THE HUNGARIAN QUESTION BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS

October 28 - December 15, 1956

Summary

I. Security Council, Emergency Session

At the request of the United States, Britain and France, the Security Council placed the Hungarian question on its agenda at an emergency session Oct. 28. The Budapest Government of Imre Nagy, which had just come to power, protested against this action, declaring that the situation "fell exclusively within domestic jurisdiction".

On Nov. 1, however, the Nagy Government asked for help "in defending the country's neutrality", and the next day it asked the Council to "call for immediate negotiations".

At 5:30 A.M. Sunday, Nov. 4, a United States resolution calling on the Soviet Union to end its intervention was killed by a Soviet veto. At the request of the United States, the Council then called an emergency session of the Assembly to meet that same afternoon.

II. General Assembly

Ten resolutions on the Hungarian question have been adopted by the Assembly, either during the emergency session or during the regular 1956 session, which began Nov. 12.

Those resolutions, with the dates of their adoption, and with the sponsors in parenthesis, are as follows:

1. Emergency Session

Nov. 4 (United States).

The motion called on the Soviet Union to stop its armed attack on the people of Hungary, and to withdraw all its forces without delay from Hungarian territory.

In addition, the resolution called upon the Soviet Union and Hungary to permit observers designated by the Secretary General to enter Hungary, to travel freely in the country, and to report their findings.

Also, it called upon all members of the United Nations to cooperate in making available food, medicine and other supplies to the Hungarian people, and asked the Secretary General to report the needs to the Assembly as soon as possible.

Nov. 9 (Cuba, Ireland, Italy, Pakistan and Peru).

This repeated the request for the withdrawal of Soviet forces "without any further delay".

It also declared that free elections, "under United Nations auspices," should be held in Hungary as soon as "law and order" had been restored. It asked the Secretary General to report to the Assembly as soon as possible on both compliance and relief needs.

Nov. 9 (United States).

This authorized an emergency program for Hungarian refugees, and all members of the United Nations were requested to make special contributions. The Secretary General was requested to draw up the program in consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, other international agencies, and "interested" Governments.

Hungary and the Soviet Union were requested to permit distribution of relief supplies, and the Soviet Union was asked to stop action against Hungarians in violation of international law, justice and morality.
Nov. 9 (Austria).

All members were asked to participate in providing relief supplies "to the greatest extent possible".

Nov. 10 (United States).

This transferred "the situation in Hungary" to the regular session of the Assembly, opening two days later.

2. Regular Session

Nov. 21 (Cuba)

This repeated the requests in the resolutions of Nov. 4 and Nov. 9 for the "prompt" withdrawal of Soviet forces and the dispatch of observers to Hungary by the Secretary General. It urged the Soviet Union and Hungarian authorities to "take immediate steps" to stop the deportation of Hungarians and to permit those who had been deported to return "promptly".

Nov. 21 (Ceylon, India and Indonesia).

The resolution declared that while some United Nations members affirmed that there had been deportations, others had denied this "categorically." It therefore urged Hungary, "without prejudice to its sovereignty ", to permit the Secretary General to send observers, and requested him to report to the Assembly "without delay".
Nov. 21 (United States, Argentina, Belgium and Denmark).

This requested Governments and non-governmental organizations to make contributions to the Secretary General, the High Commissioner for Refugees, or other appropriate agencies for the care and resettlement of refugees. It authorized an immediate appeal to meet "the minimum present needs".

Dec. 4 (United States, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Cuba, Denmark, El Salvador, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and Thailand).

Recalling previous resolutions this noted "with deep concern" that the Soviet Union had failed to comply with requests that it desist from its intervention in the internal affairs of Hungary, cease its deportations of Hungarian citizens and return promptly to their homes those it had already deported, withdraw its armed forces from Hungary and cease its repression of the Hungarian people.

The resolution again called upon the Soviet Union to comply with these requests, and fixed Dec. 7 as a deadline for the Soviet Union and the "Hungarian authorities" to consent to receive United Nations observers.

It authorized the Secretary General to send observers to "other countries as appropriate"—in other words, to Austria or to any of Hungary’s Communist neighbors who would receive them.

Dec. 12 (United States and nineteen other countries).

This recalled previous resolutions, and said that the Assembly "condemns the violation of the (United Nations) Charter by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in depriving Hungary of its liberty and independence and the Hungarian people of the exercise of their
fundamental rights'.

It also called on the Soviet Union to make "immediate arrangements" for the withdrawal of its forces under United Nations supervision, and to permit the re-establishment of Hungary's independence.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISIONS ON THE HUNGARIAN SITUATION

Resolution Adopted November 21 on Basis of Proposal by Cuba
A/Res/407

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1004 (ES-II) of 4 November 1956 and 1005 (ES-II), 1006 (ES-II) and 1007 (ES-II) of 9 November 1956 adopted at the second emergency special session,

Noting that the Secretary-General has been requested to report to the General Assembly on compliance with resolutions 1004 (ES-II) and 1005 (ES-II),

Having received information that the Soviet army of occupation in Hungary is forcibly deporting Hungarian men, women and children from their homes to places outside Hungary,

Recalling the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principle embodied in Article 2, paragraph 4, the obligations assumed by all Member States under Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter, the principles of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in particular article II (c) and (e), to which Hungary and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are parties, and the Treaty of Peace with Hungary, in particular the provisions of article 2,

1. Considers that the information received adds urgency to the necessity of prompt compliance with resolutions 1004 (ES-II) and 1005 (ES-II) calling for the prompt withdrawal of Soviet forces from Hungary and for the dispatch of observers to Hungary by the Secretary-General;

2. Urges the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Hungarian authorities to take immediate steps to cease the deportation of Hungarian citizens and to return promptly to their homes those who have been deported from Hungarian territory;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed as to compliance with this as well as the above-mentioned resolutions, so that the Assembly may be in a position to consider such further action as it may deem necessary.

Resolution Adopted November 21
on Basis of Proposal by Ceylon,
India, Indonesia
A/Res/406

The General Assembly,

Noting that certain Member States have affirmed that Hungarian nationals have been forcibly deported from their country,

Noting further that certain other Member States have categorically affirmed that no such deportations have taken place,

Recalling paragraph 5 of its resolution 1004 (ES-11) of 4 November 1956, in which the Government of Hungary is asked to permit observers designated by the Secretary-General to enter the territory of Hungary, to travel freely therein, and to report their findings to the Secretary-General,

Noting that the Secretary-General is pursuing his efforts in this regard with the Hungarian Government,
Noting further that the Secretary-General has urged Hungary as a Member of the United Nations to cooperate with the great majority in the clarification of the situation,

1. Urges Hungary to accede to the request made by the Secretary-General without prejudice to its sovereignty;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly without delay.

Resolution Adopted November 21
on Basis of Proposal by Argentina, Belgium, Denmark, United States
A/Res/409

The General Assembly,

Noting the grave situation described in the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Secretary-General in document A/3371 and Corr. 1 and Add. 1,

Considering that the flow of refugees from Hungary continues at a high rate,

Recognizing the urgent need of these tens of thousands of refugees for care and resettlement,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the action taken by the Secretary-
General to determine and help to meet the need of the Hungarian refugees, and by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to assist those refugees and to bring about coordinated action on their behalf by Governments, inter-governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations;

2. Requests the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Refugees to continue their efforts;

3. Urges Governments and non-governmental organizations to make contributions to the Secretary-General, to the High Commissioner for Refugees or to other appropriate agencies for the care and resettlement of Hungarian refugees, and to coordinate their aid programmes in consultation with the Office of the High Commissioner;

4. Requests the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Refugees to make an immediate appeal to both Governments and non-governmental organizations to meet the minimum present needs as estimated in the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees to the Secretary-General and authorizes them to make subsequent appeals on the basis of plans and estimates made by the High Commissioner with the concurrence of his Executive Committee.

Resolution Adopted December 4
on Proposal of Fourteen Assembly
Members
A/Res/413

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1004 (ES-III) of 4 November 1956, 1005 (ES-III), 1006 (ES-III) and 1007 (ES-III) of 9 November 1956, and A/RES/407 and A/RES/408
of 21 November 1956 relating to the tragic events in Hungary,

Having received and noted the report of the Secretary-General that United Nations observers have not been permitted to enter Hungary,

Noting with deep concern that the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has failed to comply with the provisions of the United Nations resolutions calling upon it to desist from its intervention in the internal affairs of Hungary, to cease its deportations of Hungarian citizens and to return promptly to their homes those it has already deported, to withdraw its armed forces from Hungary and to cease its repression of the Hungarian people,

1. Reiterates its call upon the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Hungarian authorities to comply with the above resolutions and to permit United Nations observers to enter the territory of Hungary, to travel freely therein and to report their findings to the Secretary-General;

2. Requests the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Hungarian authorities to communicate to the Secretary-General, not later than 7 December 1956, their consent to receive United Nations observers;

3. Recommends that in the meantime the Secretary-General arrange for the immediate dispatch to Hungary, and other countries as appropriate of observers named by him pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 1004 (ES-II);

4. Requests the Governments of all Member States to co-operate with the representatives named by the Secretary-General by extending such assistance and providing such facilities as may be necessary for the effective discharge of their responsibilities.
Resolution Adopted December 12
on Basis of Proposal by Twenty
Assembly Members
A/Res/424

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned over the tragic events in Hungary,

Recalling those provisions of its resolutions 1004 (ES-II) of 4 November 1956, 1005 (ES-II) of 9 November 1956, A/RES/407 of 21 November 1956 and A/RES/413 of 4 December 1956, calling upon the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to desist from its intervention in the internal affairs of Hungary, to withdraw its forces from Hungary and to cease its repression of the Hungarian people,

Recalling also those provisions of its resolutions 1004 (ES-II) and A/RES/407, calling for permission for United Nations observers to enter the territory of Hungary, to travel freely therein and to report their findings to the Secretary-General,

Having received the report of the Secretary-General of 30 November 1956 (A/3403), stating that no information is available to the Secretary-General concerning steps taken in order to establish compliance with the decisions of the General Assembly which refer to a withdrawal of troops or related political matters, and the note of the Secretary-General of 7 December 1956 (A/3435),

Noting with grave concern that there has not been a reply to the latest appeal of the General Assembly for the admission of United Nations observers to Hungary, as contained in its resolution A/RES/413,
Considering that recent events have clearly demonstrated the will of the Hungarian people to recover their liberty and independence,

Noting the overwhelming demand of the Hungarian people for the cessation of intervention of foreign armed forces and the withdrawal of foreign troops,

1. Declares that, by using its armed forces against the Hungarian people, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is violating the political independence of Hungary;

2. Condemns the violation of the Charter by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in depriving Hungary of its liberty and independence and the Hungarian people of the exercise of their fundamental rights;

3. Reiterates its call upon the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to desist forthwith from any form of intervention in the internal affairs of Hungary;

4. Calls upon the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to make immediate arrangements for the withdrawal, under United Nations observation, of its armed forces from Hungary and to permit the re-establishment of the political independence of Hungary;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to take any initiative that he deems helpful in relation to the Hungarian problem, in conformity with the principles of the Charter and the resolutions of the General Assembly.