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PRESS REVIEW.
(Foreign Affairs.)

by G. PADEL.

The Report which has just been published of the Special Committee set up by the General Assembly of the United Nations, for the purpose of enquiring into the causes and the course taken by the Hungarian October Revolution, is receiving an extraordinary amount of attention from the entire Swiss Press.

The Right-Liberal "Journal de Genève" writes as follows: "The Report of the Special Committee has been elaborated in the most scrupulous and careful manner possible. The five members of this Committee, who have been recruited from the five continents, have not had the same historical or juristic training. They possess different conceptions of the world and of its evolution. But they all possess a language in common when it is a matter of the dignity of man and the fate of a nation being at stake. For Australia as well as for Ceylon, for Denmark as well as for Tunisia and the Uruguay, an intervention on the part of a foreign Army constitutes a crime. . . However, the members of the Committee have not allowed themselves to be influenced by a blind anti-Sovietism. They kept a cool head and forced their witnesses to eliminate from their reminiscences all hearsay, rumours and generalities. This was a task requiring great patience and delicacy of handling. What has resulted from this is an unequivocal text and as definite an accusation as that of the Indian Ambassador in Moscow, who last autumn after a visit to Hungary courageously affirmed that the insurrection

had been spontaneous and that the intervention on the part of the Red Army had taken place against the will of the Hungarian people.

"It now remains for us to draw the right conclusions" the "Journal de Genève" goes on to say. "This enquiry proves that there is no national Government in Hungary. . . Thus, it is the Soviet authorities who appoint the Hungarian delegates to the international organisations. If the free men who represent free countries in these Organisations have any self-respect and realise what might one day happen in their own country, then they must draw their own conclusions from the Report of the Special Committee and invalidate the plenary powers possessed by the puppets nominated by General Seroff's myrmidons. . ."

The Independent "Berne Tagblatt" writes that the perusal of the UNO's document is "to be recommended especially to those persons with a bad memory who forget Hungary just as soon as the Soviet 'Commercial travellers in co-existence' put on a bourgeois hat and set off on their rounds. Freedom in Hungary was crushed by the Russians. This only proved possible because the United Nations, when appealed to, merely remained as lookers-on, whereas in the Suez crisis, on the contrary, they proceeded to save, not a free people, but a Dictator."

In the commentaries one finds, very frequently, the expression of a strong scepticism as to whether the UNO would really be in a position to draw some practical conclusions from the Report. Thus, the Liberal "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" asks: "Dare we hope that the important work accomplished by these five diplomats . . . will not be robbed of its effectiveness by their colleagues as a result of far too lengthy 'careful examination', misgivings and compromises, but that on the contrary the *debates* in the General Assembly and the passing of a *Resolution* will do full justice to this unexampled, strong condemnation of the Soviets and of their helpers' helpers? In any case," the NZZ concludes, "these five men have, as a result of their labours, made available to the United Nations the material for a demonstration of the greatest moral importance, and, at the same time — by means of a detailed working out of the subject of the rights of Man — the necessary arguments against World Communism which, up to the present, would appear to have been looked upon in the Assemblies and the Councils more in the light of an inconvenience, and not as a factual negation of all international co-operation."

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