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Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, made a statement to the press in connexion with the murder of Imre Nagy and his companions, according to which he will "mull over the events in Hungary and investigate how those facts can be reconciled with Hungary's membership in the U.N."

His statement cannot be formally contested. The Secretary-General of the U.N., according to diplomatic rules, cannot call a murder a murder, he cannot make any promises in the name of his organisation and it wouldn't be tactful of him to use violent words in public even if he would become morally indignant. We do not complain that Mr. Hammarskjöld says that and only that. We complain only because even that that he says is not true. Mr. Hammarskjöld does not mull over the facts, he does not draw his political or diplomatic, not even moral, conclusions from them - frankly speaking, again he will not do anything.

The bitter experience of nearly two years motivates this bitter prognosis. The Soviet leaders and their Hungarian stooges for the past twenty months have committed crimes for the prevention of which the U.N. was established. They trampled down the liberty of a nation and with tanks and bayonets forced a form of government upon a people, against which they in turn fought and protested. That time, Mr. Hammarskjöld did not fly - giving lie to his age - to Budapest as he used to do when the fate of an oil pipe was in danger. He only announced his visit, but changed his mind - after all the question was about the freedom of 10 million people. His appearance in Budapest could probably have decisively influenced the Russians in their decision, who at that time were still undecided. Later, when thousands of Hungarian freedom fighters were deported and hundreds and hundreds were executed, Mr. Hammarskjöld took testimonies from witnesses in order to decide whether there was really a revolution in Hungary and whether the Russians had really crushed this revolution? These documents were published in a book and the U.N. also formally condemned the Kadar regime. Twenty months ago the Russians abducted the legal Prime Minister of Hungary and kept him in prison all the time. Mr. Hammarskjöld has done nothing in this matter. He will now mull over only what could have been done. It is probable that the U.N. will again decide on a new condemnation of the Kadar regime. Of course, without sanctions. That this murder was carried out at the orders of the Soviet Government, as were the other murders committed in Hungary, must be proven - in the opinion of the U.N. - by thousands of new witnesses who are, of course, not available and by new observers who would not be permitted to enter Hungary. Therefore, the Soviet Union will not even be mentioned in this connexion.

Until the Fall of 1956, ten million Hungarians lived in the hope that Mr. Hammarskjold would fulfil his duty. The memories of his Scandinavian countrymen, of Adolph Gustav, Haakon VIIth, Folke-Bernadotte and of Raoul Wallenberg, caused us to have imagined a person who - disregarding his personal safety - would follow his conscience and would fulfil the dictates of his mission and humanity. Alas, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold does not belong to this category of "every inch a man". He is rather the intellectual successor of the old bureaucrats of the League of Nations, who followed red tape, formed committees and sub-committees and probably now does not notice that in the meantime he has become an important authority in world history without carrying proper weight.