Hungary
November, 1956

Dear:

I appreciate your interest in and your solicitude for the Hungarian people, who have been striving so magnificently for liberation and freedom.

I believe, however, two things must be borne in mind in a time of crisis, both with respect to Hungary and the Middle East. If for any reason the United Nations should fail in its efforts, we must be sure that it will not be because the United States did not fully support its efforts and provide a full and fair trial, so that our own moral position will be preserved.

Secondly, the President made it quite clear that this country has never incited violence or the use of force as a matter of proper policy.

And, finally, I am sure that our military and diplomatic leaders will carefully examine every implication of the ultimate use of force in a situation of this kind, because it could prove a fateful thing. With Britain and France occupied in Egypt and Africa, the possibility of inflaming the entire Arab world, the unpredictability of Soviet policies, and the prospect of Red China moving into Korea, Burma, and Indo-China might place this nation in a very awkward and difficult position on many fronts in different parts of the world supported only by token aid from nations on whom we could normally rely.

These are but some of the implications of a very delicate situation, and I am confident that the policies being pursued by this Administration will yet be effective and in the best interest of all concerned.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen