Hungarian Crisis Primary Sources

**Workers' Council of Miskolc and Borsod County, Hungary, Resolution. October 25, 1956**

Original Source: Broadcast by Radio Free Miskolc.

End the massacre of Hungarians in Budapest! Do not believe deceptions! Let them withdraw Soviet troops from Hungary! Strike! ...

We have had enough-enough of the autocracy of certain leaders. We too want socialism but according to our own special Hungarian conditions, which reflect the interests of the Hungarian working class and the Hungarian nation, and our most sacred national sentiments.

-We demand that all persons who compromised themselves by the cult of personality be eliminated immediately ...

-We demand that those Communists and non-Communists be given the most important positions in government and party life who, in following the principles of proletarian internationalism, honor above all else our Hungarian national traditions and our thousand-year history.

-We demand the revision of the institutions of the state security authority and the elimination immediately of all leaders and functionaries who are compromised ...

-We demand a public trial of Mihaly Farkas before an independent court, regardless whether this trial may reflect on individuals currently holding important office.

-With regard to the grave errors committed in the field of planned economy we demand the immediate dismissal of the responsible leaders of the planning offices.

-We demand an increase of real wages.

-We believe our demands will be realized when our, parliament ceases to be an electoral machine, and the members of parliament cease being yes-men.

-We demand that March 15th be proclaimed a national holiday, and we also demand that October 6th be a national memorial day.

Source: M. J. Lasky, ed., The Hungarian Revolution: a White Book (New York: Praeger, 1957), p. 80.

**Imre Nagy, Radio Announcement. November 4, 1956**

This is Imre Nagy, Premier, speaking. In the early hours of this morning, the Soviet troops launched an attack against our capital city with the obvious intention of overthrowing the lawful, democratic, Hungarian Government. Our troops are fighting. The government is in its place. I inform the people of the country and world public opinion of this.

Source: Paul E. Zinner, ed., National Communism and Popular Revolt in Eastern Europe (New York: Columbia University Press, 1956), p. 472.

Hungarian Crisis (Soviet Side)

**Soviet Government, Statement On Hungary. October 30, 1956**

Excerpts

Original Source: Moscow Radio, 30 October 1956.

The principles of peaceful coexistence, friendship, and cooperation among all states have always been and still form the unshakable foundation of the foreign relations of the USSR. This policy finds its most profound and consistent expression in the relationship with socialist countries. United by the common ideal of building a socialist society and the principles of proletarian internationalism, the countries of the great commonwealth of socialist nations can build their relations only on the principle of full equality, respect of territorial integrity, state independence and sovereignty, and noninterference in one another's domestic affairs...

The Soviet government regards it as indispensable to make a statement in connection with the events in Hungary. The course of the events has shown that the working people of Hungary, who have achieved great progress on the basis of their people's democratic order, correctly raise the question of the necessity of eliminating serious shortcomings in the field of economic building, the further raising of the material well-being of the population, and the struggle against bureaucratic excesses in the state apparatus. However, this just and progressive movement of the working people was soon joined by forces of black reaction and counterrevolution, which are trying to take advantage of the discontent of part of the working people to undermine the foundations of the people's democratic order in Hungary and to restore the old landlord and capitalist order.

The Soviet government and all the Soviet people deeply regret that the development of events in Hungary has led to bloodshed. On the request of the Hungarian People's Government the Soviet Government consented to the entry into Budapest of the Soviet Army units to assist the Hungarian People's Army and the Hungarian authorities to establish order in the town. Believing that the further presence of Soviet Army units in Hungary can serve as a cause for even greater deterioration of the situation, the Soviet Government has given instructions to its military command to withdraw the Soviet army units from Budapest as soon as this is recognized as necessary by the Hungarian Government.

At the same time, the Soviet government is ready to enter in relevant negotiations with the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic and other participants of the Warsaw Treaty on the question of the presence of Soviet troops on the territory of Hungary.

The defense of socialist achievements by the people's democracy of Hungary is at the present moment the chief and sacred duty of workers, peasants, and intelligentsia, and of all the Hungarian working people.

The Soviet Government expresses confidence that the peoples of the socialist countries will not permit foreign and internal reactionary forces to undermine the basis of the people's democratic regimes, won and consolidated by the heroic struggle and toil of the workers, peasants, and intelligentsia of each country. They will make all efforts to remove all obstacles that lie in the path of further strengthening the democratic basis of the independence and sovereignty of their countries, to develop further the socialist basis of each country, its economy and culture, for the sake of the constant growth of the material welfare and the cultural level of all the peoples. They will consolidate the fraternal unity and mutual assistance of the socialist countries for the strengthening of the great cause of peace and socialism.

Source: Department of State Bulletin. Vol. 35, no. 907 (12 November 1956), pp. 745-746.