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COMMUNIST ATTACK ON HUNGARY REPORT REFUTED

The attack on Hungary Under Soviet Rule II by the Communist Hungarian government "does not controvert the report's documentation of the continued rape of Hungary", according to a statement by former Assistant Secretary of State Adolf A. Berle, Jr., for the Editorial Committee composed of Leo Cherne, the Honorable Clare Boothe Luce and himself.

The book, published jointly on September 26 by the American Friends of the Captive Nations and the Assembly of Captive European Nations in association with the Hungarian Committee, is a study of events in Hungary over the past year. A statement circulated among United Nations delegates by the Hungarian Mission on October 6 termed it "a heap of lies".

Commenting on Mr. Berle's statement, Christopher Emmet, Chairman of the American Friends of the Captive Nations, said:

"The fact that the Hungarian puppet delegates felt it necessary to answer this wholly unofficial report, and the fact that their reply is so feeble, reveals the insecurity of the imposters who pose as the legitimate representatives of the Hungarian people, and the untenability of their legal, as well as their moral, position."

The complete text of Mr. Berle's statement follows:

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STATEMENT BY
FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
ADOLF A. BERLE, JR.

The Permanent Mission of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations has issued a statement challenging the veracity of "Hungary Under Soviet Rule, II", a study published by the American Friends of the Captive Nations and the Assembly of Captive European Nations, which was released to the press on September 26, 1958. The study sets forth in detailed manner the many evidences of continued Soviet intervention in Hungary and the facts relating to the massive and continued violation of human rights, under the puppet regime.

The statement does not challenge or controvert in any major aspect the report's documentation of the continued rape of Hungary. In four minor points it makes statements, none of which contradict the plain fact that Soviet troops brutally put down a revolution of the workers and peasants of Hungary, in order to make Hungary a Soviet colony.

As to the four points:

I. It is true there was an inaccuracy in our report of September 26 in stating that the Hungarian adherence to the Warsaw Pact had not been approved by the Hungarian National Assembly.

It did have that approval but at the time of that approval Hungary was occupied by hostile Soviet troops and acted under military compulsion. Obviously the Warsaw Pact could not be binding on the only free government Hungary has had since the Warsaw Pact came into existence. In any case, the Warsaw Pact purports to be one of mutual security and it was decisively broken when the Red Army invaded Hungary on November 4, 1956

II. Despite the statement of the press release, Bishop Janos Peter did not reinstate himself in his diocese, though the regime endeavored to arrange this. Eventually he had to resign it and become the political representative of an atheist regime, as a member of Hungary's Mission to the United Nations.

III. The Hungarian Communist Delegation challenges our estimate that from 2,100 to 2,500 representatives of the worker's revolution against the Communist government have been executed by the Hungarian Communist government since November 1956. It cites the fact that in an appendix to our report there is a list of only 80 executions.

In our first report, published in September 1957, we gave the names of 1,500 victims of legal terror, of which several hundred had then been sentenced to death. Our second list refers only to the period September 1957 to August 1958.

The majority of these trials have, of course, never been reported by the Hungarian Communist press.

IV. The quotations contained in our report are challenged by the Hungarian Communist Delegation.

The newspapers and periodicals from which these quotations are taken exist in New York. If the representatives of the Hungarian captive government wish the texts, they are readily available and we will arrange to provide them if desired.

The Hungarian Communist government does not deny that :

1. Prime Minister Nagy left the Yugoslav Embassy under assurance of safe conduct from the Kadar government, and immediately was seized by the Red Army, though the representative of the Romanian government had informed the United Nations that Nagy had been promised "political asylum" in Romania. He was transferred from the custody of a government which had guaranteed his political asylum to that of a Hungarian regime which promptly tried him in secret and killed him.
2. There are approximately 60,000 Soviet troops in Hungary now, and the Soviet Army in effect controls the Hungarian armed forces and frontier guard.
3. Hungary today is a colony of the Soviet Union, held in that status against its will by Soviet military force.

The feebleness of this reply reveals the insecurity of the moral position of the Hungarian Delegation to the United Nations.

ADOLF A. BERLE, JR.