



A Testament of Revolution

by *Béla Lipták*

Lipták's *A Testament of Revolution* peels away more than four decades of intervening history to give readers a vivid, firsthand look at the brief, doomed struggle of Hungarian freedom fighters against Russian oppressors. Written in 1956 in an Austrian refugee camp, where the author had fled to escape reprisals for his role in the short-lived rebellion, Lipták's memoir sketches the conflict between university students, factory workers, and Hungarian nationalists on one side and the hated Hungarian secret police and Russian army troops on the other. Lipták draws the reader hour-by-hour into events, relating verbatim dialogue still fresh in his mind. Strikes in nearby Poland sparked the formation of an independent union of university students in Hungary that October. Matters escalated as factory workers joined Hungarian students to express solidarity with Poland.

What began as a bid for greater freedom of speech and more participation in the national government quickly developed into insurrection and armed repression. Hungarian secret police and Russian troops moved together to suppress the students. Readers will bear witness as armed but untrained citizens pledge to follow the lead of any student wearing a nationalist tricolor armband--and they will recoil in horror as many of these revolutionaries fall in undeclared street battles. In a memoir that is both history and a saga of his coming of age, Lipták relates his transformation from carefree university student to impromptu revolutionary leader. His story unfolds with unsparing honesty as he lays bare his conflicts, faults, failures of judgment and courage, and struggles with the enemy and with himself. *A Testament of Revolution* is the story of one man and Every Man caught up in events beyond his control, as waves of individual integrity and patriotism foundered on the rocky shoals of oppression and international politics. The spirit of that time, the growing crescendo of boldness, the solidarity of struggle, the rapture of apparent triumph and the despair of defeat and flight are all brought movingly to life - *Michael T. Kaufman, NY Times*

Béla Lipták is a graduate of the Technical University of Budapest (1953-1956) and received a ME degree from Stevens Institute of Technology (1959) and a Masters degree from CCNY (1962). He has taught at Yale University (1975-1997). Mr. Lipták has published nearly 200 technical articles and some 20 technical books. **Available on**

www.americanhungarianfederation.org/publications.htm

