
In Memoriam

Tibor Kovats: Patriot And World Citizen

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

A good friend, the great Hungarian patriot and world citizen Tibor Kovats, died on July 15, 2011. Everyone who had the good fortune to know Tibor was blessed by the encounter with this true humanist. Although his life was overshadowed by long stretches of the great tragedies of European history, and his upright character repeatedly drew him into conflict with the changing totalitarian systems that oppressed Hungary, he never lost his gracious personality. He demonstrated that man is free when he is inwardly free, although outwardly he may be in chains.

I got to know Tibor and Judit in October 1990, barely a year after the fall of the Berlin Wall, when I was invited by POFOSZ, Hungary's National League of Political Prisoners, to attend the memorial service for the 1956 Revolution. I had the honor, at this event on Oct. 23, to thank the 10,000 participants for the Hungarian contribution to German reunification, and to tell them about the programmatic proposals of my husband, Lyndon LaRouche.

In that October of 1990, the political conditions in Hungary were still very tense, and while Tibor and other POFOSZ representatives were showing me the sites where the uprising of 1956 had been crushed, there was still great uncertainty as to whether that might occur again. These Hungarian friends enabled me to understand more deeply than would have been possible from reading historical documents, how the freedom struggle of courageous people is covered up by official historiography, if the powers-that-be deem it opportune. There was then great uncertainty about whether the newly tasted freedom would last.

Intensive political cooperation developed out of this encounter, as well as a personal

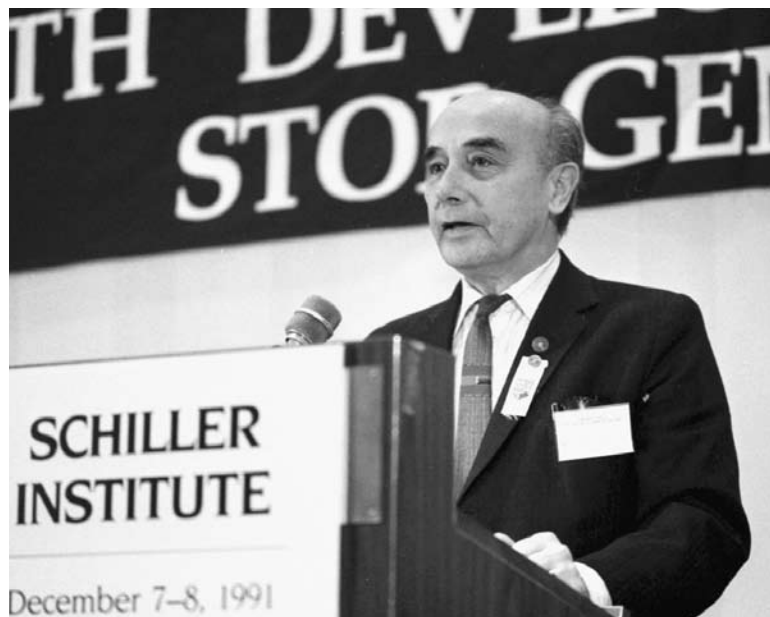
friendship. Tibor, because of his personal experience, had a profound understanding of the fate of political prisoners. He visited the innocent imprisoned members of the LaRouche movement in the United States, and gave added force to the call for their immediate release, when he led a Hungarian delegation to the U.S. Congress and passionately asked the Congressmen to remedy the injustice.

After that, Tibor and Judit took part in many conferences and seminars of the Schiller Institute in Europe, and organized many public and private meetings in Hungary, where Tibor considered himself to be the representative of the Schiller Institute.

Tibor was committed to Schiller's idea of the beauty and dignity of mankind. He spoke marvelous Classical German, and it was a special experience to hear this gracious Hungarian use old literary figures of speech that are no longer part of the usage of our contemporaries today.

A particularly special event was the invitation to Lyndon LaRouche, from Tibor, Judit, and the friends of POFOSZ, to attend a seminar in Budapest. Tibor's stories about the Puszta in Hungary and many important events from Hungarian history will never be forgotten.

Tibor was a man whose character was defined by honesty and courage, by love of freedom and love for humanity. He was a loyal friend, and his soul will always be with us.



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Kovats addresses a Schiller Institute conference in 1991, during the campaign to free political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche.