

CABLE

New York, October 15, (REUTER)

Diplomatic sources said today that Hungarian authorities had renewed their invitation for the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, to visit Budapest. Mr. Hammarskjöld was said to have turned down the invitation, as he has past invitations to visit Budapest. He was thought to have been prompted to take this position because the General Assembly has appointed Prince Wan Waithayakon of Thailand as its special emissary on the Hungary problem. Informants said Mr. Hammarskjöld and Prince Wan were working closely together on the Prince's mission to try to obtain Hungarian and Soviet compliance with Assembly resolutions passed since the revolt last October 23.

The new invitation to Mr. Hammarskjöld was understood to have been tendered when the Hungarian Foreign Minister, Mr. Imre Horvath, called on him Monday. Prince Wan also saw the Secretary-General on Friday after conferring with Mr. Horvath on Thursday night. Diplomatic sources said that at the Thursday meeting Mr. Horvath had agreed to the second step in Prince Wan's step by step plan to carry out his mission. That was to supply written answers to written questions submitted by Prince Wan. Initially, these questions will concern "humanitarian" aspects of the Hungarian situation -- that is, the number of political prisoners held, their alleged offences, trial procedures and sentences meted out. The next step would be to seek amnesty for some of the prisoners.

Then political conditions in Hungary will be raised, centering around the holding of free elections. Finally, Prince Wan will raise the question of withdrawal of Soviet forces from Hungary. All these issues are mentioned in the Assembly resolutions, culminating with the one approved at the special session on September 12-16 authorising Prince Wan to seek compliance with them. Prince Wan was said to be "satisfied" with progress so far in his talks with Mr. Horvath, who is returning soon to Budapest.

Diplomatic sources said that Prince Wan at the Thursday meeting with Mr. Horvath mentioned the "possibility" that they might have to continue their discussions in Budapest. Mr. Horvath was said to have replied that the Prince could not come as a "United Nations observer". Prince Wan was understood to have said that he would not come as an "investigator", pointing out that an investigation of the Hungarian situation had been carried out by a special U.N. Five-Nation Committee earlier this year. Diplomatic sources said that point was left there.

That did not exclude a visit to Budapest at some later date by Prince Wan, these sources said. They pointed out that with the first anniversary of the Hungarian revolt near at hand - October 23 - Hungarian authorities naturally would not want Prince Wan in the country at that time lest "ferment" be re-awakened. Prince Wan himself was understood not to be placing too much stress on the question of visiting Budapest. Sources pointed out that Prince Wan's mandate from the Assembly authorized him to negotiate with Hungarian "authorities." At this stage, he was content to interpret that as meaning the Hungarian Delegation to the U.N. in New York.



Another point was understood to be that Prince Wan's presence in Budapest might be interpreted as tacit recognition of the Kadar régime. Diplomatic sources said Prince Wan was not willing to lend himself to that at this time. A skilled negotiator, Prince Wan's approach to the mission was said to be "make haste slowly". His principle concern now was to create a favourable climate for formal negotiations with the Hungarians later, but in the meantime to keep advancing step by step. He has used this technique successfully in negotiations with the Soviet Union over Thailand's admission to the U.N. in 1946 and with France in negotiating settlement of boundary disputes between Thailand and the former French Indo-China.

Prince Wan was also authorized by the Assembly resolution to go to Moscow to attempt to talk the Soviet Union into withdrawing its troops from Hungary. When he talked with Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister at the U.N., he was told he could not come to Moscow as the official U.N. Emissary but would be welcomed as a former Assembly President.