

relations at a moment when there seems to be a chance of a beginning on disarmament. The possibility of freezing the highly dangerous nuclear arms race should not be risked, it is argued, for a diplomatic gambit whose benefits seem dubious.

This argument is advanced even more strongly by those who believe disarmament is the road to disengagement and the withdrawal of the Red Army from East Europe. That withdrawal, it is contended, is the best way to help the Hungarian people.

The third argument against a special Assembly relates to the enormous ferment in the Communist world highlighted again this week by Peking's release of Mao Tse-tung's speech on "contradictions" within Communist society.

That speech indicated to diplomats that relations within the socialist "camp" have by no means settled down into a new rigidity. Mao's plea for more humanity and freedom in the Communist world hardly comports with what Janos Kadar is doing to Hungary at the instigation of the Russians. Mao, for example, is against the repression of strikes. Kadar's attitude toward those responsible for strikes was expressed as follows: "A tiger cannot be tamed by bait; it can be tamed and forced to peace only by beating it to death."

\* \* \*

The basic point here is that the unity re-established in the socialist "camp" after last autumn's shattering events is less impressive than the great intellectual ferment that continues just beneath the surface ranging Peking on one side and Moscow on the other.

Western diplomats fear a new Hungarian debate in the Assembly at this point might play into the hands of the most reactionary forces in the Communist world.

That, too, they suggest, will not help the Hungarian people.

There were, therefore, few cheers Friday when a U. S. spokesman announced the delegation would be "delighted" if the Assembly were reconvened.

The unexpected announcement came a few hours after Knowland made his speech on Hungary in the Senate.