

Verbal note from the Hungarian Foreign Minister (3 November 1956)

Caption: On 3 November 1956, Jean Paul-Boncour, French Ambassador to Budapest, sends the text of a verbal note, which was handed over by the Hungarian Foreign Minister on the night of 2 to 3 November, to Christian Pineau, French Foreign Minister.

Source: Ministère des Affaires étrangères; Commission de publication des DDF (sous la dir.). Documents diplomatiques français. Volume III: 1956, 24 octobre-31 décembre. Paris: Imprimerie nationale, 1990. 642 p. p. 156-157.

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T. No 698

Budapest, 3 November 1956.
(Received: 1.15 p.m.)

Below, for the attention of the Department, is an official note that was handed to this Legation by the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs on the night of 2 to 3 November.

‘The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People’s Republic has the honour to inform you as follows:

‘The Government of the Hungarian People’s Republic wishes at all events to settle the issue of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungarian territory through negotiation and acceptable agreements.

‘The Government has already expressed this intention on several occasions and, in order to demonstrate its readiness for talks, has appointed preparatory committees whose task is to establish expectations and arrangements regarding the evacuation.

‘Proposals regarding the committees’ composition and the time and place of the talks have already been forwarded by the Hungarian Government to the Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Budapest.

‘Despite all this, reliable information and reports from our military scouts prove that large, new Soviet units have crossed the Hungarian border, are continuing towards Budapest and are seizing railway infrastructure and stations.

‘We are also informed that, in western Hungary, Soviet troops are deploying from east to west.

‘The Government of the Hungarian People’s Republic has deemed it necessary to ask Yuri Andropov, the Soviet Ambassador in Budapest, for information on this issue and also to reiterate its protests at Soviet troop movements on Hungarian territory.

‘The Hungarian Government will notify all the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Budapest of the above facts, informing them also that the UN Security Council will, at the same time, be informed of these new developments.’

‘Budapest, 2 November 1956’