

that they should be free to do so, and that the governments so chosen should steer their own independent courses, respecting the equal rights of all their neighbours and bearing in mind only the needs and wishes of their own people in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations charter.

Yours sincerely,
(sgd) Louis S. St. Laurent.

Later I got this answer, dated November 24. This, of course, is a translation which, I am told, is an official translation.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I have received your letter of November 13. The contents of your letter and also of your recent statements and of speeches of Canadian officials about situation in Hungary show that the Canadian government seem to have one-sided, tendentious and unobjective information about developments in Hungary and about position of Soviet union on this question.

I would like to note that revolutionary workers peasants government of Hungary have shown in their statements that reactionary forces inside Hungary with active support of certain circles outside tried to overturn peoples' democratic regime in the country and establish a Horthy-fascist regime. The inner patriotic forces of Hungary came out in defence of peoples' democratic regime asking for help of Soviet troops stationed in Hungary under the Warsaw treaty.

As concerning position of the Soviet government on question of relations of Soviet union with Hungary this has been fully set forth in "Declaration of Soviet government on foundation for development and further strengthening of friendship and co-operation between Soviet union and other socialist states", published on October 31, 1956.

In your letter Mr. Prime Minister you raise the question of Soviet government giving assistance to international organizations to make it possible for them to render assistance and help to Hungarian people in food and medicine. This question is fully within competence of Hungarian government. As far as we know government of the Hungarian peoples' republic has already positively solved this question and Hungarian government has formally informed secretary general of United Nations about this.

Yours sincerely,
N. A. Bulganin.

This last statement has been, I think, verified by representatives of the United Nations, who have recently informed us that representatives of the Red Cross would now be admitted within Hungary to distribute food and medical supplies to those in need of such food and medical supplies.

That answers this other matter raised by the hon. gentleman now leading the official opposition. He says that \$200,000 was a paltry sum and that we have raised it from \$200,000 to \$1 million. The original recommendation was for \$1 million, of which \$100,000 was to go to the Red Cross and \$100,000 to the United Nations high commissioner for refugees to be used in the alleviation of the sufferings of refugees once they became refugees outside of Hungary. But at that time we were not disposed to ask parliament to appropriate any of the taxpayers' money to be placed in the hands and under the control

The Address—Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent

of any communist controlled Hungarian government to be used for the support of whatever name they went by and whatever democratic qualifications they chose to give themselves. We have had some experience, but not much, in seeing how supplies from other countries have been used in communist countries as propaganda for the regime that was bringing about the misery that we and other free nations were seeking to alleviate. As soon as we heard that supplies could be distributed under proper auspices, we went back to the original sum of \$1 million. The estimate that has been distributed, and that is now before the house, is for \$1 million to be applied, subject to the decisions of treasury board, and that is so treasury board will be able to make absolutely sure that everything coming from the use of that \$800,000—because \$100,000 is going to the Red Cross for the use of refugees outside of Hungary and \$100,000 is going to the United Nations high commissioner for refugees—will be expended either by the Red Cross or by a United Nations agency that will have our full confidence in its desire and its ability to see that the assistance goes to those who have really been the victims of the horrible crimes that have been perpetrated against that nation in the last few weeks, and to no others.

That is why the item reads:

To provide, subject to the approval of the treasury board, assistance to the victims of the recent tragic events in Hungary, \$1 million.

Well, I have dealt at greater length with this matter than I expected and at greater length than either the hon. gentleman who spoke before I did or I expected would be appropriate on this occasion. But since we have found that it was not agreeable to some hon. members to proceed at once to have all this discussion on the estimates where questions could be put and answers given, well, it probably has to be at this time; but whether it be now, or whether it be on the estimates, I hope it will be a decision of which the majority of the people in Canada would say that those who took part in it were able to rise above political partisanship in dealing with this question which is one of interest not only to our own free people but to the people of the whole free world.

I expect that there will be criticism as to the manner we have felt, in our lack of wisdom, to be the best way to do these things; but I hope there will be agreement that it is proper that we should discharge this obligation to the United Nations by an appropriate participation in the United Nations forces and that it is proper that we should do our best to see that the Canadian who has been chosen by the United Nations to