



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 74

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1959

IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S NOTICE THAT CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY STUDENT GROUPS IN CANADA OVER REPORTS ORIGINATING IN THE UNITED STATES THAT A NUMBER OF HUNGARIAN STUDENTS ARE BEING HELD UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH IN HUNGARY.

SOME TRIALS TOOK PLACE LAST SUMMER IN HUNGARY AND THESE WERE REPORTED IN THE PRESS AT THAT TIME. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO INFORMATION TO CORROBORATE THE CHARGE THAT 150 HUNGARIAN STUDENTS ARE BEING HELD FOR EXECUTION. ALTHOUGH CANADA HAS NO DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN HUNGARY AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS, THEREFORE, NOT IN POSSESSION OF FIRST-HAND INFORMATION, EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO EXPLORE THE MATTER THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS.

A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, SIR LESLIE MUNRO, WAS APPOINTED AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN HUNGARY. SIR LESLIE MUNRO IS EXPECTED TO REPORT IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND IF ANY INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO HIM AS TO THE SUBSTANCE, WE ASSUME THAT HE WILL BRING IT BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY.