

Annex V.

Extract from Official United States
and Soviet statements relating
to the situation in Eastern Europe in general,
and to Hungary in particular. -

A. President Eisenhower's letter replying
to a letter December 10th from the Soviet Premier
Marshal Nikolai A. Bulganin, made public in Washington.

" The second situation to which I refer is that of the countries of Eastern Europe. The heads of our two Governments, together with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, agreed in 1945 that the peoples of these countries should have the right to choose the form of government under which they would live, and that our three countries had a responsibility in this respect. The three of us agreed to foster the conditions under which these peoples could exercise their right of free choice.

That agreement has not as yet been fulfilled.

I know that your Government is reluctant to discuss these matters or to treat them as a matter of international concern. But the heads of governments did agree at Yalta in 1945 that these matters were of international concern and we specifically agreed that there could appropriately be international consultation with reference to them.

This was another matter taken up at our meeting in Geneva in 1955. You then took the position that there were no grounds for discussing this question at our conference and that it would involve interference in the internal affairs of the Eastern European states.

But have not subsequent developments shown that I was justified in my appeal to you for consideration of these matters? Surely the Hungarian developments and the virtually unanimous action of the United Nations General Assembly in relation thereto show that conditions in Eastern Europe are regarded throughout the world as much more than a matter of purely domestic scope.

I propose that we should now discuss this matter. There is an intrinsic need of this in the interest of peace and justice, which seems to me compelling.

The New York Times



13 January, 1958

* on 12 January 1958