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4. SITUATION IN HUNGARY (information as of 2200,  
5 November)

Comment on:

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According to Hungarian rebel radio broadcasts on 5 November, hostilities were continuing north of Budapest near the Czech frontier and in the Lake Balaton region, as well as in the capital itself. Unconfirmed reports indicate continued fighting in the Győr and Pécs areas.

Authoritative reports received by the American legation in Budapest put Soviet troop strength in Hungary at 200,000 men, with 4,600 tanks and large numbers of troops and heavy weapons on the frontier. Soviet tanks reportedly are fighting in closed formation in Budapest and the rebels allegedly have forces on Csepel Island in the Danube and control one bridge to the mainland. The clandestine rebel radio also says that in some places Soviet forces have refused to fire on Hungarians.

Radio Budapest broadcast early in the day a demand that all rebel fighters surrender their arms by 1800 (Budapest time) 5 November. A regime-controlled local radio indicated that those who surrendered their arms by that time would not be harmed. Several cities--and presumably the entire country--are under a curfew from 1530 to 0600 hours.

The commander of the Soviet troops in Hungary has made a "plea" over Budapest radio for Hungarians not to believe "slanders against the Soviet soldiers" who are "peasants, intellectuals and workers, just like you!"

No major changes in the political picture have been announced; the new premier, Janos Kadar, continues

6 Nov 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 8

Approved for Release  
Date

SEP 1997

[REDACTED]

51

his appeals for order and support for his program, which is similar to that of Gomulka in Poland.

The Hungarian embassy in East Berlin has been put under guard by East German security police who early on 4 November arrested members of a revolutionary council which had taken over direction of the mission. The fate of certain other revolutionary councils which were established in various foreign missions has not been determined; however, it would appear likely that efforts to take action against them might lead to defection.

India, which abstained on the UN Hungarian resolution of 4 November, reportedly delivered to Moscow "during the week end" a note expressing India's "concern and distress" over events in Hungary. Nehru also told the opening meeting of the UNESCO conference in New Delhi on 5 November that "what we are seeing today in Egypt and Hungary are both freedom and dignity outraged, and forces of modern arms used to suppress peoples." [REDACTED]