

Will the Soviet Union give us the same promise with respect to the military operations against Hungary. I put this question directly to the Soviet representative. He has told us that his government has intervened in Hungary for a purpose, and that this purpose is ostensibly to protect the interests of the Hungarian people themselves. He wants to protect the Hungarian people, so he says, from a reactionary fascist clique. No one in this Assembly has any desire whatsoever to see the long-suffering Hungarian people delivered from the tyranny of one clique into that of another. All we ask in this resolution which is before us is to let them form the kind of free national government they want. How can this best be done? Surely by an impartial and disinterested international authority which can hold the ring and enable all the Hungarian people, without fear or reprisal, to establish a free and democratic government of their own choice. We have before us a proposal that the Secretary General investigate the situation. Where else can such an authority come from than the United Nations. Will the Soviet Government recognize that? If not, why not?

Yesterday my government proposed the intervention of a United Nations force for peaceful purposes in the Middle East, and that proposal secured the overwhelming support of this Assembly; no single vote was cast against it. Why should we not now establish a United Nations mission or United Nations supervisory machinery of an appropriate kind for the situation in Hungary? I ask the Soviet Union to accept this chance, perhaps this last chance, to prove its good faith to the world. It is not only the Hungarian people who will be the victims of a refusal. It is a Soviet claim--very often repeated--to be the only true champion of peaceful co-existence; the only real foe of imperialism; the opponent of colonialism. If they refuse this United Nations investigation and examination into conditions in Hungary, never again will they be able to talk about colonial oppression or imperialism except in terms of the most blatant hypocrisy, recognized by everyone as such.

This is also the last chance of the USSR to show that their collective security system in Eastern Europe is something more than a collection of master and satellites. In this respect, what a contrast it is to an association of free states banded together on a basis of free co-operation, any one of which may withdraw if it wishes. Their system, if they persist in this aggressive intervention, stands exposed for all the world to see, resting on nothing but brute force and despotic control.