

to have been asked to come and speak here on the 39th anniversary of the Soviet Union. I will speak, as the chairman has already indicated, on 'The Soviet Union and Colonialism - with special reference to Hungary'.

I have to mention that we don't say that the people of the Soviet Union are always right, but we are interested in placing the truth before the people of South Africa so that they can judge for themselves the issues involved.

Mr. Chairman, as other speakers have already said, since 1917 the foreign policy of the Soviet Union has been based on the principles of peace and co-operation amongst all the nations of the world, on the principle of independence for both small and large nations, and on the principle of non-interference with the affairs of other states. It was in 1917 that the Soviet Union decreed that the conquest of foreign states was alien to the Soviet Union, and the history and policies of the Soviet Union have demonstrated the truth of that decree. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Paul Joseph, I think has already mentioned that the treaties between Czarist Russia and other countries were revoked by the communist regime. For this the U.S.S.R. has incurred the wrath of the capitalist states in particular.

The Soviet Union stepped forward as the champion of the people in the underprivileged and colonial countries. From this fact has resulted the accusation that the Soviet Union wants to interfere in colonial countries. Then we come to the incidents in Hungary itself - I know only what we read in the newspapers here, and I cannot but help to feel that they leave something out, these newspapers, and I wonder sometimes whether they don't do it deliberately. I feel that to understand the situation in Hungary, a person must be acquainted with the background.....

Mr. Chairman, Hungary, before 1918 formed part of the Austria-German Empire. Then in 1918 there was a revolution in Hungary itself. That revolution Mr. Chairman was inspired by countries like Britain and America. A Fascist dictatorship was established in Hungary under Horthy. From 1918 to 1944 the people in Hungary were not free, they were in the claws of a Fascist dictatorship, in fact trade unions were suppressed, elections were conducted subject to the rules of Horthy and his gang.

During the war Horthy joined Nazi Germany, and Hungary used her forces against the Soviet Union. It is very important that

we should recognise and realise that the Soviet Union as a country has suffered a lot at the hands of Germany and its ally Hungary in the last war. Mr. Chairman, we must realise that millions of people in the Soviet Union died as a result of the actions of Fascist troops led by Morthy and Hitler. You will recall the devastation caused in the U.S.S.R. by the Nazi invasion.

Of course, in the end the Nazi invaders were driven back by the Russian troops. They were driven back and out of countries like Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, etc., and this happened directly as a result of the struggle of the U.S.S.R. These countries were liberated by the red army! Mr. Chairman, we must face these facts, that these countries were liberated from the Nazis mainly as a result of the struggles of the Soviet people and its army. And Mr. Chairman then we must also realise that the Soviet Union was well aware that the armies of these countries, countries like Hungary, were used against the Soviet Union, used against the Soviet Union by certain interested groups in these countries to make war against the Soviet Union.

Under these circumstances the Soviet Union could not - after it had fought and driven the Nazis out of these countries - could not leave them as it were to revert back to Nazism, and again to use their armies against the Soviet Union. We must recall that these people were the aggressors against the Soviet Union, and one condition of the peace treaty the Soviet Union concluded with Hungary was that Soviet troops would remain in Hungary to prevent an upsurge of reactionary power - that was by agreement. This remaining behind of troops in occupied territory is not peculiar to the Soviet Union - troops of the Western Allies remained behind in Germany together with Soviet troops.

Mr. Chairman, as I want to indicate, the troops are in Hungary by agreement, and in the days since 1944 the people of Hungary began to taste liberation and freedom. It is since then that they have started to elect their own parties to govern them. It is since then that a group came into power which deprived the land barons of their land, and it is since then that the means of production has been taken away from the monopolies which owned them before and handed them to the workers of Hungary.

Naturally these groups were not pleased by this change - these changes, and then we come to the present situation, as I said since 1944 a new life was ushered in - the workers owned the means of production, and serious mistakes have been made; here

here in the Political Encyclopedia it says 'Hungary was the Citadel of Feudalism', and this country was one of the first countries in the world to make anti-Jewish laws - to put the Jews in ghettos. And in fact it is since 1944 that Hungary has ceased to make laws against the Jews. But, naturally, in the operation of democratic machinery by a people who have had little experience of democracy, mistakes were made, however, they succeeded in multiplying their production four times in a very short period - four times since the war.

These successes seemed to have caused some tensions. They became dizzy and bureaucratic tendencies appeared, but I want to emphasise that despite these mistakes and disappointments, that does not in any way mean that there has not been progress in Hungary - there has been more personal freedom in People's Hungary than before. That is a point I think we should understand, but there remained in Hungary a large group of people who were dissatisfied - those land barons deprived of their land, rich people who were now forced to work - the old capitalists - the military class, and then, we know that America has been very, very active in Hungary trying to incite the people - funds have been raised in America, one (Lucias Klein) has raised 11 million dollar in 1949 -1950, and that to incite the people of the People's democracies to revolt.

The American government did not sit still either - pamphlets and arms have been dropped over the people's democracies by the American government - and then you have Radio Free Europe, what it is free from I do not know, because it is certainly not free from America - it transmits American propaganda in thirteen languages - and on April 16th this year the New York Tribunal said that Radio Free Europe was staffed by Americans and financed by Americans. Why don't they call it Radio Free America? And this campaign by America has been going on for a long time. One cannot overlook the aims of these Americans. It is certainly not merely a desire to see the peoples of the free democracies changing their social system back to capitalism. Apart from the fact that these aims are of a political nature, they are also militant - America intends to and indeed established bases closer and closer to the Soviet Union.

Also, there is a certain amount of discontent in the People's Democracies. This is as I have said, a country just emerging from feudalism, and, for instance, their soap may not be of a quality to compare with the best obtainable in...../12

America, but the aim was rather to give everybody a piece of soap, than to allow some to have puddings and jellys and the other nothing at all. This discontent has been used by certain classes inside Hungary and by the imperialist countries to incite the people against their legitimate government. We don't know very well what is going on in Hungary, that I must admit; the newspapers in our country, Mr. Chairman, they are hostile to the Soviet Union, as a matter of fact, two weeks ago they were also hostile to People's Hungary, and their reports are always given with such a slant.

It is very difficult to judge accurately what the situation in Hungary is from the press reports, we know however that there was a demonstration against the government, but there was no demand by the Hungarian people for a different social system. As a result of this demonstration against the Hungarian government, Imre Nagy, The Prime Minister called upon the Soviet troops in Hungary to restore order. The Soviet troops at the request of Imre Nagy restored order and furthermore these Soviet troops did not march from the Soviet Union to come and restore order in the Republic of Hungary, no, they were already in Hungary, they were there by agreement, and they were used by Imre Nagy and the authorities in Hungary, and for anybody Mr. Chairman to say that Russia was the aggressor in Hungary, is prostitution. It is like inviting the Police to restore order in your house, and then to accuse the Police of having attacked you.

X And it was then Mr. Chairman that certain elements in Hungary, those dissatisfied elements that I have mentioned seized the opportunity to start difficulties, and the government of Hungary did what any responsible government will do, they called upon the Soviet troops in Hungary to stop the acts of barbarism of the reactionaries, and when the Soviet troops assisted them, then they turned round and said 'Out ! You are butchering us! Out you go now ! Mr. Chairman, one looks at a situation like that, and one can come to but one conclusion - this unrest is the result of continuous propaganda against the Soviet Union, for the last 39 years in fact. Then the people decided they don't want Nagy any more and put up Mr. Fader, and there was again demonstrations and acts of barbarism, looting, etc., and the Soviet troops again restored order - now the imperialist countries start attacking the Soviet Union. One chap, I do not even know his name said that the Soviet Union must now cease speaking about colonialism. What mockery ! Not even our very hostile western newspapers have ever said that the people's

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democracies were colonies of the Soviet Union, they have coined a new word - satellites, because in fact, they are not colonies. They are satellites because they chose the same system as the Soviet Union, and even today there is no demand by these countries for a return to the old system.

Now, Mr. Chairman, Hungary is next to the Soviet Union, and the red army is the most dreaded army in the world. Hungary has a population of 10 million people, a country like South Africa, and that is where the Soviet troops were called in to restore order. If the Soviet Union wanted to over-run, and conquer and take Hungary, would they have had so much difficulty in taking it? If they wanted to take Hungary would it have taken them weeks, and weeks? Even the forces of Hitler could not stand for an hour against the Russians, would it waste weeks and weeks trying to take a small country? Even our Western masters can say that the Soviet Union did the right thing - they cannot say that Russia wants to conquer the Hungarians.

We know why Egypt was attacked. It is said in Britain, by Eden: 'Either we have the Suez canal or our oil machinery is in danger', but nobody can say that the Soviet Union wants any such thing. It is just the other way round. Mr. Chairman, in conclusion I want to deal with the question of colonialism. Mr. chairman, we people of South Africa, the people of Africa, we know what colonialism is. We know it and we feel what colonialism is. It means poverty, exploitation, the removal of the wealth of one's own country to some other country - incidentally, that charge has not yet been laid at the doorstep of the Soviet Union. I must also say that we know very little about what actually happened in Hungary - the few observations I have made, I have the same sources of information which you have. I feel in due course we will be able to discern more accurately what occurred there, and it is the job of your society Mr. Chairman to elicit the truth. The truth shall be revealed by your society, a society for peace and friendship with the people of the Soviet Union."

D.C. THOMPSON : "Adv. Nkwe is prepared to answer questions. Please be brief.

(A few short speeches and questions from the floor followed and the meeting concluded at 10.30 p.m.)

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