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SECRETARY-GENERAL MOVES TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTIONS ON RELIEF FOR HUNGARY

NOMINATES PHILIPPE DE SEYNES

The Secretary-General addressed on 10 November the following note verbale to the government of the Hungarian People's Republic:

"The Secretary-General presents his compliments to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic and has the honour to refer to the provisions of the resolutions adopted at the Second Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly, which instruct the Secretary-General to undertake immediately measures to furnish medical supplies, foodstuffs and clothes to the territories affected by the recent events in Hungary. Accordingly, the Secretary-General would appreciate receiving at the earliest possible date from the Government of Hungary information concerning the needs of the Hungarian people for medical supplies, foodstuffs and clothes from abroad. Upon receipt of this information the Secretary-General would wish to discuss with the Hungarian Government the best means of providing the assistance required."

As of 10 November, the Secretary-General also charged Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, with responsibility for the implementing and follow-up of those provisions of resolutions adopted at the Second Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly which deal with relief needs of the people of Hungary. Mr. de Seynes has already had urgent consultations with the specialized agencies and with other interested organizations concerning the needs of the Hungarian people and necessary measures for relieving them. There has been a prompt response from governments and private organizations in various parts of the world, both as regards offers of medical and other supplies and plans for receiving Hungarian refugees.

Aid to Hungarian Refugees

The Secretary-General has asked United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, James M. Read, to consult with other appropriate international agencies and interested Governments with a view to making speedy and effective arrangements for emergency assistance to refugees from Hungary. He has requested Mr. Read immediately to assume responsibility for co-ordinating such emergency assistance to

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refugees and has informed him that special contributions from member states for this purpose will be made available to the High Commissioner.

Attention was drawn to the special needs of the "increasingly large numbers of refugees" in a resolution, A/RES/398, introduced by the United States of America and adopted by the General Assembly on 9 November, which called upon the Secretary-General to take action in this sense in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

General Assembly Resolutions

It will be recalled that the resolution introduced by the United States and adopted at the Second Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on 9 November called upon "the Hungarian authorities to facilitate, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics not to interfere with, the receipt and distribution of food and medical supplies to the Hungarian people and to co-operate fully with the United Nations and its specialized agencies." It also urged the "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Hungarian authorities to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General and his duly appointed representatives in carrying out the tasks referred to above."

Also on 9 November, at its Emergency Special Session the General Assembly adopted a resolution proposed by Austria which drew attention to the "extreme suffering to which the Hungarian people is subjected" and expressed the belief that humanitarian duties could be fulfilled most effectively through international co-operation as stipulated in Article 1, para. 3, of the Charter of the United Nations. The resolution states that the General Assembly:

"1. Resolves to undertake on a large scale immediate aid for the affected territories by furnishing medical supplies, foodstuffs and clothes;

"2. Calls upon all Member States to participate to the greatest extent possible in this relief action;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake immediately the necessary measures;

"4. Urgently appeals to all countries concerned to give full assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of this task."