



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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U.S.S.R. AND HUNGARY

Statement by the Hon. Roch Pinard at the
General Assembly of the United Nations on
Monday, December 10, 1956.

Mr. President,

I had not intended to intervene in the present debate on the Resolution before us, but in view of the strong revulsion of feeling in my country against the events in Hungary, I do not find it possible to pass over in silence the fact that eight years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by this Assembly, the U.S.S.R. is flagrantly ignoring its provisions in its action in Hungary.

I do not see how we cannot but be impressed by the almost unanimous striving by the Hungarian youth, after a decade of communist indoctrination, for national freedom and independence-- a feeling, incidently, which does not seem to be confined to Hungary, but appears to be present in the other countries of the Soviet Bloc, and in the U.S.S.R. as well, it is an extraordinary manifestation of the indestructibility of the human spirit that a totalitarian educational system has not been able to kill this striving. It is easy enough for us here to commend the youth of these countries, and to pay lip-service to them while young Hungarians are shedding their blood for their country. I would hope rather that on Human Rights Day we might take some spiritual encouragement from their example.

In this connection, Mr. President, I should like to point out that the entire teaching staff and student body of a Hungarian school of forestry has asked for asylum in Canada, and is being adopted by the University of British Columbia in my own country. In addition, 250 students from the University of Sopron and many other students wish to move en masse to Canada. Some, indeed, have already arrived there and have described tragically how the students and professors of Sopron University tried to defend their town against the Soviet invaders. What clearer proof could there be that the free