

ASSEMBLY OF CAPTIVE EUROPEAN NATIONS

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For Immediate Release



ACEN GRATIFIED BY PRESIDENT'S CENSURE OF SOVIET COLONIALISM IN

UNITED NATIONS ADDRESS

In a telegram to President John F. Kennedy today, the Assembly of Captive European Nations, in thanking him for his forceful statement before the United Nations on the denial of self-determination in the Communist Empire, said that "these are precisely the demands the people of our homelands have repeatedly made or urged us to make in their name.

The telegram, over the signatures of Messrs. Ferenc Nagy and Brutus Coste, Chairman and Secretary General, respectively, read:

The Assembly of Captive European Nations is sincerely gratified by the forceful statement you made in your great address before the United Nations on the denial of self-determination in the Communist empire. The captive peoples will take no small comfort from the knowledge that the undisputed leader of the free world has warned the world organization that the time has come to pay more attention to the aggressive and expansionist tide of Communist colonialism than to the receding and dying Western colonialism. They will be impressed particularly with the call of the President of the United States for a full debate in the United Nations on colonialism and for United Nations action to apply the principle of free choice and the practice of free plebiscites in every part of the world. These are precisely the demands the people of our homelands have repeatedly made or urged us to make in their name whenever occasion arose. Our peoples will therefore hope and pray that the United States, true to her principles and her role as leading nation of the world, will be the first to heed the call of her President and will take the initiative both inside and outside the United Nations. Specifically our people expect:

(1) that the United States oppose to the Soviet attempts to encroach upon the freedom of Berlin an overall plan of European settlement based on the right of self-determination; and

(2) that the United States ask for the inscription of the question of denial of self-determination to the peoples of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania, on the agenda of the current session of the U.N. General Assembly and urge the U.N. to call for the restoration of the independence of these nations by means of free elections under rigorous safeguards and international supervision.

Enclosure:

ACEN telegram to President John F. Kennedy of September 20, 1961  
Excerpt from President Kennedy's speech before the United Nations

Albania

Bulgaria

Czechoslovakia

Estonia

Hungary

Latvia

Lithuania

Poland

Romania