

HUNGARY

Date of Elections: April 25, 1971

Reason for Elections

Elections were held to renew the whole of the Assembly whose members had been elected on March 19, 1967, and had reached the end of their mandate in **1971**.

Characteristics of Parliament

The Hungarian Parliament, the National Assembly, is unicameral and consists of 352 Deputies elected for 4 years on the basis of 1 to every 30,000 inhabitants.

Electoral System

All Hungarian citizens of either sex, who have reached the age of 18, have the right to vote, provided that they have neither been disenfranchised by court order, nor are serving a prison term, nor are under special police surveillance, nor have been certified insane.

Electoral lists are drawn up within the constituencies; voting is not compulsory.

In order to be eligible, each candidate must be an elector and must have received the investiture of the Patriotic People's Front; according to the Electoral Law, which came into effect in October 1970, this investiture is only granted to candidates who agree to adopt the programme of the Front without, however, being under any constraint to adhere to it. The Parliamentary mandate is not incompatible with remunerative work which the Deputies may continue to perform throughout the duration of their mandate.

Before the elections, the Patriotic People's Front organizes investiture meetings in the communes, in factories, offices and all working areas. The Front also organizes special meetings for members of the army and police. Parliamentary candidates are chosen during these meetings. All those who receive at least a third of the votes of electors present at such meetings and who fulfil the conditions set by the statutes of the Front are invested. Several candidates may therefore contest the same seat.

The Hungarian territory is divided into 352 constituencies, in each of which 1 deputy is elected by majority ballot in several rounds of voting, for, in order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes.

Should a seat become vacant during a legislature, a by-election is held.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The electoral campaign for Parliamentary and local elections was quite lively in view of the possibility for anyone to propose a candidate during pre-election meetings and also because of a greater number of candidatures.

Political discussions were greatly encouraged by the authorities throughout the whole campaign.

There were 2 candidates standing in 49 constituencies, and 3 in one constituency. Their names featured in alphabetical order on ballot papers and, thus, electors were obliged to make a choice. Observers noted that the candidates average age was considerably lower.

In 3 constituencies, a second round of voting was organized as not one of the candidates had received the required number of votes in the first round.

On May 13, 1971, a Cabinet reshuffle took place in Budapest after the elections. Mr. Antal Apro, former Deputy Prime Minister, was called to replace Mr. Gyula Kallai as President of the National Assembly.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections

Number of registered voters.	7,432,420
Voters.	7,334,918(98%)
Blank or void ballot papers.	76,797
Valid votes.	7,258,121

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

Workers.137(38.9%)
Peasants.60 (17 %)
Intellectuals.131 (37 %)
Others.	24 (7.1 %)

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3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men.	268
Women.	84

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4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

Less than 30.	21
31-35.	19
36-40.	40
41-45.	74
46-50.	99
51-55.	42
56-60.	25
61-65.	19
66-70.	7
Over 70.	6
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