

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE PROBLEM OF HUNGARY

Document No. 11

CONFIDENTIAL

Areas in which further information is needed

Submitted by the Rapporteur

Attached is a list of matters on which the Special Committee on Hungary is in need of additional or more precise information for the compilation of its report.

Many aspects of the events in Hungary have been the subject of fairly concentrated questioning, so that for these aspects the Committee is already substantially in possession of sufficient information for the report. In accordance with the Assembly resolution, the report will need to be based on the information placed at the disposal of the Committee and on the evidence received in testimony. There are some aspects of the events in Hungary in respect of which the Committee will need to rely almost exclusively on evidence, and certain of these aspects have not been adequately covered by witnesses. The purpose of this paper is therefore to draw attention of members of the Committee to those fields on which questions might most helpfully concentrate in order to complete the picture that we need to perform the task set by the General Assembly.

1. Regarding the events of October 23 - 25 in Budapest, much information is now available concerning the general course of events.

2. Much less information has been forthcoming regarding events in the provinces, especially in Győr and Magyaróvár, from October 23 - 28.

3. We still have little information in the evidence about economic causes of discontent among the workers and peasants.

4. It would seem that there will always be need for additional information about the precise role of Premiers Nagy and Kádár in the events. The Committee is in need of further confirmatory evidence from witnesses who have had personal contacts with the Heads of the Government at critical phases of the rising. This information needs to be precise and specific; general accounts have been provided by earlier witnesses.



5. A very important element is the creation of Workers' Councils. This aspect of the uprising does not seem to have been fully covered in supplied reports, though much information is available through broadcasts of their demands. The Committee is in need of evidence from witnesses with special knowledge of these Workers' Councils - the exact manner in which these Councils were composed; where their meetings were held; how they prepared the programmes; etc. These are important problems.

6. Information is needed regarding the formation of the Revolutionary Parliament in Budapest in November.

7. Information about the organisation of political parties during November 1 - 4 is still slender, and questions might helpfully concentrate on this aspect. Most needed is information about actual meetings; how contacts were re-established, etc. We have little detailed information about the foundation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party.

8. Evidence describing the disintegration of the Communist Party on October 23 - 25 would be useful. What happened to party leaders?

9. Data regarding any arrangements or understandings concerning the presence of Soviet forces in Hungary and conditions of their use within Hungary - Channels used between Hungarian authorities and Soviet forces Command - Cases where Soviet forces were used to assist Hungarian authorities in police and other duties

- a. before the events of 23 October;
- b. between 23 October and 4 November;
- c. since 4 November.

10. Data concerning any attempts by Hungarian Governments to obtain from the Soviet Union implementation of provisions of Peace Treaty relating to withdrawal of Soviet troops.

11. Data on any written or verbal arrangements concerning the implementation of the Warsaw Pact; in particular as to the conditions and distribution or use of armed forces on the territory of members of the Alliance.

12. Data on Soviet forces brought into Hungary between 23 October and 4 November.



13. Data on negotiations for the withdrawal of Soviet forces conducted by the Nagy Government and by the Kadar Government.

14. It would seem that the Committee has not yet received sufficient information regarding the situation of the churches in Hungary before and after 4 November, and the role of church leaders, especially Cardinal Mindszenty. Possibly a witness having had personal connections with the Catholic hierarchy or the Protestant churches might throw some light on this question which is becoming a major element in the recent evolution of Hungarian governmental views.

15. We shall need additional witnesses with personal knowledge on the problem of deportations from Hungary, and the detainment of Hungarians by Soviet authorities.

16. Any information about Szolnok and Szolnok Radio on 4 November.

17. Actual details of the fighting from 4 November onwards, especially on specific points such as:

- a. Did the Soviet troops cross the bridge at Komarom from Czechoslovakia on 4 November?
- b. Was aerial bombardment or machine-gun strafing used against Dunapentele on 7 November? Who fought there: Honved, Police, Workers? Was there a leader accepted by all?

18. For the period beyond 15 November the Committee is primarily dependent on sources other than testimony before the Committee. One or two witnesses who have left Hungary recently would be helpful in order to supply personal background.