

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### THE SITUATION IN HUNGARY

Statement made by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, during the Second Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on November 4, 1956.

Mr. President, notwithstanding the words of the Soviet delegate, in the past twenty-four hours we have witnessed in Hungary one of the greatest and grimmest betrayals in history. This is a sad and desolate moment for all who have been striving for the extension of freedom and justice throughout the world.

It is, first of all, and above all, the people of Hungary who have been betrayed--the students, the peasants, the workers, whom the Soviet Union so frequently professes to champion. For ten years all the resources of a great empire were used to weaken and destroy all feeling for national and personal freedom in Hungary and the other countries of Eastern Europe on whom communist regimes had been imposed after World War II by foreign forces. But events in Hungary--and elsewhere-- have dramatically revealed the results of these ten years of suppression and indoctrination to be failure--often concealed behind a smiling facade of propaganda, but failure. In Hungary the mask of a "people's democracy" was stripped away; the myth of the monolithic unity of the communist empire was destroyed. With incredible courage the Hungarian people proved once again that man, once free, will never finally accept oppression and slavery, even though he may be forced to submit to it for long periods. Armed at first only with burning patriotism and a dauntless spirit the plain people of Hungary rose against the oppressor. And the world watched their struggle hopefully, as the new head of the government, Mr. Nagy, promised free elections, the abolition of the secret police, and negotiations for the