

that have appeared in the press of many parts of the world that many young persons had been held for trial since 1956 who at that time were below the age provided by Hungarian criminal law for the applications of severe penalties for certain political and kindred offences. I wish to say that my Government does not necessarily believe *all* the rumours that have been circulating for the past several weeks in Canada and the United States and that have been widely reported upon in the press of many countries. But I cannot deny that these reports have disturbed us greatly and that the people of Canada are deeply distressed at the possibility that they may be true.

I am aware that the nature of the evidence supporting these allegations of cruel judicial procedures toward young people may not be such as to satisfy objective observers desiring the most severe test for such evidence. Nevertheless, apart from newspaper reports, there is the already well-known Bulletin No. 9 of the International Commission of Jurists, which reports in some detail on trials held *in camera* on confessions obtained from young accused persons and on a number of executions. This bulletin, which is to be found as an appendix to a recent issue of the Journal of the International Commission of Jurists, cannot be dismissed easily. Too many responsible jurists, including many Canadians, are members of this organization for the seriousness of its efforts or the objectivity of its conclusions to be doubted.

I am well aware that on October 31, in a statement to the Budapest branch of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, Mr. Janos Kadar, the First Secretary of the Central Committee, officially denied these allegations. But we are equally aware that official denials would be the natural response of a government and that it would be naive to have expected it to give any other statement.

Surely what is needed here are not denials but some gesture that would help dissipate this cloud of angry suspicion that now has begun again to cover the relations of Hungary and many member states. My Delegation desires only to see that the minds of decent people everywhere can somehow or other be satisfied that charges of this nature that have been made and referred to in the Special Representative's report are baseless and that the Government of Hungary, in the proper exercise of its own political powers, is behaving no differently than might be expected of any other state faced with normal questions of the maintenance of public order.

In my Government's opinion, the only way that the Government of Hungary could possibly satisfy sympathetic observers who do not wish to remain forever suspicious of the Government of Hungary is to permit some type of enquiry, whether by the United Nations or by any other acceptable agency.

Our insistence on due acceptance by the Government of Hungary of those resolutions of the Assembly that have regularly since 1956 invited the co-operation of Hungary in such enquiries does not preclude the possibility of other devices being employed if they could elicit impartial information that would satisfy those of us who are now deeply distressed by these charges. Surely the Govern-