

*Press Conference February 6, 1958.*

Mr. MEZERIK (International Review Service): May I add one question of my own, not of the New York Times, for which I do not speak. There was an entire absence in your speech in Athens of the subject of Hungary, in which, as I remember it, when it unfolded, private diplomacy was attempted. No informed public opinion, or even misinformed public opinion, was permitted to exist, as I remember it, in Hungary at the time from the press. Do you have a comment on the role of private diplomacy where it runs up against an issue such as Hungary?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I think it had a role to play also in that case. It was just part of the picture. You see, I am really for private diplomacy combined with public diplomacy. I think the most important thing that happened at the United Nations level in that special case was the debate in the General Assembly and its decisions. Private diplomacy had a much more modest role in that case. I did what I could, and it did not yield the results I was hoping for. That can also happen in public diplomacy. It certainly often happens in private diplomacy.

Mr. HALASZ (Radio Free Europe): You mentioned a few minutes ago that your private diplomacy in the case of Hungary did not yield the results you hoped for. I wonder if you are still continuing private diplomacy on the problem or if your answer was given in an historical sense. In that case, could you possibly reveal what were the results you hoped for and were not able to achieve?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Private diplomacy is a story without an end in a case like this one. It is a matter of course that as long as there is anything to be done -- and from the United Nations point of view there is most definitely something to be done -- I must watch my possibilities to do something that helps in the right direction. In that sense, of course, what you refer to is in no way concluded.

If I spoke in the past tense, it was because I concentrated my own attention on the situation, let us say, from the fall of 1956 to the fall of 1957. But that does not exclude further efforts, and should, of course, not exclude them.