

6. THE HUNGARIAN SITUATION

Comment on:



No Soviet troop movements in Hungary have been reported since the withdrawal of a number of Soviet tanks and motorized equipment from Budapest on the evening of 8 November. The situation in the Hungarian capital remained tense as Soviet soldiers continued a house-to-house search for insurgents who, reportedly, were holding out because of uncertainty as to whether or not they would be shot after surrender.

The status of fighting in the provinces is unclear. No rebel radios have been heard since early on 8 November. Press reports indicate continued fighting--possibly of a guerrilla warfare nature--in at least southern Hungary near Pecs.

The legation reported on 8 November that numbers of people were in the Budapest streets searching for food, in disregard of the Soviet-imposed curfew. The regime-controlled Budapest radio has indicated that extensive looting of storage depots, textile and furniture stores as well as food shops has taken place.

In an effort to speed the restoration of order, Budapest police headquarters announced on 9 November the creation of special guard groups, composed in part of armed workers. The regular police have proved completely inadequate and the regime has appealed to the civilian population as a whole to help prevent the looting.

Premier Kadar and other members of his cabinet continue to echo a soft line in domestic policies. Kadar, according to Budapest radio on 9 November, said that the "peaceful demonstrations of 23 October placed correct and justified

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demands before the party and the government!" Implying that Nagy's government was not itself a counterrevolutionary force, Kadar stated that Nagy tried to eliminate the counterrevolution through political maneuvers and in a peaceful manner, but achieved diametrically opposite results. [REDACTED]