HUNGARIAN PROPAGANDA AGAINST UN REPORT
(To 2 September 1957)

The Communist regime in Hungary has launched a full-scale propaganda campaign against the five-member committee report of the UN on the Hungarian Revolution and against its proposed discussion at a special session. Below are summarized:

1. Counter-arguments raised against the UN report and against its discussion at a special session;

2. Propaganda methods applied so far to mitigate the effects of the report.

Hungarian Case Against Report

The whole case rests on the argument that this is Hungary's own affair and thus the UN has no competence to examine or discuss it at an ordinary or special session. Any kind of activity in this connection means unauthorized interference in Hungary's home affairs and offends the independence of the Hungarian nation. (Generally speaking this is the most frequently used argument both in official statements and at various protest meetings.)

The October/November events, the regime maintains, represented an organized, counter-revolutionary movement, directed from abroad, not a national and spontaneous uprising. Its aim was to overthrow the people's regime and to restore the old capitalist order. The Hungarian people have already proved that they fully supported the KADAR government and approved of its measures. (This argument is used chiefly at protest meetings.) To prove this counter-argument various newspaper articles tried to prove that different foreign organizations had a decisive role in provoking Hungarian events. (Characteristic examples are: a series of five articles published by "Nepszabadsag" and entitled "Imperialist Spies and Agents against the Hungarian People's Power"; and article in the August 15 issue of "Nepakarat" which chiefly blames RFE for events in Hungary.)
The UN report is dismissed as unreliable as it is based on "anonymous and unreliable" evidence. At the protest meetings the witnesses were declared traitors. Two articles by Pal HAJDU published in the July 16 and 17 issues of "Nepszabadsag" entitled "We Humbly Offer One or Two Witnesses" also supports this counter-argument. The parliamentary foreign affairs committee objects to the fact that the names of the witnesses were not mentioned and that the UN report did not take into consideration the official documents of the Hungarian Government.

A counter-argument frequently used (chiefly by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) is that Soviet intervention took place at the request of the Hungarian Government. The spokesman went so far as to claim that Soviet intervention was made in accordance with the spirit of the UN charter.

The report is described as being full of contradictions, distortions and falsifications. The Communists are "disclosing" these by picking out a few clauses and showing the contradictions contained in them with the help of alleged eye-witnesses who appear daily before the microphone or who write letters to newspaper editors. (The August 14 issue of "Magyarorszag", the Tancsics weekly, is characteristic of this kind of treatment. In one of its articles the writer picked out 17 statements from the UN report, added his own refutations and called upon his readers to put their own observations in writing.)

Communist propaganda did not only attack the UN report itself but also the members of the five-member committee, in particular Herr AMDERSEN, the Danish delegate.

Furthermore, the aim of the report and of discussing the Hungarian case is branded as an effort to divert the attention of world public opinion from much more important events, i.e., happenings in Algeria, Oman, Egypt, Cyprus and Syria. It is also alleged to be an attempt to disrupt the unity of the peace camp, to slander the USSR and to make people forget that the imperialists wanted to interfere in Hungary's affairs.

Communist propaganda claims that conditions in Hungary have already been stabilized. The discussion of the Hungarian case upsets this stability and paralyzes the possibility of peaceful development.

Propaganda Methods Aimed against UN Report

The official report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not yet published but already three statements have been released by the Ministry's spokesman.

The first statement was made on August 8, claiming that the US was trying to enforce the earliest possible hearing of the Hungarian case so that the Hungarian Government would be unable to prepare itself for the rejection of the slanders made by the UN committee and to refute them with documents. A further reason for this haste was, the statement continued, the increasing
stability in Hungary which was giving the Hungarian Government more chance to verify counter-revolutionary moves and to expose persons and organizations who prepared and organized them. These persons were "in the closest contact" with American spy organizations.

Official Statements Seek to Discredit Committee

According to the ministry's spokesman, the UN report did not try to give an objective picture of Hungarian events but merely aimed at supporting the claim of allegedly pre-arranged Soviet intervention. The UN report, according to the statement, grouped Hungarian events arbitrarily and chose its witnesses in the same manner. This is tantamount to illegal interference in Hungary's home affairs as the counter-revolution was an "attempted coup d'état directed from outside to overthrow the worker's power". At the request of the legitimate Hungarian Government, the government of the Soviet Union, fulfilling its obligations to proletarian internationalism, intervened in the events to break down the treacherous imperialistic attack.

The UN report states that between October 23 and November 4 lawful order was gradually restored, while, according to the regime's statement, during that period terror raged and street lynchings took place.

GYAROS's Press Conferences

Laszlo Gyaros, spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, repeated the same arguments in his press communiqué published on August 22. He grouped his counter-arguments around five points:

1) The UN's course of action means interference in Hungarian home affairs.
2) It violates the UN charter.
3) The Hungarian Government does not consent to any kind of investigation.
4) The Soviet Government's course of action was based on the UN charter.
5) The aim of the UN report and of the special session is to cover imperialist aggression.

On August 30 a press conference was held by Gyaros, in which, together with other questions of foreign policy, he discussed the UN report. He mentioned that the Hungarian delegation would be present at the 12th General Session. The composition of this delegation was being decided by the Presidential Council. He also mentioned that the Hungarian delegation to the UN would have a suspended status, as its credentials were neither accepted nor rejected.

* (On 13 February 1957 the UN Credentials Committee voted, by eight to one, that it would not come to any decision on the question of the credentials of the Hungarian delegation.)
According to GYAROS the lies of the UN report were increasingly being debunked in the eyes of the Hungarian people, therefore the imperialists were trying by every law-defying machination and slander campaign to prevent the bringing to light of facts which would be disagreeable to them. Among these were all those attempts aimed to attack the UN delegates of the "legitimate Hungarian Government"

Parliamentary Stratagem

Karoly KISS, president of the Hungarian Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, made a proposal at the joint meeting of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs, Legal and Judicial Committees held on September 2, according to which the Legal and Foreign Affairs Committees were to consult the Interparliamentary Union in the matter of the UN report on Hungary. At the September 12 session, the Hungarian delegation will inform the Interparliamentary Union, that in May 1957, the Hungarian parliament approved the appointment of the KADAR government and of this government's step in asking Soviet troops to intervene. Members of this delegation will be: Sandor RONAI, Speaker of the Hungarian parliament; Erik MOLNAR, academician, and Janos PETER, pastor of the Reformed Church and president of the Institute of Cultural Relations.

At the meeting, Sandor RONAI made a speech describing the task of the delegation under his direction which was "to present counter-revolutionary events in the light of the truth".

Canvassing in Middle and Far East

The Hungarian Government sent a delegation to different Asiatic and African governments to convince them of the correct attitude taken in October and November. Members of this committee were Karoly SZARKA, deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Janos PETER. According to reports, the delegation visited India, Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, Egypt and the Sudan ...

Hungarian papers published long articles on those items of foreign news which were favorable to the KADAR government. Thus they also published the statement made by Mr. BANDARANAIKE, Premier of Ceylon, according to which the UN should avoid any step in connection with Hungary. The papers further report that Mr. GUNEWATDENE, UN delegate of Ceylon and a member of the committee of five, was recalled by his government.
Protest Meetings, Telegrams

All over Hungary, Hungarian propaganda organized protest meetings against the UN report and the discussion of the Hungarian case. These were organized by the Party, social organizations and the so-called Peace Committee. The origin of these protest meetings can be traced to the extended meeting of the National Peace Council held on July 26. From this day on, protest meetings were held daily in factories and work shops. The Patriotic People's Front joined in the propaganda campaign in connection with the August 20 festivities.

From these protest meetings, telegrams are usually sent either to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or, as happened in several cases, directly to the UN secretariat, or to Dr. HAMMARSKJOLD himself. These telegrams generally contained one or more of the afore-mentioned counter-arguments. The Hungarian Academy of Science also sent a protest telegram directly to the UN. The National Theater added its protest and, according to its resolution, stated that outstanding artists were banned during the counter-revolution and programs of low quality were planned for the theaters.

The Church was also included in the protest-propaganda. The Universal Convention of the Reformed Church protested and the Bench of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church published a declaration according to which it expressed its concern about the UN report on the so-called Hungarian case and doubted whether it would serve the cause of international peace or the true interests of Hungary.

The Hungarian United Nations Association drafted a resolution in which it protested against the discussion of the Hungarian case. It wishes to express its protest at the general meeting of the international UN Association. Members of the delegation to be sent are: Erik MOLNÁR, Mrs. Aladar KOMJÁT, Editor-in-chief of the ideological "Tarsadalmi Szemle", and Endre ZADOR, secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The National Federation of Free Hungarian Trade Unions joined the protest march at its 11th plenary session. Its protest stated that the five-member committee showed no objectivity and therefore could not be the basis of unbiased discussion. It was a vulgar interference with Hungary's home affairs. The protest also maintained that the witnesses heard by the UN committee took an active part in the counter-revolution, that the discussion of the Hungarian case retarded consolidation and that it merely served to divert attention from Algeria, Oman and other parts of the world.

Of the various protest meetings held in factories it is worth mentioning that held by the workers of the CSEPEL Iron Works. They collected 50,000 protest subscriptions and handed them over to János HORVÁTH, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Protest meetings are being held all over the country and the daily papers usually report them on the front page.
Presentation of Counter-Witnesses

The Communist radio and press presents witnesses with their exact names and addresses to refute individual clauses in the report. Since August 27 Radio BUDAPEST has had a daily program in which witnesses have been made to appear before the microphone. In the introduction to each broadcast it is explained that, instead of the anonymous and false witnesses of the report, here actually eye witnesses are speaking. For example witnesses set out to prove that the report's description of the siege of the radio building was untrue. In the August 30 broadcast soldiers of the People's Army declared that Hungarian soldiers did not fight against Soviet troops. "Magyarorszag" launched a propaganda campaign against the report. In its August 14 issue it called upon its readers to make their observations and to refute the report with their own testimony. "Nepszabadsag" publishes letters to the editor almost daily denying the facts contained in the report.

Refutation of Individual Clauses in Report

Communist propaganda has not merely attacked the UN report in general but has picked out certain clauses and tried to refute them. This method has been employed by "Magyarorszag" and "Nepszabadsag". The August 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 issues of the latter gave a brief account of the UN report. Of its 4,317 sentences the Party daily quoted 109 in a very distorted form and simply left out the aggravating details in connection with the KADAR government.

The same method was employed by the Hungarian radio. For example in one of its broadcasts it joined issue with clause No. 88 of the report according to which the life of the Hungarian parliament expired on 17 May 1957. According to the UN report because of the modification of the constitution the life was extended for another two years. The radio commentator explained that the second part of this clause was false: since in special circumstances the life of parliament can be extended for an unlimited period, therefore there was no need to modify the constitution.

Character Assassination of UN Committee Members

Communist propaganda has not only attacked the report itself but also those who prepared it, particularly as has been said, Herr ANDERSEN. At the beginning he was merely made fun of as the descendant of the great story-teller whose inherited rich imagination was needed to invent the lies contained in the report. A few days later, however, the Communists found out that ANDERSEN was Denmark's Minister of Defence during the German occupation. The August 28 broadcast of Radio BUDAPEST called him a specialist in treason and maintained that the UN report was compiled by expert traitors. ANDERSEN has, of course, been branded as a Fascist and Nazi collaborator. "Nepszabadsag"
published an open letter by Istvan KENDE addressed to Dr. HAMMARSKJÖLD in which he claimed that ANDERSEN was an utter traitor, in spiritual relationship with the Hungarian traitors. Jozsef NADAS demanded in the columns of "Magyarorszag", that another five-member committee should be appointed to examine ANDERSEN's role during the German occupation and to deal with the Suez, Algerian and Cyprus problems.

Communist propaganda also accused the five-member committee of spying activity on the grounds that 100 pages of the report analyzed Soviet troop movements in Hungary.

**Attack Against US**

Frequently attacks against the UN report are in fact directed against the US. The August 22 statement of the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs contained the passage: "We doubt that the majority of UN member States, if aware of the facts, would tolerate the UN organization to be used for such purposes by the US. The imperialists insist on the discussion of the Hungarian case to secure UN proof that they did not interfere with Hungary's home affairs." The August 21 broadcast of Radio BUDAPEST tried to prove that outside the walls of the UN, American politicians did not deny the fact that their final aims were to change conditions in Hungary and to restore capitalism.

Especially sharp attacks are aimed at Mr. Cabot LODGE, head of the American delegation to the UN. According to a radio commentary of August 28, Cabot LODGE was the chief initiator of the commission of the five-member committee and participated directly in the formulation of the report. Cabot LODGE was several times in contact, it is said, with Cardinal MINDSZENTY and made certain modifications in the report as a result of these contacts.

**Foreigners Used to Support Regime's Case**

Communist propaganda is using everything and everybody. Whenever they can, regime spokesmen try to get foreign delegations to speak up for them.

A delegation of Scottish miners stayed in Hungary for a few days. The Party press published in details the views and observations of this delegation. They tried to prove through the Scottish miners that there was no national uprising in Hungary but a counter-revolution. The press also reported the opinion of a British Member of Parliament, according to whom a counter-revolution took place in Hungary.

Hungarian papers published in details the "Pravda" editorial which condemns the part of the UN played in the Hungarian case. The standpoints of "Borba" was also quoted several times. "Nepszabadsag" published quotations from the "Tribune des Nations" which sharply condemns the part played by Cabot LODGE. It was Cabot LODGE, it is said, who prevented HAMMARSKJÖLD from coming to BUDAPEST since, had HAMMARSKJÖLD done so, his report would have to be compared with that of the five-member committee.
Hungarian propaganda, therefore, uses every means to refute the statements made in the UN report and to repudiate the work of the five member committee. It can be supposed that the main aim of this propaganda is to try to confuse at least some Hungarians and the Communists are counting on the fact that the UN will be unable to pass a resolution strong enough to satisfy the mass of the Hungarian people. If this happens, they will use it as a great success for their propaganda. This was apparent from KADAR's speech delivered on September 1, in TATABANYA. KADAR said that the UN was unable to do anything because if it had been able to act it would have done so already in December 1956. "They will debate a little," said KADAR, "and after the debate the people's democracy will become stronger."
RFE NEW YORK, SEPT. 13 - REE SPECIAL, USIS - REPORTS FRIDAY FROM VIENNA: REPORTS RECEIVED VIA VIENNA FROM BUDAPEST TODAY INDICATED HUNGARIAN WORKERS HAVE TELEPHONED WESTERN LEGATIONS, STATING THEIR SIGNATURES ON "PROTESTS" AGAINST THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON HUNGARY WERE OBTAINED UNDER DURESS.

SUCH CALLS HAVE BEEN MADE FROM THE LANG MACHINE FACTORY AND THE CSEPEL STEEL PLANT, AMONG OTHERS. WORKERS OF THESE BUDAPEST INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS, INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS, IN MAKING THE CALLS, REQUESTED THE WESTERN LEGATIONS TO FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO THE CURRENT UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON HUNGARY.

ONE OF THESE REQUESTS FROM THE CSEPEL STEEL PLANT - AN IMPORTANT FREEDOM UPRISING CENTER LAST FALL - REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT THIS FACTORY, FORMERLY KNOWN AS "RED CSEPEL," NOW IS CALLED "AS RED AS GRASS."

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A-11 RFE SPECIAL UNINATIONS, N.Y., SEPT. 26-7 A FURTHER
COLLECTION OF ALLEGED HUNGARIAN PROTESTS AGAINST U.N.
CONSIDERATION OF THE HUNGARIAN QUESTION WAS RELEASED WEDNESDAY
BY THE BUDAPEST DELEGATION.

THE DELEGATION SAID THAT THE PROTESTS "SIGNED BY HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS OF HUNGARIAN WORKING PEOPLE, WORKERS, PEASANTS,
OFFICE WORKERS, ARTISTS, PROFESSORS, STUDENTS, ETC. REFLECT
THE UNANIMOUS DEMAND OF ALL SECTIONS OF SOCIETY."

ACCORDING TO THE BUDAPEST REGIME DELEGATION RELEASE THE
PROTESTS, WHICH WERE FORWARD TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL
WEDNESDAY, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

"OVER 6500 SIGNATURES OF WORKERS IN THE TATABANYA COLLIERIES,
1400 SIGNATURES OF THE WORKERS IN THE TATABANYA CEMENT AND
LIME WORKS, 700 MEMBERS OF THE TATABANYA COUNTY HOSPITAL
STAFF.

"MORE THAN 1900 SIGNATURES FROM THE ZALAEGERSZEG READY MADE
CLOTHING FACTORY, OVER 1300 FROM THE SALGOTARJAN IRON FOUNDRY
AND STOVE PLANT, 3600 FROM THE GANZ WAGON AND MACHINE WORKS,
OVER 9700 FROM THE ARMY TRAINING CAMP AT KESZTHELY.

"FURTHER, THE FOLLOWING ARE INCLUDED FROM THE PROVINCES:
3000 SIGNATURES FROM MONOK, OVER 3000 FROM BÉLAPÁTFALVA,
2500 FROM KISUJJSZALLAS, AND ABOUT 7000 FROM COUNTY CSONGRAD."

THE BUDAPEST DELEGATION SUBMITTED AN EARLIER FILE OF
"PROTESTS" IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CLOSING OF THE ELEVENTH
SESSION DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF HUNGARY.
United Nations, Jan. 11--(UP)--Hungary tonight formally rejected establishment of a five-nation investigating committee by the United Nations and demanded that the Hungarian question be stricken from the general assembly's agenda.

Hungary, boycotting the assembly's debate, was not present yesterday when the 60-nation world parliament voted 59-8 with 10 abstentions to create an investigating committee to work in Hungary and elsewhere and asked Russia and the puppet Hungarian government to admit it to the revolt-torn country.

The Hungarian permanent mission protested the action in a note today to Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, incorporating a statement issued by the government in Budapest.

It said the Hungarian regime was dismayed and most strongly protests a 24-nation resolution put before the general assembly by the United States of America to create the committee.

The resolution, the note said, represents an unprecedented gross interference and for the support of which the United States has, it appears, succeeded in winning other countries influenced by the propaganda it has been conducting.

The Hungarian government once more stated that no committee of any kind has the right to conduct investigations into the Hungarian question by collecting testimony from unauthorized and biased persons and to establish observation in Hungary in order to obtain information, the message said.

The message demanded that discussion of the Hungarian question, which violates the country's sovereignty, be deleted from the assembly's agenda.
the member states of the five-power committee will be selected by the governments of Australia, Denmark, Canada, Tunisia, and Uruguay. It is not expected to be ready to hold an organizational meeting until sometime next week.

The Hungarian government, in the note said, appeals to all member states of the U.N. that, in the interest of maintaining the most important principle of the U.N. Charter, the independence and equality of states, they should avert any attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Hungary by methods which are identical to those employed by professional subversives and intelligence agencies, and in this manner represent an abuse of the prestige of the U.N.

It calls upon the member states to do their utmost to prevent such draft resolutions being passed by the General Assembly of the U.N.

The Hungarian government considers it highly regrettable that certain Western powers, which have continuously given active support to Hungarian counter-revolutionary forces at home and abroad, cause serious harm through the irresponsible incitation of radio Free Europe and the Voice of America, infringing the most elementary rules of international law...