

SECRET

No. 5396/50  
Copy No. 205

Encl. 1

Chronology of Principal Events During the  
Hungarian Revolution, 23 October to 4 No-  
vember 1956.

23 October  
Afternoon\*

Tens of thousands of students and others staged a massive demonstration expressing their solidarity with the Polish fight for freedom. They demanded withdrawal of Soviet troops, the return to leadership of Imre Nagy, installation of a new government, free elections and return of the multi-party system.

23 October  
1830 hours

The party committee in the National Planning Office recommended to the party leadership that Andor Berei, President of the Planning Office, be relieved of his duties. (Berei was closely identified with Rakosi and Gero.)

23 October  
2100 hours

Party first secretary Gero made a speech over Radio Budapest. He said the party condemned chauvinist excitement, slanders against the USSR and the exploitation of youth for demonstrations. He announced the central committee had been convened because of the urgency of present problems.

23 October  
2200 hours

Nagy appealed--unsuccessfully--to demonstrators before the Parliament building in Budapest to return to their homes.

23 October  
between 2100 and  
2230

Many demonstrators became violent, obtained arms, laid siege to the Budapest Radio building.

\* All times Budapest time

MORI/CDF

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

23 October  
2300 hours

Radio Budapest announced that a politburo meeting was in progress.

24 October  
0430 hours

Radio Budapest stated "Fascist reactionary elements" have attacked public buildings and the police. The Council of Ministers has banned "all gatherings and meetings" for the "sake of public order." Armed forces have been instructed to proceed "with the full vigor of the law."

24 October  
0550

The Ministry of the Interior called on all inhabitants of Budapest not to move in the streets before 9 a.m. unless on business of "absolute urgency."

24 October  
0800 hours

Budapest Hungarian Home Service announced that Soviet aid had been invoked on the basis of the Warsaw Treaty "for the restoration of order in Budapest against counterrevolutionary elements."

24 October  
0800 hours

The politburo elected new members (Szanto, Kobil, Losonczy). Individuals identified with Rakosi regime were dropped (Hidas, Mekis, Istvan Kovacs, Revai, Acs, Bata, Piros).

24 October  
0815 hours

Budapest Hungarian Home Service announced that the central committee of the Hungarian Workers Party has decided to recommend that Imre Nagy be made chairman of the Council of Ministers. At the same time, it confirmed Erno Gero as first secretary of the central committee.

24 October  
0845 hours

The Hungarian Council of Ministers ordered summary jurisdiction throughout the country to be applied to acts designed to overthrow the regime.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

24 October  
0900 hours

Budapest Hungarian Home Service said the "dastardly armed attack of counter-revolutionaries during the night has created an extremely serious situation," and called on the people to "condemn the bloody havoc created by the counterrevolutionary gangs and support everywhere the Hungarian and Soviet troops maintaining order."

24 October  
about noon

Unarmed demonstrators in Parliament Square were fired upon without warning by Soviet tanks and soldiers of the Hungarian AVH (state security service).

24 October  
1210 hours

Premier Nagy broadcast an appeal to insurgents to lay down their arms. He announced that all who complied by 1400 hours would be exempt from summary jurisdiction.

24 October  
1255 hours

Budapest Home Service announced that the "counterrevolutionary gangs" had dispatched young men to provincial towns and factories to create unrest and advocate work stoppages.

24 October  
1830 hours

The National Front broadcast an appeal to the population to restore order. Continuous appeals were broadcast throughout the day by various groups and to various segments of the population to end the bloodshed.

24 October  
2045 hours

Janos Kadar condemned the rise of counterrevolutionary elements and asserted that the government had adopted the only reasonable decision in calling on those who were carrying out a hostile attack to surrender.

24 October  
2235

Moscow TASS broadcast that by the end of 24 October the enemy adventure was liquidated and order restored in Budapest. It claimed that the action was an "enemy adventure" which had "obviously" been in preparation for some time.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

25 October  
0400 hours                   The fighting continued at the radio station.

25 October  
0645 hours                   Fire brigades were attempting to extinguish the third fire set at the National Museum. The "hard struggle is still going on."

25 October  
0645 hours                   Gyula Hay, a leading Hungarian writer, appealed to the youth of Budapest to stop fighting: "Guard your lives now. The Fatherland will now need you badly in the new Hungary being freed from sad tyranny."

25 October  
0730 hours                   The Minister of Justice denied the rumor that any of those detained by the authorities had been executed.

25 October  
1120 hours                   Reports of disturbances in Gyoer, Debrecen, Szeged and Miskolc.

25 October  
1130 hours                   Intermittent shots during the night. Although the situation was quieter in the morning, crowds were moving through the streets, which were full of Soviet tanks and troops. Soviet troops, apparently from Rumania, were emplacing artillery in one suburb.

25 October  
1233 hours                   The Politburo announced that at its meeting today it had relieved Erno Gero of his post as first secretary and appointed Janos Kadar to this position.

25 October  
1300 hours                   Situation reported completely confused: "this is a battle situation." Some Hungarian soldiers seemed to have thrown in with the insurgents but others were obeying orders to quell the insurrection.

*SECRET*

~~SECRET~~

25 October  
1418 hours

Premier Nagy stated youth have supported the demonstrations because of bitterness over past mistakes. He announced the introduction of reforms but said implementation of the new program requires restoration of complete law and order. The Hungarian government will initiate talks on relations between Hungary and USSR on the basis of "national independence and equality between Communist parties." He promised to ask for withdrawal of Soviet forces stationed in Hungary when order is restored. (Press reports, not confirmed, indicate that this statement followed talks with Soviet presidium members Mikoyan and Suslov.)

25 October  
midnight  
(approximately)

Disturbances broke out at Pecs, in southern Hungary near the Yugoslav boundary.

26 October  
1215 hours

Budapest radio broadcast a Szabad Nep editorial begging for a restoration of order. A new government is being organized by Premier Nagy, the justified demands of the youth have been met, and there is no sense in further fighting, the editorial said.

26 October  
1300 hours

A delegation of workers from Borsod county, led by Rudolf Foldvari (former high Communist party official and protegé of Rakosi) called on Nagy and asked for a Gomulka-type program for Hungary. Nagy promised a Patriotic People's Front government.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 26 October  
1310 hours
- Miskolc radio broadcast an announcement for the Workers' Council of Greater Miskolc and Borsod County (apparently a new organization) declaring they will maintain their demands as long as they are not fulfilled "in their essence." Among the demands listed are calls for immediate withdrawal of the Soviet army from the country, a new government, the right to strike, and complete amnesty.
- 26 October  
1400 hours
- Radio Budapest carried an editorial of Nepszava, the trade union newspaper demanding an end to fighting, an amnesty, formation of an army of workers and youths and of a new government which will immediately initiate talks with a view to withdrawal of Soviet troops. This program also calls for formation of workers councils in every factory, and demands that Hungarian trade unions should function as they did before 1948.
- 26 October  
1400 hours
- Writers group demands, broadcast by Budapest radio, were similar to those voiced by Nepszava (above).
- 26 October  
1545 hours
- A resolution of the party central committee, broadcast by Radio Budapest, recommended the formation of a new national government on the basis of "the broadest national foundations," which would start negotiations with the USSR "to settle relations between our countries;" after the restoration of order, "Soviet troops should withdraw to their bases. It stated, however, that the central committee and government are firmly resolved to defend the People's Democracy, warning that opponents of the regime "shall be annihilated without mercy."
- 27 October  
1018 hours
- Radio Budapest announced formation of a new government with Imre Nagy as premier. It includes Communists in key positions (notably Ferenc Muennich as minister of interior and Karoly

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Janza as minister of defense). Members of parties which had been dissolved in the past were included, notably Zoltan Tildy as minister of state and Bela Kovacs as minister of agriculture.

27 October  
1435

Radio Miskolc broadcast a statement of the Workers' Council of Borsod County and Miskolc which endorsed the new government but asserted that the workers will continue to strike until "our demands are fulfilled. "Hold out! Victory is near!" The radio then declared that the city of Miskolc had been under the leadership of the workers' council and students' parliament for two days, and the workers council was in control of garrison and police.

28 October  
0813 hours

Gyoer Free Radio broadcast an alleged statement of the Soviet military commander of Gyoer. "We have no intention of interfering in your internal political affairs. I think that the rising...is justified." He expressed regret, however, that some "provocateurs" were causing trouble with Soviet troops.

28 October  
0813 hours

Gyoer Free Radio in Western Hungary broadcast a demand by the local Provisional Council that Soviet troops cease fighting in Budapest and that the state security service be disbanded. The Gyoer council asked for the forming of new national councils in the countryside.

28 October  
1010 hours

Radio Free Gyoer announced that a Gyoer-Sopron county National Defense Committee of the Hungarian Workers (Communist) Party was formed on 24 October.

~~SECRET~~

**SECRET**

28 October  
1400 hours  
Budapest Radio broadcast an editorial from the party organ Szabad Nep declaring the national rising was "just" and stating the formation of national councils has set in motion progress toward social democracy, "the specifically Hungarian way to socialism."

28 October  
1605 hours  
Radio Free Gyoer reported that military units have come over to the "side of the people," and police have surrendered their weapons without resistance and taken to the woods.

28 October  
1732 hours  
Budapest radio carried an anonymous commentary sharply criticizing the central committee and demanding election of a new central committee.

28 October  
1840 hours  
Miskolc radio called on workers councils in various parts of the country (Debrecen, Szeged, Hatvan, Szekesfehervar, Pecs, Szombathely, Gyoer, Mosonmagyarovar, Szolnok, Nyiregyhaza "and all the country") to support a program calling for creation of a provisional government under Premier Nagy to be followed by the holding of free elections.

28 October  
1859 hours  
A radio Budapest broadcast to Europe declared revolutionary councils have been set up in several cities.

28 October  
2010 hours  
The new cabinet met and approved Premier Nagy's policies. It ordered the minister of agriculture to suspend collectivization and revise laws governing collectivization. The minister of education is taking steps to change history textbooks and revise other school books.

28 October  
2250 hours  
The National Bureau of the Patriotic Peoples Front announced that the Hungarian National Committee had been formed to unite and co-ordinate the work of local revolutionary councils and autonomous national committees.

**SECRET**



~~SECRET~~

28 October  
2332 hours

Radio Budapest announced an appeal by Budapest Police Headquarters for volunteers for the national guard on the basis of a declaration made by Premier Nagy.

28 October  
Prior to midnight

Premier Nagy, speaking on Budapest radio, attributed recent "bloody events" to "mistakes and crimes" of the last ten years and denied that counterrevolutionary elements were behind the insurrection. He announced his government had ordered a general cease-fire and said new armed forces would be created, incorporating old army units, police personnel and members of armed groups of workers and youth. Nagy also stated that his government had come to an agreement with the USSR for immediate withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Budapest and was undertaking negotiations looking to ultimate withdrawal of all Soviet forces from Hungary.

28 October  
Time not indicated

Soviet presidium member Mikoyan arrived in Budapest.

29 October  
0600 hours

The National Council of Patriotic Peoples Front appealed over Radio Budapest for workers in the villages to send food to Budapest.

29 October  
0600 hours

Radio Budapest announced that the first consignments of drugs, bandages, tents, food and canned goods had arrived from the International Red Cross by plane from Vienna. The Hungarian Red Cross was to begin distribution during the morning.

29 October  
1100 hours

Budapest Home Service reported Szabad Nep's front-page coverage of the statement from Gomulka to Kadar and Imre Nagy.

~~SECRET~~

**SECRET**

- 29 October  
1115 hours
- Radio Free Gyoer announced information from Nyiregyhaza (northeast Hungary) that several Soviet units had left Hungarian territory during the night, "crossing the Soviet-Hungarian border."
- 29 October  
1115 hours
- The Hungarian party newspaper Szabad Nep, in answer to a "deplorable" article in Pravda, defended the Hungarian revolution as "neither anti-popular nor an adventure, nor did it collapse." It said the revolt resulted from the failure of the former regime to protect national independence.
- 29 October  
Time not indicated
- Tito of Yugoslavia, in a letter addressed to the Hungarian Workers (Communist) Party, called for an end to bloodshed.
- 29 October  
1200 hours
- Radio Budapest broadcast a statement by Minister of Interior Ferenc Muennich, declaring that organization of a "unified and democratic police force" was in progress.
- 29 October  
1200 hours
- Radio Budapest broadcast an appeal by the Revolutionary Committee of Hungarian Intellectuals calling for support of the new government and thanking those Soviet troops who refused to turn their arms against the insurgents.
- 29 October  
1717 hours
- A Ministry of Interior communiqué carried by Radio Budapest stated that in accord with an agreement with leaders of Budapest resistance groups, the latter were beginning to hand over their arms to Hungarian troops which are relieving Soviet units. Soviet units will begin to withdraw from Hungarian territory within 24 hours of surrender of arms.
- 29 October  
2130 hours
- Radio Budapest broadcast an announcement by Minister of Defense Janza stating that units of the Hungarian Peoples Army have begun to replace Soviet troops in the fifth borough of Budapest. Soviet troops will evacuate territory agreed on with resistance headquarters at dawn.

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

29 October  
2200 hours

Radio Budapest announced the Gyoer County National Committee "has accepted the program of the new national government with certain reservations."

29 October  
2200 hours

Radio Budapest announced that the Szeged Workers council has been transformed into the Szeged People's Council and has taken over jurisdiction.

29 October  
2400 hours

Radio Budapest broadcast a communiqué of the Ministry of National Defense stating that by virtue of an agreement with leaders of bands of resisters, the latter had begun to surrender arms. Soviet units would begin to withdraw 24 hours after all arms were surrendered.

30 October  
0205 hours

A National Air Defense Command resolution, carried by Radio Budapest called for all Soviet forces to begin evacuation of Hungary at once. It warned that otherwise the Hungarian air force would make an "armed stand."

30 October  
0700 hours

Radio Free Gyoer and Radio Miskolc said the general strike was continuing, but that farmers and workers in mines and public utilities were not involved.

30 October  
1245 hours

Radio Free Gyoer reported national councils have been formed in near-by villages; "order reigns and food supplies are being collected."

30 October  
1406 hours

Radio Budapest announced "new men" had taken over the radio and thrown out "members of the Hungarian radio's old leadership."

30 October  
1428 hours

In an address carried by Radio Budapest, Zoltan Tildy promised concessions, notably immediate abolition of produce collection system. He announced that the Hungarian delegate to the UN, Peter Kos, had been recalled and promised appointment of a new delegation to the UN which would represent the "views of this government."

**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

30 October  
1428 hours

Janos Kadar appealed to the party to support the government and reform party ranks. He called on "Communists who were prompted by progressive ideas of mankind and socialism" and not by "selfish personal interest" to back the Nagy regime.

30 October  
1428 hours

Premier Nagy, in an address to the "people of Hungary" broadcast by Radio Budapest, announced that the "government, acting in complete accord with the presidium of the party central committee, has abolished the one-party system and placed government on the basis of democratic co-operation between the coalition of people's parties" as it existed in 1945 at the close of World War II. A new "inner" cabinet has been set up which includes representatives of the Communist party (Nagy, Kadar, Losonczy), two former leaders of the Smallholders Party (Zoltan Tildy and Bela Kovacs), a representative of the National Peasants' Party (Ferenc Erdei) and "persons to be mentioned by the Social Democratic Party."

30 October  
1535 hours

Radio Gyoer broadcast greetings which asserted the "young people of Vas County have resolved not to resume productive work before our oppressor, the Soviet troops, actually begins withdrawing from the territory of our country."

30 October  
1545 hours

Radio Budapest broadcast an announcement by Minister of State Zoltan Tildy that Cardinal Mindszenty would take up his duties as primate of Hungary.

30 October  
1640 hours

Radio Budapest broadcast by announcement from Premier Nagy that "following the government's initiative, the withdrawal of troops of the Soviet army has begun."

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

30 October  
1755 hours

The Revolutionary Military Council of the Hungarian People's Army, just created, (1) demanded immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Budapest and within the "shortest possible time" from Hungary; (2) asked support of the people in restoring order; (3) declared "sectarian elements which were turning back the march of events" have been dismissed from government; (4) promised to disarm security forces, "which kept army in state of intimidation". This statement was signed by Major General Lorincz Kanya.

30 October  
1809 hours

Radio Budapest carried a declaration of the Revolutionary Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs calling for a new Hungarian foreign policy, recall of the UN delegate, and recall of other Foreign Ministry personnel "alien to the people."

30 October  
2020 hours

Lt. Gen. Karoly Janza stated on Radio Budapest that withdrawal of all Soviet forces from Budapest began at 1600 hours.

30 October  
2233 hours

Radio Budapest announced that the National Peasant Party has begun publication of a newspaper.

30 October  
2225 hours

Radio Budapest broadcast an appeal by the Revolutionary Army Committee of the Hungarian Honved Army calling for a meeting of leaders of the Budapest Honved Army committees at 0200 on 31 October at the Ministry of National Defense. It also instructed leaders of Revolutionary Army committees of units of the 3rd Motorized Army Corps replacing Soviet troops withdrawing from Budapest to report at once on arrival in the city to the Revolutionary Army Committee.

~~SECRET~~

**SECRET**

30 October  
2235 hours

Radio Budapest broadcast an appeal by "armed insurgents to the population of the country" calling for restoration of peace and order. It reported that after the fighting ended and the Soviet army had begun to withdraw, party leader Kadar and Minister of Interior Muennich met commanders and representatives of armed units of revolutionary youth. They agreed revolutionary armed youth and revolutionary committee of leaders of the army should take over the duty of safeguarding personal safety and property of the peaceful population of the 8th and 9th districts of Budapest.

30 October  
2400 hours

Radio Budapest reported Cardinal Mindszenty had been liberated by an army formation and was on his way to Budapest. It quoted him as saying, "I shall carry on where I left off eight years ago."

30 October  
2400 hours

Radio Budapest carried a statement by the Revolutionary Council of National Police Command that it, together with freedom-fighter insurgents, had begun the immediate demobilization and disarming of state security personnel, and would hold such persons under arrest until they could be tried in a court of law.

30 October  
2400 hours

Radio Budapest carried an announcement that the premier had granted a request by representatives of the former Social Democratic Party, including Anna Kethly, for restoration of their former head office and publishing house.

31 October  
0905 hours

Radio Budapest contradicted a previous report that all Soviet troops had left Budapest. It has subsequently learned that this was not true, "and a number of listeners objected" to the false report. The Ministry of Defense appealed to the population to refrain from impeding the departure of the troops and announced that Soviet tanks would leave during the morning.

**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

- 31 October  
0908 hours
- The minister of defense issued following order at the suggestion of the Hungarian People's Army Revolutionary Council, present insignia on hats to be replaced by Kossuth coat of arms.
- 31 October  
1015 hours
- Radio Free Petoefi-Gyoer announced that the Varpalota transmitter was being jammed.
- 31 October  
1034 hours
- Radio Budapest carried a list of members of the National Defense Committee of the "Hungarian People's Republic." Among the members are Col. Pal Maleter, commander of armed youth of Kilian Barracks and Maj. Gen. Istvan Kovacs of the General Staff.
- 31 October  
1035 hours
- Radio Budapest reports of talks held by Premier Nagy and Minister of State Kadar with a 19-man delegation from Szolnok national committee. An unidentified speaker declared the Szolnok representatives said work would be resumed only on condition Soviet troops left the vicinity of the town, including the Soviet barracks. Nagy said, "as far as he knew," Soviet troops would leave not only Budapest but also Szolnok that day, 31 October and would turn over barracks to the Revolutionary Committee of the Hungarian armed forces.
- 31 October  
1200 hours
- Radio Budapest announced a temporary executive committee of the Independent Smallholders Party had been established.
- 31 October  
1200 hours
- Radio Budapest carried a TASS report that the Soviet government has instructed the military command to withdraw Soviet formations from Budapest as soon as the Hungarian government considers it appropriate. The Soviet government is ready to negotiate with Hungary and other Warsaw pact countries on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary. The Soviet government further stated it is willing to start negotiations on Soviet troops stationed in Rumania and Poland.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

31 October  
1218 hours

Radio Free Petoefi-Gyoer announced the 9th Honved Division had joined the Transdanubian National Council early on the morning of 31 October.

31 October  
1525 hours

Miskolc radio carried a message from the Debrecen Revolutionary Committee demanding that the Soviet command refrain from interfering in internal affairs, in accord with previous agreements. Reports have been received from Zahony (frontier point) saying small Soviet units are crossing into Hungary, "therefore the situation is not clear."

31 October  
1702 hours

Radio Budapest reported Premier Nagy's speech at Kossuth Square. Nagy emphasized that he had not asked for Soviet troops and that that step had been taken without his knowledge. He demanded immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops and abrogation of the Warsaw pact.

31 October  
1702 hours

Radio Budapest declared "no obstacles" must be put in the way of dissolving collectives which were forcibly set up.

31 October  
2000 hours

Radio Budapest broadcast an appeal by the Revolutionary Council of the National Command stating that the police, in close co-operation with army and revolutionary youth, had begun to restore order.

31 October  
2230 hours

Radio Budapest announced the newspaper of the Smallholders Party (Kis Ujsag) would reappear on 1 November under the direction of Bela Kovacs.

31 October  
2300 hours

Radio Budapest stated the newly formed executive committee of the Free Hungarian Trade Union had declared Hungarian unions would quit the WFTU and establish relations with "any international trade union organization."

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

31 October  
2400 hours

Radio Budapest reported that delegates of the re-established Social Democratic Party (Anna Kethly, president and Andras Revesz, secretary) would leave for Vienna on 1 November to attend a meeting of the Second International.

1 November  
0840 hours

Radio Free Petoefi-Gyoer reported on an interview of delegates of the Transdanubian National Council with Premier Nagy. Nagy promised Soviet troops would leave Budapest on 31 October and stated the government had started negotiations to give the USSR notice of termination of the Warsaw Pact and withdrawal of troops from Hungary. Nagy also emphasized that the appointment of Col. Maleter as first deputy minister of national defense was a further move to guarantee fulfillment of revolutionary demands. Nagy promised to resign if he could not assure free elections or if he lost the confidence of the people.

1 November  
0855 hours

Radio Budapest quoted Nepszava (Social Democrat organ) as saying negotiations were in progress for participation of the Social Democratic Party in the government.

1 November  
0900 hours

Radio Budapest carried a statement made by Cardinal Mindszenty to press representatives. He said "in my heart there is no hatred for anyone," praised the "struggle for liberty" but declared the "situation was very serious, all conditions for the continuation of life are lacking." He said he was gathering information and in two days could broadcast on the future developments of the country.

1 November  
1008 hours

Radio Budapest carried excerpts from a newspaper account of a correspondent's contact with Mikoyan and Suslov at Hungarian Workers Party headquarters, where they were conferring with Janos Kadar and Imre Nagy on the withdrawal

~~SECRET~~

**SECRET**

of Soviet troops. The correspondent saw Mikoyan and Suslov leave for the armored car which was to take them to the airplane. The interviewer notes this is the second visit of this pair since the revolution began.

1 November  
1045 hours

Commander of Forces of Public Order stated a Revolutionary Committee of Forces of Public Order had been formed by factory guards, Honved army, and police with a view to safeguarding the achievements of the revolution. The committee will function until a new government, based on general and secret election, takes over. Representatives of other armed formations yesterday formed a new National Guard enjoying equal status with Honved army and police.

1 November  
1400 hours

Radio Budapest quotes Nepszava as saying Minister of State Zoltan Tildy had ordered Imre Horvath and Endre Sik not to go to the UN but to return to Budapest immediately.

1 November  
1400 hours

The Budapest telegraphic source MTI stated Gero, Hegedus and Laszlo Piros had fled to the Soviet Union.

1 November  
1650 hours

Radio Free Petoefi-Gyoer reported a five-man delegation from the Debrecen Revolutionary Council arrived this morning in Gyoer to contact the Transdanubian National Council and other delegations now in Gyoer.

1 November  
1700 hours

Radio Budapest carried a declaration of the National Peasant Party which is now taking the name "Petoefi Party."

1 November  
1715 hours

Both Radio Miskolc and Radio Gyoer claimed they were being jammed by Czech transmitters

**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

1 November  
1813 hours

Radio Budapest reported that Premier Nagy had called on Soviet ambassador Andropov and told him the Hungarian government had received "authoritative information" that new Soviet formations were entering Hungary. He demanded these troops be withdrawn at once. He further stated that the Hungarian government was giving immediate notice of termination of the Warsaw pact and simultaneously declaring Hungary's neutrality. Hungary was turning to the UN and asking the four great powers to safeguard its neutrality. The Soviet ambassador stated he would inform his government and ask for an immediate reply. Premier Nagy sent a telegram to the UN secretary general asking that the question be put on the agenda of the next UN General Assembly. (This information was continuously repeated by transmitter.)

1 November  
1920 hours

Radio Petoefi-Gyoer stated that Soviet troops were pouring into Hungary.

1 November  
1960 hours

Premier Nagy addressed the Hungarian people; declared the neutrality of Hungarian Peoples Republic and asserted the Hungarian people "desire consolidation and further development of achievements of the national revolution without joining any power blocs;" and declared the revolutionary struggle has carried the "cause of freedom and independence to victory." He appealed to "our neighbors and countries near and far, to respect the unalterable decision of our people."

1 November  
2220 hours

Radio Budapest broadcast an order of the Minister of Defense and Revolutionary National Defense Committee calling on all members of military units to report to designated points and remain there until further notice.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

1 November  
2220 hours

Radio Budapest broadcast a speech by Janos Kadar announcing formation of a new Hungarian Socialist Workers Party which would stand for "national independence and friendship with all countries." Kadar asserted that the people's uprising is at crossroads; Hungarian democratic parties "must choose between stabilizing achievements or facing open counterrevolution."

1 November  
2230 hours

Radio Budapest broadcast an address by Denes Farkas, announcing that the Peoples Democratic Party had begun activities, using the old (1947) program.

1 November  
2250 hours

Col. Pal Maleter, first deputy minister of defense, called for an end of the general strike.

1 November  
2330 hours

Radio Budapest carried an announcement by the Soviet delegation in Budapest that airfields of the Hungarian air force had been surrounded by armed forces of the Soviet army "in order to secure air transport of members of the families of Soviet troops stationed in Hungary and transport of the wounded."

1 November  
2330 hours

Radio Budapest announced that the Hungarian air force is ready to defend itself against overwhelming odds but, "fully realizing its responsibilities," the government has prohibited opening fire. The air force is now facing Soviet forces without firing and with discipline."

1 November  
2400 hours

Budapest radio announced that Dr. Lajos Ordass, long imprisoned by the regime, had been entrusted with leadership of the southern district of the Lutheran church.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

1 November  
2400 hours

Radio Budapest carried a declaration by the Budapest Revolutionary Committee of Students that the revolution "has not yet come to end. We must continue to fight in order to achieve freedom despite attempts to mislead us and despite tactics of internal and external enemies." They asserted, "we trust Imre Nagy to bring the revolution to a successful conclusion."

2 November  
0900 hours

Radio Budapest carried a re-broadcast of a speech by Minister of State Bela Kovacs delivered at midnight. He declared he joined the government "two or three hours ago," and asserted, "at the present historic situation I deem it necessary to tell our people...my conviction that our government represents the interests of our country with a full sense of responsibility...."; that it "has been and is doing all that is humanly possible to settle international relations."

2 November  
1400 hours

Radio Budapest carried a report of last night's meeting of the Social Democratic party which "regretted" the use of "popular justice" against "criminals"-- punishment must be carried out by the courts.

2 November  
evening

Moscow broadcast a statement that it viewed with alarm the "tense" and "chaotic" situation in Hungary.

2 November  
evening

Premier Nagy's complaints to the UN that the USSR is sending heavy troop reinforcements into Hungary appear valid. Soviet troops closed off access from Budapest to Austria and surrounded key urban areas.

3 November  
1230 hours

Radio Budapest carried a full list of government appointees. Ministers of state included representatives from the following "bourgeois" parties: Small-holders, Social Democratic, Petoefi,

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Peoples Democratic, and Independent Smallholders; only two Communists (Kadar and Losonczy) appeared to be included. Other ministerial changes included the appointment of Colonel Pal Maleter, hero of the revolution, as minister of defense replacing Janza. Also relieved were Imre Horvath, foreign minister and Ferenc Muennich, minister of interior.

3 November  
1610 hours

Premier Nagy received the Austrian minister who handed him an aide-memoire protesting Hungarian charges that Austrian authorities were allowing emigrés to slip over the border. Nagy expressed his satisfaction with its contents.

3 November  
2000 hours

Budapest MTI carried a report that a majority of the Soviet forces in the country were engaging in continuous movement. In addition new formations reportedly entered Hungary this morning.

4 November  
0512 hours

A Hungarian MTI message to the AP in Vienna stated: "Russian gangsters have betrayed us. The Russian troops suddenly attacked Budapest and the whole country. It is a general attack." It said Janos Kadar had formed a new government, aligned with the Russians, and had begun to "annihilate the counterrevolution." It also stated Russians had captured the entire Hungarian military leadership, including Defense Minister Maleter.

4 November  
0512 hours

Budapest radio broadcast Nagy's announcement of the Soviet attack on Budapest (in several foreign languages). Premier Nagy said, "In the early hours of this morning Soviet troops started an attack on the Hungarian capital with the apparent purpose of overthrowing the democratic government of the Hungarian People's Republic. The Hungarian army is in position. This is my message to the Hungarian people and the world."

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 4 November  
0512 hours
- Pravda, simultaneously with the attack, editorially condemned Nagy in strong terms. It said Nagy "turned out to be, objectively speaking, an accomplice of the reactionary forces...Imre Nagy cannot and does not want to fight the dark forces of reaction."
- 4 November  
0558 hours
- Nagy appealed to Maleter, Istvan Kovacs (chief of the General Staff) and other members of military mission who went to Soviet army headquarters on 3 November at 2200 for negotiations and had not come back, to return to their posts immediately.
- 4 November  
0600 hours
- Radio Balaton-Szabadi (organ of new Kadar government) launched into an attack on "growing impudence of counterrevolutionaries." It condemned "clique of Rakosi and Gero," but asserted the rightful dissatisfaction of workers played into hands of "counter-revolutionaries." The latter misled "many honest workers, and particularly the major part of youth" who genuinely wanted freedom and sovereignty for Hungary which would co-operate with other socialist countries.
- 4 November  
0600 hours
- An official spokesman of MTI said two Russian tank divisions passed Pecs moving toward frontier of Yugoslavia. Practically an entire province surrounding Pecs was occupied by Russians. Soviet tanks and artillery were also occupying highways between Budapest and Vienna. Sources in Budapest said 40 Russian tanks, 11 armored cars, and more than 30 trucks of infantrymen blockaded highways near Papa.
- 4 November  
0645 hours
- Budapest preceded re-broadcasts of Nagy's appeal with the phrase, "We announce to the secretary general of the UN...." (AFP)

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

**4 November  
0710 hours** Premier Kadar broadcast over Radio Balaton-Szabadia declaration that a new government had been formed. He stated that a mass movement started on 23 October had been perverted by the weakness of Imre Nagy. Composition of the new government: Premier - Kadar; Minister of Defense and Public Security Forces and Deputy Minister - Ferenc Muennich; Minister of State - Gyoergy Marosan; Foreign Minister - Imre Horvath; Minister of Finance - Istvan Kossa; Minister of Industry - Antal Apro; Minister of Agriculture - Imre Doegei; Minister of Commerce - Sandor Ronai. "Other portfolios will remain unfilled for time being."

**4 November  
0800 hours** Radio Free Petoefi at Gyoeer went off the air.

**4 November  
0800 hours** Shortly after 0800 Soviet troops captured the parliament building, where Nagy was meeting with his cabinet.

**4 November  
0807 hours** Budapest radio went off the air suddenly.

**4 November  
0843 hours** MTI reported to AP Vienna that Budapest citizens had taken up positions behind barricades in the streets and were charging Russian tanks with Molotov cocktails.

**4 November  
0915 hours** Two Soviet tank and two air divisions were reported in action against Budapest.

**4 November  
1100 hours** Austrian Home Service states Pecs was attacked and taken at 0200 hours. Bitter fighting was in progress for possession of uranium mines and several airfields. Fighting was in progress in Veszprem and other points.

SECRET



~~SECRET~~

4 November  
1145 hours

Austrian Press Agency said Soviet troops were assembling and disarming Budapest Hungarian garrison in one of capital's railway stations. Station and western post office had fallen to Soviets, but post office in the center of the city was still being defended. (AFP)

4 November  
1305 hours

Radio Moscow stated "forces of reactionary conspiracy against Hungarian people are crushed," a new Revolutionary Workers and Peasants Government headed by Premier Kadar has been formed, and "counterrevolutionary bands" are capitulating. It added that the new Kadar government had appealed to Soviet military commanders for assistance.

4 November  
1400 hours

Radio Szombathely carried a message from the executive committee of the Vas County council declaring all orders and measures issued since 23 October were null and void, and that local bodies were to act in accordance with local orders as they existed on that day. The committee declared the workers' strike was justified, but ordered workers to return to factories.

4 November  
2000 hours

Austrian Home Service said stream of refugees from Hungary had considerably increased, coming from South Hungary, which had not yet been occupied by Russians. Minister of Interior Helmer informed the UN high commissioner for refugees that in the last few days some 10,000 refugees had asked for asylum.

4 November  
2258 hours

Radio Moscow broadcast a telegram from the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers and Peasants Government to UN secretary general "categorically opposing discussion both by the Security Council and General Assembly of the 'Hungarian question'."

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

4 November  
2317 hours

Budapest Home Service carried the first order of the Soviet military commandant of Szolnok City. The order declared that "forces of reaction and counter-revolution" started the revolution and the Hungarian government had asked Soviet help in liquidating these forces, that the USSR complied and Soviet troops had started to restore order; that organizers of the counterrevolution had been rendered harmless and "complete liquidation of counterrevolution was under way." It imposed a curfew from 1530 to 0600 hours, and demanded that all military formations, armed groups and armed civilians hand in arms on 5 November by 1800 hours.

4 November  
2345 hours

Radio Budapest came on the air again with a defense of the Kadar government.

~~SECRET~~

**SECRET**

**SECRET**