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Title:

ALP broadcast regarding 'article in the "The Advertiser" in which it was remarked that Dr. Evatt ... had been active in seeking international support for the Hungarian rebels against the USSR'.

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30th May, 1960.

A.L.P. BROADCAST.

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Good Evening,

The publication last week of an article in "The Advertiser" in which it was remarked that Dr. Evatt, the former leader of the Labor Party, had been active in seeking international support for the Hungarian rebels against the U.S.S.R. is belated recognition for a fact that "The Advertiser" sedulously suppressed at the time.

You remember how next to nothing of what the Labor leaders had to say on the subject of Hungary appeared in the press? Do you remember how correspondence and articles appeared charging the Labor Party with sympathy with the Russians, because of what was labelled "their silence on Hungary"?

Let me read to you some of the things Dr. Evatt had to say at the time in Parliament:

"The Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) was good enough to hand to me, a minute or two before the House met a copy of the document that he has read. It might be of some help to the House if I add a word or two to what he has said.

I do not accept for a moment the view that what has happened in Hungary is outside the jurisdiction of the United Nations on the ground that it is essentially a domestic matter. As a matter of fact, the clauses of the peace treaty with Hungary were, to a substantial extent, prepared by Australian representatives during the period of office of Mr. Chifley's Government. I was present at the making of this treaty. Australia took the lead in securing the insertion of the clause which provides that Hungary shall take all measures necessary to enable persons within Hungary to enjoy human rights and liberties. That clause was intended, not merely for the benefit of Hungarians, but for the benefit of all people in Hungary.

I remind honourable members that Hungary had been a satellite of Hitler. The peace treaty with Hungary was one of what were called the satellite treaties, concluded in Paris in 1946. Hungary, Italy, Austria, Finland and Roumania all entered into similar treaties. If a dispute arises about an obligation under one of the treaties, it cannot be essentially a domestic matter, subject only to domestic jurisdiction, because the source of the obligation is an international treaty.

That is only a part of the story. Underlying it is the deep tragedy of the Hungarian people, who, almost, continually since World War I., have been under tyrannical, totalitarian governments, sometimes of

the right and sometimes of the left. The Hungarian people have not had a chance. They are the people whom the great Kossuth led in a struggle for freedom in the early portion of the last century. Even in those days, men like Gladstone and Palmerston knew that the Hungarian people were rightly struggling to be free.

Kossuth ultimately found refuge in Great Britain. This dispute or situation, whatever it is called, is before the Security Council. The Security Council has decided to take cognisance of the dispute, as it is clearly entitled to do. I agree with the Prime Minister that the contention that the dispute is outside the jurisdiction of the United Nations is not tenable. In fact, there are very few disputes of this kind which are matters purely for domestic jurisdiction. If they involve obligations under a treaty or rights such as those for which provision is made in the Declaration of Human Rights, they involve so important an international principle that the United Nations must take them up, at the level of either the Security Council or the General Assembly, in order to prevent bloodshed, stop fighting or ensure that rights shall be preserved.

During the period of office of the Chifley Government, I was deputed by that Government to put before the United Nations a case in favour of some people in central Europe. A group of people in Bulgaria and a well-known church leader in Hungary were being denied their rights under treaties. The group was composed of Lutheran pastors and the well-known church leader was Cardinal Mindszenty. We fought the cases on the basis of provisions in the treaties - one of them was the very treaty we are considering now - and the United Nations decided that they were not cases of purely domestic jurisdiction. In other words, they were recognized as being of international concern.

In my opinion, this matter should go before the Security Council and, if a veto is exercised there, it should go before the General Assembly, where no veto can be exercised. I should like to see a thorough investigation made to ascertain the facts of the case. All that we have at the moment are newspaper reports. Whatever delays might be involved in ascertaining the facts, that could hold out great hopes to people who are struggling for freedom and for a better world, according to their own consciences and their own views of what is right for their country."

Dr. Evatt made it clear that he had been responsible for the clauses in the Hungarian peace treaty - and they were these:-

- "1. Hungary shall take all measures necessary to secure to all persons under Hungarian jurisdiction, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion the enjoyment of human rights and of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of press and publications, of religious worship, of political opinion and of public meeting.
2. Hungary further undertakes that the laws in force in

Hungary shall not, either in their content or in their application, discriminate or entail any discrimination between persons of Hungarian nationality on the ground of their race, sex, language or religion, whether in reference to their persons, property, business, professional or financial interests, status, political or civil rights or any other matter."

A few days later he made a further statement following on a statement by the Minister for Defence:

"I congratulate the Minister for Defence on the statement that he has made, particularly that portion of it dealing with the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations regarding organised assistance. I think that something else might be done, if the resolution of the General Assembly is given effect. There have been a number of requests, the fourth of which is that the Secretary-General should investigate the situation, should observe, through representatives named by him, the situation in Hungary, and should report thereon to the General Assembly at the earliest moment, and as soon as possible suggest methods to bring an end to the existing situation in Hungary in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. I think that is important. It is important that Australia should be active in this matter. If necessary, the Australian Government might send a delegation to ascertain the position, to assist in achieving the objectives that the Minister has mentioned and to investigate the position generally.

The resolution also calls upon Hungary to permit observers to enter the territory and report findings. That again, I think is something that need not wait until some further decisions have been made, and I ask the Minister to consider taking action in accordance with that portion of the resolution. There is also a request to specialised agencies to make provisions with regard to food, medicine and other similar supplies and to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible. An invitation to national and international humanitarian organisations is also mentioned.

On the general question, I spoke to the House last week, after the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) had made a statement. In substance I agreed with him, and I pointed out that the guarantees of human rights contained in the relevant treaty were inserted as a result of the proposal of the Chifley Government when the post-war settlement was being made. Undoubtedly those rights are being breached. I therefore express general agreement with what has been done, and I suggest that the matter should not be allowed to rest."

And Mr. Calwell lauded the decision to allow refugees from the rebellion to enter Australia - their right to enter had in fact first been asked for by the Labour member for Kingston:

".....this might be a fitting opportunity to bring

to Australia these unfortunates who, because of the loss of an eye, an arm, or a leg, or because of some other physical defect, deformity or injury, were not able to come to Australia when we were selecting only the fittest and ablest persons, with the exception that those who had parents could call them out later.

Many of these people still live in camps under deplorable conditions, in Germany. Various honourable members have seen them, and so have the representatives of the Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration who have been in Australia in recent times."

Was this "silence" in Hungary?

As soon as the A.L.P. conference met in Brisbane early in the next year, it passed a resolution concerning those countries where the population was denied self-government by outside rulers. Let me read the resolution.

"10. The A.L.P. believes that the present policies of the French Government in Algeria, the U.S.S.R. Government in Hungary, and the British Government in Cyprus, are contrary to the principles of the United Nations-Charter, and that self-determination for peoples capable of self-government is their right. The A.L.P. welcomes in contrast the creation of the new Dominion of Ghana."

"The Advertiser" never published that resolution in full - all mention of Ghana and of Hungary was suppressed. But "The Advertiser" later in an editorial saw fit to charge both Dr. Evatt and myself with attacking Britain, but failing to give her credit for such developments as Ghana. In short, they will suppress what we do say and then attack us for not saying it.

This is the sort of press we have. I'm afraid the only way in which to discover the truth about what Labor leaders say is to Listen to Parliament or to sessions like this.

Goodnight.

I think that the Government might also extend its benevolence to these people. The action that has been taken is meritorious and commendable and will, I think, be supported by all the people of Australia who are sympathetic to the victims of Russian aggression and appalled by the bestiality and brutality of the Russians in their attempt to suppress the liberty and the independence of the Hungarian nation.