



TODAY ABROAD

by Joseph Clark

Responsible Action About Hungary

THERE IS one story from the United Nations which deserves far more attention than it has received. It concerns the efforts of the Yugoslav, Polish and Indian representatives to prevent the issue of Hungary from becoming a source of conflict.

The commercial press has expressed "consternation" over the fact that India's V. K. Krishna Menon voted against United Nations intervention in Hungary. But they did not tell the whole story about India's position.

Similarly, the press reported that Yugoslavia supported the evacuation of Soviet troops from Hungary. But they told a completely one-sided story thereby. And in the case of the Polish position, the press hardly reported that at all.

India's Krishna Menon made it clear the UN should not do anything "which will retard this process of the withdrawal of troops and the settling down of the Hungarian people. . . ." The troops in question, of course, are Soviet. India has been informed by Soviet premier Bulganin that Soviet troops will be withdrawn from Hungary as soon as order has been restored.

PRIME MINISTER NEHRU has already expressed his regrets against the intervention of Soviet troops in Hungary. But now he is facing up to the question: how can those troops be withdrawn from Hungary with a minimum of conflict within Hungary and among the world powers? Obviously this can be promoted only by negotiations between the Hungarian government and the Soviet authorities. The present Kadar government of Hungary has acknowledged the fact that it can expect little popular support unless it brings about the evacuation of Soviet

troops.

Therefore, the Indian government feels that regardless of the initial responsibility for the terrible events in Hungary, it is in the interests of the Hungarian people, and of world peace, that the negotiations for evacuation get underway as soon as possible.

Yugoslavia put the issue very clearly before UN. It reaffirmed its unequivocal position against the intervention of foreign troops, and in this case Soviet troops, in the internal affairs of any other country. But at the same time the Yugoslavs rounded out the full picture. They showed that Western imperialists were seeking to intervene in the Hungarian crisis and that such intervention tended to inflame and increase the bloodshed. They also pointed out that the western powers were supporting those forces in Hungary itself who were trying to set the clock back to pre-war conditions.

Therefore Yugoslavia made the essential argument that all interference with Hungary's internal affairs must cease. And they agreed with the Indian delegation that UN intervention at this time could interfere with the negotiations between Hungary and the Soviet Union for evacuation of Soviet troops.

THE YUGOSLAVS, whose diplomatic efforts at UN are widely respected, felt that the U. S. government was ready to settle things amicably with an independent Communist-led ("Titoite") government in Hungary. And the Yugoslavs were using their influence as much as they could to prevent the Western powers from arousing an anti-Soviet hysteria on the Hungarian issue.

Poland used the debate on this question to establish clearly

its support for independence and equality of all nations. They also supported the Indian and Yugoslav attempts to conciliate, to aid negotiations, to prevent intervention and to assure the complete independence of Hungary in the long run.

IT IS WORTHY of note that the actions of the Polish Communists have enhanced the prestige of socialism everywhere in the world at a moment when this prestige was so much under attack. Thus, the left-wing Laborite weekly of London, the New Statesman and Nation, wrote about the democratic upheaval in Poland:

"Every Socialist worthy of the name will salute the Poles for their achievement. And let us be clear what it is: they have struck a historic blow not only for freedom, but at the same time for Socialism. Socialism just as much as freedom, was strangled in the iron grip of Stalin. . . . The Poles have shown—far more convincingly even than the Yugoslavs—that they are prepared to hold out for Socialism plus liberty; while Gomulka, Cyrankiewicz and the others who stood with them may well take their place in the short list of men who have taken the big decisions which change the course of history."

It is the influence of this type of Communist leadership which can go a long way to repair the wreckage left by the Hungarian events.

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