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Hungary

Hungary 1956: a workers’ revolution against the bureaucracy

- Features - Ernest Mandel Archive -



Publication date: Tuesday 24 November 2026

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On 4 November 1976, twenty years after Soviet tanks crushed the Hungarian revolution, the Leuven branch of the Revolutionary Workers' League (RAL), the Belgian section of the Fourth International, held a public meeting in the De Valk auditorium. About 150 people came, most of them students. The speaker was Ernest Mandel. A cassette recording made at the time by Herman Michiel survives; the questions and answers that followed were not recorded, and the chairman's introduction is cut off at the start. What follows is a translation of the whole recording, in the five parts into which it was digitised: Peter Weyns's introduction and the four parts of Mandel's talk. The titles of the parts are ours.

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[1] Mandel puns on the Dutch idiom *daar is geen mouw aan te passen*, "there is no sleeve to fit it", meaning "you can make neither head nor tail of it", by putting *Mao* in place of *mouw*.