

The Fighting In Hungary

An Editorial

AN IMMEDIATE end to the terrible bloodletting in Hungary is in the interest of not only the Hungarian people but of the peace and security of all countries, including our own.

The peaceful, amicable settlement of the Polish crisis stands in stark contrast to the Hungarian events. There can be no mistaking the fact that the Hungarian Communists were too late in rectifying the evils of the Stalin era. The Polish Communists acted in time to endorse and to lead the popular upsurge for democratization and liberalization.

Acting thus, the Polish Communists forestalled the counter-revolutionaries who were trying, as they are now trying in Hungary, to use the justified popular resentment against repression in order to overthrow the entire socialist system. The Polish Communists were therefore also able to act without any intervention or use of Soviet troops stationed in Poland under treaty. The Polish Communists barred the participation of Soviet troops in any shape, manner or form.

However, the delay of the Hungarian Communists in developing their own path played into the hands of the counter-revolutionaries.

AS TO THE legal question involving Soviet troops in Hungary, the N. Y. Times said on Saturday:

"The view in the State Department is that there is little doubt that the troops have a right to be there." And the Times adds: "The Soviet troops are being used at the request of the Hungarian government."

Which does not, however, in our view, make the use of Soviet troops in Hungary any the less deplorable. Regardless of what one may think as to the wisdom of calling upon Soviet troops, the main thing now is to end the fighting, end the bloodshed and remedy the conditions which brought about the present tragic events.

Hungary's new Premier has pledged his country to negotiate the withdrawal of all Soviet troops from all of Hungary by Jan. 1. And at this writing the radio announces that Moscow has agreed to the request of the Nagy government that all Soviet troops shall leave Budapest immediately.

It is the greatest hypocrisy for the American, British and French governments to raise the issue as they did in the United Nations yesterday. As strongly as we are able to, we declare that all foreign troops stationed anywhere in the world in countries other than their own should be evacuated forthwith.

AT THIS very moment French troops are slaughtering Algerian men, women and children in a colonial war as fierce and unjust as the war they waged for eight years in Vietnam. British troops right now are placing barbed wire around orthodox churches in Cyprus, hauling off priests to exile, shooting Cypriot youths who believe Cyprus has a right to rule itself.

American troops are stationed in Iceland although

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the people of Iceland voted overwhelmingly for their withdrawal. Our planes, tanks, ships and troops are stationed on every continent, our armed forces stand guard to protect the rich and well-born against the masses. The same N. Y. Times report which describes the legal basis for the presence of Soviet troops in Hungary adds: "There is little effort in Washington to deny that United States forces abroad could be used in the same way if there were a Communist-led revolution in, say, Italy."

Matching the hypocrisy of John Foster Dulles is the Franco dictatorship, which has the unmitigated gall to even mention foreign intervention in the present situation. It was Hitler's and Mussolini's intervention on the side of the fascist rebels which put Franco in power.

EUROPEAN security will be enormously strengthened, and the peace of the world guaranteed, if all foreign troops are withdrawn BOTH from Western and Eastern Europe. It is a fact, that the Soviet government has stated that if Western troops were withdrawn from Germany and Western Europe every Soviet soldier would be withdrawn within Soviet borders proper. The Eisenhower Administration has consistently rebuffed every such proposal.

Yesterday the conservative London Observer and other influential British publications urged that Soviet troop evacuation from Eastern Europe can be brought about through evacuation of foreign troops from Germany and establishing a NEUTRALIZED united Germany which will side with none of the blocs in Europe or elsewhere. Walter Lippmann has proposed the very same step in columns of the New York Herald Tribune.

Thus, out of the horror of the Hungarian tragedy there comes a great ray of hope, not only of ending the carnage but the hope that a great forward step can be made to world peace and establishing America's true security. It rests on the premise of evacuating all foreign troops from Europe and removing the threat of German militarism forever by guaranteeing its neutrality.

IN HUNGARY the Communist leaders and the new government are taking long-overdue steps to broaden the base of their government.

The Polish Communist leader, Wladyslaw Gomulka, has made it very clear that the cause of socialism and of Soviet-Polish friendship suffered as a result of the Stalinist methods imported in Poland. Hungary, even more tragically, proves that Lenin was a thousand times right when he said that every people must make its own revolution and in its own way. This is true even though the State Department and CIA have been working project X and every other means against the socialist regimes in Eastern Europe.

The only true way to frustrate counter-revolutionary intervention has been demonstrated in Poland—by democratizing socialism. And securing friendship for the Soviet Union is possible only on the basis of complete independence, non-interference and equality, as the Soviet-Yugoslav joint declaration strongly affirmed. Thus will counter-revolutionaries be defeated.

It was inevitable that sympathizers of the hated Horthy regime of Hungary would try to impose themselves on the mass protests of Hungarian workers, peasants and students. To defeat them, Premier Nagy has included even the non-socialist parties in his new government and promised evacuation of Soviet troops.

WE FAVOR economic aid to the countries of Eastern Europe and everywhere else. But why didn't Dulles offer such aid before? His timing only proves that there are strings he would like to attach to such aid. The biggest string, it would seem, is that the Hungarians choose a government Dulles will approve.

We don't know the kind of government Hungarians will choose in free elections, but we do know that the last Hungarian government which had the support of the American State Department, Horthy's bloody regime, placed divisions on the side of Hitler against American troops.

We greet the steps being taken by the Hungarian government to end the fighting, broaden its base and insure an end to a Stalin-type repression. As in the case of Poland, such action can not only bring peace but strengthen the cause of socialism and bring true amity with the Soviet Union.

America's true interests require an end to the fighting in Hungary and the rise of a truly independent Hungarian state as has been pledged by the Nagy government. Our interests also demand a halt to encouragement of counter-revolution. Our safety and security and peace will be promoted as we negotiate with the Soviet Union for the evacuation of all troops—ours as well as theirs—from all of Europe.