

# REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

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U. S. Plays Down  
Defection by  
Hungarian Envoy

WASHINGTON, May 21—At 9:30 Wednesday morning a personable but solemn father made his way up the steps of Gordon Junior High school in Washington's northwest area of substantial residences and asked that his 15 year old son be turned over to him for most important and pressing personal reasons.

When the boy was brought to the principal's office, the look of concern on his face was replaced by a smile of welcome. The father and son left together to join the waiting wife and mother.

This simple act marked the defection of Janos Radvanyi, 44-year-old Hungarian charge d'affaires, who thus became the highest ranking diplomat ever to seek asylum in the United States, or in any nation outside the iron curtain for that matter.

The Radvanyis did not return to their brick colonial home at 2838 Arizona, which was formerly occupied by Jack Valenti, top White House aid until he became the motion picture czar. Instead they went into hiding in a more secluded home supplied by the central intelligence agency.

Valenti used to sleep well in this home, he once reported, "because I know that Lyndon Johnson is President." Radvanyi could not sleep in the same house because Gyulla Kallai, a Communist, is premier of his country.

### State Department Delays Story

THE HUNGARIAN DIPLOMAT'S defection was not announced until late the same afternoon. The state department played down the defection, just as it played down the defection of the late, dread Joseph Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Stalina Alliluyeva, who goes by her mother's maiden name as well as her father's.

It's a safe bet that if the daughter of an American President defected or if an American charge d'affaires defected, the Russians would not play it as a low key lullaby. Such defectors would be given top press play and turned into stars on radio and TV.

The most interesting thing about the two defections is that the urge for freedom cannot be stifled by communist regimentation. In the case of Stalin's daughter, she defected not only because she was disillusioned with communism but also because she found God, altho she had been taught from childhood that He did not exist.

The state department did not say why Radvanyi chose freedom. The brief announcement merely said that he "has decided that he wishes to become a permanent resident of the United States." The defection was dismissed as being made

for "personal reasons," with a vague reference to the health of his wife.

It can be revealed here that Mrs. Radvanyi has been bordering on a nervous breakdown because of long wrestling day and night over her doubts of communism.

### Radvanyi Also Has Doubts

IT CAN ALSO BE REVEALED that he, too, was troubled by doubts over communist policies, including his country's unflinching support of the Hanoi government in the Viet Nam war. He looked upon this support as a stumbling block in the improvement of relations between Hungary and the United States, which he had done so much to advance that he could expect to be named the first Hungarian ambassador to the United States. Hungary was raised to ambassadorial from legation status a short time back.

Radvanyi joined the Communist party as a youth in 1940. He came from a working class family and served as a partisan in the war. In 1947 he joined the diplomatic service and served in Ankara, Turkey; Paris; Bern, Switzerland; and Damascus, Syria, as well as in Washington and the Hungarian capital of Budapest. His wife, Julianna, was a lawyer and a judge in Budapest. In addition to the son they have a daughter, who is married and living in the Hungarian capital.

Doubtless Radvanyi will not be asked to make any statement opposing communism in his homeland, because the state department doesn't want to offend the Communists. It's a sure thing that Radvanyi didn't defect because he loved communism more than he loved freedom, even tho he won't be called upon to say so.



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## Defector

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