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"Repression"*

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What Would Happen (Editorial)

The Report of the U.N. Committee about its investigation of subjugation of Hungary by Soviet troops is a shocking document. It has again reminded the men with common sense on the uprising of the Hungarian people against the Communist regime, on the short period of its freedom and hope and on the terrible oppression by foreign armies. Everybody who might have forgotten the awful and desperate days of last November when we were the breathless witnesses of one of the worst tragedies in Europe, must be shaken up again by this Report. This tragedy of our age which is so full with horrors can perhaps be compared only with the destruction of the Polish resistance movement by the German army in summer 1944, which was not only tolerated but even knowingly supported by the Soviets. Even when forgetful people again and again expect something from the "co-existence" phrases announced by Moscow according to their need or even when the World Youth Festival in the capital of the oppressors could allure tens of thousands, the picture of the Hungarian youth which was massacred by the Russian troops in Budapest will remain as an agonizing reproach and as a permanent warning for nearly all people and for all nations of the free world.

Some Europeans look reproachful at America when they look back on November 1956. America, the only big power which could raise that time his voice in the U.N. and which could save Hungary which just became free from the worst, from a military invasion, remained in the decisive moment silent. Was it necessary that it so happened? This question is asked not only in Europe; there is a search of conscience going on in America and the reason for it is that those events, also in America, have affected, shaken up and moved the people.

Senator Estes Kefauver in the monthly "Western World" published in Brussels, reminds on the courageous and clear report which was published by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives about the Soviet intervention in Hungary. Appreciating the difficulties which existed at that time, Senator Kefauver describes the vacillation and inactivity of President Eisenhower and of his Secretary of State. The American Congressmen called those fateful days as "the lost opportunity of our generation." Senator Kefauver now in his article entitled "When the next Soviet satellite revolts" raises the question what would happen if in one of the Soviet satellite countries another uprising against Moscow should occur. This question refers not only to the past events but to the future, also because the failure of the free world to answer the call for help of the Hungarian people can principally be attributed to the fact that the free world was not prepared for an event of such a range and importance. There were no plans for a joint action and no resoluteness.



The excuse that the events in Hungary came as a surprise cannot be accepted in this connection because the events in East Berlin on the 17 June 1953 and the Poznan events showed clearly the coming possibilities. Anyway such an excuse today and tomorrow would not be acceptable if the satellite countries came to another revolution.

Therefore Senator Kefauver asks that the NATO nations should negotiate a common plan of concerted action when the next satellite country revolts. Once the NATO has accepted such a common policy, it should let the USSR and the world know that the USSR cannot expect to commit rape a second time with impunity.

Senator Kefauver in his article submits a program consisting of six points which would help the Western Powers to agree on a common policy and thus make a repetition of the Hungarian debacle impossible.