

LADISLAS DE BÁRDOSZY, THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF HUNGARY

After the tragic death of Count Paul *Teleki*, Hungarian Prime Minister, the Regent, Admiral *Horthy*, immediately appointed as his successor in office Ladislas de *Bárdossy*, who had been Foreign Minister in the *Teleki* Government and who retained his post as Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Members of his Cabinet are the same politicians as served in the previous Government. This rapid appointment of the new Hungarian Government also shows that in these days of crisis it was impossible to leave the country for a single day without a Government; while the fact that the appointment of the *Bárdossy* Government has left the previous Cabinet unchanged at the head of affairs as enjoying the full confidence of the Regent, proves in a most striking manner that *the line of policy to be pursued by the new Government will remain the same as that followed by the Teleki Government.*

This was the interpretation of the appointment given, not only by Hungarian public opinion generally, but also by public opinion all the world over; and the Hungarian political parties too welcomed the new Premier, *Bárdossy*, as the inheritor of the line of policy followed both in domestic and in foreign affairs by the *Teleki* Government.

With *Bárdossy's* personality and his political career we dealt exhaustively two months ago, in an article in these columns written when he succeeded the late Count *Csáky* as Foreign Minister. Since then *he has himself shown that in the direction of the foreign affairs of Hungary he is following in the footsteps of his predecessor*, working in complete harmony and agreement with Count Paul *Teleki*, until the latter's death.

As Prime Minister *Bárdossy*, who has never been a Member of any political party, naturally at once joined the

party with an overwhelming majority organised by Count Teleki, which was delighted to hear of his appointment to the office of Premier, as were also all the Opposition parties, in whose eyes the political personality of Bárdossy is most sympathetic; these parties all alike agree with Hungarian public opinion in regarding him as the inheritor of the political principles professed by the exceptionally popular Count Paul Teleki.

The words of welcome addressed to the new Premier of Hungary by official quarters and the reception of his appointment by the international press show that the new Hungarian Premier — who was Count Paul Teleki's closest collaborator — is expected to be a worthy depositary of the well-tryed domestic and foreign policy of Hungary which has proved to be so oportune.

This wish finds expression in Hungarian public opinion generally; and at the same time the new Prime Minister stressed his desire to continue that policy in the speech delivered by him at the first conference of the Government Party held after his appointment. In the name of this powerful Party Béla *Lukács*, Chairman, welcomed the new Premier and declared that the Party was anxious to accord him in full measure the firm support needed by him in carrying out his policy.

In his reply Premier *Bárdossy inter alia* said:

"When on the tragic Thursday of last week the Regent expressed the wish that I should take over the leadership of the Government left without a head, I must admit that it was only after a grave inner struggle that I decided to do so, my decision being due exclusively to my feeling that it was my duty — especially in the given situation — *to obey the command of the Regent.*

"I was anxious first of all to ensure the further co-operation of the well-tryed, eminent collaborators of our Great Deceased; and I must once more thank them for having unselfishly and without regard to personal considerations given me the benefit of their great experience, their abilities and their personal values in order to provide that *the policy and the work of the Government should be continued unchanged in the same spirit as before — let me stress the*

point again, without interruption and in the same spirit and direction as hitherto."

The new Premier added that he regarded the Government Party as a link connecting him with the nation as a whole, and declared that he wished to appear before Parliament — in keeping with the constitutional usage — after the usual Easter recess, when he would outline the Government's programme. "This policy" — he said — "is in every respect the carrying into effect of the intellectual inheritance bequeathed to us by our Great Deceased. I cannot sufficiently stress that his tragic death does not involve the change of one jot or tittle of the political trend which He initiated. The Government's policy will be a continuation of the spirit which He stood for. In dealing with the problems confronting us, the path to be followed and the method of solution will be that laid down by Him. We shall merely follow His guidance and shall not follow any other."

OSZK

Nemzeti Széchényi Könyvtár