

The problem of Hungary, which together with the crisis in the Middle East had dominated the eleventh session and was considered again at the resumed eleventh session in September, was also discussed at the twelfth session. The session in September 1957 requested the Assembly's president, H.R.H. Prince Wan Waithayakon of Thailand, as its Special Representative on the problem of Hungary, to take such steps as he deemed appropriate to achieve the objectives of the United Nations in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly. These resolutions had condemned Soviet actions in Hungary which deprived that country of its liberty and political independence and its people of the exercise of their fundamental human rights and endorsed the findings of the Special Committee established by the eleventh session to investigate conditions in Hungary and to collect evidence.

The Special Committee had reported to the Assembly in June 1957 that, although it had not been able to go to Hungary, it had held hearings of witnesses in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Rome and London. Its conclusions might be summarized as follows: what had taken place in Hungary in October and November 1956 was a spontaneous national uprising led by students, workers, soldiers and intellectuals and had not been fomented by reactionary circles in Hungary nor drawn its strength from Western "imperialists"; what had at first been peaceful demonstrations were transformed into an armed uprising by the action of the AVH (secret police) in opening fire on people who were further united by the appearance of Russian soldiers as enemies in combat; that despite evidence of improvisation in the uprising the Soviet authorities had taken early steps to make armed intervention possible.

At the end of the twelfth session Prince Wan reported that he had been unable to carry out his mission because of the refusal of the Hungarian and Soviet Governments to co-operate in any way but that he would continue his efforts. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees could, however, report success in the settlement of the thousands of Hungarians who had fled from their country at the time of their ill-fated uprising. Of the 200,000 Hungarian refugees there remained at the end of 1957 only about 10,000 for whom permanent homes had not been found. Approximately 36,000 came to Canada in the course of the year.

In the Middle East the UNEF has continued its work of maintaining quiet and preventing frontier incidents on the Egyptian-Israeli Armistice Demarcation Line. Mindful of the contribution the Force was making to the maintenance of quiet in the area the twelfth session passed a resolution expressing the Assembly's appreciation to members of the United Nations for the assistance they had given to the Force in troops and other support and facilities, its hope that such assistance would be continued as necessary and deciding that the funds needed to pay the Force's expenses would be borne by members of the United Nations in accordance with the scale of assessments and by such other resources as might become available. Canadian troops serving with UNEF have comprised the largest contingent serving with the Force.

Another outstanding issue at the twelfth session was the Syrian complaint about threats to its security and to international peace. The seriousness of this issue was intensified by the "cold war" implications arising in the debate which was characterized by vigorous attacks by the Soviet Bloc on the West and particularly the United States alleging that the United States was "prodding Turkey to commit aggression against Syria". The Canadian approach to the item, as its Representative stated, was that it should be dealt with