

Netherlands Delegation
Emergency Special Session
of the General Assembly

Statement

by

Ambassador C.W.A. Schurmann

on November 8, 1956.

In our previous meeting, when it was urgently necessary that the Assembly should come to a vote as quickly as possible, the three Benelux delegations decided not to take up the time of the meeting by separate statements, and my distinguished colleague, the Representative of Belgium, then spoke for all three of us.

Now that there is a little more time, I should like to add a few words to what he then said, not because I have any new ideas to propound, but because I feel it my duty to testify from this rostrum to the horror and indignation felt by my countrymen at the barbarous action of the Soviet Union in Hungary.

On the 4th November all the democratic political parties in the Netherlands (that is: all the parties except the Communists) published the following statement:

"In a strong feeling of brotherhood all mankind has suffered with the people of Hungary, struggling for its liberty and independence. The Russian treason in Hungary threatens to destroy the freedom for which the Hungarian people has fought so hard. In strong indignation and deeply hurt in its most sacred feelings, mankind protests against the murderous attack on the brave Hungarian people which is almost powerless and defenseless against the ruthless aggressor. In this tragic hour the Netherlands political parties, upholding the right to freedom, jointly call on the Netherlands people unanimously to give expression to their loathing for the Communist violence."

On the fifth of November, at the request of the Government, all the flags in the Netherlands have been flown at half mast.

The next day the Prime Minister announced in the States General that medical and other civilian aid was being despatched to Hungary and that it had been decided to admit and provide homes in the Netherlands for one thousand Hungarian refugees.

Those, Mr. President, are the feelings and the deeds of the people of the Netherlands.

When I was last in Budapest, there stood on the left, high bank of the Danube a statue of Saint Gellert, holding in his outstretched arm a cross over the city. I do not know if that statue still stands, but I do know that what it symbolizes: faith, freedom and human dignity - will win out in the end over Soviet terrorism.