

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**
ELEVENTH SESSION
Official Records



**GENERAL COMMITTEE, 109th
MEETING**

Thursday, 13 December 1956,
at 3.35 p.m.

New York

CONTENTS

	Page
Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the eleventh session: item proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	15

Chairman: Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand).

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the eleventh session: item proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/3442)

1. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the question of United States subversive activity and intervention in the domestic affairs of the Soviet Union and the other people's democracies had a long history. In 1951 the United States Congress had passed the Mutual Security Act under which an appropriation of \$100 million had been made for the organization of subversive activities in Eastern Europe. On 6 August 1951 Senator McCarran had openly advocated a more intensive campaign of subversive attack against countries hostile to the United States and had said that every means available should be used to bring about the overthrow of the Soviet dictatorship.
2. The question had been brought up at the sixth and seventh sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and attention had been drawn to the Mutual Security Act of 1951 and other similar acts openly recommending intervention in the domestic affairs of other States. Proposals had been introduced calling upon the United States to refrain from such activities. Far from being discontinued, however, those activities had in fact been intensified.
3. In 1955 a detailed programme had been drawn up in the United States for the dispatch of large numbers of specially trained agents, recruited from criminals and traitors, to organize extensive diversionary activities and espionage inside the socialist countries. The President of the Radio Corporation of America had stated that refugees from the socialist countries should be encouraged to go back to them as leaders of underground movements.
4. The programme of subversion had been discussed and approved in the highest circles of the United States. Many spies from the United States had been arrested in the Soviet Union and the people's democracies. The events in Hungary were a direct consequence of the United States policy of interference in that country through the dispatch of spies, agitators and revolutionaries. The so-called "Radio Free Europe" had played a dominant role in fomenting rebellion in Hungary.
5. The United States had also released into the airspace of the USSR and the people's democracies balloons used for air reconnaissance and for the

dropping of leaflets containing propaganda for the overthrow of the socialist Governments. In spite of repeated protests, the number of balloons launched had continued to increase and constituted a serious threat to air transport; they had, in fact, already caused serious accidents.

6. The hostile activity of the United States against the socialist countries and its open interference in their domestic affairs constituted a gross violation of the United Nations Charter. Its effect was to aggravate the international situation and to impair relations between States. Under the terms of the Charter it was the duty of the United Nations General Assembly to place the question on its agenda and to take urgent steps to remedy the situation.

7. Mr. WADSWORTH (United States of America) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the inclusion of the additional item proposed by the USSR in the agenda of the present session. He would not now deal with the substance of the question, except to say that it was absurd to refer, as was done in the explanatory memorandum (A/3442) to the political systems of the countries concerned as being "freely chosen by the peoples of those countries", when in fact no free election had been held in them since the Communists had come to power.

8. The United States believed in the cleansing power of free debate and was therefore anxious for the United Nations to learn the truth about the Soviet charges. It might be thought that such a debate was hardly necessary in the light of the resolutions which had been passed on the subject of Hungary but the United States was prepared to have the truth once again revealed. If United Nations observers were to be permitted into Hungary, they would soon make clear whether it was the United States which had interfered in the domestic affairs of that country, or whether it was the youth, workers and finally the soldiers of Hungary who had intervened in their own domestic affairs and been shot down by Soviet tanks for their pains.

9. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark) proposed that the agenda item should begin "Complaint of intervention by the United States of America" as being more consonant with normal procedure. He had no objection to its inclusion in the Assembly's agenda.

10. Sir Pierson DIXON (United Kingdom) said that the wording of the item and the memorandum attached to it showed that the USSR was seeking to discuss all over again the charges brought forward and rejected at previous sessions of the General Assembly, and thereby to shift the blame for difficulties in Eastern Europe on to the United States.

11. During the present session the question of Hungary had been debated at great length in the General Assembly and had culminated in a resolution condemning the Soviet Union. He did not think the United Nations, the countries of Eastern Europe or

the Soviet Union could profit from the discussion of what would be a similar question. While raising no formal objection to the inclusion of the item, he stressed that it was not an urgent one and should therefore take its turn with other pending items.

12. Mr. PETRŽELKA (Czechoslovakia) said that the interference by the United States in the internal affairs of the people's democracies had been intensified during the years of the "cold war" and had reached a stage unparalleled in history. As a result of the so-called Mutual Security Act, hundreds of millions of dollars had been spent on subversive activities against the countries of Eastern Europe. For the first time in the history of international relations the Government of a civilized country had openly proclaimed in its laws the violation of the most fundamental principles governing international relations. Czechoslovakia, together with the other people's democracies, was a victim of a policy which violated the principles of the United Nations Charter and endangered its very foundations.

13. United States interference had been most flagrant during the course of events in Hungary. It was common knowledge that the Hungarian rebellion had been closely associated with imperialistic reactionary elements in the West. There was irrefutable evidence that the counter-revolutionary actions in Hungary had been prepared and carried out under the direct leadership of, and with continuous active encouragement from, the United States secret service and its subsidiary bodies established in Western Germany which were generously endowed with funds allocated by the United States Congress for purposes of diversion of espionage.

14. The hostile activity was not only directed against Hungary. At the beginning of 1955 the United States radio had broadcast the news that within the United States army in Western Germany, a so-called "Czechoslovak Guard Unit" had been organized whose members were to wear on their uniforms a badge with the inscription "Czechoslovakia" and use the colours of the Czechoslovak national flag. The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic had protested most vehemently against such an illegal provocation. There was not the slightest doubt in Czechoslovakia about the true mission of such a unit and similar units organized from the ranks of Eastern European refugees, particularly in the light of recent events in Hungary.

15. In the long chain of hostile actions against, and interference in, the countries of Eastern Europe, an important part was being played by the so-called Free Europe Committee. With the help of its broadcasting station known as "Radio Free Europe" it organized espionage activity against the people's democracies and sought to bring about the overthrow of their Governments. It used balloons to launch propaganda leaflets and some of them were so large that they had caused dangerous explosions and damaged Czechoslovak property. They were, too, a menace to aviation and at the beginning of 1956 a Czechoslovak aircraft had crashed into a balloon with the loss of twenty-two lives.

16. The interference of the United States in the internal affairs of the people's democracies was continuing unabated. Events in Hungary showed that such interference was endangering peace and security in Eastern Europe. If the General Assembly was to carry out its task properly, it should condemn the activities of those

who sought to disturb the peaceful work in which the people's democracies were engaged and to spread mistrust and hostility among States. For that reason his delegation fully supported the USSR proposal to include the additional item in the agenda of the present session.

17. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) recalled the recent resolutions censuring the Soviet Union's violation of Hungarian independence. He could only suppose that the Soviet Union's present proposal represented a deliberate attempt to confuse world public opinion and to whitewash its actions in Hungary. The General Assembly ought not, therefore, to take up the subject-matter of the item proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, but since the United States representative had stated that his delegation had no objection to the consideration of that item by the General Assembly, and since in such a case it was advisable to ascertain where there was any foundation for the charge made, his delegation would have no objection to the inclusion of that item in the General Assembly's agenda. He would, however, suggest two amendments to the phrasing of the item. First, he agreed with the representative of Denmark that it was the practice of the General Assembly not to adopt as the title of an item any form of wording which might imply the endorsement by it of any delegation's concept of a situation. He would therefore suggest that the words "Complaint by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of" should be inserted at the beginning of the title. In the second place, his delegation considered it inappropriate to use the term "people's democracies", since those words had no meaning for the free peoples of the world; it would be preferable, in his view, to insert the names of the countries listed in the second paragraph of the explanatory memorandum attached to the letter from the Chairman of the Soviet Union delegation (A/3442).

18. Mr. LIU Chieh (China) said that in his delegation's view that item had been put forward solely for propaganda purposes and as a counter-move to the many resolutions which had been adopted by the General Assembly at its second emergency and at its current sessions on the subject of the situation in Hungary. It believed that it would be a waste of time for the General Assembly to enter into a discussion of that item except in so far as it would serve further to focus world attention on the course of events in the so-called people's democracies. For that reason his delegation would have no objection to its inclusion in the agenda.

19. Mr. SARPÉR (Turkey) said that his delegation understood the position adopted by the United States delegation which had been accused, unwarrantedly, in its view, of interference in the internal affairs of certain States. Turkey's position was, however, different. It could not endorse an attempt to divert world public opinion from the deplorable situation in Hungary. It would therefore abstain in the vote on the inclusion of that item.

20. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation, too, regarded the Soviet Union's request for the inclusion of the new item in the General Assembly's agenda as a propaganda manoeuvre intended to confuse world public opinion and to reduce the harmful effects on that opinion of the resolutions recently adopted on the subject of Hungary. The attitude adopted by the United States delegation was praiseworthy, but his delegation did not

think the General Assembly's time should be wasted with a repetition of accusations heard many times before, nor did it wish to give an opportunity for a spate of propaganda. It would therefore vote against the inclusion in the agenda of the item proposed by the Soviet Union.

21. Mr. VITETTI (Italy) said that his delegation, too, considered the Soviet proposal a propaganda-move but it sympathized with the reasons given by the United States representative for not opposing the inclusion of that item in the agenda. His delegation could not, however, accept the present wording of the item and would support the amendments suggested by the representatives of Denmark and El Salvador.

22. Mr. DE GUIRINGAUD (France) felt that the debate in the General Assembly in recent weeks on the situation in Hungary had been sufficient to show that a discussion of the kind now proposed by the Soviet Union would be without value. Nevertheless such a discussion might throw light on the part played by the Soviet Union in the domestic affairs of countries other than Hungary, and could to that extent be useful. He would therefore not oppose the inclusion of that item in the Assembly's agenda.

23. Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) thought it regrettable that instead of indicating its readiness to comply with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly by an overwhelming majority the day before, the Soviet Union was belatedly trying to win back some of the ground it had thereby lost. His delegation agreed that the subject had already been well covered during the debate on the situation in Hungary. There was, therefore, no real justification for reopening the discussion. Nevertheless his delegation appreciated the position adopted by the United States delegation and, indeed, welcomed it. Consequently it would not oppose the inclusion of that item in the agenda but it would endorse the amendments suggested by the representatives of Denmark and El Salvador.

24. Mr. MIR KHAN (Pakistan) said that his delegation, too, would not oppose the inclusion of that item in the agenda of the General Assembly, while endorsing the amendments put forward by the representatives of Denmark and El Salvador.

25. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation fully understood the desire of the United States to keep the Hungarian question in the forefront of the attention of the General Assembly and of world public opinion but he would point out that the question of sending observers to Hungary was strictly irrelevant to the matter at issue. It was true, as the United Kingdom representative had said, that the subject he was putting forward had been discussed on a number of previous occasions, but no practical action had followed those discussions. Consequently, the question had not lost its urgency and importance and his delegation felt it to be its duty to bring it up again. To those who would cast aspersions on the name of the people's democracies he would say that that did not alter their popular democratic character; their populations enjoyed all the fundamental rights and freedoms.

26. Mr. PETRZELKA (Czechoslovakia) wished to remind members of the Committee that the concept of the people's democracy was a notion of international law. He categorically rejected the slanderous accusations levelled against his country and others of the people's democracies.

27. In reply to a question from the CHAIRMAN, Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objection to the amendment of the title of the item it had proposed, to read: "Complaint by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of intervention by the United States of America in the domestic affairs of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and its subversive activity against those States".

28. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Soviet Union proposal for the inclusion of that item in the agenda of the General Assembly.

The proposal was adopted as amended by 12 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

29. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to consider the allocation of the item it had decided to recommend for inclusion in the Assembly's agenda.

30. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark) proposed that the item should be allocated to the Special Political Committee for consideration.

31. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it should not be referred to any Committee, but should be discussed by the General Assembly at its next plenary meeting as a matter of urgency.

32. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) supported the Danish proposal. The fact that the Soviet Union was pressing for urgent consideration of the item just after the Assembly, by a large majority, had condemned its action in Hungary showed that its purpose was to use the United Nations as a propaganda channel to offset the moral force of that condemnation, and to delay action on truly urgent problems.

33. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) also favoured allocation of the item to the Special Political Committee.

34. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) insisted that the item should be discussed in plenary meeting of the Assembly because it was directly related to matters of paramount importance to all peoples, namely, the strengthening of world peace, the relaxation of international tension and the restoration of confidence and mutual trust between nations. Since the last question dealt with in the plenary meetings was clearly not within the jurisdiction of the General Assembly, it was all the more imperative that it should devote its time to consideration of a really vital issue, that of United States intervention in the domestic affairs of certain States.

35. The CHAIRMAN called for a vote on allocation of the item to the Special Political Committee.

The Committee decided, by 11 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions, to recommend allocation of the item to the Special Political Committee.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.