

## THE HUNGARIAN QUESTION

Moscow radio's propaganda campaign reached new heights of intensity on the eve of the General Assembly's special session. In both the home and foreign-language services the line taken was that the calling of the session was "provocative", that the report of the Committee of Five was tendentious and based on false evidence, that the people of Hungary wholeheartedly supported the Kadar regime and deeply resented foreign interference in their domestic affairs and that all the fuss being made by the Western

Powers reflected their desire to deflect public attention from such current problems as disarmament, Oman, the Yemen and Algeria. Among the material used by commentators were: the Scottish mineworkers' delegation's report; statements by Hungarian soldiers to the effect that they had never fought against the Soviet Army; and foreign visitors' accounts of the present normality of life in Hungary.

### The UN Assembly's Debate

#### The Draft Resolution: "A Slander Campaign"

Tass reported from New York on 4th September:

(Text)

"The permanent US representative at the UN, Lodge, yesterday held two private conferences with representatives of other countries. The aim of these conferences is to make sure of support in the slander campaign against the USSR and the Hungarian People's Republic in connection with the forthcoming examination of the so-called 'Hungarian question' at a special session of the UN General Assembly.

"In the morning Lodge conferred with representatives of the Latin American countries and in the afternoon with representatives of some European and Asian countries. Lodge acquainted the participants in the conferences with the US delegation's 'working paper' which is in point of fact the American draft resolution on the report of the 'Committee of Five'. He explained that the USA's main object in organising a fuss about the 'Hungarian question' is 'to exert the maximum pressure on the Soviet Union'. The American draft resolution, which abounds in dirty slander against Hungary and the USSR, calls on the General Assembly 'to approve the report of the Special Committee' and asks the Committee to continue its activities and to submit reports to the General Assembly.

"According to information received, differences between the USA and Britain became apparent during the preparation of these conferences on the most important clause of the 'working paper' - the proposal to extend the activities of the Committee. It is said that Britain considers the further existence of the Committee impracticable."

(End text - Tass in Russian for Abroad 4.9.57)

#### Discussion of the Committee of Five's Report

Under the heading "The USA is provocatively pushing a debate on to the UN" Tass described the General Assembly proceedings on 10th September as follows:

"Today began the special session of the UN General Assembly called on the insistence of the USA and of some other Western countries to discuss the slanderous report of the so-called Special Committee of the UN for the Investigation of the Situation in Hungary (the Committee of Five). The 'discussion' has been carefully prepared by the American delegation in the course of the last three weeks.

"The Australian Shann was the first to speak. While praising the work of the Committee, at the same time he practically admitted that the report of the Committee was built on 'evidence of participants in the Hungarian events' who found themselves outside Hungary - that is on slander by participants in the counter-revolutionary putsch.



"Then a representative of Hungary, Peter Mod, spoke. The measures taken by the Hungarian Government to suppress the counter-revolutionary mutiny, he said, were approved by the State Assembly of Hungary which expresses the will of the entire sovereign people of Hungary. He stressed the illegal character of the Committee of Five and uttered a resolute protest against the discussion by the Assembly of the slanderous report of this Committee. The Hungarian representative demanded that the discussion of the 'Hungarian question' should be withdrawn from the agenda of the General Assembly, declaring that such a discussion was an unjustified interference in the internal affairs of Hungary.

"The demand of the Hungarian delegate was supported by the representative of the USSR, A.A. Sobolev.

"The representative of Czechoslovakia, Ulrich, also asked to be allowed to speak on the question of procedure. But the Chairman of the Assembly Wan Waithayakon (who has been selected by the Americans for the role of the Special UN Commission for the Hungarian question) announced his decision that the Hungarian problem would be discussed despite the objections. Without allowing the representative of Czechoslovakia to express his opinion, he called upon the US representative, Lodge, to speak. Lodge made an ineffective speech in which he repeated the provocative fabrications of the Committee of Five.

"After Lodge's speech a provocative statement was made by the representative of Eire. He supported the proposals of the USA directed towards interference in the internal affairs of Hungarian and the intensification of international tension.

"After that the morning meeting ended."

(End text - Tass 10.9.57)

Comment for Home and Foreign Listeners

Popular Condemnation of the Report

In a talk broadcast to the home audience on 7th September Khazanov said:

(Text)

"According to reports from American correspondents, the USA has distributed to the delegates at the UN a revised draft of its resolution on the so-called Hungarian question, which, at the insistence of the USA, will be examined at a special session of the UN which opens on 10th September.

"The new draft contains highly significant alterations. At the insistence of Britain the USA has excluded from the draft an article providing for the continued existence of the Committee of Five, which has prepared a report on the Hungarian events full of lies and distortions.

"As is known, this Committee was set up under pressure from the USA at the 11th session of the UN General Assembly. Representatives of five countries were on it - Australia, Ceylon, Denmark, Tunisia and Uruguay. The plot to set up a Committee of Five, as well as the petty intrigues of the USA in connection with the Hungarian events, is a bare-faced violation of international law and the UN Charter, because such actions are nothing but crude interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State.

"There is no need to prove that the Hungarian events were the internal affair of Hungary. This has been pointed out in official documents published by the Hungarian Government and by the vigorous protest of broad circles of the population of Hungary against the UN's discussing the Hungarian question. The representatives of world progressive public opinion have spoken with indignation about the illegal actions of the USA. All these unanimous protests by public opinion have apparently had an influence on some of the members of the Committee of Five. They no longer want to continue in their unattractive role of participants in the USA's dirty game.

"According to reports in the Western papers, the representatives of Ceylon and Tunisia have frankly expressed their desire to quit the Committee. The Committee has begun to disintegrate and the British, fearing a public scandal, have insisted that the clause on the continuation of the work of the Committee be withdrawn from the resolution.

"The weak threads with which the whole story of the 'Hungarian question' is sewn are becoming more and more apparent and there are fewer and fewer candidates to support the Americans in their unsavoury machinations."

(End text - Moscow 16.00, 7.9.57)



"Distortions by the Enemies of the Hungarian People"

A home-service broadcast in international topics by Strelnikov made the following points:

(Excerpts)

"The nearer draws the discussions in the UN imposed upon it by the USA and other Western countries of the so-called 'Hungarian question', the more feverish is the fuss made by the reactionary forces around this actually non-existent problem. The entire cumbersome propaganda machine of the cold war politicians has been put into motion. Broadcasting stations like the Voice of America and Free Europe and the Press of the UN monopolies are using all kinds of distortions and slander in order to misrepresent the true state of affairs in the Hungarian PR.

"The US representative at the UN, Lodge, is being violently active. He is constantly conferring with the delegations of the Latin American and other States in an attempt to gain their support in the discussion of the slanderous report by the Committee of Five.

"While Lodge is working on all the delegates, a resolution on the 'Hungarian question' concocted by the US State Department is being distributed in the UN lobbies. This 'document', if I may so call it, and other fake material mentioned in the UN report on the 'Hungarian question' are composed of dirty insinuations distorting historical facts.

"The enemies of the Hungarian people in the West, who fabricated the UN report and the American resolution on the 'Hungarian question', are deliberately ignoring the destruction carried out by the counter-revolutionaries in Hungary and the loss inflicted on the national economy during the mutiny.

"The counter-revolution brought Hungary's national economy to the verge of disaster. For more than two months industry, with the exception of the food industry, was almost at a standstill. The work of urban and railway transport was disturbed and counter-revolutionaries and criminals released from the prisons plundered goods worth hundreds of millions of forints from stores and shops. Three thousand flats were almost completely destroyed and 16,000 damaged. The country did not export for nearly two months, but only imported. This led to a loss of capital. The total losses inflicted to Hungary by the counter-revolutionary rebellion amounted to about 24,000,000,000 forints. The shadow of unemployment and inflation was cast over Hungary.

"The Hungarian people were helped during these difficult days by their faithful friends - the Soviet Union, the CPR and all the fraternal States of the socialist camp. The aid rendered by the socialist countries to Hungary in those days was not only economic but also of great moral significance. The Hungarians did not feel alone during that period."

(End excerpts - Moscow 23.00, 8.9.57)



In a home-service talk Trofimova said:

(Excerpts)

"An emergency session of the UN General Assembly opens today in New York which, it can be stated beforehand, will add neither authority nor weight to this international organisation. It has lent its rostrum for the discussion of the provocative Report of the 'Committee of Five' on the so-called Hungarian question.

"The opening of the session was preceded by a small scene: the inhabitants of New York passing the UN Headquarters witnessed a noisy, though not very big, demonstration. Its participants carried posters with glaring inscriptions: 'Does the UN want to betray small countries or to defend them?' and 'The General Assembly must act and not waste time talking!'. As transpired later, the participants in this march through the streets of New York were Hungarian counter-revolutionaries who had fled to America from the judgment of the people.

"The revival of the Hungarian question, buried by life itself, was necessary to enable the representatives of the Western reactionaries to use the rostrum of UN for the organisation of a new campaign of slander against the socialist countries. The question can be asked: why, at this precise moment, 10 months after the defeat of the counter-revolutionary plotters in Hungary, now when life in this country has again entered its normal course, the 'Hungarian question' and all this anti-Communist campaign have been revived? It is not difficult to find an answer to this question: let us recall what a hullabaloo was raised around the events in Hungary by the Western Powers last October. Then they found it necessary in order to cover the aggression of Britain, France and Israel against Egypt. Now the picture is similar. The convening of the General Assembly with the tabling of the 'Hungarian question' is required by the Western reactionaries in order, with the aid of a new slanderous campaign against the socialist countries, to distract public attention from the aggression by the imperialist Powers in the Middle East."

(End excerpts - Moscow 18.30, 10.9.57)

#### British Visitors' Impressions of Hungary

In the course of a talk giving the Soviet version of the events in Hungary Burannikov told listeners in North America:

(Excerpt)

"Professor Bernal, the well-known British scientist, has been in Hungary a number of times, including a visit after the October events. An article by Bernal in the 'New Statesman and Nation' pointed to the headway made in normalising life in Hungary. Bernal wrote that he had returned home convinced of the fact that there are far more optimistic hopes for the future in the Hungary of today than he had supposed before leaving for Hungary. Realisation of these hopes, he added, depends largely on what is done in other parts of the world to ease world tension and to consolidate peace.

"Another British visitor to Hungary, Mr. John Baird, talked to workers, engineers, technicians and TU functionaries. These conversations, according to Mr. Baird, have strengthened his opinion that it was actually counter-revolution which took place in Hungary. He said very few people in Britain believe in the truthfulness of the five-nation committee's report. Most people consider it false."

(End excerpt - Moscow in English for N America 23.00, 10.9.57)