

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Agreement on Status of Soviet Troops: Comment

#### A 'Nepszabadsag' Rejoinder to the Foreign Office

The extensive Press and radio comment on the Hungarian-Soviet agreement on the legal status of Soviet troops in Hungary included a 'Nepszabadsag' article on 31st May - quoted by MTI on that day - answering a British Foreign Office spokesman's statement. "We quite understand", the paper said, "that British statesmen should have preferred the Imre Nagy Government to the Hungarian Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government; for, in their view, the Nagy Government represented the sincere aspirations of the Hungarian people. Permit us, however, to doubt whether they know more about these things in London than we do in Hungary! It was never the wish of the Hungarian people, as it may have been that of the British Lords, that Hungarians should murder their fellow-citizens and Soviet soldiers, and that Hungary should be made a springboard for an attack on her friends... We, on our part, might follow the example of the British spokesman and claim that the Conservative Government's obstinate insistence on carrying out hydrogen bomb tests and pursuing a policy of rearmament hardly corresponds to the sincere aspirations of the British people, and that another Government would better represent their interests. But the British Foreign Office might consider such a statement as interference in internal British affairs!"

The British Government, 'Nepszabadsag' added, was hardly in a position to address reproaches to the Hungarian Government at a time when, thanks to NATO, British troops were stationed in Western Germany and elsewhere, and US troops had bases in Britain. Hungary had drawn the logical conclusion from this situation; and as long as there were NATO forces "on the Hungarian frontier" Soviet troops would remain in Hungary.



## 'Nepszabadsag': USA Continues to Finance Subversion

'Nepszabadsag' on 30th May, as quoted by MTI on the same day, had a leader on the agreement in which it said that the Western imperialists had learnt nothing from the grave setbacks they had suffered. US money continued to be poured out to finance subversion against the socialist countries. "Troops, armed to the teeth and stationed on the frontiers of the countries of the socialist camp, are only waiting for the order to attack." Every responsible Hungarian must realise that although there were signs that the tension might be easing, it would be unwise at this time for the socialist world to fail to prepare itself for every eventuality. The paper spoke of a "campaign of slander" conducted by "Free Europe" Radio and the Voice of America in connection with the effect of the presence in Hungary of the Soviet troops and concluded: "This agreement is a safeguard allowing us to work calmly and peacefully for the good of our country and our people."

## From Radio Comment: Agreement a Sign of Soviet Appreciation

An unnamed home service commentator, broadcasting at 19.00 on 28th May, said that during the October-November events the question of Soviet troops in Hungary had been presented to the Hungarian public "in an incorrect, criminal, nationalist and chauvinist light" by hostile circles attempting to align the Hungarian people against the very USSR and Soviet Army to which they owed their freedom. This manoeuvre had failed. The agreement on the status of Soviet troops in Hungary (Summary Part IIB, No. 832, p.2 onwards) was "a historic document" and had "cleared the air". Its importance was underlined by the fact that the Foreign Minister and the Minister of Defence of the world's greatest Power had come to Hungary to conclude it. This was a sign of appreciation of Hungary and the Hungarian people, and proof of Hungary's full equality.

## Contrast between Soviet and US Troops Abroad

A commentary for Hungarians in Western Europe (29.5.57) - also anonymous - alluded to "signs of US preparations for a third world war", and said that socialist countries had joined forces "against this feverish and murderous gathering". The Warsaw Treaty, which allowed Soviet troops to be stationed in several countries building socialism, was an expression of this union of forces. The agreement stipulated that Soviet troops would not interfere in the internal affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic. This had been the situation even before the conclusion of the agreement, no matter what Western radios and papers said. Soviet units had gone into action on 24th October by request of Imre Nagy, then Premier. On 4th November it was again by request of the legal Hungarian Government that Soviet troops in Hungary had helped in the military annihilation of the counter-revolution.

Every line of the agreement assured the complete equality of the two countries and Hungary's national sovereignty. In contrast, US troops in Austria, Western Germany or Britain, had "ignored the people who gave them hospitality, trampled their laws underfoot, seduced their daughters and committed robbery and murder with virtual impunity". As recent events in Formosa had shown, their behaviour in Asia was even worse. To the peoples of Western Europe and the Asian countries in revolt against the intolerable privileges of the US occupiers, the letter and spirit of the agreements concluded by the Soviet Government with the people's democracies offered an attractive example.

## Western Recognition of Need for Soviet Action in Hungary

According to another anonymous home service commentary (20.15, 29.5.57) Hungarians were "filled with feelings of reassurance at the presence of friendly Soviet troops in Hungary". The imperialist attempt "to wrest our country from the fraternal



community of socialist countries and turn it into a deployment area for their war plans" had been "a direct threat to the peace and security of Europe". Even Western circles recognised the Warsaw Treaty as a factor of European peace and admitted that "without the USSR's prompt and firm action ... a situation might have arisen in Hungary the consequences of which would have been fatal for the whole of Europe". The international situation was still tense. The aggressive trend of which NATO was the European instrument continued to make its influence felt. The issue of peace or war in Europe would therefore be decided by what forces were to oppose aggression. The united strength of the socialist camp represented an effective and firm guarantee of stabilised peace. Without it there would be nothing to prevent the imperialists' realising their war plans.

The only way to convince the imperialists that their subversive cold war policy was untenable was to strengthen and consolidate the forces of peace. Western politicians, generals and monopolists must be persuaded that their attempts would come up against a wall of steel. Every step designed to knit the forces of peace closer together enhanced the chances of reducing tension and provided a warning of the hopelessness of bellicose adventures. The Hungarian-Soviet agreement of 27th May, while serving Hungary's security in the first place, thus fitted into the edifice of general peace and would have its effect on the development of the international situation.