



Recommendation 132 (1957)¹

Situation in Hungary and the Middle East

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

I

Having examined the development of the situation in Hungary ;

Paying tribute to the courageous resistance of the Hungarian people, which has demonstrated to the world that the political system imposed upon it was powerless to quell mankind's profound desire for freedom;

Believing that the responsibility for the brutal repression of the Hungarian people falls entirely on the Soviet leaders, who have shown themselves determined to preserve their tyrannical rule, even by resorting to the use of armed force against, and deportation of, workers who aspire to be free from political and economic repression and to reap the fruits of achievements which are the outcome of a century of struggle for political liberty and social progress by the people ;

Proclaiming its support for the endeavours of member countries to secure compliance with the Resolutions of the United Nations in Hungary ;

Considering that further action should be taken, since events in Central and Eastern Europe are a special responsibility of the Council of Europe,

A. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :

1. should invite member countries to continue without respite their efforts to ensure that the decisions of the United Nations are respected and, in particular, those requiring
 - the evacuation of Soviet troops from Hungary in accordance with the offer made on 30th October last by the Government of the Soviet Union itself;
 - the repatriation of Hungarian citizens deported by the Soviet forces or deprived of their personal liberty for political reasons;
 - the re-establishment of the political independence of Hungary and the setting up of a Government enjoying popular support ;
2. should recognise the special responsibility of the organs of the Council of Europe in regard to events in Hungary and in Central and Eastern Europe in general, and should, accordingly, decide that the policy of member countries regarding that part of Europe should be concerted in the Council of Europe as the first practical application of the principle of a common European policy which was set forth in Resolution (56) 23 of the Committee of Ministers²; and should give effect to this decision by the following initial measures :
 - i. instructing the Secretary-General to set up a special department for Central and East European affairs, with the task of preparing proposals for submission to the Committee of Ministers and to the Assembly on the pursuit of a common European policy in that region ;

1. This Recommendation was adopted by the Assembly at its 38th Sitting, on 11th January 1957 (see [Doc.616](#), draft Recommendation presented by the Committee on General Affairs).



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- ii. offering the Hungarian people and any other people in Central and Eastern Europe, which may desire it, immediate aid for relieving the peoples' distress, such aid being given on behalf of the Council of Europe, and distributed under its supervision or under the supervision of the International Red Cross ;

B. Invites member countries :

1. to declare their willingness collectively to respect the status of neutrality which a Central or East European country may wish to adopt ;
2. to inform the U.S.S.R., in conjunction with the U.S.A. and Canada, that the Western Powers remain ready to open negotiations for the establishment of a security system which, while affording the U.S.S.R. legitimate guarantees, and not modifying the balance of power in Europe, provides for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Central and Eastern Europe, and restores the national sovereignty of all the peoples in that region ;
3. to draw the attention of the Soviet Government to the threat to peace which would arise from prolonging the division of Germany ;

II

Having examined the development of the situation in the Middle East;

Reaffirming its [Resolution 112](#), adopted on 28th October 1956, and taking note of the message of President Eisenhower, dated 5th January 1957;

Considering that the presence of an international force in this area could be conducive to the creation of the conditions that are necessary for the peaceful solution of outstanding problems in respect of the right to exist and the independence of the countries concerned and of international justice,

Recommends that the Committee of Ministers should invite member countries :

- a. to seek to establish a common policy in the Middle East, in conjunction with the United States and any other State able to join in that task, in order to ensure conditions of lasting peace together with the economic development of the region and, in particular, to guarantee the countries of the Middle East not only against Soviet aggression from outside, but against any conflict between them such as a renewal of the Arab-Israel war ;
- b. jointly, by using the procedure set out in the Resolution (54) 16 of the Committee of Ministers³, to ask the United Nations to keep the international force in the area until :
 - i. the Suez Canal has been cleared ;
 - ii. a system has been established guaranteeing for all States freedom of navigation in the Suez Canal ;
 - iii. a peace treaty has been concluded between the Arab States and Israel.

2. See Resolution (56) 23 on the policy of the Council of Europe concerning Eastern Europe, Hungary and the Middle East.

3. See Resolution (54) 16 on the procedure for consultation among the European delegations to international organisations.