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MACMILLAN TALKS
Washington, March 19-23, 1959

Further UN Action on Hungary
(Background Paper)

SUMMARY

The Secretary on February 2 wrote Mr. Lloyd to seek UK support for a five-step program on Hungary which would take account of Sir Leslie Munro's efforts as the UN representative on Hungary, provide for a Security Council initiative for Hungary's expulsion from the UN (which the USSR would presumably veto), and rejection of Hungarian credentials at the next General Assembly. Mr. Lloyd on February 23 reiterated strong British opposition to rejection of Hungarian credentials and contended that Sir Leslie Munro was only a rapporteur and that failure of his efforts would be insufficient justification for expulsion and rejection action. Mr. Lloyd also repeated UK objections to increasing tension between ourselves and the USSR deliberately. The acting Secretary replied on March 11 that we consider Sir Leslie to be more than a rapporteur and urged the UK to join us in supporting strong private and public initiatives by Munro. We agreed to defer in present circumstances consideration of expulsion action in the Security Council and rejection of credentials in the General Assembly.

BACKGROUND

The US, during the 13th UN General Assembly last fall, urged the UK to join us and others in an effort to reject the credentials of the Hungarian delegation. Foreign Minister Lloyd replied on November 26 that (a) it was doubtful that the two-thirds majority required for rejection could be obtained, (b) to try and fail would be a "major rebuff" to western prestige, (c) it was unwise deliberately to increase tension between the USSR and the West. On December 8, 1958, the Secretary wrote Mr. Lloyd that we had reluctantly decided not to pursue this matter at the 13th Assembly.

Pursuant to the Secretary's suggestion on January 7, the Department gave consideration to an initiative in the Security Council to seek Hungary's expulsion. On February 2, the Secretary requested Mr. Lloyd's reactions to the following five-step program: (1) behind-the-scenes approaches by Sir Leslie Munro, the UN representative on Hungary, to the Hungarians and the USSR; (2) public approaches by Sir Leslie Munro to the USSR and Hungary; (3) assuming the failure of these approaches, consideration by the Security Council of a resolution urging the present Hungarian regime to cooperate with Munro, which would be vetoed by the USSR; (4) a second resolution in the Security Council recommending to the General Assembly that Hungary be expelled, which would also be vetoed; (5) action at the 14th General Assembly this fall to seek rejection of credentials.

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Mr. Lloyd's reply on February 23 reiterated strong British opposition, in the absence of new outrages by the present regime, to seeking rejection of Hungarian credentials. Among other objections, he contended that Sir Leslie Munro's mandate was only that of a rapporteur and failure of his efforts could not be considered sufficient justification for a Security Council initiative.

The Acting Secretary replied to Mr. Lloyd on March 11 that we consider Sir Leslie Munro to be more than a rapporteur (this title having been specifically rejected at the time the pertinent resolution on Hungary was drafted.) The reply also noted certain indications that the USSR and Hungary feel that the free world is giving up in regard to seeking an improvement in conditions in Hungary, and reiterated our determination to support strong private and public initiatives by Sir Leslie Munro to secure the cooperation of the Communist regimes concerned with the relevant UN recommendations on Hungary. The reply urged the UK to join in supporting such initiatives. Finally, pending the possible commission of further flagrant outrages by the present Hungarian regime, we agreed to keep in reserve consideration of expulsion action in the Security Council and rejection of credentials in the General Assembly.

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