



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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THE SITUATION IN HUNGARY

Statement by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, in the General Assembly of the United Nations, Monday, November 19, 1956.

In the second emergency session of the General Assembly of the United Nations we have already adopted four resolutions on Hungary, and the Secretary-General, although hard-pressed by many other urgent and vitally important duties, has done all in his power to carry out the various responsibilities assigned to him. The resolutions call for investigation of the situation in Hungary; they call on the Soviet Union to withdraw its forces and cease its intervention; and they provide for, we hope, quick and large-scale relief of the immediate suffering of the Hungarian people as a result of the bloody events of recent weeks.

Following this initial United Nations action, the whole world has waited anxiously for some sign that the Soviet Government and the authorities in Hungary were ready to allow United Nations investigation, and, at the very least, to facilitate the distribution of desperately needed food, medical supplies and clothing. The efforts of the Secretary-General, under our resolution of November 4, to get permission for United Nations observers to visit Hungary have been flatly rejected. The Soviet Government, to which the Secretary-General appealed for assistance in carrying out the task assigned to him, must bear the full and final responsibility for frustrating this investigation. One can understand, if not excuse their attitude. What can they fear from investigation if the facts are as they state them to be.

In spite of this rebuff the Secretary-General has appointed three eminent and impartial persons under our resolution of November 4, to investigate and report on the situation in Hungary. We hope that they will undertake at once whatever investigation may be possible.