

Hungary's commitment to peace

Viktor Orbán's visit to the Vatican

by the editorial team of "Hungary Today"

(CH-S) The energy and commitment Viktor Orbán shows in working for his country could serve as a benchmark for our Swiss politicians. Despite Hungary's sometimes troubled history with the Soviet Union, the Prime Minister is doing everything in his power to reach a peaceful solution rather than continuing to pursue war.

One must take note of Hungary's enormous social and economic development in recent decades before making a rash judgement about the country's path. Instead of relying on ideology and dogmatism, the Hungarian government is allowing itself to maintain economic relations with a wide variety of countries, such as the USA, China and even Russia (oil), to ensure the welfare of its own population. "Hungary Today" reports on an interview with Viktor Orban during his visit to the Pope in Rome at the end of October.

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Prime Minister *Viktor Orbán* believes that, over time, almost day by day, "more and more people will join the camp of those opposed to war". The head of government made this statement on Monday [27 October] during his visit to the Vatican, speaking to the television station M1.

Orbán responded to the claim that few heads of state and government around the world are committed to peace by saying, "that is a deception," because the world does not consist only of the Western world, where few are committed to peace, but when you look at humanity as a whole, "the overwhelming majority is on the side of peace."

He cited the Arab countries and the Far East, led by China and India, as examples, and then noted that "the stronger half of the Western world," the United States, is also on the side of peace.

The head of government pointed out that in Central Europe, the peace-loving, war-critical Czechs "are now coming back", that there are war-critical governments in Slovakia and Hungary, and that "the tide is also turning in Poland, but it will take time before we can see more clearly".



Pope Leo XIV, Viktor Orbán and his wife Anikó Lévai. (Picture MTI/Vatikáni Média)

"I believe that in view of the increasing economic problems in Western Europe, more and more countries are realising that we simply do not have the money to finance this war", said the Prime Minister, referring to the war in Ukraine.

In connection with his conversation with Pope Leo XIV, Viktor Orbán explained that there is "a hidden network of opponents of war in the world" consisting of leaders who are critical of war. This network has "two focal points": a political one, centred on the American president, and a spiritual or intellectual one, from which "politicians fighting against the war repeatedly receive energy, motivation, commitment, blessings and encouragement". This is located in the Vatican, with the Holy Father himself.

The Prime Minister emphasised that when the head of the Catholic Church consults with one of the warring parties, this is not against peace, but rather against war.

At the peace summit in Budapest, Viktor Orbán said: The peace summit expresses an intention both negotiating parties have jointly expressed. "This means that what has been postponed is not cancelled," but no one knows when it will happen, as the delegations are constantly negotiating with each other. What is certain, however, is that it will take place in Budapest. He referred to the last similar major peace summit, at which peace was concluded in the Middle East; even before that, the parties concerned had negotiated for a long time and then an-

nounced two days earlier that a signing would take place.

In connection with last week's EU summit [23 October], at which 26 Member States adopted a unified approach to Ukraine's future in the European Union, the head of government stated that there were numerous countries that would never under any circumstances agree to a Member State – such as Hungary – being excluded from such a decision.

"And not because they like the Hungarians, but because they don't want to suffer this fate themselves; no one wants to solve a problem and break a country's resistance by simply excluding it from the decision, because then it could soon be anyone's turn," he added.

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