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THE UN ACTIONS ON HUNGARY
In the UN Security Council, upon reports of Soviet attacks against Budapest and other cities, the US introduces resolution calling on the Soviet Union to withdraw all its forces. Resolution vetoed by the Soviet Union, 9 vote for, Yugoslavia abstains. The Council votes (10 for, the Soviet Union against) to call emergency meeting of the General Assembly. The international body adopts the US resolution (noting "the intervention of Soviet military forces," and requesting the Secretary General "to investigate this situation caused by foreign intervention in Hungary" and "to suggest methods to bring to an end the existing situation") by 50 votes. The Soviet bloc votes against the resolution, 15 nations abstain, three nations are absent.

UN Secretary General asks the Hungarian Government whether it will permit UN observers to enter Hungary. He re-asks the question on Nov 10.

UN General Assembly approves 3 resolutions introduced by the US, Cuba and Austria calling upon the Soviet Union and Hungary to desist from interference with the movement of Red Cross relief supplies to the Hungarian population, and appealing to all nations to offer relief under the supervision of the UN. The General Assembly also adopts a resolution condemning the Soviet military intervention in Hungary as an "intolerable attempt to deny the Hungarian people... freedom and independence," and calling for withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary and the organization of free elections under UN auspices. The Soviet bloc, Yugoslavia and India vote against the resolution.

UN Secretary General announces at annual session of the General Assembly that he has asked 2 UN officials (1 from Norway, 1 from Colombia) to head two groups to observe and investigate the situation in Hungary.
1956 Nov 19  In the General Assembly, India, Ceylon and Indonesia introduce resolution urging the Budapest Government to admit UN observers. Cuba submits a resolution accusing the Soviet Union of genocide in Hungary and demanding that deportation of Hungarians to the Soviet Union cease, the deportees be returned, and that Soviet troops leave Hungary.

Nov 21  Resolutions on the sending of observers to Hungary, and calling upon the Soviet Union and Hungary to cease deportation of Hungarians, are adopted by the UN (57 to 9; and 55 to 10). Poland and Yugoslavia abstain in the first vote, and oppose the second resolution.

Dec 3  Budapest Government declares Hungarians had been deported to the Soviet Union "in the first days of chaos after Nov 3," but "all have been returned."

Dec 4  During UN debate on Hungary, the Yugoslav delegate declares that "during his stay in the Yugoslav Embassy, and in the course of negotiations carried out with the Hungarian Government, Imre Nagy refused to accept any suggestion to go to Romania." The Hungarian delegate announces his readiness to discuss the date and arrangements for a visit to Budapest by UN Secretary General.

Dec 5  UN General Assembly adopts a resolution calling upon the Soviet Government and Hungarian "authorities" to communicate to the UN, not later than Dec 7, their consent to receive UN observers in Hungary. Radio Budapest declares that UN Secretary General's visit to Hungary will be "unsuitable" at the time suggested by him, but offers no alternative date.
Dec 12 UN General Assembly adopts resolution on Hungary:
"Condemns the violation of the Charter by the Soviet Government in depriving Hungary of its liberty and independence. Reiterates its call upon the Soviet Government to desist forthwith from any form of intervention in the internal affairs of Hungary... (and) to make immediate arrangements for the withdrawal, under UN observation, of its armed forces from Hungary."

55 nations vote for, 8 against, 15 abstain. The NYT wrote on Dec 14: This was "the strongest official condemnation any member of the UN has as such ever received."

1957 Jan 4 Four-man UN team arrives in Budapest to discuss with Hungarian Government officials problems of relief and future economic needs of the Hungarian people.

Jan 7 UN Secretary General (in a report to the General Assembly) suggests the establishment of an ad hoc committee on Hungary, directly responsible to the UN General Assembly.

Jan 10 UN General Assembly adopts (by a vote of 59 to 8 with 10 abstentions, including India and Yugoslavia) a US resolution establishing a 5-nation committee to observe the situation in Hungary. The committee has the right to take testimony from Hungarian refugees. On the same day, the Kadar government declares in a radio broadcast that it will not permit a UN commission to collect information in Hungary for the UN.

Jan 17: UN commission on Hungary begins its activities. Alving Anderson of Denmark is chairman; Keith C.O. Shann of Australia is rapporteur.

Feb 12 The UN Credentials Committee (by votes 8 to 1) withholds approval of the credentials of the Kadar government delegates in the UN. The Committee's decision is upheld by the UN General Assembly on February 21.
Budapest Government announces that it would welcome a visit by the UN Secretary General. The invitation is repeated by Budapest radio on Apr 26.

Jun 20

UN "Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary" presents report of its findings to the UN General Assembly. The report represents the unanimous opinion of the Committee, which is composed of the representatives of Australia, Ceylon, Denmark, Tunisia and Uruguay. The 150,000-word report is based on a thorough sifting, in New York, Geneva, Rome, Vienna and London of all the available documentary and other evidence. The Committee heard and cross-examined 111 witnesses who between them represented a complete cross-section of all who took part, either actively or passively, in the revolution. The essence of the Committee's conclusions is as follows:

(i) What took place in Hungary was a spontaneous national uprising... (ii)...It is untrue that the uprising was fomented by reactionary circles in Hungary or that it drew strength from 'Imperialist' circles in the West... (vi) Mr. Nagy has established that he did not issue any invitation to the Soviet authorities to intervene and the Committee has no evidence...as to whether such an invitation was issued at all... (xii) In an attempt to break the revolution, numbers of Hungarians, including some women, were deported to the Soviet Union... (xiii) 190,000 Hungarians fled the country... (xiii) Consideration of the Hungarian question by the United Nations was legally proper (cf. Par 7, Art. 2 of UN Charter)... A massive armed intervention by one Power on the territory of another with the avowed intention of interfering in its internal affairs must, by the Soviet Union's own definition of aggression, be a matter of international concern."
Sept 10 - 14  UN General Assembly meets in special session to consider the report of the "Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary". The Assembly (by 60 votes to 10, with 10 abstentions) adopts a resolution – introduced on September 9 by 37 countries – condemning the Soviet Union for "the continued defiance of the resolutions of the General Assembly," and for its actions in Hungary as reported by the UN Special Committee. The resolution appoints Prince Wan Waithayakon of Thailand as special General Assembly representative to try to obtain compliance with the Assembly's resolutions on Hungary adopted in 1956.

Oct 14  Hungarian UN spokesmen said that Prince Wan had been refused entry by the Hungarian government. (Wan is ex-UN General Assembly President).

Dec 4  Prince Wan declared that his mission to find out what is going on inside Hungary has ended in failure. His efforts reached a dead end when Hungary's Foreign Minister Imre Horvath turned down his request to discuss the problem. The UN Credentials Committee, which has held up action on the seating issue (see Feb. 12) until Prince Wan completed his mission, is expected to submit a report within a few days.