

Rakosi Resigns as Hungary CP Leader

VIENNA, July 18. — Matyas Rakosi, longtime leader of the Communist Party of Hungary, has resigned his Party positions, Premier Andras Hegedus announced today.

Hegedus said Rakosi had resigned in a letter addressed to the Party's politburo.

The announcement was made after a meeting of the central committee of the Hungarian Communist Party in Budapest.

Hegedus said Ernoe Gero had been recommended to succeed Rakosi as secretary general of the party, but he did not say whether the recommendation had been approved.

Rakosi resigned both as secretary general of the party and as a member of the Politburo, Hegedus said.

Rakosi said he was resigning because he was "responsible for the grave mistake of the cult of personality and the injuring of socialist laws."

In his letter of resignation, he also pointed out that he was 65 years old and had been suffering from a serious illness for two years.

After reading the letter before the Politburo, Rakosi said he had been suffering from hyper-tension



RAKOSKI

and that his physicians had forbidden him to continue in political work.

"I recognize that my mistakes would give opportunity for attacks by the enemy and that socialist development would suffer severely if

(Continued on Page 7)

Rakosi

(Continued from Page 1)

"I did not resign," Rakosi said in his letter.

Rakosi took the blame personally for the "slow rehabilitation" of persons arrested falsely and jailed.

He said he had been an "active and diligent soldier of the socialist movement for four decades and had lived through the difficult years of the illegal times (pre-war) of the construction of socialism."

He ended with a wish of "much success to the democratic socialist construction on its path to a better future."

Rakosi became a Communist in 1917. He spent 14 years in Hungarian jails prior to 1949 for revolutionary activities.