



# PRESS RELEASE

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the United States Legations in Budapest, Bucharest and Sofia on April 2 presented to the Hungarian, Roumanian and Bulgarian Governments notes of protest concerning violations of clauses of the Peace Treaties with these countries which provide for the protection of human rights.

The Canadian Government is formally associated with the United States protests to Hungary and Roumania. In presenting the note to the Bulgarian Government, the United States Charge d'Affaires has stated orally that the Canadian Government has requested that the Bulgarian Government be informed that the Canadian views are identical with those of the United States.

The relevant article of the Treaty of Peace with Hungary is Article 2 which reads as follows:

- "1. Hungary shall take all measures necessary to secure to all persons under Hungarian jurisdiction, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the enjoyment of human rights and of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of press and publication, of religious worship, of political opinion and of public meeting.
- "2. Hungary further undertakes that the laws in force in Hungary shall not, either in their content or in their application, discriminate or entail any discrimination between persons of Hungarian nationality on the ground of their race, sex, language or religion, whether in reference to their persons, property, business, professional or financial interests, status, political or civil rights or any other matter."

Article 3 of the Treaty of Peace with Roumania and Article 2 of the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria are similar in content.

In its notes, the United States Government concludes that, on the basis of its observations since the entry into force of the Treaties of Peace, these three Governments have deliberately and systematically denied to their people the exercise of the very rights and freedoms which they had pledged to secure under the Treaties. The United States Government points out that these Governments have denied to their people the right to life and liberty, to freedom of political opinion, to freedom of press and publication, to freedom of public meeting on political matters and to freedom of religious worship.

The United States Government mentions specifically the imprisonment of Cardinal Mindszenty and of the Lutheran Bishop Ordass in Hungary, the sentence to life imprisonment of Iuliu Maniu, President of the National Peasant Party in Roumania, the dissolution of the Greek Catholic (Uniate) Church in Roumania, the dissolution of the National Agrarian Union and the Bulgarian Socialist Party in Bulgaria, the

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execution of Nikolo Petkov, the leader of the National Agrarian Union Party in Bulgaria, the purge of Opposition Deputies from the Grand National Assembly of Bulgaria and the religious persecution exemplified by the recent measures directed against the Protestant denominations in Bulgaria.

The United States Government points out that it has drawn attention on appropriate occasions to the flagrant conduct of these three Governments in violating the clauses of the Treaty of Peace relating to human rights but that this conduct has not been modified. The United States Government therefore has called upon the Governments of Hungary, Roumania and Bulgaria to adopt prompt remedial measures in respect of these violations and has requested the Governments to specify the steps which they are prepared to take in implementing fully the clauses of the Treaties which relate to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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