

UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PRINCE WAN'S
PRESS CONFERENCE, DECEMBER 11, 1957.

- Q. Are you disappointed? What is your next step?
- A. Two things could be done. A new approach with the hope that something could be done. When I first started, I was hoping to receive an answer to my questions. This could have been a basis for further discussions.
- Q. How do you imagine a new start?
- A. In co-operation and with the help of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat. They both were helping me up to now and I think that they would help me in the future too, as I know the Secretariat is continuing in collecting Hungarian material and this can be used any time. Besides the Hungarian and U.S.S.R. Delegations visit the Secretary-General often, visit the top members of the Secretariat - at such visits a new approach could be initiated.
(The Prince mentioned here that an approach could be initiated if the international tension relaxed)
- Q. Do you expect a relaxation of international tension in the next decade?
- A. Yes, certainly. But the question is whether there will be no war.
- Q. Will the General Assembly discuss your Report now or in the next session?
- A. The General Assembly Resolution does not say to which session I should report back.
- Q. Are you giving up your mandate?
- A. I don't give up. There is still hope for discussions through the Secretariat or through other diplomatic channels. For instance, Hungary approached me to establish diplomatic contacts between Thailand and Hungary. Hungary wants to send a Trade Mission to Thailand. Such a contact can help to discuss the other questions.
- Q. You were speaking about the Secretary-General and the Secretariat. How are they helping you?
- A. Yes, I was in contact with the Secretary-General and with his representative, Dr. Protitch, who was asked by the Secretary-General to help me.

Q. Would you accept information from Bang-Jensen? (?)

A. Only if it would come through the Secretary-General.

Q. Do you think that if the tone of the Resolution would have been more moderate (not condemnation) you could have succeeded?

A. I don't think so. At the beginning, Horvath and Gromyko were talking to me about the problem and only later, very recently, Sik told me that he had been instructed not to accept the questions from me. Therefore I think that there is a possibility for contacts in the future.

Q. What do you think it was that made Horvath change his attitude?

A. Probably the international tension.

Q. When you first met Horvath, were you not surprised about his conciliatory attitude?

A. No, because I was talking and stressing the humanitarian attitude. It was a U.N. approach as prescribed in the Charter. I was hoping that an approach on a humanitarian basis would be effective.

Q. Can you tell me your questions?

A. I shall read them quickly because I trust you:

1. How many people are in gaol and concentration camps?
2. How are they treated? Is there a general standard for treatment of prisoners? How long have they been in custody before coming before a Court?
3. What are the reasons for sending someone to a Summary Court? (?)
4. What provisions are made for defence. Can the prisoner select his defence or has the Court to appoint one?
5. Freedom of religion? Freedom of publishing of religious books?
6. Freedom of press and freedom of opinion? Is the whole press controlled by the Party?
7. Freedom of association? Is anyone entitled to organize meetings? Is there special permission needed for organizing a meeting?

8. Election by secret ballots? Freedom of political parties? Is there special provision regarding those problems in the Constitution?
9. Freedom of Trade Unions? Can all professional groups form Trade Unions or only special groups?
10. University education? Is everyone admitted to higher education?
11. Is there restriction, regarding taking part in the cultural life, of the whole population?
12. Will there be an amnesty and will it include political crimes?

These questions show that I did not talk about political questions and I was asking only for answers informatively. I knew that Hungary, as other nations, is very anxious to guard its sovereignty.

Q. Did Horvath know your questions when he ordered Sik not to accept them from you?

A. No.

Q. (inaudible)

A. My opinion is that a friendly, any friendly, country would answer such questions.

Q. Is the Hungarian Question in your opinion a dead one?

A. No, I don't think so. But I had a short time only at my disposal so I could not deduct such conclusions. It might be that I am an optimist, but I think there is still a possibility for an opening.

Q. Do you think that the Secretary-General could do something useful now? A previous resolution was asking for the Secretary-General to take steps. He could perhaps start on this basis?

A. I don't know. I haven't discussed it with him.

Q. Have you some suggestions?

A. Not now. I shall see Mr. Hammarskjold before I leave New York. I shall be happy if the Secretary-General could do something.

Q. Did you receive letters from private persons, from organizations?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. How many? Can you say hundreds?

A. A great number.

Q. Are you holding on to those? (Laughter)

Q. Is your personal attitude "wait and see"?

A. No, I am looking for other approaches.

QUESTIONS FOR THE STUDENT

1. How are persons confined in prisons or in concentration camps treated? Are they treated in accordance with generally recognized standards?
2. When people are in the custody of the security police, how are they treated? What procedure applies? Is there a time limit within which they must appear in Court? In which Courts do they appear?
3. In what circumstances, if at all, are people subjected to summary arrest? What procedures regulate the detention of people, and are these applied in all circumstances? To what extent and in what circumstances is deportation practiced?
4. What provision is made to ensure adequate arrangements for the defense of accused persons? Is defense chosen by the accused or appointed by the Court?
5. What arrangements are in operation to ensure freedom of religion and of public worship? Are different religions permitted to have schools, newspapers and periodicals? Is there freedom of ~~expression of~~ religious textbooks?
6. Are people in Hungary allowed freedom of thought, free expression of opinions, and freedom to publish what they wish in the press and over the radio? What are the laws governing libel? Is all the press State or Party controlled?
7. Are people allowed to hold meetings as they wish and to form whatever associations they wish? What kind of associations are within the provisions of the law? What are their purposes? Is special permission needed for their establishment and under whose authority is such permission granted? Is there any limitation on the number of persons who may congregate?
8. Will elections be held by universal suffrage and secret ballot? Are there any legal or any relevant provisions foreseen by the Constitution in this respect?
9. Are people allowed to organize trade unions as they wish? Are they limited to certain professional groups only?
10. Is higher education equally accessible to all on the basis of merit? What kind of criteria regulate admission to higher schools and universities?
11. Are there any restrictions on the participation of sections of the population in the cultural life of the community?
12. Will there be an amnesty for political offenders? In case of amnesty, would it apply to all political offenders or would certain categories be excluded?

THE PRISON PART OF THE HUNGARIAN CONSTITUTION

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3. In what circumstances, if at all, are people subjected to summary arrest?
What procedures regulate the detention of people, and are these applied
in all circumstances? To what extent and in what circumstances is
deportation practiced?
4. What provision is made to ensure adequate arrangements for the defence
of accused persons?
5. What arrangements are in operation to ensure freedom of religion and
of public worship?
6. Are people in Hungary allowed to think what they like, to say what they
like, to publish what they wish in the press and over the radio?
7. Are people allowed to hold meetings as they wish and to form whatever
associations they wish?
8. Will elections be held by universal suffrage and secret ballot?
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population in the cultural life of the community?
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