

3. THE HUNGARIAN SITUATION (information as of 2400, 1 November)

Comment on:



Although Soviet troops have withdrawn from Budapest, they remain in bivouac areas near the Hungarian capital. Soviet tanks reportedly have surrounded the Budapest airfield, apparently for the purpose of maintaining control of the field while wounded Soviet troops are evacuated. No military action has taken place in Budapest between Soviet and Hungarian army units, according to reliable reports from the city.

At 1800 (local time) on 1 November, Budapest radio announced that Premier Nagy had officially protested to Soviet ambassador Andropov that he had received "authoritative information about the entry into Hungarian territory of new Soviet military formations," and had demanded that these forces be withdrawn at once. Budapest radio stated at 2300 that all airfields of the Hungarian air force had been surrounded by Soviet armored units in order to permit the departure of Soviet wounded. There is no firm evidence to confirm these assertions by Nagy, which may have been made in an effort to hasten the Soviet departure and to shore up his present government. There are indications of a small-scale Soviet troop redeployment within Hungary and  Soviet supply transports have been flying into Hungary daily.

Nagy, acting in a dual role as premier and foreign minister, also reportedly informed Andropov that the Hungarian government was withdrawing immediately from the Warsaw pact. At the same time he declared Hungary's neutrality, which, he added, should be guaranteed by the UN and the four major powers. Andropov, in response to the accusation that new troops were coming into Hungary, reportedly said that it was merely a regrouping of troops and not a new attempt on the part of the Soviet Union to smash the Hungarian revolution. During the afternoon of 1 November, Nagy said



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in an appeal to the United Nations that "new Soviet troop units are entering Hungary." Secretary General Hammarskjold has reportedly added this question to the provisional agenda of the 11th General Assembly which opens on 12 November.

Politically, the day was consumed in feverish activity by diverse groups presenting their demands and attempting to build up their popular following, but no real political unity was achieved.

First Secretary Janos Kadar of the Hungarian Workers (Communist) Party announced at 2200 on 1 November that a new party would be formed which would make a complete break with the Stalinist past and serve as a rallying point for all workers. The establishment of the new party--known as the Socialist Workers Party--is an obvious effort to increase national support for the Communists, particularly from left-wing Social Democratic Party members.

Efforts to enlist Social Democrats in the new coalition continue to be fruitless. Ana Kethely, provisional president of the newly re-formed Social Democratic Party, who arrived in Vienna for the Socialist International, privately stated that until free elections had taken place there could be no thought of "real" Social Democrats becoming members of the government.

Cardinal Mindszenty in his first public statement since his release said that "all conditions for the continuation of life are lacking!" He withheld his support for any political group and indicated that in two days he would clarify his position. [REDACTED]