

HUNGARY, OCTOBER 24th

I HOPE EVERY reader of the Daily Worker will make a contribution to the campaign of aid for the Hungarian people, where the relief is to be administered by the Red Cross or through the United Nations.

Most people who are making contributions are doing so out of genuine concern for those in an unhappy situation. I only wish that everyone who is sponsoring the various relief drives or promoting the publicity in connection with the refugees, etc., also had humanitarian motives. If they did, this would be a different world.



But the zeal of many of these sponsors just happens to be in direct proportion to their ambition to discredit socialism and,

more immediately, to rekindle the Cold War. Under the guise of assistance, many actually are working against the interests of the Hungarian people and of the American people as well. (Witness Joe McCarthy's proposal to bomb the railway stations in Hungary!)

It would be foolish to underestimate what the Cold Warriors can accomplish in this situation. For they have at hand some tragic facts to exploit—some of which they themselves helped shape.

There is the fact of the refugees—regardless of their political complexion. There is the fact of the food and medical shortages inside Hungary, where the life of the nation has been almost at a standstill. There is the fact that the Hungarian workingclass has been in rebellion against the Soviet troops and the regime which supported their presence for more than five weeks. There is the fact of the Soviet army intervention

of Oct. 24 and again of Nov. 4. There was also the intervention that came somewhere between those two dates by fascist and other reactionary forces—but of this most Americans still know very little. This latter side of the situation the Daily Worker itself, as many of our readers have pointed out, did not treat adequately.

THE PROBLEM is how to meet the efforts of the reactionaries to twist these facts for the under-handed purposes of Cold War.

In my opinion it cannot be done by pretending that some of these facts never took place. This, unfortunately, is what Pravda did in its lengthy reply to Tito. Pravda completely ignored what Tito had to say about the Soviet intervention of Oct. 24. Several articles and letters in the Daily Worker have also tried to un-do that first intervention by passing it over in silence.

But it cannot be ignored. For regardless of anyone's opinion

of the second intervention of Nov. 4 and of the serious situation which the Soviet Union considered it then had to meet in one way or another, none of these later events would have occurred had it not been for the earlier intervention of Oct. 24.

THE TRAGEDY is that if Oct. 24 had gone the other way, in my opinion we would today have the exact opposite situation to what is now taking place in Hungary. Consider the results if on Oct. 24 the Soviet armed forces had not intervened on the side of the trigger-happy security police against the peaceful demonstrators for a democratic Socialism. Suppose, on the contrary, that the Soviet army having been called on by the government, had intervened to protect the working people of Hungary from the security police and from the bureaucratic apparatus for which it operated. If this had happened (and should we expect any less of a socialist army?) consider what the situation would

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be today! The Soviet Union would be the hero of the Hungarian workingclass and of the working people throughout all the People's Democracies, and its prestige would be soaring among the people everywhere in the world.

It was by no quirk of fate that the Soviet guns pointed in the wrong direction on that day. This was only a tragic climax of an eight-year policy of errors which the 20th Congress began to but never managed to correct in Hungary.

It is only by recognizing these facts and by discussing frankly what almost everybody knows to be true, that we will be able to accomplish what we consider our main job. This is to arouse the American people to the dangers to our country in the anti-Soviet campaign now being whipped up by the reactionaries. Only if we are unafraid of the whole truth will we be able to get the ear of the people and be able to serve the cause of peace and socialism.