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

Note by the Secretary-General

The General Assembly, in a resolution adopted 5 December 1956, reiterated "its call upon the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Hungarian authorities" to comply with previous resolutions on the situation in Hungary and to permit United Nations observers to enter the territory of Hungary, to travel freely therein, and to report their findings to the Secretary-General. In the same resolution the General Assembly requested that the consent to receive United Nations observers be communicated to the Secretary-General not later than 7 December 1956.

Immediately on the adoption of the said resolution, I transmitted the text of the resolution to the representatives of the two countries directly concerned. I further addressed to them letters, drawing attention to the special request mentioned above and to my need to receive their replies at the latest on 7 December. At the time of the writing of this report (6 p.m., 7 December) I have not received any replies.

In the said resolution, 5 December, the General Assembly also recommended that I arrange for the immediate dispatch to Hungary and other countries as appropriate, of observers, named by me pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 1004 (ES II). The General Assembly requested all Member Governments to co-operate by extending such assistance and providing such facilities as might be necessary for the effective discharge of the responsibilities of the observers.

In pursuance of this recommendation I addressed at once letters to the Permanent Representatives of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia,

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wherein, with reference to the two last mentioned paragraphs in the resolution, 5 December, I asked for information whether observers, named by me, would be permitted to enter the countries in question for the purpose prescribed, in case it would be indicated that such a visit would be useful for their work under the terms of reference established by resolution 1004 (ES II). Pending replies to these questions, I have not been able to arrange for the dispatch of any observers to the region.

As the Assembly is aware, the Government of Hungary, 3 December, stated that it was ready to welcome the Secretary-General in Budapest "at a later date appropriate to both parties". In response, 4 December, I suggested that I could be in Budapest on 16 December. I have not received any official reaction to this suggestion. If the visit cannot be made at the time proposed, it may be questioned whether it would be to the purpose.
