

Soviet Statement on Troop Withdrawal

LONDON, Oct. 30—Following is the Soviet Union's statement on relations with other Socialist nations, as broadcast by the Moscow Radio:

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The principles of peaceful coexistence, friendship and co-operation among all states have always been and still form the unshakable foundation of the external relations of the U. S. S. R. This policy finds its most profound and consistent expression in the relationship with Socialist countries.

United by the common ideal of building a Socialist society and the principles of proletarian internationalism, the countries of the great commonwealth of Socialist nations can build their relations only on the principle of full equality, respect of territorial integrity, state independence and sovereignty and non-interference in the domestic affairs of one another.

This not only does not exclude, but on the contrary presupposes close fraternal cooperation and mutual aid between the countries of the Socialist commonwealth in the economic, political and cultural spheres. It was on this basis that, after the second World War and the rout of fascism there, the regimes of the People's Democracy came into being in a number of countries of Europe and Asia, strengthened and displaying great vitality.

In the process of the establishment of the new regime and the deep revolutionary transformation in social relations there were not a few difficulties, unsolved problems and downright mistakes, including those in the relations between the Socialist states, violations and mistakes which infringed the principles of equality in relations between Socialist states.

The 20th Congress of the Communist party of the Soviet Union resolutely condemned these mistakes and violations and demanded that the Soviet Union should apply Lenin's principles of equality of nations in her relations with other Socialist states. This statement fully took into account the historical past and the peculiarities of each country which has taken the road of building a new life.

The Soviet Government is consistently putting into practice these historic decisions of the 20th Congress, which create conditions for the further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between Socialist countries and the inviolable basis of maintaining the complete sovereignty of every Socialist state.

As recent events have shown, the need has arisen for an appropriate declaration to be made on the position of the Soviet Union in the mutual relations between the U. S. S. R. and other Socialist countries, primarily in the economic and military spheres. The Soviet Government is ready to discuss, together with the governments of other Socialist states, measures insuring the further development of economic ties between Socialist coun-

tries, so as to remove any possibilities of violating the principle of national sovereignty and mutual advantage and equality in economic relations.

This principle should extend also to advisers. It is common knowledge that during the first period of the formation of the new social order, at the request of the governments of countries of the People's Democracy, the Soviet Union sent to these countries a certain number of her specialists—engineers, agronomists, scientific workers and military advisers. During the latter period the Soviet Government on many occasions asked the Socialist states about the recall of its advisers.

In view of the fact that by now the countries of the People's Democracy have formed their own qualified national cadres in all spheres of economic and military construction, the Soviet Government considers it as urgent to examine, together with other Socialist states, the question whether a further stay of U. S. S. R. advisers in these countries is expedient.

In the military sphere, the Warsaw Treaty is an important foundation for mutual relations between the Soviet Union and countries of the People's Democracy. Its participants took upon themselves appropriate political and military obligations, including obligations to adopt agreed measures essential for strengthening their defense potential, so as to protect the peaceful labors of their people, guarantee the inviolability of their frontiers and territories and insure defense against possible aggression.

It is known that, in accordance with the Warsaw Treaty and with government agreements, Soviet units are stationed in the Hungarian and the Rumanian Republics. In the Polish Republic, Soviet military units are stationed on the basis of the Potsdam four-power agreement and the Warsaw Treaty. In other People's Democratic countries there are no Soviet military units.

With a view to insuring the mutual security of the Socialist countries, the Soviet government is ready to examine with the other Socialist countries which are participants in the Warsaw Treaty the question of the Soviet troops stationed on the territory of the above-mentioned countries.

In this, the Soviet government proceeds from the principle that the stationing of troops of one member state of the Warsaw Treaty on the territory of another member state of the Warsaw Treaty takes place on the basis of an agreement between all its participants and not only with the agreement of that state, on the territory of which, at its request, these troops are stationed or are planned to be stationed.

The Soviet government regards it as indispensable to make a statement in connection with the events in Hungary.

The course of events has shown that the working people of Hungary, who achieved great progress on the

basis of the people's democratic order, are rightly raising the question of the necessity of eliminating serious shortcomings in the field of economic building, of the further raising of the material well-being of the population and of the struggle against bureaucratic distortions in the state apparatus.

However, this just and progressive movement of the working people was soon joined by forces of the black reaction and counter-revolution, which are trying to take advantage of the discontent on the part of the working people in order to undermine the foundations of the people's democratic order in Hungary and to restore there the old landlords' and capitalists' order.

The Soviet government, like the whole of the Soviet people, deeply regret that the development of events in Hungary has led to bloodshed. At the request of the Hungarian People's government, the Soviet government consented on the entry into Budapest of Soviet army units for the purpose of assisting the Hungarian People's Army and the Hungarian organs of authority to establish order in the town.

Since it considers that the further presence of Soviet Army units in Hungary can serve as a cause for an even greater deterioration of the situation, the Soviet government has given an instruction to its military command to withdraw the Soviet Army units from Budapest as soon as this is recognized by the Hungarian government to be necessary.

At the same time, the Soviet government is ready to enter into corresponding negotiations with the government of the Hungarian People's Republic and other participants of the Warsaw Treaty on the question of the presence of Soviet troops on the territory of Hungary.

The defense of Socialist achievements by the People's Democratic Hungary is at the present moment the chief and sacred duty of workers, peasants and intelligentsia, and of the whole toiling Hungarian people.

The Soviet government expresses the confidence that the peoples of the Socialist countries will not permit foreign and internal reactionary forces to undermine the basis of the People's Democratic regime, won and consolidated by the heroic struggle and toil of the workers, peasants and intelligentsia of each country.

They will make all efforts to remove all obstacles that lie in the path of further strengthening the democratic basis of the independence and sovereignty of their countries, to develop further the Socialist basis of each country, their economy and culture for the sake of the constant growth of the material welfare and the cultural level of all the workers. They will consolidate the fraternal unity and mutual assistance of the Socialist countries for the strengthening of the great cause of peace and socialism.