

Our hope last autumn was that the U.S.S.R. would heed an indignant world and would reconcile itself at least to important adjustments in the direction of national autonomy and recognition of genuine sovereignty for the Hungarian state. Unfortunately, the U.S.S.R. lost the opportunity last autumn to put this problem on the way to a moderate and constructive solution. We have no evidence that since then it has taken any real steps in this direction.

Since no response was forthcoming to the United Nations efforts to meet the emergency situation of last year, this Assembly established the Special Committee whose report is now before us. The main facts of a spontaneous national movement towards independence in Hungary and the suppression of this movement by Soviet armed force were already painfully clear to everyone. The Special Committee has now documented these basic facts in its highly detailed account of the day by day, and even hour by hour, events in Budapest last October and November (Canada made a modest contribution to the information in the report by facilitating the receipt of evidence by the Committee from some of the large number of Hungarian refugees now in Canada.) I wish to take this opportunity to express my delegation's thanks to all the members of the Committee, --to the Hon. Mr. Anderson of Denmark, who was its Chairman; to Ambassador Shann of Australia, its rapporteur; to Ambassador Gunewardene of Ceylon; to Ambassador Slim of Tunisia; and to Ambassador Fabregat of Uruguay. The significant fact is that this Committee, so widely representative of various groupings within the United Nations, has submitted a completely unanimous report.

The Committee's report is a sober and factual account of what happened in Hungary during those tragic days last year. Its conclusions flow simply and directly from the mass of facts obtained from a great number of witnesses. No one can honestly and seriously challenge the truth of the terrible story which the Special Committee has put before the world. The common people of Hungary--students, workers, ordinary soldiers--took action, at first by completely peaceful demonstrations, to demand internal reforms and freedom from foreign domination. The Soviet-dominated security police began the violence by firing on a peaceful assembly of the common people of Hungary. In response to this a whole people rose up, in what has been called a miracle of unity, to sweep away a corrupt and foreign-dominated regime. For a few brief days Hungary had a government responsive to the will of the people of Hungary. In those days the new Hungarian government began successfully to restore order and to revive freedom in Hungary.