

## 'Budapest's Bloody Sunday' from the Luxemburger Wort (5 November 1956)

**Caption:** On 5 November 1956, the Luxembourg daily newspaper Luxemburger Wort deplores both Moscow's use of force in Hungary and the apathy of the West.

**Source:** Luxemburger Wort. Für Wahrheit und Recht. 05.11.1956, n° 310; 109e année. Luxembourg: Imprimerie Saint-Paul. "Der Blutsonntag von Budapest", p. 1.

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**Last updated:** 06/07/2016

## Budapest's Bloody Sunday

P. S. — The events are devastating: in Budapest and throughout Hungary, the yearning of a whole nation for internal and external freedom, demonstrated with a unanimity never witnessed hitherto, is drowned in blood by the Red Army. The Bloody Sunday of 4 November 1956, will stand out for all time as a mark of evil in the history of the 20th century.

Even more devastating is the fact that the whole civilised world has to stand by and watch the massacre, without being able to move a muscle to protect a whole nation.

And that happens in the much-lauded age of progress, of collective security, and of the rights of nations to self-determination.

The Soviet Union is currently celebrating the memory of its 1917 October Revolution with military parades, speeches, vodka and caviar. The smoking rubble of Budapest provides the terrible backdrop to this celebration, as did the burning Rome for Nero.

Those are the appalling facts.

It was left to the Soviet Union to demonstrate personally to the whole world that the Communist regime can hold sway only through brute force. It gave as its excuse the claim that Fascist elements had infiltrated Hungary and had diverted the rebellion of the Hungarian people into the path of their own subversive agenda. Do they expect the world to believe them? Even if it did, the blessings that the Red regime had bestowed on the satellite states since 1948 must have been very strange if a handful of committed agents smuggled in from abroad were able to succeed within a few days in persuading a nation of eight million people to risk their very lives for a better future.

Mankind stands appalled at the brutality of these events. It perceives how the Soviet armoured invasion buffers the conscience of the world. It notes with horror the nature and manner of the Soviet Union's actions here: it will negotiate until the Red Army has taken up its strategic positions. Then the mask is cynically cast off, the modern version of the *fides Punica* took centre stage in yesterday's Bloody Sunday.

What action can the international community take, as the silence of the graveyard settles over Budapest and Hungary? All eyes are turned towards New York, where the United Nations has taken responsibility for this terrible affair. Will the United Nations be able to bring some relief to the Hungarian people in their hour of need? The Security Council has tried to do so. Its action was blocked by the Soviet veto. Now the General Assembly has its say. It demands the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary. Will Moscow hold out against the expressed will of the Free World?

So, feelings are split between tension, sorrow and horror. Not a single move may be made to relieve the physical distress. The Iron Curtain has descended once again. Aid from all over the world is piling up at Vienna Airport, ready for dispatch. They can no longer get to Budapest, where the people are now living in fear of what is going to happen next.

In the past, in Greece and in Iran, vigorous Security Council action was able to prevent the worst from happening, without, as was the case later in Korea, the need to resort to military measures. Will that now also be possible in the case of Hungary? There is still no answer to this question from the perpetrators of the recent events. So there is still hope. However, for those were involved yesterday — in Budapest or elsewhere in Hungary — any action will come too late.

That great principle of the United Nations, not to resolve acts of violence but to prevent them, is enshrined in the UN Charter: the achievement of results by negotiation and peaceful compromise. But what if one of the parties involved refuses to participate in the discussions? At the United Nations, the serious charge was brought against France and the United Kingdom that they had initiated an act of aggression without having given the United Nations the opportunity to take up a position beforehand. The Soviet Union appeared as

one of the great champions of the law. And now? The Soviet Union refuses to allow the Hungarian affair even to be put on the agenda of the Security Council. 'Interference in the internal affairs of a nation', it explained. Where, then, does this leave the SOS telegrams to the Security Council, which were sent to New York by a government that was still at that time recognised by Moscow as a negotiating partner? Understand it if you can.

Or perhaps you understand it already.