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QUESTION CONSIDERED BY THE SECOND EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM 4 TO 10 NOVEMBER 1956

Report of
~~Note by~~ the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 6 of Article II of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation,^{1/} the Secretary-General has the honour to distribute to the Members of the General Assembly the following communication which he received on 23 November 1956 from the Director-General of the International Labour Office:

"The Governing Body of ILO on 22 November adopted, by 36 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions, the following conclusions contained in the report of its Committee on Freedom of Association concerning the situation in Hungary and has requested me to communicate them to you and to request you to draw them to the attention of the General Assembly.

"While the political aspects of this situation are exclusively the responsibility of the United Nations, its bearing on freedom of association is of direct concern to the International Labour Organisation.

"In all these circumstances the Committee, having considered the complaint submitted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the reply furnished by the Hungarian Government on 6 February 1956, and the course of recent developments in Hungary, including the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 4 November 1956, recommends the Governing Body to adopt the following recommendations on the subject and to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to draw them to the attention of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

^{1/} Article II, paragraph 6 of said Agreement reads as follows:

"6. Written statements of the Organization shall be distributed by the Secretariat of the United Nations to all Members of the General Assembly, the Council and its commissions and the Trusteeship Council as appropriate."

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'(1) Complete freedom of association should be established in Hungary.

'(2) With this end in view it is most desirable that Hungary should take all the steps necessary to secure full implementation of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948, and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949, and should ratify these Conventions forthwith.

'(3) In order that the guarantees provided for in these conventions may be fully effective, Hungary should establish in full the civil liberties provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

'(4) The independence of the trade union movement should be fully respected and no attempt should be made from any quarter to use it as an instrument for the pursuance of purely political aims.

'(5) Complete freedom should be secured to the trade union movement to elect its officers freely and to frame its policy at elected congresses without any kind of interference by the public authorities.'

"The Governing Body also adopted, by 36 votes to one with 3 abstention the following recommendation:

'The Governing Body will recall that on 26 June 1951 the International Labour Conference, in response to resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on 3 November 1950 and by the Economic and Social Council on 14 March 1951, adopted a resolution reaffirming the firm intention of the International Labour Organisation to pursue the cause of peace by all practicable means within its power and declaring that the International Labour Organisation will co-operate with the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance or restoration of international peace and security and for this purpose will furnish all appropriate information and will render all appropriate assistance to those organs of the United Nations. The Committee accordingly recommends the Governing Body to inform the General Assembly that the International Labour Organisation will co-operate with the General Assembly in any action concerning the question of freedom of association which the General Assembly may take in the light of the desire clearly manifested by the Hungarian people to exercise and enjoy fully their fundamental rights, freedom and independence and to state the willingness and desire of the International Labour Organisation to participate in any arrangements made in pursuance of paragraph 5 of the resolution of the General Assembly to ascertain the facts of the present situation in respect of freedom of association in Hungary.'

"The Governing Body has requested me to be personally available to participate in such an enquiry if appropriate. (Signed) David MORSE"