Forum:	**Historical Security Council**
Question of:	**Reacting to the Failed Hungarian Uprising (time freeze: November 12th, 1956)**
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Dear delegates,

We are honoured to welcome you to the Historical Security Council at Model United Nations of Hamburg 2026. We will be discussing two topics from the Cold War: the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 and the Failed Hungarian Revolution of 1956. This is the research report for Topic II: **Reacting to the Failed Hungarian Uprising.** The time freeze is the 12th of November 1956, so please remember not to consider any information not available on that date. An exception to this is if your state had any sort of secret information that was not public at the time, you are allowed to use it in debate. This report will also not include any information that was not available on November 12th, 1956.

When preparing for the conference, please remember that the two guides Dominique and I have prepared are only the start of your research. Furthermore, your country may have a very different political stance today than it had at the time of the issues being discussed. Please consider this in your research.

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I. Description of the Issue

Following bloody and highly fatal confrontations in many Hungarian cities and a Soviet-led invasion, a student-led uprising has failed, and Soviet loyalist János Kádár has assumed control of the country. He has replaced Imre Nagy, a reformist Communist politician who served as figurehead of the rebellion, as the leader of Hungary. This change occurred as a consequence of the Soviet invasion of Hungary, which had the goal of deposing the rebellious Hungarian government and replacing it with a government loyal to Moscow. While the Hungarian Army gave up resistance early, civilians all across Hungary fought against Soviet soldiers, with hostilities ceasing yesterday.

The Security Council intervened on November 4th by passing S/RES/120(1956), which called an emergency session of the General Assembly to address the Soviet invasion of Hungary. The same day, the General Assembly passed A/RES/1004(ES-II), which calls upon the Soviet Union to withdraw all of its troops. One day later, the General Assembly passed A/RES/1005(ES-II), a resolution condemning the USSR for not following A/RES/1004(ES-II). Now, following the change in government in Hungary and the defeat of the Rebellion, the Security Council has the responsibility to ensure peace and justice return to Hungary.

II. Definition of Key Terms

Communism:
Communism is hard to define exactly, as the definition depends on who you ask. According to Britannica, communism can roughly be defined as a political and economic doctrine that aims to replace private property and a profit-based economy with public ownership and communal control of at least the major means of production (e.g., mines, mills, and factories) and the natural resources of a society.

Sixteen Points:

The Sixteen Political, Economic, and Ideological Points were created by students from the reestablished MEFESZ and outlined demands for how a reorganized Hungarian state should function. They called for the installation of Imre Nagy as Prime Minister, the prosecution of members of the Rákosi government that students viewed as corrupt and the full withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungarian territory, among other demands. They were read during a protest on October 23rd in the centre of Budapest. Many of the demands were initially successful: Imre Nagy was installed as Prime Minister, and more political freedoms were granted. However, following the Soviet invasion in early November and the subsequent installation of János Kádár as leader of Hungary, almost all reforms were reversed.

MDP:

The Magyar Dolgozók Pártja (MDP), referred to in English as the Hungarian Working People's Party, was the ruling party in Hungary from 1948 to 1956. It was formed as a merger of several left-wing parties under Soviet influence, as was the case in many Eastern European countries like the GDR, following the Second World War. After the Uprising, it dissolved and was succeeded by the MSZMP.

MSZMP:

The Magyar Szocialista Munkáspárt (MSZMP), referred to in English as the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, is the ruling party of Hungary. It was founded in late October by János Kádár, who serves as its leader. Initially supportive of the Uprising, the party opposed Prime Minister Nagy's decision to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact and subsequently supported the removal of Nagy as Prime Minister.

Mátyás Rákosi:

Mátyás Rákosi was the first Communist leader of Hungary after the Second World War. A staunch Stalinist, he resigned in the wake of Nikita Khrushchev's de-Stalinization policies across the Warsaw Pact. Rákosi is explicitly named in the Sixteen Points as the person responsible for the low standard of living in Hungary. After his resignation, he was replaced by Ernő Gerő, who previously served as his deputy.

Ernő Gerő:

Ernő Gerő served as First Secretary of the Hungarian Working People's Party from 1955 until the Uprising. He was the de facto leader of Hungary from early 1956 until his replacement by Nagy as a result of the rebellion. Replacing Rákosi, he pursued many of the same policies his predecessor had enacted, offering little change from the preceding hardline Stalinist course. Gerő denounced the Sixteen Points presented by the rebellious students and unsuccessfully fought against the Rebellion. He was replaced as the leader of Hungary by Imre Nagy.

Imre Nagy:

Imre Nagy served as Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic twice: once from July 4th, 1953, to April 18th, 1955 and once from October 24th to November 4th, 1956. He is one of the most popular politicians in Hungary and served as the leader of the Uprising. Nagy is a part of the reformist faction of the MDP and even appointed members of other parties to cabinet posts. He is currently in exile at the Yugoslav Embassy in Budapest.

János Kádár:

János Kádár has served as the de facto leader of Hungary since the collapse of the Nagy government on November 4th. He leads an all-socialist government supported by the Soviet Union. Furthermore, he founded the MSZMP and served as a cabinet minister in the Nagy government.

III. Background Information

In response to a falling standard of living, economic decline, limited civil liberties, and political repression, on October 13th, a group of university students from Szeged illegally reestablished the Magyar Egyetemisták és Főiskolások Szövetsége (MEFESZ), a democratic student union banned by the Rákoski government. This union was formed in opposition to the sole legal state-run Communist student union. News of the reestablishment of the MEFESZ quickly spread to most Hungarian universities, and on October 22nd, the Sixteen Political, Economic, and Ideological Points, which called for the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary, the formation of a new government led by Imre Nagy and the persecution of members of the Rákoski government, among other demands, were presented. The following

day, a major student protest in Budapest occurred, calling for the government of Ernő Gerő to fulfil the demands of the MEFESZ. The demands were resoundingly rejected by Gerő, who wished to pursue a foreign policy aligned with the Soviet Union. In response to this, a group

of students and civilians destroyed the monument to Joseph Stalin in Budapest and started besieging the Magyar Radio Building, which was guarded by the ÁVH, the Hungarian secret police force. This siege was successful, and the weapons delivered to the building for the protection of the ÁVH were taken by the protestors to defend themselves against retaliation from the government. In the following days, the pressure on the government grew and with widespread support from the participants of the Uprising, Imre Nagy was appointed the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Hungary on October 24th. Nagy started implementing many of the Sixteen Points proposed by the students, such as the legalization of opposition parties and the dissolution of the ÁVH. Initially, politicians like Kádár were not opposed to this, as they believed the Rebellion was a justified reaction to a falling standard of living and that the people of Hungary were merely exercising their right to participate in the political process. When Nagy signalled his intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact on November 1st and declared Hungary a neutral state, many members of the MSZMP, such as Kádár, and the Soviet leadership reversed their support for his government and sought to replace it with a government loyal to the Warsaw Pact. This was further strengthened when Nagy invited formerly banned parties into the government and pledged to hold free and fair elections in the near future, which the USSR opposed. As a consequence of this, the USSR invaded Hungary on November 4th in order to return the country to the Soviet sphere of influence. Fighting broke out all over Hungary as the local population resisted the Soviet invasion. Battles during the Uprising are expected to have cost more than 10000 lives. On November 4th, the Hungarian government was defeated, and the Soviet-backed Kádár government assumed control over the country. Insurgent fighters, especially in Budapest, continued resisting the new government, and battles continued until November 11th. The Nagy government has still not officially been dissolved, and de jure leadership of Hungary remains disputed.

IV. Historical Background

After the Second World War, large parts of Eastern Europe came under Soviet influence, including Hungary. The democratically elected government led by the Independent Smallholders, Agrarian Workers and Civic Party was increasingly sidelined by the Communist Party and the Soviet Military Command, and after a few years, the Hungarian

Working People's Party took full control of the state. Rákosi, the leader of Hungary at this time, was loyal to the USSR and the Warsaw Pact and followed a strict Stalinist course. These policies made him unpopular with large parts of the Hungarian population. Following the death of Stalin, Imre Nagy was appointed as Chairman of the Council of Ministers, giving him an influential political position while still being subordinate to Rákosi. This made him very popular with the Hungarian people, but his policies quickly drew the ire of Rákosi and hardline Communists, and he was removed from office after two years. After Rákosi was removed for being too Stalinist, he was replaced by Ernő Gerő, who continued the former's policies. This angered the Hungarian people, and widespread unhappiness, political suppression and a falling standard of living were the main causes of the Uprising.

Furthermore, the creation of the Warsaw Pact just last year and continued Soviet troop stationing in Hungary were unpopular with the reformist intellectuals who caused the Uprising because they formalized the bond Hungary had to the Soviet Union. Rebellions in Poland also emboldened the leaders of the Uprising and made them believe that their rebellion could be successful.

V. Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Hungarian People's Republic (Kádár government):
The Hungarian People's Republic under Kádár seeks to return peace to Hungary after a bloody revolt and solidify and legitimize its control over the country. It views the Uprising as an initially legitimate and democratic event, which was subsequently overtaken by a counter-revolutionary movement opposed to the ideals of Communism. It is a member of the Warsaw Pact and seeks to remain a member of the organization.

Nagy government:

The Government of Imre Nagy, while de facto no longer in power, has officially still not been dissolved. It also views the Uprising as a democratic and legitimate event, but unlike the Kádár government, it seeks to implement many of the reforms proposed in the Sixteen Points. It represents a broad coalition of pre-1948 Hungarian politics, as the cabinet includes parties like the Independent Smallholders, Agrarian Workers and Civic Party and the Social Democratic Party. It seeks to withdraw Hungary from the Warsaw Pact.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

The USSR, led by Nikita Khrushchev, seeks to solidify its control over Hungary in the wake of the Uprising and prevent revolts sparked by the Uprising in other parts of the Warsaw Pact. It also needs to justify its intervention to the international community.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization:

NATO needs to take a clear position on the Uprising and whether or not to recognize the new Kádár government as the legitimate government of Hungary. Furthermore, NATO, along with neutral countries like Austria, needs to address the issue of thousands of refugees fleeing Hungary as a consequence of the Uprising.

VI. UN Resolutions

S/RES/120(1956):

This Security Council resolution, passed on November 4th, calls an emergency session of the General Assembly, as the Security Council was unable to fulfil its mandate of upholding global peace. It also mentions that the Soviet Union created a “grave situation” for the Hungarian people. The resolution was passed by a vote of ten to one.

A/RES/1004(ES-II):

This General Assembly resolution, also passed on November 4th, condemns the Soviet invasion of Hungary, calls upon the full withdrawal of Soviet military forces and affirms the right of the Hungarian people to determine their own future.

A/RES/1005(ES-II):

This General Assembly resolution, passed on November 5th, follows up on A/RES/1004(ES-II) and labels Soviet intervention in Hungary as a violation of the UN Charter and the peace treaty between Hungary and the Allied Powers after the Second World War, and also calls for free and fair elections under UN auspices.

VII. Possible Solutions

As all Permanent Five members of the Security Council can derail the whole resolution with a veto, delegates must work together and reach out to ideological opponents to find solutions to this topic. Some questions that can be considered in preparation for the conference are:

- Is the Kádár or the Nagy government the legitimate government of Hungary?
- Was the Uprising a legitimate and democratic event that demonstrated the desire for change, or was it in opposition to the needs of the Hungarian population?
- What should happen to leaders of the Uprising, for example, Imre Nagy?
- How can prosperity, freedom and self-determination be ensured in Hungary after the Uprising? Should the Security Council interfere to ensure these principles are upheld?
- How can a solution be found that avoids upsetting either side of the conflict too much?

VIII. How to Prepare as a Delegate

As it is very difficult to find primary sources before the time freeze, sources from after the time freeze can be considered **if you can reasonably assume your government knew about the information at hand.** Proposing solutions that were unthinkable and totally unrealistic at the time, and seem beneficial in hindsight, is not allowed and will be punished.

Please remember to write two position papers (one for each topic) and prepare a handful of preambulatory and operative clauses for debate so you are fully prepared for the conference. **The deadline for submission of the position papers is August 27th.** After this date, Dominique and I will not correct papers, and all delegates who did not submit any documents are ineligible to receive awards. The awards we will give out are Best Delegate, Most Distinguished Delegate and Best First-Timer.

IX. Useful Links

For this research report, I relied on the United Nations Digital Library, which I would recommend you take a look at, as it helps to understand the situation Hungary was in at the time. I would also recommend looking at the US Library of Congress website, as it has a vast collection of newspaper articles from the time, which help with research and give a view into how the local population viewed the uprising. If you do not speak Hungarian, you have to translate the newspapers, however. Also, please read the three resolutions I presented in this report. They are key to the discussion.

"United Nations Digital Library System", *United Nations*, digitallibrary.un.org

"1956 Revolution - Newspapers and Other Sources - Hungarian Newspapers at the Library of Congress - Research Guides at Library of Congress." *Library of Congress*, United States Congress, guides.loc.gov/hungarian-newspapers/1956

IX. Sources

"Hungary 1956 - the National Archives." *The National Archives*, United Kingdom National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/cold-war-on-file/hungary-1956

"Communism | Definition, History, Varieties, & Facts | Britannica." Britannica, www.britannica.com/topic/communism

"United Nations Digital Library System", *United Nations*, digitallibrary.un.org

“1956 Revolution - Newspapers and Other Sources - Hungarian Newspapers at the Library of Congress - Research Guides at Library of Congress.” *Library of Congress*, United States Congress, guides.loc.gov/hungarian-newspapers/1956

“Internet History Sourcebooks: Modern History.” Fordham University Sourcebooks, Fordham University, sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1956hungary-16points.asp

I hope you all enjoy learning about this topic as much as I did, and I wish you all the best for your preparation for the Historical Security Council at Model United Nations of Hamburg 2026.

Warm regards,

Karl Klaus
Main Chair of the Historical Security Council