

ROYAL SWEDISH EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

Inofficial translation of article in Svenska Dagbladet  
of 14 May, 1960.

"I can confirm that rumors have been circulating regarding executions of young Hungarians who at the time of their arrest or of their sentencing had not attained an age where they were legally punishable." These are the words of Prime Minister Erlander when he answered Mr. Hjalmarson's (conservative) parliamentary question regarding reports of terror in Hungary. "If these rumors are correct, the procedures are an expression of brutality and show a complete disregard for the UN-resolutions in the question of Hungary."

The Prime Minister pointed out that subsequent to the events in Hungary of 1956 the UN authorized a special representative to follow the question of Hungary and, inter alia, to try to influence the Hungarian government to comply with the General Assembly resolutions regarding Hungary. As is evident from the White Book issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs regarding the 1959 session of the General Assembly the present commissioner for the question of Hungary, Sir Leslie Munro, presented a report to that session. In the report he stated, inter alia, that apparently reliable information was circulating concerning new trials and executions of persons who had participated in the revolt of 1956, in spite of authoritative Hungarian assurances that such trials had been completely terminated over a year ago. From other sources we have received reports of executions of young people. The Swedish government is not in a position to express a definite opinion as to the reliability of these reports.

Regarding initiatives of the Swedish government in



this question I would like to say the following. In this as in other similar cases where there might be reasons for participating in an international opinion against a violation of the claims of humanity and of human rights, it is the Swedish Government's view that any such opinion on the part of the Swedish Government should appropriately be expressed through the United Nations. The Swedish Government also contributed towards inscribing the question of Hungary on the agenda of the 1959 Assembly and supported the resolution which was adopted by that Assembly.

On the basis of the mandate which the United Nations gave its special representative for the question of Hungary, this representative will continue his efforts to shed light on what happened. That his attention is focused in particular on the accusation dealt with in the parliamentary question is evident from his recent remarks at a press conference in Geneva. It should be in the interest of the Hungarian Government to facilitate the task given to the U.N. representative by the General Assembly.