

# Speech by John Gates at Community Church Forum

Following is the text of a speech by John Gates at the five-speaker forum in the Community Church Monday night sponsored by the magazine Liberation.

With respect to the events in Hungary, the Daily Worker said in an editorial on November 5th: "The action of the Soviet troops in Hungary does not advance but retards the development of socialism because socialism cannot be imposed on a country by force; it does not help but damages the relations between socialist states; it does not strengthen but weakens the influence of the Soviet Union itself which has been playing a major role toward ending the cold war and establishing peaceful coexistence. It does not combat but plays into the hands of the hypocritical reactionaries in London, Paris and Washington as they drive to rob the peoples of the Middle East and elsewhere of their national independence. . . ."

"What is taking place in Hungary has two sources, as the Communist Party's statement, printed on another page, notes. First, there were the grave distortions of socialist principles introduced by the Soviet Communist leadership and the Rakosi group in Hungary. The second source was the continuous attempt by reactionaries in Hungary, openly supported and encouraged by Washington, to overthrow socialism."

That is what I believe. There are many in the ranks of the Communist Party's leadership and membership who do not fully share my views. We have disagreement mainly as to whether a fascist danger had developed in Hungary serious enough to justify the second use of Soviet troops on Nov. 4th. We are presently engaged in a full and free discussion of this particular aspect of the Hungarian tragedy as any one who bothers to read the Daily Worker can discover.

BUT while we Communists have differences on this one aspect, we are substantially in agreement on three fundamental aspects of the Hungarian situation. First, that the tragic clash between the Hungarian people and the Communist government of Hungary, and between the Hungarian people and the Soviet Union was the result primarily of serious mistakes committed by the Soviet Union and the former Hungarian Communist leaders; second, that powerful reactionary forces in our country and within Hungary sought to utilize the terrible situation not in the interests of the Hungarian people or of peace between nations; and third, we are agreed on a program for a way out of the present crisis.

My opposition to the Soviet intervention in Hungary has nothing in common with that of reactionaries in the USA and abroad. To me the tears that are being shed over Hungary by those who applauded our intervention in Guatemala to overthrow a legally elected democratic government are crocodile tears. I do not believe that those who fail to fight vigorously for Negro rights at home are true friends of Hungary. I cannot agree that the opponents of democracy, labor and peace here in our country are for the Hungarian people.

SURELY the first need that all true friends of Hungary can agree upon, regardless of their political persuasions, is to bring an end to the bloodshed, without which no solution of the

Hungarian crisis is possible. But the opposite has been the policy of our government-sponsored Voice of America and the privately financed but government-encouraged Radio Free Europe. Listen to what John MacCormac, former N.Y. Times correspondent in Hungary, wrote in the Times of Nov. 25: "Both from Zoltan Tildy, former President of Hungary and chief representative of the Smallholders Party in the Nagy government, and from Maj. Gen. Bela Kiraly, who became for a few brief days the commandant of Budapest under that government, this correspondent heard criticisms of the United States broadcasts. Both said they had been useful in the early days of the revolution because of their news broadcasts, but harmful later because they incited the Hungarians to further revolts and strikes, whereas what the Nagy government needed was to have the revolutionaries return to work." He further stated that the mere broadcasts of Dulles' talk about "rollbacks" was incitement enough.

Whatever our feelings about the rights and wrongs of the Hungarian situation, I do not think the American people want a pro-war hysteria whipped up by the Knowlands, Eastlands, McCarthys and other pro-war forces in our land. The interests of peace and the Hungarian people demand the immediate convening of a new summit conference to tackle the cold war. We favor the immediate dissolution of military blocs such as NATO, the Baghdad Pact and the Warsaw Pact, the withdrawal of all troops from foreign soil, and the closing of military bases in foreign lands. We are for a unified, neutral, democratic and demilitarized Germany. We favor the immediate cessation of H-bomb tests by all countries making tests, as the first step to world disarmament. We support the efforts of UN relief agencies to assist Hungary and for economic aid by Congress, without strings attached, to Hungary. Such a program will relax tensions and contribute to world peace. It will facilitate the democratization of the socialist countries, an irreversible process now under way. It is the only road forward for Hungarian socialism, freedom and independence. It is a program hindered primarily by our own government, for the Soviet Union has on many occasions ex-

pressed its willingness and readiness to agree to it.

THE NEED to distinguish between the true and false friends of labor, democracy and peace, is dramatically illustrated by the British-French aggression against Egypt. In the moment of tragedy for the Hungarian people, the British and French colonialists, unfortunately assisted by the Ben-Gurion government of Israel which allowed itself to be used as a pawn against its own best interests, invaded Egypt. They miscalculated because the world is in no mood to tolerate such imperialist adventures, is in no mood to tolerate a new major war which could easily spread into a world conflict. The British and French governments were isolated by world public opinion. Overwhelming action by the UN in which the United States and the Soviet Union found themselves on the same side, brought this dangerous war to a quick end, and British, French and Israeli armed forces will be forced to quit Egyptian soil.

THE DEFEAT of British and French aggression was the necessary first step. What is needed now is an overall settlement of basic issues in the Middle East. We cannot rest satisfied with a temporary truce, though that is better than war. We need negotiations between the Israeli and Arab governments which will recognize the legitimate aspirations of each, which will recognize Israel as a state, allow it free passage through the Suez Canal, and will settle the Arab refugee problem. A summit meeting of the Big Five is necessary, including India and the USSR, which will recognize the sovereignty and independence of all states in the Middle East, their right to eliminate all vestiges of colonial exploitation by the oil imperialists, Egyptian ownership of the Suez Canal, and launch a program of aid to the underdeveloped countries.

In all areas of the world, in Europe, the Middle East, etc. the urgent need is for top level negotiations to settle differences, to transform the present arms stalemate and unstable peace into a lasting peace, to create the atmosphere and climate which are essential for the progress of the great principles of freedom, independence, peace and an end to poverty. This policy will be successful only if given the widest popular support by the American people.

## Sentence 6 for Contesting Lilywhite Golf

GREENSBORO, N. C.—Dec. 5.—Six Negroes convicted of "trespassing" on a golf course operated exclusively for whites were sentenced to 30-day jail terms. They were convicted by a Guilford County Superior Court jury here yesterday of trespassing on the city-owned but privately operated Gillespie Park Golf Course Dec. 7, 1955.

Attorneys for the Negroes announced they will appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn said in passing sentence:

"I am satisfied that it was a deliberate move to . . . play on the course contrary to the wishes of those in possession . . . for the purpose of showing that the Negro race was going to play that golf course."

Dr. George Simpkin, Jr., one of

the defendants, testified yesterday that he and the five other golfers thought they had a legal right to play on the course although a "man behind the desk" at the course told them they could not play.

## Kidnaper Collapses At Trial

MINEOLA, N. Y., Dec. 5.—Accused kidnap-murderer Angelo LaMarca collapsed in Nassau County Court today during testimony by a psychiatrist that LaMarca was sane when he kidnaped month-old Peter Weinberger.

Ernani D'Angelo, a state psychiatrist testified the July 4 kidnaping was "not the act of a diseased mind."

A man with a diseased mind would not "have worked so systematically and taken steps to cover himself up," Dr. D'Angelo said.