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Report, Embassy of Hungary in North Korea to the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, 26 February 1955.

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[...] Our Embassy has not managed to extend its contacts during 1954. [...] recently the Korean organs and the [North Korean] F[oreign] M[inistry] does not give us the assistance that is necessary for the normal pursuing of our activities here. As indicated in earlier reports too, they are unwilling to establish a contact between us and the party. In recent times the F[oreign] M[inistry] sends its representative, who participates in the conversation from beginning to end, to each meeting. These [measures] make the issue more difficult. They frequently keep delaying meetings and certain programs for weeks instead of organizing them. The ones which are more important for us are arranged only after a long time, while the less important ones are organized rather quickly. As a rule [the North Korean Foreign Ministry] wants to achieve that we do not maintain any personal contacts with the state organs of greater importance but [...] submit questions, to which they reply in weeks, not infrequently in months, in writing and, of course, in Korean. For our part we dared to raise these measures of the Korean Foreign Ministry only very cautiously, because we can see that they would like to curtail the operation and activity of the whole diplomatic corps and keep its operation under a rather strict control. We discussed this issue with the Embassies of the other fraternal countries, and we have come to that conclusion. A change in this issue can be accomplished only through rather persistent efforts going into small details. One must also add to the whole question that in the highest Korean state organs, there is a certain incomprehensible secret-mongering aimed to cover up mistakes and difficulties, not just toward the diplomatic corps but toward the Korean people too. Of course, this manifests itself much more sharply toward the diplomatic corps. This cannot be changed solely through the Foreign Ministry, as it is connected with the development of the Korean party and its ideological level, and, last but not least, with the issue of frankness. The latter, though it has improved tremendously since liberation, has not managed yet to overcome completely the effects of the Japanese oppression that lasted for several decades.

[...]

Pál Szarvas
Ambassador

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