

NEPSZABADSAG (24 December 1958)

Possibilities and Dangers - Comments on the Work
of the 13th Session of the General Assembly
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. . . The renewed "debate" of the "Hungarian problem" again formed an integral part of American tactics in the General Assembly. For lack of something better, the United States considered it fitting to use it again - and probably for the last time - as a weapon in the cold war, even if this weapon in the meantime became obsolete and time-worn. The timing of the debate was of special significance. It was put on the agenda in the last days of the General Assembly as a "lightning rod", to divert attention from the colonial problems compromising the imperialists. Though the representatives of Great Britain, the USA, New Zealand, Cuba, Guatemala, and some other countries who were also "interested" in the Hungarian situation, spoke in the debate about the "Hungarian problem" and "Hungarian credentials", they remained silent in the Algerian debate.

However, many speakers, especially on the question of credentials, voted for us. The resolution was submitted to the General Assembly in much milder language than originally drafted by the Americans. And the President of the General Assembly did not ask the head of the American delegation, who submitted the resolution, or the head of the Australian delegation, who was the Rapporteur of the item, to "summarize" the debate, but distinctly asked the head of the Hungarian delegation to do so, and who refuted all the ridiculous slanderous statements. His answer was received with great applause. It is true that the "condemning" resolution was adopted, but with six votes less than in the past (and 5 votes less among those who abstained). How the resolution was adopted can best be characterized by the fact that some delegations which did not vote against us were called to account by American official circles for not having taken a position.

The end result was that the notorious "Committee of Five" was dissolved. Prince Wan's mandate was cancelled and his "report" received by the Assembly in silence and without the usual applause and cheers. The majority of the General Assembly evidently understood that the renewed revival of the Hungarian problem by the Americans will have a damaging effect on the efforts to reduce international tension. But even greater damage was done to the prestige of the world organization because its serious and universal character was defiled.