

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION COMMISSION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE

REPORT
ON
HIGHER EDUCATION
IN
HUNGARY

Extract from RIC YEARBOOK 1956-57
Research and Information Commission,
Post box 36, Leiden, Netherlands

The Research and Information Commission is an independent, fact-finding body of five individual students elected by the Supervision Committee of the International Student Conference with a mandate to prepare factual reports on the educational situation in countries about which the International Student Conference wishes to receive further information. Problems concerning any particular territory, however, may be raised only by a National Union of Students having its base in that territory unless otherwise raised at the request of five National Unions.

During the year 1956-57, that is from the Sixth International Student Conference held in September 1956 to the Seventh International Student Conference held in September 1957, the Research and Information Commission studied the situation in Algeria, Cuba, Cyprus, Goa, Hungary and Nicaragua, and reported its findings to the Seventh International Student Conference. The Conference adopted the reports without opposition, and requested that they should be published and distributed as widely as possible.

For this purpose the RIC Yearbook 1956-57 has been produced, containing the five studies of the Commission during that year. However, due to the urgency and the special interest to many readers of the problem discussed in this booklet, an extract from the Yearbook has been printed separately.

Readers interested in the other studies of the Commission can obtain the full RIC Yearbook 1956-57 by writing to the Commission.

Research and Information Commission

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APPENDICES

Appendix B 1

Student Index Cards:

Subject	Lecturer	Year 1951/52					
		No of lectures		Examinations		I. Term Result	II. Term Result
		I	II	I	II		
Physics	Dr.	6	6	oral	written	First class	First class
Chemistry	Dr.	10	10	oral	written	First class	Second class
Anatomy	Dr.	6	6	oral	oral	Third class	Second class
Marxism- Leninism	Dr.	4	4	oral	oral	Fourth class	Third class
Biology	Dr.	5	5	oral	written	Second class	First class
Military studies		3	3	oral	oral	Passed	Second class
Attendance and examinations satisfied							(Signed)

Subject	Lecturer	Year 1952/53					
		No of lectures		Examinations		I. Term Result	II. Term Result
		I	II	I	II		
Biology	Dr.	8	8			Passed	Second class
Anatomy	Dr.	6	6			Passed	First class
Histology							
Embryology	Dr.	6	6			Passed	Second class
Biochemistry	Dr.	8	—	written		First class	
Microbiology	Dr.	—	4				Passed
Marxism- Leninism		4	4			Passed	} Failed Third class
Russian		2	2			Second class	
Military studies		3	3			Passed	Second class
Attendance and examinations satisfied.							(Not signed)

Appendix B 2

Extract from the Statute of the Ministry of Religion and Culture, the Ministry for Agriculture and the Ministry for Health, No. 1.400—65 — 11/1951 (II-18) V.K.M. about the general rules of the universities and colleges relating to the studies, discipline and examinations at the universities and colleges:

Article 6

1 Lectures can be held by the professors of the universities and colleges, and as "invited professors" either by such specialists or by other members of the teaching staff who, upon the suggestion of the Dean, are invited by the Rector or by the Director of the college. Such invitation can be cancelled during the academic year, if it is necessary. The Head of the Chair can appoint other members of the auxiliary teaching staff for casual teaching, but if the Head of the Chair wants to appoint a member of the teaching staff for a period of more than two weeks of teaching, then he must obtain the agreement of the Dean to it.

2 The curriculum of studies and the themes of the compulsory lectures are to be approved by the competent Minister. Lectures, called special *collegiums*, which are not compulsory but serve the deepening of the scholarly interest of the undergraduates, should be approved by the competent Minister after the proposition of the Head of the Chair of the special study in question and after the opinion of the Dean has been heard.

3 The seminars, which serve the deepening of the interest towards the compulsory subjects, have to be held in smaller groups of undergraduates; they should consist of about 20 to 30 undergraduates, in order to make possible the individual dealing with the pupils. By appointment given by the Head of the Chair, seminars can be conducted by members of the teaching staff or by the agreement of the Dean, by outside experts or by undergraduates of higher year classes. The subject matter of the seminars should fall into line with the subject matter of the lectures. The Head of the Chair is responsible for the standard of tuition and for the result of the seminars.

Appendix B 3

Extract from leading article in *Társadalmi Szemle* of September 1955: The tasks of our universities in the new academic year.

The new term raises the problem of how to improve the ideological-political education of our university youth, in which field a serious lagging behind has been noticeable in the past years. After the year of change the whole of our higher education had to be radically re-adjusted. The teaching of Marxism-Leninism had to be enforced. Expert-cadres had to be trained in masses, the social composition of the students had to be improved and so forth. While these tasks were being accomplished, the issue of raising the standard of studies was relegated into the background. It was correct, therefore, that the Third Party Congress and the February 1954 Resolution of the Central Committee relating to public education laid the greatest possible emphasis on the importance of this issue. Thanks to the new spirit the defeatist view has been liquidated, it maintained that "The university student really does a favour to the people's democracy by making the "sacrifice" of studying and for this self-sacrifice he deserves a scholarship, regarded as a salary, even if he

does not learn at all". The new scholarship system has consolidated discipline by making the students "financially interested" in the results achieved.

The pernicious effect of the rightist views made itself strongly felt at the high schools. Among other things it was maintained that ideological indoctrination can be neglected, professional training alone being necessary. The raising of the level of studies was used as a pretext for launching an attack on Marxist-Leninist indoctrination and on Russian language courses. It was claimed that the study of these subjects hinders university youth from devoting all their energies to the study of scientific subjects. Our whole higher education system was attacked and this was coupled with the glorification of the Hungarian universities of the Horthyite-capitalistic regime. In many places the raising of the standard of studies was carried out in a way that it conflicted with the targets of class-policy set by the party. This entailed, particularly at the technological universities, an increase in the number of students who failed to pass their examinations and as a result more and more students, especially of worker-peasant origin, gave up their studies. Rightist deviation also became manifest in university appointments, as often only professional proficiency was taken into consideration and political aspects were neglected.

But the rightist views could spread, mainly for the reason that the ideological-political education of our youth is unsatisfactory and the ideological-political development of the teachers slow, hence neither teachers nor students were well-equipped to fight against these views and trends. The DISZ, the Party and State organs took up a liberal attitude. Now the March Resolution has had its beneficial effect also upon our universities. The party organisation launched an attack on rightist views. The activity and self-assurance of the students of worker-peasant origin have grown. Ideological debates have been started and a movement is afoot to expel students who are openly hostile to our people's democracy. 65 per cent of the newly-enrolled students are of worker-peasant origin as against 56 per cent of last year. On the whole a political progress is noticeable at the universities. Self-complacency, however, would be a grave mistake. No doubt, the political ideological fight in the new academic year has to be enhanced. Leaders, professors, teachers, must realise that their task does not cover only training of new intelligentsia coming from the people, but also the training of a new type, socialist intelligentsia. The formation of a new intelligentsia and the social development of the bulk of the old intelligentsia are two processes complementing each other which must eventually lead to the merging of the two layers.

Appendix B 4

Extract from article in *Koznetelis* of 15 October 1955 by Gyula Bizo: Political indoctrination in institutes for training of teachers.

We must turn the training institutes for kindergarten teachers and schoolmasters into a workshop of communist pedagogy. We are all perfectly aware of the fact that our only aim is to educate communist men and women. From this it is clear that political indoctrination is not a part of educational work but constitutes its supreme target. The importance of theoretical education has been stressed time and again by our Party. There is, of course, no doubt that considerable successes have been attained in this field. However, if during a psychology class a pupil gives — as has happened — as an example of will-power the strength to overcome the feeling of hunger while fasting on Good Friday — I repeat, if such things can happen there

is still plenty of work to be done in theoretical political indoctrination! Are there opportunities to increase our efforts in this respect? Yes, we have in our own hands the factors that will contribute to improvement.

Every school staff must become a firm political unit in which all have their place and role.

Appendix B 5

Broadcast by *Radio Kossuth* at 10.20 a.m. on 3 November 1956:

Pupils attention!

The revolutionary committee of the Ministry of Education makes it known that: All history books for elementary and secondary schools will be withdrawn.

Those responsible for the teaching of Hungarian literature at elementary schools will treat only those sections which deal with Hungarian literature.

The chapters on Russian literature are to be disregarded. In the teaching of geography at elementary schools the geography of the Soviet Union is to be created only to the same extent as that of other countries.

All geography books used at elementary schools will be withdrawn.

In the fourth grade of the secondary schools, the biology text-books will be withdrawn.

In the eighth grade of the elementary schools, free religious instruction must be given. Special enrolment for religious instruction is hereby abolished.

In all schools of the country, Russian as a compulsory language will be abolished.

The elementary schools which are based on the Russian pattern will be abolished.

Appendix C 1

Certificate no.: 23/1948

GYMNASIUM MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE

Marghescu Sándor, who was born at Temesvár, county of Temes, on 28 August 1929, his religion being Roman Catholic, conducted his gymnasium studies at: class I at the Hungarian Royal State Gymnasium of Nagybanya 1940/41, class II at the Royal Catholic Gymnasium of Szatmárnéti 1941/42, classes III and IV at the Hungarian Royal State Gymnasium of Nagybanya 1942/43 — 1943/44, classes V — VIII at the St. Stephen Gymnasium of the Society of Jesus at Kalocsa 1944/45 — 1947/48, and his conduct was exemplary; he had his matriculation examination before the undersigned committee, with the following results:

Hungarian language and literature	distinction
History	distinction
Latin language	distinction
German language	distinction
Physics	distinction
Mathematics	distinction

In other subjects of the gymnasium, his results were:

Knowledge of faith and ethics	distinction
Economics and sociology	distinction
Geography and anthropography	distinction
.....language	
Philosophy	distinction
Natural history	distinction
Chemistry	distinction
Drawing and history of art	distinction

He satisfied the prescribed requirements with distinction, and therefore according to statute 1934: XI: paragraph 38: subparagraph (3), we declare him to be matured for university and higher educational studies.

For this we give him this certificate with the stamp of the St. Stephen Gymnasium of the Society of Jesus at Kalocsa and with our signatures:

Date: Kalocsa, 26 June 1948

(signed) chairman of committee	(signed) master of history
(signed) rector master of Hungarian language and literature	(signed) master of German and Latin languages
	(signed) master of physics and mathematics

Szeged City
Hungarian Royal Horthy Miklos Science University, Faculty of Physics
and Mathematics

5/number 1948-49

RESOLUTION

On the basis of the resolution of Faculty meeting on 24 September 1948,
Mr. Marghescu Sándor's application for enrolment is rejected because

the absolute number of places is full
the relative number of places is full
he does not yet have the necessary documents.

This resolution has the force of law by V.K.M. (Ministry of Religion and
Education)

Szeged, 26 September 1948

(signed)
Dean

Appendix C 2

Extracts from personal files of students:

Report Number I:

Intelligent, not at all diligent. He is often absent but due to the fact that his father is a doctor he can always produce a certificate. From a political point of view he is not reliable. DISZ member. On party seminars often puts forward faulty points of view, but only because he does not study. Generally he speaks through his hat, but because he is sensible he can talk himself out of anything. He is of a completely religious orientation.

Report Number II:

Son of a doctor. His study average is second class. He has a wide professional interest. He works all the time as an auxiliary physical worker, he worked as a joiner for a longer period of time, where he achieved good working results. He is also interested in music. Religious. His father was member of the directing committee of EPOL.

He was cleared with cautioning. (Clearing was the political screening after the war concerning the attitude of people during and after the war: RIC.) /Investigate/. He seems capable of development.

Independent, active, DISZ member.

Proposed F. 145. scholarship.

Report Number III:

Comes from an academic family. Born in Budapest, 2 October 1932. There are seven children in the family. His father is district surgeon. His examination results

are: physics first class, chemistry second, biology first, biochemistry first, anatomy first, histology second, life-study second. He passed Marxism with third class after having failed once.

According to the opinion of DISZ he is intelligent, but his attendance at lectures and practicals was not satisfactory. He was often absent, but always produced a doctor's certificate. He was never prepared for party seminars, this was exactly the reason why he failed in Marxism.

He did some cultural work in his faculty.

5.VIII.1953 (signature)

Appendix C 3

Extract from *Népszabadság* of 5 February 1957:

Three teachers and seven university students arrested in a raid on students' hostels

The majority of university students have been watching with grief in the past few weeks whether university life would begin again or not. Several reports have been made to the police that in order to set up normal university work they must again hold searches in the students' hostels to save a riot or something breaking out after teaching has begun.

In Sunday's paper we gave news of the communiqué of the National Chief of Police that the police and the militia held searches and certifications of identity on 31 January in several student hostels and university buildings. Several readers have asked us to give more details of this work and of the results, in order to save hostile scare news getting around.

The police held searches in the students' hostels... Tibor Beke, 23 year-old university student, member of the secretariat of the MEFESZ at the Technical University, for example, made and spread inciting anti-government leaflets. In the course of the search they found a great part of the leaflets, and they found the hidden typewriter and a great amount of typing paper too on which Beke made the leaflets. Jozsef Nemes, 25 year-old university student, member of the provisional executive committee of the MEFESZ, was also arrested for the same thing, for the spreading of counter-revolutionary leaflets. There were many leaflets found in his room too. Istvan Kornidesz, 36 year-old professor's assistant, was the organiser of the whole network. The police found a typewriter and a large number of stencils, and also the letters that were to be sent out to give information on his organised conspiracy.

Appendix C 4

Extract from *The Hungarian Situation and the Rule of Law* issued by the International Commission of Jurists, The Hague 1957; see opposite page

Appendix D 1

Appeal adopted by a meeting of Budapest Technological Students at the András Hess Students' Hostel held on 19 October 1956:

We know very well that recently serious changes took place in the political and economic life of our country. Statements that delight one's heart have been made

From "List of arrests":

File No.	Source	Date	Name	Age	Profession	Possible Aggravating Circumstances	Place of Arrest	Charge
130	RB	Dec. 24	Szűlek (Fülöp'), I.		teacher		Karczag	printing leaflets
175	Nsz	Jan. 24	Kövecses, F.	23	student	leader of the group	Dabas	murder of Chairman of local CP
179	Nsz	Jan. 24	Kollar		Stud. med.		Budapest	not reporting 3rd party h.d.g arms
252	RB	Feb. 5	Beke, T.	23	student	member MEFESZ		writing leaflets
253	RB	Feb. 5	Nemes, J.	25	student	member MEFESZ		distributing leaflets
254	RB	Feb. 5	Vekerdi, J.	30	Univ. lecturer			printing illegal paper "Eszmelet"
255	RB	Feb. 5	Kornidesz, I.	36	Univ. lecturer			organising c-r network
256—262	RB	Feb. 5	7		students			partic. in c-r network
263—265	RB	Feb. 5	3		Univ. lecturers			partic. in c-r network
338	MTI	Feb. 17	Veigl, Jozsef		student		Vac	running clandestine transmitter
113—M	Nep	Jan. 26	József, K.	16	schoolboy	hiding arms		hiding arms

Abbreviations used:

CP = Communist Party

Nep = *Nepkarat* (newspaper)

c-r = counter-revolutionary

Nsz = *Népszabadság* (newspaper)

MTI = Hungarian Telegraphic Agency

RB = Radio Budapest

concerning the revelation of faults, but very little has been done to remedy wrongs.

The education of youth is on the wrong track too. We, the students of the Technological University, disapprove of the role the DISZ played in the education of Hungarian youth. In our university, the Technological University, the DISZ committee became an automatic machine of superior organs. It should have been the duty of the DISZ to represent the views of youth, but it failed to comply with this obligation. Our most important problems have not been adjusted for years.

The students of the Technological University are sick and tired of the helplessness of the central committee of the DISZ which has been unable to fight consistently for the interests of university students.

The new students' Committee of the central students' hostel of the Technological University, together with the students, consider the position of students intolerable. As a result of the demands set by our students, the students' meeting convened for 19 October at 9 p.m. demanded the execution of the following measures:

1 We demand moral and material appreciation for engineers. Engineers should be assigned to jobs for engineers, their pay should be about 1500-1600 forints and they should also obtain premiums.

2 Leading posts and positions should depend on school training and professional knowledge.

3 We demand the abolition of compulsory attendance at lectures, the optional teaching of languages and non-professional subjects and the teaching of one obligatory language which can be chosen freely.

4 University students must be offered possibilities to undertake journeys abroad in groups with state subsidies and also undertake private journeys independent of the IBUSZ (Hungarian State Travel Bureau).

5 It should be made possible for young engineers to find employment abroad which is not subjected to either political or family conditions.

6 Overcrowding in students' hostels must cease.

7 We demand the raising of the "forint-norms" of canteens to 15 forints a day.

8 Undertakings providing food for students should come under the supervision of competent universities.

9 Restore the autonomy of the universities.

10 We demand the reorganisation of the university youth movement and the democratic election of a new leading committee of students.

11 We demand the restoration of travelling allowances of 50 per cent once a month.

12 Reduce the prices of technological literature for students and grant text-book allowances to each student.

13 We demand the fixing of a realistic number of engineers to be trained every year.

14 Students should obtain higher scholarships for the period due to work out their final theses, the "diploma plans".

15 We demand a public trial in the case of Farkas and his associates.

The meeting passed a resolution that, unless the points 3, 4, 7, 11, 14 and 15 are carried into effect within a fortnight, students will arrange a demonstration to manifest their dissatisfaction.

We request the students of all universities to support us in fighting for and achiev-

ing our demands. Simultaneously we are ready to support the demands of other universities.

The meeting of the Central Student Hostel of the Technological University and their Student Committee.

Appendix D 2

The seven demands of the DISZ Central Committee of 18 October 1956:

1 The overloading of the university curriculum must end. Students should have the choice of attendance at a number of specialised colleges. The roll-call system of supervising attendance at lectures must be discontinued.

2 Language instruction in the universities must be made optional. Only knowledge or study of a freely chosen foreign language should be compulsory.

3 Instead of formal P.T. at the universities, more attention must be paid to giving undergraduates wider opportunities for sports.

4 To promote the constructive acquisition of a knowledge of Marxism-Leninism, the DISZ Central Committee deemed it essential that the teaching of Marxism-Leninism should be in the right proportion to the branch of study being pursued and that lecture hours devoted to it should be reduced. It would be "correct" to make certain special courses in Marxism-Leninism optional if they were linked to the study of special subjects. The teaching of Marxism-Leninism in the universities must be based on the study of the classics of Marxism.

5 The question of national defence instruction in the universities should be re-examined. Military service for students should be compulsory only on completion of their studies.

6 More and better food should be served in university canteens. Suitable buildings should be handed over to house more student hostels.

Appendix D 3

Hungarian Home Service report on a students' meeting at Szeged, 21 October 1956:

The university students of Szeged met again yesterday afternoon. They set up their own independent youth organisation, called MEFESZ. The students welcomed the measures already published by the Ministry of Education which meet the demands of the undergraduates. They expect similarly prompt measures about their other justified demands.

The undergraduates discussed the draft statute of their new youth organisation. The statute says that the youth of MEFESZ follows the Party on the road of building socialism. It is an independent and free youth organisation, whose ideological foundation is Marxism-Leninism. The participants... stressed that DISZ had been unable to represent the interests of the university students satisfactorily. They therefore found it necessary to create a new organisation. MEFESZ recognises as its highest forum the National Parliament of University Youth. MEFESZ membership does not preclude membership and work in DISZ.

... The meeting discussed MEFESZ's programme. This includes the university students' many justified demands, including the abolition of the system which over-

burdens university students and opportunities to visit cultural institutions at reduced fees.

Janos Gosztonyi, Secretary of DISZ Central Committee, said that he was basically in agreement with the programme. The Party Executive Committees of the City of Szeged and County Csongrad took a similar attitude; so did the Csongrad County DISZ Committee.

Appendix D 4

The *Topolino Points* of 22 October 1956:

The MEFESZ is set up. It will solve the problems of the students:

- 1 New central leadership. Prior to this, new party leadership.
- 2 Government under the leadership of Imre Nagy.
- 3 Hungarian-Polish and Hungarian-Yugoslav friendship and the withdrawal of Soviet troops.
- 4 New elections.
- 5 New economic policy. Uranium, foreign trade, etc.
- 6 Organised workers and autonomy for factory workers.
- 7 The situation of agricultural workers and of peasants farming individually.
- 8 Revision of political and economic trials and amnesty.
- 9 15 March 6 October. Old emblem!
- 10 Freedom of press and the MEFESZ must have its own paper. Destroying of the secret cadre-files.

Statement: Complete solidarity with Warsaw and the Polish movement for independence.

Appendix D 5

Appeal issued by DISZ Members of the Medical Faculty of the University of Budapest, 22 October 1956:

Students of our university wish to support the realisation of the demands of the students of other universities as well as the justified demands of all Hungarian youth.

They think that the realisation of their justified demands depends on two fundamental conditions:

- 1 The unity and "mass basis" of youth must be safeguarded as only a united youth federation can fight consistently and energetically for the interests of all youth of our country.

- 2 We consider it necessary to hold new elections in all leading organs of the DISZ from the lowest ones right up to the Central Committee of DISZ, as well as the convocation of the congress of the DISZ.

The Conference of DISZ delegates of the Medical Faculty of the University of Budapest, fixed the following objectives:

- 1 We demand that the progressive national traditions should be put into practice by deeds, that 15 March and 6 October be declared as National Holidays and that the Kossuth coat of arms should be restored.

- 2 We demand free, international information, exchange of opinions and sciences.

3 We demand the full assertion of parliamentary democracy, as well as the elaboration and realisation of a new, democratic election system.

4 Women students should be exempted from military training and military service and the theoretical and practical military training of men reviewed.

5 We demand individual rules for examinations, instead of examination orders by groups.

6 Hungarian textbooks and notes should be available in time, adequate quantities, and under favourable conditions of payment by instalments.

7 We demand the reviewing of the scholarship system and demand that students who are orphans, half-orphans or the breadwinners in a family should obtain at least 500 forints scholarship a month.

(Points 8, 9 and 10 refer to housing problems)

We express complete solidarity with the democratic evolution in Poland. We wish to play a lion's share in the sound and democratic development of our country by standing firmly on the ground of Marxism-Leninism.

The Conference of DISZ Delegates
of the Medical Faculty of the
University of Budapest.

Appeal to students of the Technical University for Architecture and Transport and of the Budapest University of Technology!

The Council of the two universities wholeheartedly welcomes the movement of the university youth and the right initiative they have taken. The Council of the two universities, their professors, their teaching staff and workers fully agree with this movement.

The staff of the university had been gladly partaking in recent student meetings and they approved of the students' rightful demands and they will fully support such efforts as are directed towards the fulfilment of these demands.

It has come to our knowledge that the students of our universities are planning to march this afternoon to the Bem monument. With this solemn march they want to give expression of their sympathy with the aspirations of the Polish people and as a symbolic gesture they want to lay a wreath at the foot of the statue of General Bem, the great freedom fighter.

The Council of the two universities has however some misgivings regarding this street march. In view of the fact that the crowds in the street are likely to mingle with the demonstrators, certain disorderly elements will thus get the opportunity to join the other and will try to use the well-regulated student movement for furthering their own aims. Therefore the Council fears that by creating confusion these people may endanger the success of the movement. The Szeged example clearly showed that serious results can also be achieved without taking recourse to demonstrations.

Should the students however decide to go ahead with their march in spite of aforementioned considerations, the Council of the two universities requests them to remain calm, to abstain from any loud demonstration and rioting and to march up to the monument for the laying of the wreath in perfect order and in a disciplined manner. Budapest, 23 October 1956.

Council of the Technical University
for Architecture and Transport

Council of the Budapest
University of Technology

Appendix D 6

Joint resolution passed by the student Committee of the Budapest University of Technology and the MEFESZ Organisation of the Technical University for Architecture:

Today at 2 p.m. the students of the two universities will assemble in the courtyard of the University of Technology and will make ready for the march. In connection with this march we have come to make the following decisions:

1 We shall walk arm in arm, in closed lines of ten people.

2 No slogans will be used. It will be a silent demonstration because any other demonstration would be unworthy of us.

3 We shall leave the university by the Budafoki u. No. 2. entrance and we shall take the following route: — Gellért square — Gellért embankment — Döbrentei square — Döbrentei street — Lánchíd street — Fő street — Jégverem street — Bem embankment. Arrived at the Bem monument the students shall form a circle around the statue, we shall then lay the wreath and sing the National Anthem.

4 We shall then march along the Bem Jozsef street — Mártírok street — Marci-bányi square and here we shall sing the "Szózat." With this the demonstration will come to its end.

5 Time-table: start: 2.30 p.m.
laying of the wreath: 3.15 p.m.
departure 3.45 p.m.

In order to secure smooth running of our demonstration you are all requested to keep to the above-mentioned times.

Student Committee

MEFESZ Organisation

Appendix D 7

Resolution passed by the MEFESZ Committee, Technical University of Architecture, 22 October 1956:

We agree with the proposal put forward by the University of Szeged and we set up the MEFESZ organisation. This organisation is also joined by students of the Technical University and Horticultural College.

It will be the task of this new MEFESZ organisation to give expression of the students' opinion as regards the grave political questions as well as to find a solution to a number of undergraduate problems so far unsolved (army education, students' canteen, students' homes, railway fare reductions, free examinations, individual travelling abroad).

The MEFESZ was brought into being by a spontaneous meeting of university students, in the presence of about 4-5000 undergraduates.

The following points sum up the young people's political demands.

1 Immediate convocation of the Central Leadership of the MDP. In the meantime election of a new party leadership by the rank and file of members and the setting up of the new Central Leadership by this new party leadership.

2 New government under the leadership of Imre Nagy.

3 Establishing of friendly relations with the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. This friendship must be based on full equality and on the principle of non-interference as regards internal affairs of the countries concerned.

4 Immediate withdrawal of all Soviet troops under the terms of the Hungarian peace treaty.

5 General, equal, secret elections with the participation of several parties and the election of new representatives to the National Assembly.

6 We demand the most economic and exclusively Hungarian use of the uranium.

7 Immediate fixing of labour norms for all industrial workers and introduction of autonomy in factories and plants.

8 Revision of system of compulsory deliveries and lending assistance to the individually working peasantry.

9 Revision of all political and economic court cases, total amnesty for such prisoners as had been innocently condemned and rehabilitation of persons who had been discredited.

10 Open trial in the case of Mihály Farkas.

Mátyás Rákosi must return and be publicly called to account for his actions in the past.

Revision of cases where Hungarians had been innocently condemned in Russia and their subsequent release.

11 Restoration of the old Kossuth emblem to replace the present one so totally alien to the people. 15 March and 6 October must be publicly declared as national and general holidays.

A new uniform for our army.

12 Full freedom of speech and press (also broadcasts) and within this framework the MEFESZ organisation must have its own newspaper. The old files of cadres must be brought before the public and then destroyed.

13 The statue of Stalin, which is the symbol of tyranny, must be removed immediately.

14 We are bound together in complete solidarity.

The university youth gives with unanimous enthusiasm expression of their solidarity with workers and young people of Warsaw and with the Polish national movement for independence.

MEFESZ Committee
Technical University
for Architecture

22 October, 1956.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE

The Seventh International Student Conference receives the report of the Research and Information Commission regarding the position and structure of higher education and the situation of students in Hungary.

The Conference recognises

a that although no visas were given by the Hungarian government to the Research and Information Commission team, the report is supported fully and adequately by documentation almost entirely from Hungarian sources;

b that there exists a clear pattern of suppression of academic freedom in Hungary, and that the universities are subject to the interference and dictation of the State at all levels;

c that political and social discrimination is exercised in obtaining entry to the universities, in determining scholarships and in deciding examination results;

d that students and teachers have been arrested, imprisoned and deported because of their attempts to obtain academic freedom and human rights;

e deplores and condemns the lack of academic freedom in the universities of Hungary, the complete negation of any real university autonomy by the State, and foreign interference with the development of the national cultural heritage of Hungary;

f requests the establishment of true freedom in Hungarian universities as demanded by the Hungarian students and teachers themselves in October 1956;

g appeals to the Hungarian government to release all university students and teachers imprisoned for political reasons.

Finally the Conference

a expresses its admiration of and support for the university students of Hungary in their struggle to achieve that independence of thought and action necessary for the proper development of higher education and the development of a truly national culture; further recognises the heroism of those students who died in this struggle;

b recommends that the work of the Research and Information Commission regarding the position of higher education in Hungary should be carried on, irrespective of whether they are able to obtain visas to enter Hungary or not;

c expresses its opinion that this report is an adequate and objective survey and most heartily thanks the Commission for its excellent work;

d instructs the Secretariat to make available the Research and Information Commission Report on Higher Education in Hungary to all the governments of the world as the contribution of the International Student Conference towards a fuller understanding of the educational problems of Hungarian students.