

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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## SOVIET COMPLAINT OF UNITED STATES INTERFERENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE

Statement by Mr. J.W. Holmes in the Special Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on February 27, 1957.

My intervention will be brief. It does not seem to my Delegation necessary to waste the Committee's time in refuting allegations which no one can be expected to take very seriously, and which have already been rejected with force and dignity by the Representative of the United States. I wish to go on the record merely to avoid any possibility that our silence would be misinterpreted. The charges made by the Soviet Delegation make no sense at all to those of us who know the United States as we do, and the efforts it is making to give leadership in the maintenance and extension of freedom and self-government in the world.

The most depressing aspect of this debate is that the Soviet Delegation proposed it at all. It is difficult to understand why they did so, in view of its own record of subversive interference in the affairs of every other state, including my own. This revival of the stale tactics of former times is hardly in harmony with policies proclaimed in other contexts. The Soviet Union is appealing to us all to believe in the sincerity of its programme for disarmament and to collaborate in peaceful doctrines of non-intervention in the Middle East. Nothing would make us happier than to accept with confidence Soviet good intentions because we know how difficult it would be to solve the major problems which now face us without Soviet co-operation. Does the Soviet Delegation really think that it can win our confidence while it indulges in these silly and discredited efforts to tell us that black is white?

We quite understand the anxiety of the Soviet Government to recover its balance after the events of last autumn. If they hope to do so by trying to prove to the world that the policy of the United States is as malevolent as that of their own, we advise them to abandon this hopeless gambit. Our Delegation is quite unimpressed by the charges concocted and edited by

the Soviet Delegation and its followers. But even if they were all true, they would not add up to anything approaching the brutality of Soviet intervention in Hungary.

The shadow of Hungary cannot be exercised in this way. It does stand in the way of the reconciliation and the peaceful co-existence which the Soviet Union professes - and we should like to think sincerely - to seek. We have no desire whatsoever to exploit the events in Hungary to revive and fan the cold war, but it is not possible to forget them. It is too much, no doubt, to expect that the Soviet Delegation would confess its error here and now. Indeed, we are less interested in confession than in the righting of wrongs. What we want is that the people of Hungary should be allowed to resume the progress towards freedom which was evident last autumn before it was suppressed by Soviet intervention. There is no government in the West which seeks to convert Hungary into a base from which to attack the Soviet Union or to encourage Hungary to adopt a policy inimical to the essential interests of the Soviet Union. If the Soviet Union will relax its grip and allow the people of Hungary to resume control of their own government, they have no reason to fear the actions of the United States or its allies. We shall all be only too happy that the Hungarian people have at last been left in peace.

We realize full well that it is not easy for the Soviet Government to get itself out of the mess in which it finds itself in Hungary. We have no desire to make this effort more difficult than it will naturally be, if the Soviet Government will move in the direction of withdrawal and liberalization. We assure them, however, that in their own interests they should henceforth abandon the idea that the kind of diversionary tactics they are here reviving will do themselves or anyone else any good. To make this point absolutely clear I trust that all members of this Committee who are free to do so will vote against the Soviet resolution.

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