



CHRONICLE FILE PHOTO

Russian tanks, among 5,000 sent to quell the revolt in Hungary in 1956, stand in a Budapest street.

Hungarians' fight with Russia

ON April 17, the Texas Legislature went into a special session to tackle the issue of school finance reform. This session also presents Texas with another unique opportunity: to recognize those Hungarians who died valiantly fighting against Soviet communism and those who lived on to greatly contribute to the American project. Resolutions have been drafted in the Texas Senate and the House of Representatives to do this. Oct. 23 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian uprising against Soviet rule.

Determined to live in freedom and remove the yoke of communism, against impossible odds, the Hungarian people rose up against a tyrannical and oppressive government imposed on them by foreigners. Hungarians from all walks of life joined the fight for freedom. The revolution was successful for a brief five days before it was brutally crushed.

Despite this tragedy, those five days lived on in the collective memory of the Hungarian people, giving them hope for their future and tarnishing the image of the Soviet Union in the eyes of the civilized world. The revolution contributed to the disintegration of communist parties across the globe. Hungarians continued to resist and freedom finally came in 1989. During those fateful days in 1956, many sons and daughters of Hungary fled, leaving loved ones and all they ever knew to start a new life in the United States. These people and their descendants have become woven into the fabric of this country and have enriched our culture.

Through the passing of these resolutions, Texas will send a strong signal of solidarity to the people of Hungary, her cousins in Texas and

beyond.

Those Hungarians who fought for the cause of liberty were moved by the same spirit felt by those at the Alamo. This makes it fitting that Texas is taking the lead in recognizing the deep ties of friendship that exist between the United States and Hungary — ties forged by the desire for freedom.

It's time we pay tribute to the many who fought for freedom and were forced to flee oppression, and who now continue to make America a bastion of freedom and hope.

— PHILLIP ARONOFF

honorary consul general, Republic of Hungary, Houston

— BRYAN DAWSON-SZILAGY

executive director, American Hungarian Federation, Washington D.C.

LETTERS POLICY

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BIBLE VERSE

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

— EPHESIANS 2:10