

FOSTER LAUDS APTHEKER'S 'TRUTH ABOUT HUNGARY'

By WM. Z. FOSTER

In his latest book, *The Truth About Hungary*, Herbert Aptheker has added another to the long list of his notable Marxist historical studies and analyses. One wonders how, in such a short period, he was able to assemble this amazing mass of statistical and other informative material and to tie it all together in this well-organized and penetrating analysis. We may all be proud of this book.

Has Aptheker in his book lived up to its very comprehensive title? Has he told us the truth about Hungary?

In my opinion he has done so. Of course, many other angles of the complex subject could be handled in the book, but he has marshalled the essential facts and provided the needful explanations of them, in order to give one a sound understanding of the difficult Hungarian situation. It is a book that deserves a close reading by every student of international developments.

Among the basic matters that Aptheker makes clear in the book are: the historical background of the Hungarian Revolution; the immediate cause and development of that Revolution; the forces leading to the setting up of the Hungarian People's Democracy; the early successes of this regime; its participation in the world fight of the peace forces against the danger of war in the cold war; the deadly bureaucratic errors of the Rakosi government; the grossly incorrect dealing of Stalin with Hungary; the development of the Hungarian workers' and people's justified grievances; the forces leading to the holding of street demonstrations in Hungarian cities; the seizure of the leadership of this people's movement by counter-revolutionary forces and its transformation into a counter-revolutionary attempt; the advent and role of the Kadar Government; the facts about the Soviet occupation of Hungary to prevent the otherwise certain outbreak of a grave danger of fascism and war in Eastern Europe, and the sinister, provocative role played by American imperialism in the whole affair.

In all these, and in the many other rich facets of the book, Aptheker does an excellent job in making the tangled Hungari-

an situation understandably clear.

Of course, if one is merely searching for shortcomings in the book, he will not go away empty-handed. In fact, I could muster a few such myself. But these are of very secondary importance to the general excellencies of the work.

This is a very timely book, and should be given the widest circulation. Particularly is this necessary at the present time, for the imperialists, whose main headquarters are in Wall Street, are now carrying on a vicious, world-wide campaign to discredit the USSR and world Socialism in general around the question of Hungary. One of the latest expressions of this was the recent publication by the United Nations of a thick book of slander about Hungary. This was an act of frustration on account of the big defeat suffered by the warmongers and pro-fascists in not being able to make Hungary the starting point for a dangerous development of ultra-reaction and war throughout Eastern Europe.

Aptheker's *The Truth About Hungary*, is a very effective answer to this tissue of anti-Soviet vilification and warmongering. It is highly important for the Left to point out the malignancy of the offensive in the United Nations regarding Hungary. But this can be done effectively only if we also refute convincingly the specific charges made in this indictment against the USSR, namely, that the Soviet Government deliberately and unprovokedly overthrew a democratic government in Hungary and politically enslaved the people of that country.

In his book, Aptheker furnishes the detailed and authentic answer to this slander, making it clear that to put out the counter-revolutionary fire by the Soviet Army was a grim necessity, dictated by the imperative interests of world peace, world democracy, and world socialism. Even Tito, who is no ardent supporter of Soviet foreign policy, frankly admitted this fact in his TV interview a few days ago.

One does not need to be a prophet to foresee that Aptheker's book, "*The Truth About Hungary*," will be circulated far and wide in many countries by labor and its allies, as containing the basic explanation of the Hungarian situation.