronted me with some of our own (perhaps unrecognized) options of objectives, scope, tactics and alliances, and the prospect of our long-range survival as an association. Recognizing the alternatives does not mean that we should get aligned. Some soul-searching never hurts, however, even if we eventually find that our way suits us best.

- by George Bisztray

"Két tényező biztosítja a magyarság fennmaradását idegen nyelvterületen. Az egyik a tömeges együttélés, ahol a mindennapi élet magyar környezetben zajlik, a másik a töretlen magyar öntudat. Az első nem tőlünk függ, számos más tényező határozza meg... A másik azonban részben rajtunk is múlik... Ezt a magyar öntudatot kell felébreszteniünk, fenntartaniunk, növelniünk. S ennek eszközei: a nyelv, az irodalom, a művészet, zene, ének, tánc, színhátság, s a magyar történelmi tudat ápolása."

(Bárczi Géza, Anyanyelvi Konferencia, 1970.)

Hungarian language courses

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Debreceni Nyári Egyetem

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- 120-hour language course
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July 18-August 14, 1993.
- continuous language learning in
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beginning from
February 15, 1993.
and September 15, 1993.

For more information contact:

✉ Debreceni Nyári Egyetem
H-4010 Debrecen, Pf. 35.
Hungary
☎ (52) 16-666/2286
Fax: (52) 10-936
E-mail: H3905GEL@ELLA.Hu



The AHEA received a request from the *Peace Corps* for assistance in their channelling

needed private donations to schools in Hungary where Peace Corps volunteers serve. They were as interested in making the program known and in learning of potential leads to other organizations, as in actual donations. AHEA did contribute \$100.00 towards the project for János Vitéz Teacher Training College, with Péter and Enikő Basa matching that donation. We urge our members to explore ways in which some support can be developed for the Hungarian Partnership Program. For further information contact:

Gretchen L. Gindlesperger
Peace Corps
Partnership Program
1990 K. Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20526



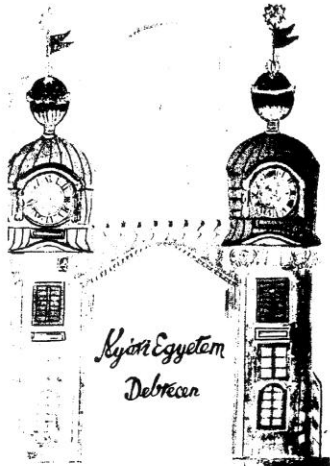
The Institute of International Education announces *Fellowships for Professional Development to East Central*

Europe (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia) and the Baltic States.

The deadline is: **February 1, 1993.**

For further information, brochures and application forms contact:

Professional Development Fellowships
US Student Programs/IIE
809 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 984-5326 or 5330



**Foundation Launches
"Democracy Corps" Initiative**

Responding to the training needs of the emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe, the *National Forum Foundation* has launched a new program: **American Volunteers for International Development (AVID)**. AVID is a "Democracy Corps" style initiative which facilitates the transfer of "how to" information and managerial expertise to Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) by providing hands-on, practical training. Through AVID the NFF identifies, mobilizes, and sponsors qualified American professionals who volunteer to work side-by-side with their counterparts in government, business, and journalism throughout CEE, including Russia and Ukraine

For further information contact:
The National Forum Foundation
511 C Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20002
Phone: (202) 543-3515 Fax: (202) 547-4101

BUSINESS INFORMATION HUNGARY

is both a research report on Hungary today and a hands-on sourcebook for doing business.

For more information contact:
Central European Research Associates
2140 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 2045
Berkeley, California 94704 USA
(510) 464-4539 or 549-9767(Fax)



The Laws of the Medieval Kingdom of Hungary

Decreta Regni Mediaevalis Hungariae
by János M. Bak, Pál Engel and James Ross Sweeney
Vol. 1. (1000-1301): \$95.00
Vol. 2. (1301-1457): \$150.00
Orders should be sent to:
Ch. Schlacks, Jr., Publisher,
POB 58365 Salt Lake City, UT
84158-0365

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Circle Press, 26 St Luke's Mews,
Notting Hill,
London W11 1DF, U.K.



The Library of the Hungarian Parliament released databases on CD-ROM disc

Pressdok (references to 125,000 articles from more than 150 Hungarian daily, weekly and journals, January 1989-June 1992)

Hundok (references to articles on Hungary in 50 international daily and weekly, from January 1991 to June 1992)

Contact: Library of Parliament
Budapest, Kossuth 1-3.
1357 Hungary

The Hungarian Club of Colorado and the Community Colleges for Minorities Foundation call for support of American Hungarian organizations in establishing teacher training institutes for Hungarian minorities outside the Hungarian borders. For information contact: István Kulcsár, the President Hungarian Club of Colorado 14251-F E. Dickinson Dr., Aurora, CO 80014



Alfonse M. D'Amato, United States Senator has written a letter to H. E. Michael Zeantovsky, Ambassador of the Republic of Czechoslovakia, regarding his government's existing plans to re-divert the River Danube. In his letter D'Amato urged the government to reconsider its plan, because if this project is to be completed, an environmental disaster will occur which is far too unacceptable.

Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send their 1993 dues by March 1 to ensure receiving further newsletters and to be eligible to vote in the upcoming elections. The number next to your name on the mailing label indicates the last year your dues were received i. e. 92 means last paid in 1992.



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A LETTER FROM LÁSZLÓ TÖKÉS

László Tökés, the Bishop of Nagyvárad who as pastor of the Reformed church in Temesvár sparked the revolution that toppled Ceacescu, went on a hunger strike in early September to protest the betrayal of that revolution by the *National Salvation Front*. While he gave up the strike when it proved to be a political liability for the *National Democratic Coalition* before the Rumanian elections, his demands remain valid. These were not widely publicized in the Western media, and so we are publishing them here:

- Give justice to the victims of the Revolution.
- Make the mass murderers of 1988 answer for their deeds.
- Investigate the facts of the violent acts in Marosvásárhely and Bucharest.
- Free those who have been sentenced in the anti-Hungarian show

trials of Marosvásárhely, Oroszhegy, and Zatulak.

- Investigate the persecution of the members and leaders of the Reformed Church of Temesvár in 1989, and make those responsible answer for their deeds.
- Determine the circumstances of the deaths of two leaders of the Reformed Church of Temesvár, Ernő Ujvárossy and Árpád Torzo, and see to it that justice is done.

These demands appeared in a much longer format which detailed the abuse of power by those who had "stolen the Revolution." In the name of all who had died and who had suffered losses in the hope of creating a truly democratic society, he took to task the governing party for its intolerance and support of ethnic hatred, and closed the letter with an appeal to the peoples of his nation and to the world to support him in this action. □

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1425 N. Nash Str. # 15,
Arlington, VA 22209

◆
Editor and Designer:
Ilona Lantos
Contributors:
Enikő Molnár Basa
Attila Lantos