

A SUMMIT MEETING NOW!

An Editorial

WE WRITE this editorial with a heavy heart in view of the weekend's renewed fighting in Hungary and the use of Soviet troops there.

These events in Hungary take place at a moment when British and French troops are invading Egypt after their bombardment of Egyptian cities.

Both in Eastern Europe and the Middle East peaceful coexistence is being threatened. This is a time for sober reflection but also for quick action. It is a moment for a meeting between President Eisenhower and Premier Bul-

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ganin and the heads of the British and French governments.

The action of the Soviet troops in Hungary does not advance but retards the development of socialism because socialism cannot be imposed on a country by force; it does not help but damages the relations between socialist states; it does not strengthen but weakens the influence of the Soviet Union itself which has been playing a major role toward ending the cold war and establishing peaceful co-existence. It does not combat but plays into the hands of the hypocritical reactionaries in London, Paris and Washington as they drive to rob the peoples of the Middle East and elsewhere of their national independence.

What is taking place in Hungary has two sources, as the Communist Party's statement, printed on another page, notes. First, there were the grave distortions of socialist principles introduced by the Soviet Communist leadership and the Rakosi group in Hungary. The second source was the continuous attempt by reactionaries in Hungary, openly supported and encouraged by Washington, to overthrow socialism.

The repressive practices of the Stalinist leadership discredited socialism. They weakened the efforts to eradicate the influence of Horthy fascism in Hungary. In contrast with Poland, the Hungarian Communists were too late in rectifying the evils of the Stalin era. The use of Soviet troops a week ago, in the face of a people's justified upheaval, was utilized by those within Hungary who sought the forcible overthrow of socialism.

WHEN NAGY unilaterally ended the Warsaw Pact—which came into being as an answer to NATO—and sought a condemnation of the Soviet Union in the UN, he opened up his country to right-wing reaction. Tragically, this action followed a declaration by the Soviet government in which it recognized errors in its relations to the people's democracies and offered to negotiate withdrawal of its troops.

Nagy's weakness in dealing with the resurgent reaction, sprang, in our opinion, primarily from the past Stalinist errors of both Soviet and Hungarian Communists.

WE ARE FOR the withdrawal of all troops from all countries to their own borders. We are for the right of all people, the Hungarian people as well as those of Cyprus, of Egypt, of Israel, of Kenya, of Okinawa—the list could be greatly extended—to rule themselves in complete independence. We oppose the use of force against those people no matter who originated it.

THE WITHDRAWAL of all foreign troops throughout the world to their own soil would open the way to solution of the most knotty problems of world politics. It could lead to the solution of the German problem through the neutralization and unification of Germany. This would bar the way to a revival of German militarism which precipitated two world wars.

As long as American military bases ring the globe the cold war continues. As long as our government opposes so minimum a step to peace as stopping H-bomb tests, we block the way to permanent solutions of East-West conflicts. And it is vital to contrast the roar in Washington about Hungary and the gentle slap on the wrist for the bombardment and invasion of Egypt by Britain and France.

The use of force by the Soviet troops in Hungary will bring no lasting solution to that country's problems. That is why we support the Hungarian masses who sought to solve their own problems as they were settled in Poland without violence, without foreign troop intervention and without allowing the supporters of the old fascist regime to remain in power.

IT WOULD BE tragic if the events in Hungary obscured the need for action immediately to halt the British-French invasion of Egypt.

The main thing in our view is positive action for peace. That is why a Big Four conference should be held as soon as humanly possible. That is why we support United Nations action for a cease-fire in the Middle East and withdrawal of British, French and Israeli forces from Egypt.

No one can pretend to have all the facts about what is happening in Hungary and elsewhere. But this much seems clear. Guns that are roaring must be silenced everywhere. The world needs a new Geneva, a new summit conference. Our country should take such an initiative immediately. Thus we protect America's security and world peace.