

ASSEMBLY OF CAPTIVE EUROPEAN NATIONS

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ACEN SENDS PROTESTS TO U.N. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ACEN For Discussion of Soviet Colonialism

Albania
Bulgaria
Czechoslovakia
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Romania

In a letter addressed to Mr. Chandra S. Iha, Chairman of the U.N. Special Committee of 17, the Assembly of Captive European Nations protested the fact that the Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has so far confined itself to discussing de-colonization to former Western colonial possessions, and to certain races and religions. This limitation runs counter to the principle of universality of self-determination, as enshrined in the UN Charter, as well as to the spirit in which many delegations voted for the 1960 Declaration on independence of colonial countries and peoples, the letter pointed out.

The communication objected to the omission from the discussions of the problem of the nine East-Central European countries under Soviet rule and economic exploitation "who have been robbed of practically all their human rights and fundamental freedoms."

The "legal obstacle" of the "independence" of the Soviet-subjugated European nations, however fictitious, and their membership in the UN, most frequently given in explanation of the world body's inaction on new colonialism, the letter said, has been and can be overcome by the accepted theory that the obligation to observe human rights is basic to all members. On this score, the letter cited the examples of Algeria and Angola which were discussed

in the UN despite objections by France and Portugal. Therefore, the letter continued, "the Soviet Union has no legal or moral grounds to prevent the same body from looking into its colonial possessions, old and new, however well disguised."

The communication concluded by expressing the hope that the forthcoming meetings of the Committee "will take a universal view of the process of de-colonization" since "it is endowed with the moral authority to perform its tasks in the only spirit that behoves the UN - the spirit of universality."

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ACEN Objects Against Bulgarian Membership in Special Committee

The people of Bulgaria and other captive European countries will receive the news of the inclusion of Bulgaria among the seven members of the Special Committee "to examine available information and make recommendations on territories under Portuguese administration...with shock and dismay."

This protest was contained in a letter of the ACEN over the signature of its Chairman, Ferenc Nagy, to Mr. Mongi Slim, President of the UN General Assembly. The letter called attention, among other things, to the fact that the Bulgarian regime foisted upon the people was only able to maintain itself with the help of the Soviet Union; that the record of the Bulgarian Communist regime with regard to human rights is even worse than during the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution of November 3, 1950; that Bulgaria today has only nominal independence, as is evident from the voting record of its Communist delegation in the UN which was always identical with that of the Soviet Union.

The communication said that the appointment of the Bulgarian agents "of the greatest colonial power of our times" to a committee relating to the "respect for and observance of human rights, and particularly the right of self-determination," can hardly be reconciled with moral law and is incompatible with the principles of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the General Assembly Resolution 1654 itself.

In conclusion, the letter spoke of the adverse reaction on the peoples of Bulgaria and captive Europe of the news of the appointment of Bulgaria to the Special Committee, a committee "to pronounce judgment on an issue which has come before the UN precisely in the name of self-determination," a situation brought about by the General Assembly decision which is at odds both with truth and logic. "It impels our Assembly to voice the strong protest of the captive peoples for the insult that has been added to the injury previously inflicted upon them."