



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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THE QUESTION OF HUNGARY

Statement by Mr. W.B. Nesbitt, Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, in the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 8, 1959.

...The Canadian Delegation comes to this discussion of the report of the United Nations Special Representative on the question of Hungary with a deep feeling for its immediate as well as long-run significance. We also come to this debate today with a sense of sadness that the Hungarian question should still be before us and should now be aggravated by new allegations of violations of human rights and a general disregard for the good opinion of many states.

The report of the Special Representative charges that a regime of great rigour and repression continues to operate in controlling the lives of the Hungarian people. If, in October - November 1956, this was a matter of proper human and constitutional concern for the United Nations, there is no reason to doubt the continuing right of the United Nations to be concerned in December 1959, when the allegations of repression remain as strong as they do in the report of the Special Representative.

The Canadian Delegation is aware of how often the Government of Hungary has denied the charges of repression and, too, how insistent has been its view, as well as the view of some small number of member states allied with it, that whatever has taken place or is taking place in Hungary is a matter essentially of domestic jurisdiction and, therefore, beyond the proper scope of the Assembly's legal interest.

Each member state is, of course, entitled to treat its internal security problems as matters essentially within its domestic jurisdiction. With this thesis the Canadian Government could have no quarrel. But when that criminal law and administration go so far as to offend the very spirit of the purposes and principles of the Charter, the issue may, in some of its aspects, become one of essential United Nations concern.