

the campaign of calumny which had on one occasion — in the Peace of Trianon — been crowned with success, leading to the dismemberment of Hungary.

For such a campaign of calumny to be successful, however, there was need of the war madness which had previously blinded even the sharpest-sighted statesmen in the world. The unanimous indignation of Hungarian public opinion which repulsed the wicked and stupid attack, the manly and dignified statement made by Premier Gömbös to the correspondent of a French newspaper, — these moments were bound to have their due effect. On this occasion a Hungarian Premier was really speaking after the heart of the Hungarian nation.

We Hungarians have reasons galore for desiring that every hidden connection of the Marseilles crime should be revealed. We feel particularly gratified

that the Marseilles murder and all its ramifications are now before the League of Nations; and at this stage of the procedure all we can do is to express the hope and desire that the League take its solemn duty most seriously, act quickly — nay, at once — and thus refrain from protracting an intolerable situation, — that of world-wide publicity for atrocious charges put forward with the utmost vagueness. The result of the inquiry, when the chain of events leading to Marseilles is taken into account, may certainly prove a painful one, — but not to us. That result will prove that for the distressing state of things prevailing today in the Danube basin the responsibility rests with those whose vital interest it is to employ lies and slander and terror and bloodshed to delay the inevitable victory of Justice.

HUNGARY ENERGETICALLY DEMANDS URGENT INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST HER

The Note submitted to the League of Nations on November 22nd. by Yugoslavia — which Note has been endorsed also by the Czechoslovak and Rumanian Governments — is an attack of unprecedented gravity against the national honour of Hungary. For this Note asserts that according to the results of the examination the Hungarian authorities are responsible for assistance and support accorded to the Marseilles terrorists, that professional criminals were trained in Hungary and entrusted with the execution of a whole series of crimes and murders serving definite political aims.

This Note submitted by the Yugoslav Government is the culmination of the campaign of calumny started against our country and our nation immediately after the Marseilles crime so unanimously condemned by Hungarian public opinion. The Yugoslav Government has, before Europe and the world, brought charges of unheard-of gravity against Hungary without having supported these charges with facts and proofs.

The Hungarian nation lost very much in the Great War; but it preserved its honour unsullied and intact. Political murder and its methods never figured in the armoury of the Hungarians. This fact cannot be stressed energetically enough, particularly as against an antagonist whose history of a hundred years is one long series of regicides, — which during the past decennium and a half has

done away with many eminent sons of the Croatian nation, together with hundreds of Macedo-Bulgarians, Albanians and Croats, simply because these unfortunate victims were dissatisfied with the system employed against all non-Serbian peoples — under the disguise of the fiction of Yugoslav national unity — by the pseudo-parliamentary régime of Belgrade which subsequently openly avowed its dictatorial character.

No one will be surprised that the Hungarian nation thus assailed through its most precious treasure, its honour, should have been incensed by the Note of the Yugoslav Government. As the unbiassed section of the foreign press has shown, the Hungarian nation cannot for one moment allow itself to be exposed to the charge of murder. Consequently, Hungarian public opinion has unanimously approved of the step taken by its Government and the Hungarian Delegate to the League of Nations to demand an urgent discussion of the Yugoslav complaint by an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the League.

While these lines are being written, though the League of Nations has indeed fixed the discussion of the Hungarian motion asking for an immediate investigation, it is not certain that the Hungarian request will be complied with and a definitive discussion held. However, the fact may already be established that the memorandum submitted by the Serbian Government deals almost exclusi-

vely with the material already published by a section of the Yugoslav and of the French Press which has repeatedly been officially refuted in Hungary. An hour or two after the presentation of the memorandum the representative of the Hungarian Government gave a full and exhaustive answer to the assertions contained therein; and there can be no doubt that the Hungarian Delegate will document to the League of Nations, point for point, the absolute untenability of the charges put forward by the Yugoslav Government and the Little Entente.

We do not wish to anticipate the evidence to be produced; we would therefore merely note that neither the depositions dragged out of the "witnesses" at Annemasse with the assistance of M. Fotitz, Yugoslav Delegate to the League of Nations, and at Zagreb by the administration of justice controlled by the Yugoslav dictators, nor the charges invented out of spite by the notorious mistress of a Croatian *émigré*, can be regarded as evidence such as is usually the basis of the judgments passed by the courts of law of a civilised State.

We know, however, that here it is not a question really of finding out the truth. King Alexander was murdered in Marseilles under circumstances which show manifestly that the French police were unable to afford adequate protection to the monarch who had been entrusted to their charge. Croatian *émigrés* are to be found in practically every country in the world; and it was Croats living in Belgium who passed sentence of death upon King Alexander. If notwithstanding the Little Entente turns against Hungary, this is due in the first place to its not daring to pick a quarrel with stronger

Powers and on the other hand to its desiring—trusting in its superior odds — to terrorise that country which is unable to acquiesce in the injustice inflicted upon it in the Treaty of Trianon and which by its international fight for justice has aroused profound sympathy also in those peoples which have been forced to accept the supremacy of one or other of the States constituting the Little Entente by the Paris Treaties of Peace — either entirely against their will or to their infinite subsequent disappointment.

Tibor Eckhardt, Hungarian Delegate to the League of Nations, called the Geneva action of the Little Entente international terrorism. And indeed "international terrorism" is the only proper name for the procedure by which the Little Entente would fain force Hungary to abandon her struggle for a revision. For let it be noted that the real accused in Geneva is the idea of revision. From the very moment when she was compelled to sign the Treaty of Trianon Hungary has never abandoned the hope that the day will come when, by means of the peaceful revision defined in Article XIX of the Covenant of the League of Nations, she will obtain a redress of the injustice committed against her.

There is no power in the world able to make her renounce this hope. Trusting in the justice of our cause, we await with the greatest composure the proceedings the immediate taking of which by the League of Nations we ourselves have most energetically urged; and we are convinced that we shall not stand alone in the face of the assault endangering, not only the security of the Hungarian nation, but also the peace of Europe and the world, which is menaced today from the same stormy quarter as twenty years ago.

STATEMENTS BY PREMIER GÖMBÖS AND DR. ECKHARDT

Immediately after the presentation of the Yugoslav Note the Hungarian Premier Gömbös and Tibor Eckhardt, Hungarian Delegate to the League of Nations, made the following statements:

JULIUS GÖMBÖS:

"The Yugoslav Note filed in Geneva *in re* the Marseilles affair did not come as a surprise to the Hungarian Government, to which that Note seems merely the continuation of the press campaign which has been going on for a month for the purpose of undermining the position of Hungary. The Hungarian Government is shocked to see that the tone of the Note corresponds exactly to that of the press agitating against Hungary.

"For immediately after the murder (in other words, at a time when there could not possibly be any available data showing who were responsible for organising the attempt and carrying it into execution) that press initiated a political campaign against Hungary — for the purpose of compromising that country — which from the very outset was calculated to endanger the peace of Europe.

"To the Hungarian Government the tendency was — from the very first moment when the campaign of calumny was started — perfectly clear. There can be no doubt, namely, that the object of those directing the campaign was — besides that of discrediting the cause of our country — to intimidate Hungary in order to paralyse our peaceful endeavours to secure our national existence.

"The Hungarian Government begs to call the attention of the public opinion of the world to the political tendency of the Yugoslav Note, particularly in view of its attempt to support the charges brought against Hungary, without submitting a detailed report on the question, by referring to proofs alleged to be available which we have so far not been able to check. The behaviour of the Yugoslav Government is particularly unjustifiable in view of the fact that so far it has not considered it necessary to communicate to the Hungarian Government all the documents serving as basis of the charges brought against Hungary, which documents the Hungarian Government would have refuted in the same manner as it denies the assertion that the murderer had resided in Hungary prior to the attempt.

"As representative of a nation with a past reaching

back through ten centuries of history which knows nothing of political murder as a means for enforcing the justice of the national cause, the Hungarian Government herewith solemnly protests against the procedure of the Yugoslav Government and repudiates the charge of complicity in the regicide.

"Seeing that the Hungarian Government regards the action of the Yugoslav Government as a menace to the peace of Europe, it too considers it desirable that the League of Nations should without delay take all steps necessary to have the matter cleared up urgently and objectively. This the Hungarian Government is particularly anxious to have done in view of the fact — to which it would specially call the attention of the public opinion of Europe — that Yugoslavia and her friends would seem to utilise the consciousness of the military superiority ensured them onesidedly under the Treaties of Peace for the purpose of jeopardising the sacred cause of European peace".

TIBOR ECKHARDT:

"I am very satisfied to hear that the odious affair of the Marseilles attempt has been submitted to the impartial tribunal of the League of Nations. We desire that the question be discussed urgently, and shall on our part

leave no stone unturned to see that the affair and all that is behind it be investigated in all its details and made clear with absolute objectivity to the League of Nations.

"Even with the persistent campaign of calumny carried on during recent weeks before us, we cannot but be surprised and shocked by the statements contained in the Yugoslav Note, — statements which represent an effort to injure the good name of Hungary in the eyes of the world. I protest most energetically and most unequivocally against these calumnies. Alike in its contents and in the tone in which it has been drafted the Yugoslav Note is nothing more or less than a fresh stage in a political action against Hungary of a deliberate and premeditated character. The object thereof is as clear as daylight, — an endeavour to divert attention from the real causes of the attempt and at the same time to destroy the moral integrity of Hungary, which the disarmament of that country leads the authors of the Note to consider an easy prey.

"I protest very energetically against these endeavours, which I must describe as an act of international terrorism."

HUNGARY REQUESTS IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION

In the afternoon of November 26th. Dr. Eckhardt, Hungarian Delegate to the League of Nations, presented to the Secretary General of the League the following Note:

Geneva,

November 24th., 1934.

To the Secretary-General,
League of Nations,
Geneva,

Dear Sir,

I beg to present to you, Sir, on behalf of the Hungarian Government, the Note hereinafter following, which I submit through you to the Council of the League, which in a few days is to assemble for an extraordinary session in Geneva.

The bitter campaign to which Hungary has been exposed since the day of the Marseilles attempt, together with the most fantastic charges which have been brought against her ever since, have already created a political atmosphere which — apart from being pregnant with serious dangers to the normal relations between certain States of Europe — is of a nature affecting also the peace of the world.

The tension thus created has been still further aggravated by the complaint submitted on November 22nd. to the Council of the League of Nations by the Yugoslav Government which has been endorsed by the two other States of the Little Entente, In this complaint the Yugoslav Government does not shrink from implicating Hungary in the dastardly crime committed at Marseilles and from making the authorities of Hungary responsible for the crime.

It is really no exaggeration for me to declare that, if this situation remains unchanged, and if Hungary, the Hungarian Government and the Hungarian authorities continue

to be exposed to the various agitations and calumnious charges which have been for weeks past hurled at her head, the results may be serious to the cause of peace, the preservation of which is the most important duty devolving upon the League of Nations.

Under such circumstances the Hungarian Government is of the opinion that it would be of the utmost importance that the Council of the League of Nations, to which the matter has been submitted by the Yugoslav Government, should proceed without delay to investigate the same.

The Hungarian Government considers it important that it should declare that it is the vital interest of Hungary that her honour should be defended by that Government against machinations the only object of which is to jeopardise the good name of the Hungarian nation.

Seeing that, on the other hand — even with due consideration for the provisions of Article XI. of the Covenant, to which the application of the Yugoslav Government refers — it is within the sphere of authority of the Council (see Article IV. paragraph 4) "to deal . . . with any matter . . . affecting the peace of the world", it is the duty of the Council to place the affair in question as soon as possible among the agenda of the extraordinary session now to be held and thus to avert the dangers which may arise out of the present situation — dangers to which the Hungarian Government considered it its duty to call the benevolent attention of the Council.

With my profound respects,
I remain, Sir, Your most humble
and obedient Servant

(signed) **Eckhardt**

Delegate of the Royal Hungarian
Government to the Extraordinary
Assembly of the League of Nations.