

The Canadian Delegation cannot therefore accept either the denial of facts as such or the denial of a United Nations interest in this area. Our position rests on a simple proposition: bearing in mind the provisions of the Paris Peace Treaty of 1947 and its guarantees of independence and human rights for the people of Hungary, and having in mind, too, the violent events in Hungary in October-November of 1956, the great majority of member states believed not only that there had been an unlawful "intervention" in the affairs of Hungary by another state causing great disruption there, but also that there had been important violations of human rights to which the United Nations could not be indifferent. Moreover, these violations continued long after the military intervention aspects had disappeared. These are facts of wide public knowledge and acceptance.

Indeed, it is possible to say that once the period of military intervention had passed, the behaviour of the Hungarian Government towards its own people involved so substantial an interference with the conception of decent levels of behaviour by states toward their peoples that the United Nations could not have remained indifferent. Moreover, if the Hungarian Government had wished to bring these allegations to an end, it could, at least, have provided some measure of co-operation with the United Nations in the various resolutions passed since 1956 inviting such co-operation, particularly by admitting United Nations representatives to make on-the-spot enquiries in order to be able to report back to the Assembly on the basis of a firm foundation of observed fact.

We all know the story. The present Government of Hungary, claiming the right of a sovereign state to be free from interference in its domestic affairs, has refused to permit any semblance of United Nations or other type of enquiry into the record of the regime since those events in the autumn of 1956. I presume that matters might have drifted in this way even with the appointment of the present United Nations Special Representative, whose report is now before us, had it not been for two recent developments. The first of these arises from the very considerable efforts that have been made by Prime Minister Macmillan, President Eisenhower and other Western leaders, and by Premier Khrushchov to provide the foundations for a relaxation of tensions and for the possibility of conferences among the leading powers in order to deal with some of the more difficult problems now dividing them. A new spirit, whether described as of "Camp David" or simply as a fresh effort at a détente, now pervades many aspects of major dealings between the two sides in world politics today. Since it is well understood that the Government of Hungary has the closest of ties with the Government of the Soviet Union, it is a matter of great surprise to the Canadian Delegation that the friends of Hungary should not advise her on the political and moral inconsistency of the continuing unco-operative Hungarian attitude towards the ascertainment of facts