

direct observation in Hungary and elsewhere, collecting evidence and receiving information, as appropriate, in order to report its findings to the General Assembly". One of the sponsors' motives in proposing the Special Committee was to offer an opportunity for a reasonable hearing under United Nations auspices for Hungarian refugees such as Mrs. Anna Kethly, the Social Democratic leader who had been a Minister of the Nagy Government. Speaking for the Canadian Delegation, Mr. G. Légaré, M.P., remarked how many "individuals and governments who love freedom and hate tyranny" had provided money, supplies and a warm welcome for Hungarian refugees. In contrast, the U.S.S.R. and the Kadar régime had treated with contempt the recommendation of the UN Assembly. Mr. Légaré concluded: "There must be no abating of the concern of the UN about the situation created by the brutal and bloody intervention of Soviet armed force in the internal affairs of a small neighbour".

The 24-power resolution was adopted on January 10 by a sweeping majority of 59 to 8 (Soviet bloc minus Hungary) with 10 abstentions (Afghanistan, Egypt, Cuba, Finland, India, Jordan, Saudi-Arabia, the Sudan, Syria and Yugoslavia). The Cuban Delegate abstained because he had favoured introducing a stronger resolution that would have recommended expulsion of Hungary from the United Nations. Even before the resolution was passed, the Kadar Government had announced its opposition to this "unprecedented interference" in the internal affairs of Hungary, a UN initiative "obviously inspired by the United States".

The Special Committee is to submit the results of its investigations and hearings to the present session of the General Assembly.

80th Member

The General Assembly unanimously adopted on December 18 a resolution approving the recommendation of the Security Council that Japan be admitted to membership in the United Nations. The resolution was sponsored by 51 nations, including five permanent members of the Security Council and Canada. Japan is the 80th country to become a member of the United Nations.

Special Political Committee

At its meeting of December 18, the General Assembly agreed without a vote to a recommendation of the Sixth (Legal) Committee changing the Assembly's Rules of Procedure to provide for the establishment of the Special Political Committee (formerly the Ad Hoc Political Committee) on a permanent basis.

Elections

The General Assembly on December 7 elected the Philippines to the seat on the Security Council from which Yugoslavia had announced its intention of retiring on December 31, 1956 in accordance with an understanding reached with the Philippines last year in order to break a deadlock in the voting. The