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THE SITUATION IN HUNGARY

The following is the text of a statement by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, in the General Assembly of the United Nations, Monday, November 19, 1956.

"In the second emergency session of the General Assembly of the United Nations we have already adopted four resolutions on Hungary, and the Secretary-General, although hard-pressed by many other urgent and vitally important duties, has done all in his power to carry out the various responsibilities assigned to him. The resolutions call for investigation of the situation in Hungary; they call on the Soviet Union to withdraw its forces and cease its intervention; and they provide for, we hope, quick and large-scale relief of the immediate suffering of the Hungarian people as a result of the bloody events of recent weeks.

"Following this initial United Nations action, the whole world has waited anxiously for some sign that the Soviet Government and the authorities in Hungary were ready to allow United Nations investigation, and, at the very least, to facilitate the distribution of desperately needed food, medical supplies and clothing. The efforts of the Secretary-General, under our resolution of November 4, to get permission for United Nations observers to visit Hungary have been flatly rejected. The Soviet Government, to which the Secretary-General appealed for assistance in carrying out the task assigned to him, must bear the full and final responsibility for frustrating

this investigation. One can understand, if not excuse their attitude. What can they fear from investigation if the facts are as they state them to be.

"In spite of this rebuff the Secretary-General has appointed three eminent and impartial persons under our resolution of November 4, to investigate and report on the situation in Hungary. We hope that they will undertake at once whatever investigation may be possible.

"Surely those members of the Assembly who may personally have had some difficulty in condemning the Soviet Union and certain Hungarian authorities over what has happened on the ground that authentic information was not available, will welcome and support the steps now recommended to secure that information. What possible objection to this course can be raised except by those who wish to conceal the truth and confuse opinion.

"We therefore once again urge the Soviet Government and the Hungarian authorities to admit United Nations investigators. I might remind the Assembly that this would not be the first occasion on which the United Nations has sent investigators into the territory of a member state in order to try to get at the facts of a situation which had been referred to our organization.

"On December 19, 1946, the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution setting up a commission of investigation to ascertain the facts relating to a complaint brought to the

(Over)

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