

CANADIAN DELEGATION
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STATEMENT BY DR. R.A. MACKAY,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

The Canadian Delegation is one of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution now before this resumed session of the 11th General Assembly. I wish to set out briefly why we are supporting this resolution, and what we hope can be achieved.

The United Nations has already considered repeatedly and at length the events which took place in Hungary last year. Time and again the United Nations has called upon the Government of the USSR to cease its intervention in the internal affairs of Hungary and to permit the Hungarian people to select their own government in their own way, and to determine their own institutions. At an early stage action taken by the United Nations was in response to an urgent appeal from the legitimate Government of Hungary. As we all know that Government was stifled by armed intervention of the Soviet Union and a regime answerable only to the USSR was installed. The General Assembly also took action at its second emergency session and its 11th regular session to organize relief for the victims of the violent events in Hungary and to provide homes for Hungarian refugees. Of these refugees more than thirty-five thousand have found a new home in Canada.

To our great regret, the Soviet authorities as well as the new Hungarian Government which they installed by their intervention in Hungary, have flouted the opinion of the world community

expressed in various resolutions adopted by large majorities in the General Assembly of the United Nations. The USSR, and its puppet Hungarian Government, have chosen instead to shield themselves behind the myth that the violence in Hungary resulted from some kind of intervention from the Western side. This explanation made last autumn, and repeated again ad nauseam in this present session, is, I submit, an insult to the intelligence of this Assembly.

Our hope last autumn was that the USSR would heed an indignant world and would reconcile itself at least to important adjustments in the direction of national autonomy and recognition of genuine sovereignty for the Hungarian state. Unfortunately, the USSR lost the opportunity last autumn to put this problem on the way to a moderate and constructive solution. We have no evidence that since then it has taken any real steps in this direction.

Since no response was forthcoming to the United Nations efforts to meet the emergency situation of last year, this Assembly established the Special Committee whose report is now before us. The main facts of a spontaneous national movement towards independence in Hungary and the suppression of this movement by Soviet armed force were already painfully clear to everyone. The Special Committee has now documented these basic facts in its richly detailed account of the day by day, and even hour by hour, events in Budapest last October and November. (Canada made a modest contribution to the information in the report by facilitating the receipt of evidence by the Committee from some of the large number of Hungarian refugees now in Canada.) I wish to take this opportunity to express my Delegation's thanks to all the members of the Committee -- to The Hon. Mr. Anderson of Denmark,

who was its Chairman; to Ambassador Shann of Australia, its rapporteur; to Ambassador Gunewardene of Ceylon; to Ambassador Slim of Tunisia; and to Ambassador Fabregat of Uruguay. The significant fact is that this Committee, so widely representative of various groupings within the United Nations, has submitted a completely unanimous report.

The Committee's report is a sober and factual account of what happened in Hungary during those tragic days last year. Its conclusions flow simply and directly from the mass of facts obtained from a great number of witnesses. No one can honestly and seriously challenge the truth of the terrible story which the Special Committee has put before the world. The common people of Hungary -- students, workers, ordinary soldiers -- took action, at first by completely peaceful demonstrations, to demand internal reforms and freedom from foreign domination. The Soviet-dominated security police began the violence by firing on a peaceful assembly of the common people of Hungary. In response to this a whole people rose up, in what has been called a miracle of unity, to sweep away a corrupt and foreign-dominated regime. For a few brief days Hungary had a government responsive to the will of the people of Hungary. In those days the new Hungarian Government began successfully to restore order and to revive freedom in Hungary.

But from the very beginning of these events the ominous shadow of the Red Army was cast over Hungary. Soviet troops and tanks moved across the frontier in even greater numbers. In spite of a Soviet pretense of willingness to negotiate with Premier Nagy for the withdrawal of all Soviet forces, at about midnight on November 3, we read in the report, General Serov, Head of Soviet security forces, arrested the Hungarian negotiators,

and Soviet tanks moved forward into the streets of Budapest. What followed was a ruthless and brutal attack on the people of Hungary. A great power, the USSR, sent its armed forces to crush and destroy a popular movement for freedom in a small neighbouring country. On the basis of this terrible intervention a new regime was installed in Budapest. The Hungarian nation has been reduced to the status of a colony of the USSR.

The draft resolution, of which Canada is a co-sponsor, and which I am certain will be approved by a very large majority is not a negative, destructive or propagandist document. It is a realistic document. It indicates clearly the essential responsibility of the USSR for what has happened and is happening in this part of Eastern Europe. It does not envisage any action which is not in accord with the legitimate national interests of the USSR.

The sponsors have not sought in this resolution to do anything to intensify discord between rival power groups. But the Assembly cannot fail to condemn continued refusal to comply with its resolutions. Nor can it fail to condemn the flagrant and cruel disregard of human rights which members of the United Nations pledge themselves to uphold. We endorse the conclusions in the Committee's report. In proposing that a Special Representative of the General Assembly should be nominated to take such steps as he deems appropriate to achieve the objectives of the United Nations we are seeking to emphasize a constructive and forwardlooking approach to this difficult question. We can think of no one more suitable to carry this responsibility than the distinguished President of this Assembly.

The Soviet Union is one of the great powers of the world. It has a special position in the United Nations as one of the

permanent members of the Security Council, which I suggest entails special responsibilities. In advancing and supporting this resolution, it is our hope that it will help to induce the USSR, one of the most important members of our Organization, to take steps to permit a moderate and reasonable adjustment of the situation in Hungary, so that the legitimate aspirations of the Hungarian people for independence and sovereignty may be met. Justice for Hungary must be a continuing concern of the United Nations.