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UNITED NATIONS | **NATIONS UNIES**

Social Matters
Relief and Rehabilitation

FILE NUMBER / NO. DU DOSSIER: SO 534/23(1)

Close file Oct. 04

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE

RELIEF PROGRAMME TO HUNGARY

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS

PART / PARTIE

FILE BEGINS / DOSSIER COMMENCE LE: 10 Dec 1956

ENDS / TERMINE LE: AUGUST 1957

DATE	REFERRED TO / TRANSMIS A	ROOM / BUREAU NO.	P. A. / B. F.	DATE	INIT.	DATE	REFERRED TO / TRANSMIS A	ROOM / BUREAU NO.	P. A. / B. F.	DATE	INIT.
	1957										
8/1	Hauck										

CR. 37 (5-55)

FOR CONNECTED FILES SEE INSIDE COVER
POUR LES DOSSIERS CONNEXES VOIR AU VERSO

CONFIDENTIAL

SO 534/23(1)

Government of Denmark

No details; letter of acknowledgement with statement of willingness to participate for the seed part of the action.

Government of Sweden

No details; letter of acknowledgement with statement of willingness to participate in principle.

Government of Luxembourg

100 tons of seed potatoes

It is not quite clear from the letter received whether this is thought as a gift or as a commercial loan.

Government of Yugoslavia

20 tons of seed wheat
800 tons of seed oats
1000 tons of seed potatoes

Commercial loan.

Some other governments have sent merely formal acknowledgements stating that the subject is under consideration.

It is understood that we will inform you immediately if offers of gifts are received which exceed the minimum quantities so that negotiations would be indicated in order to study the possibility of changing the offer to some other commodity enumerated in the joint UN/FAO report as being urgently needed.

Your draft "memorandum of understanding" has just been received and I shall write to you separately on this.

I feel with you that the Geneva discussions were useful. Although I have not had an opportunity of discussing the out-come with the Director-General who returns only at the end of this week it is also Sir Herbert Broadley's impression that Mr. Sen does not intend to make a further appeal for the foodstuffs listed in the UN/FAO report. Both Sir Herbert and I think that if such an action was decided upon it would be preferable if it were carried out by the United Nations Secretariat in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross. It is theoretically a very nice idea that everything should be carried conjointly, but practically this presents so many complications that often it makes action virtually impossible.

At any rate, we should have no hesitation to let you go ahead full steam in an attempt to implement findings of the joint UN/FAO mission other than those in the fields of seeds, feeds and fertilizers already covered by FAO.

With best personal regards, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Wahlen

F. T. Wahlen
Director
Agriculture Division

Cable Address: FOODAGRI, ROME

Téléphone 590211 - 590011

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
ROME

4 January 1957

COPY

My dear Minister,

Emergency Action for the Securing of the Spring
Seeding Campaign in Hungary

On 4 November the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 399 inviting the United Nations and the Specialised Agencies to do everything in their power in order to help the Hungarian people in their present emergency. Subsequently the Secretary-General of the United Nations concluded an agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross, which provides for full cooperation between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross in humanitarian action. Article VII of this agreement specifies that this agreement shall not be construed to limit the right of other United Nations Agencies to carry out assistance programs in accordance with their terms of reference and in agreement with the Hungarian authorities.

In pursuance with this arrangement I asked Dr. F.T. Wahlen, Director of the Agriculture Division, to investigate the Hungarian needs falling specifically within the terms of reference of FAO. The assignment of Dr. Wahlen, in which he was assisted by Mr. P. Sinard of our Geneva Office, was carried out in closest collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross and its organizations in Austria and Hungary.

Dr. Wahlen reports that the most immediate needs in Hungary are efficiently covered by Red Cross action. However, the funds at the disposal of the Red Cross are limited and make it particularly urgent that additional measures should be adopted if Hungary's agricultural production is to be restored to its full capacity at the earliest possible moment. Due to several circumstances, the seeding of winter cereals has been effected only on sixty per cent of the normal area. There is urgent need for the supply of seed of spring cereals and potatoes. The supplies required from outside Hungary are as follows:

To: See list attached.

Spring wheat	5,000 tons
Spring barley	5,000 tons
Oats	2,000 tons
Seed potatoes	2,500 tons

It seems to me that there is here a unique opportunity for implementing the Charter of our Organization. The quantities given above are small in relation to overall requirements in Europe and it should be possible, in my estimation, to fill the needs of a people in distress without great difficulties. However, in order to meet the time limits which require that the seed be ready for distribution in Hungary between the end of January and mid-February, I would suggest that in addition to straight donations to Hungarian relief, the possibilities of shipping supplies through the normal commercial channels be investigated. This might be arranged on the basis that the seeds be delivered against compensation of Hungarian agricultural products after the harvest of 1957. If this solution meets with the agreement of the Hungarian authorities, then negotiations should be initiated through the normal bilateral trade channels. In order to make sure that the quantities required can be supplied in conformity with the variety needs, I intend to send Dr. J.G. Knoll, Chief of the Plant Production Branch of the Agriculture Division, to the capitals of these countries which indicate that they wish to participate in this emergency action.

In addition to the needs in seeds for the spring seeding campaign, there is also urgent need for feeding stuffs and fertilizers. This is a matter which I propose to take up as soon as further information is available. This information will, I believe, reach me in the very near future. Immediately I am in a position to assess Hungarian requirements for such supplies I shall write to all Governments Members of the U.N. or the specialised agencies with respect to the additional needs mentioned. The present communication is only addressed to those governments in Continental Europe who are likely to be able to make a very quick contribution in the varieties of seeds required, viz., the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

I trust that this appeal will meet with your wholehearted understanding and I am looking forward with the greatest interest to your first reaction, if possible by cable.

Yours sincerely,

B.R. Sen
Director-General

This letter was addressed to:

The Minister of Agriculture of:

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
France
Germany
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Sweden
Switzerland
Yugoslavia

on 4 January 1957

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
ROME

Cable Address: FOODAGRI, ROME
Tel. 590011 - 590211 - 599071

Please quote:
Référence:
Sírvase citar:

COPY

16 January 1957

My dear Minister

Emergency Action to Help the People in Hungary

I refer to my letter of 4 January concerning an emergency action for the securing of the spring seeding campaign in Hungary. In the second paragraph of that letter reference was made to the urgent need also for feeding stuffs and fertilizers. In the meantime a joint UN/FAO Mission has visited Budapest in order to gather further information on the relief needs of the Hungarian people. It has been agreed between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and myself that a joint report of this mission will be presented to the General Assembly as soon as possible. In the meantime there exists agreement between the two organizations that FAO continue its action vigourously because its success depends on meeting certain deadlines set by the agricultural production year. I am, therefore, in a position now to give you the details promised.

First of all let me say that my letter of 4 January met with a wholehearted response. I am in a position to inform you that the 14,500 tons of seeds have been promised by a number of Governments either as a gift or in the way of bilateral transactions. The Hungarian authorities have agreed that FAO shall have the right to supervise the distribution of the gifts along the lines of an agreement existing between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Hungarian Government.

A careful assessment of the need for feeding stuffs taking into account such help as has already been promised by some neighbouring countries of Hungary amounts to 150,000 tons of which 20,000 tons should be available by the end of January, 60,000 tons by the end of February and further 70,000 tons by the end of March. The shortage of feeds which stems from a poor harvest causes premature slaughter of animals to the extent that there is a considerable surplus of meat in spite of all available refrigeration space being used to the limit. There is danger, therefore, that production capital in the form of animals not yet ripe for market will be lost with the consequence of later shortages. In fact, the UN/FAO Mission has reported that while present food supplies even in Budapest can be described today as reasonably satisfactory there will be a very critical period beginning about May and ending not before the availability of the new harvest.

With regard to the composition of eventual shipments, maize and barley, eventually feed wheat, are equally useful and concentrates of all kinds would, of course, be most welcome. While in the case of the seed supplies the Hungarian authorities have agreed to secure them if necessary through the normal commercial channels or exchange arrangements within the normal bilateral trade channels, they cannot envisage such solutions in the case of feeding stuffs because the overall trade picture in cereals has of late years been on the negative side and it cannot be expected that exportable surpluses will be available out of the 1957 harvest. The scarce currency reserves on the other hand will have to be used for the import of consumer goods urgently required for the Hungarian people. This then means that in the case of feeding stuffs only straight donations could be taken into consideration, to which the provisions for the control of distribution mentioned above would also apply.

The same applies for fertilizers where there is a great need for nitrogen and phosphoric acid fertilizers. It is difficult in this case to make an accurate assessment since fertilizer consumption has been relatively low over the post-war period compared with Western European countries. However, assuming that manufacture will be interrupted for a period of approximately three months due to the acute coal and power shortage this would roughly mean a gap of 15,000 tons of nitrogen fertilizers and 37,500 tons of phosphoric acid fertilizers with an average content of 20% nitrogen and phosphoric acid respectively.

Discussions were also held with respect to the situation in farm machinery. However, upon close examination I have decided not to submit the list of needs which has been established in consultation between the mission and the Hungarian authorities. The requirements are too diverse for any action which would facilitate the situation of the Hungarian peasant for whose benefit FAO has taken this initiative. It will interest you in this connection that the proportion of arable land cultivated by individual peasants before the events of October amounted to about 67% and may be estimated at 75% presently.

The present communication is addressed to those Governments in continental Europe which received my first letter. I trust that this appeal will meet with the same generous response which was accorded to the first one and I am looking forward with the greatest interest to your reply. You have have been advised by cable in the meantime that one of my officers will be available for consultations with your delegates to the forthcoming session of the Agricultural Committee of ECE which meets in Geneva on 14-18 January. This officer together with Mr. Pierre Sinard, FAO economist stationed with ECE in Geneva, who was a member of the UN/FAO Mission, will also be glad to arrange for contacts between your representatives and the Hungarian delegation to the meeting mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,

B. R. Sen
Director-General

This letter was sent to:

The Minister of Agriculture of : Belgium
Denmark
France
Germany
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Sweden
Switzerland
Yugoslavia

with copy for information to the respective Agricultural Attachés in Rome who had attended the first meeting on the emergency action for Hungary.

ORGANI TION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
PARA LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
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Cable Address: FOODAGRI, ROME
Tel. 590011 - 590211 - 599071

Please quote: Ag
Référence:
Sírvase citar:

COPY

18 January 1957

My dear Minister,

Emergency Action to help the people in Hungary

On 4 November the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 399 inviting the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies to do everything in their power to help the Hungarian people in their present emergency. Subsequently the Secretary-General of the United Nations concluded an agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross, which provides for full cooperation between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross in humanitarian action. Article VII of this Agreement specifies that this agreement shall not be construed to limit the right of other United Nations Agencies to carry out assistance programs in accordance with their terms of reference and in agreement with the Hungarian authorities.

In pursuance with these arrangements an understanding was reached with the International Committee of the Red Cross during the latter part of December 1956 on the most effective method that FAO might apply within the terms of reference of this Organization. At the same time investigations on the needs were carried out in closest cooperation with the organizations of the ICRC in Austria and in Hungary.

Subsequently a joint UN/FAO Mission visited Budapest in order to gather further information on the relief needs of the Hungarian people. The results of this mission have been presented to the UN General Assembly in a joint report which has been agreed by the Secretary-General and myself. I enclose a copy of the food and agriculture section of this report for your information.

TO: see list attached

You will see from it that, in view of the urgency in the supply of seeds, I approached a number of Member Governments in continental Europe with an invitation to participate in supplying the 14,500 tons of seeds either as a gift or in the way of bilateral transactions. This action was limited to those countries which were in a position to supply within the short period available seeds of the required quantities.

In the second phase of the FAO action which includes feeding stuffs and fertilizers, I am now approaching a number of other Governments including that of your own country because there is no technical reason for restricting the possible list of contributors. As you will see from the appended report, the amount of feeding stuffs needed, taking into account such help as has already been promised by some neighbouring countries of Hungary, amounts to 150,000 tons. Of these, 20,000 tons should be available by the end of January, 60,000 tons by the end of February and further 70,000 tons by the end of March. The shortage of feeds which stems from a poor harvest causes premature slaughter of animals to the extent that there is a considerable surplus of meat in spite of all available refrigeration space being used to the limit. There is danger, therefore, that production capital in the form of animals not yet ripe for market will be lost with the consequence of later shortages. In fact, the UN/FAO Mission has reported that while present food supplies even in Budapest can be described today as reasonably satisfactory, there will be a very critical period beginning about May and ending not before the availability of the new harvest.

With regard to the composition of eventual shipments, maize and barley and eventually feed wheat, are equally useful and concentrates of all kinds would, of course, be most welcome. While in the case of seed supplies, the Hungarian authorities have agreed to secure them if necessary through the normal commercial channels or exchange arrangements within the normal bilateral trade channels, they cannot envisage such solutions in the case of feeding stuffs because the overall trade picture in cereals has of late years been on the negative side and it cannot be expected that exportable surpluses will be available out of the 1957 harvest. The scarce currency reserves on the other hand will have to be used for the import of consumer goods urgently required for the Hungarian people. This then means that in the case of feeding stuffs only straight donations could be taken into consideration.

The same applies for fertilizers where there is a great need for nitrogen and phosphoric acid fertilizers. It is difficult in this case to make an accurate assessment since fertilizer consumption has been relatively low over the post-war period compared with Western European countries. However, assuming that manufacture will be interrupted for a period of approximately three months due to the acute coal and power shortage this would roughly mean a gap of 15,000 tons of nitrogen fertilizers and 37,500 tons of phosphoric acid fertilizers with an average content of 20% nitrogen and phosphoric respectively.

I may add that the 14,500 tons of seed referred to above have already been offered by some of the Governments approached in my first letter either as donation or within the normal bilateral trade relations. This Organization has undertaken the responsibility for a control of proper distribution within Hungary which follows the lines of an agreement between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Hungarian authorities for the control of distribution of Red Cross donations. The same principle would be applied to any donations your Government may wish to make in the field of feeding stuffs and fertilizers. I should be glad to furnish you with any additional information required if you so desire by way of sending a competent officer to discuss details with you should your Government decide in principle to associate itself with the emergency action.

Yours sincerely,

B.R. Sen
Director-General

This letter was sent to:

The Honorable the Secretary of State, Washington

The Honorable the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, London

The Honorable the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa

The Minister of Agriculture of Norway

The Minister of Agriculture of Ireland

The Minister of Agriculture of Spain

The Minister for Economic Affairs, Portugal.

(written 18 January, despatched 19th)

COPY

REPUBLIK OSTERREICH
BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUR
LAND- UND FORSTWIRTSCHAFT

WIEN January 11, 1957

Emergency action for the securing of the
Spring Seeding Campaign in Hungary

Mr. B.R. Sen
Director-General of the Food and
Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
viale delle Terme di Caracalla,
R o m e

My dear Director-General,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 4, 1957. I have given very thorough consideration to all the relevant circumstances and it is with sincere regret that I must inform you that now Austria is not in a position to participate in the emergency action for ensuring spring seeding in Hungary by donating seeds. Owing to the influx of very large numbers of Hungarian refugees Austria is faced with unexpected and heavy financial obligations. At present the extent of this financial burden is uncertain but it will indubitable reach a level which will severely affect Austria's economy.

At the discussions with the representatives of FAO first of all the delivery of seeds of summer barley was requested. It is, however, not yet possible for us to estimate exactly our home requirements of these seeds in spring. This will essentially depend on the weather conditions during this winter. As, therefore, the seeds could not be delivered in due time and furthermore the compensation mentioned in your letter would not be conform to the normal practice of Austria's foreign trade, it does not seem possible that Austria participates in the emergency action through the proposed commercial channels.

I regret very much that I must give you such an unfavourable reply to your request. The heavy economic burden which Austria is carrying at the present time precludes any participation in such ventures even in circumstances which arouse all our sympathies and which in normal times would ensure our cooperation.

Please accept the assurance of my consideration.

(signed) Thoma e.h.
Federal Minister of
Agriculture and Forestry

Government of Italy

COPY

Il Ministro
per l'Agricultura e le Foreste

le 18 janvier 1957

Monsieur le Directeur Général,

j'ai l'honneur de me référer à la lettre que le 4 janvier vous avez adressée à S.E. le Ministre Segni, afin de trouver des semences à envoyer en Hongrie pour les ensemencemente printaniers.

A ce propos j'ai le plaisir d'informer V.E. que le Ministère de l'Agriculture, après avoir pris les contacts nécessaires a trouvé les disponibilités suivantes:

Blé pour ensemencement selectionné: 16/17 quintaux, (subdivisé en 10/12 variétés, dont l'aptitude n'est pas sûre);

Orge mondé selectionné: 600 quintaux;

Avoine rouge pour herbage, selectionnée et reproductions danoises: 4.000 quintaux.

Les susdites quantités sont disloquées dans les entrepôts de la "Federconsorzi", dans l'Italie centrale et du nord.

Il n'y a pas de disponibilités de pommes de terre pour ensemencement exportables, étant donné que les stocks suffisent à peine aux nécessités nationales.

En ce qui concerne les aliments pour le bétail et les engrais mentionnés au dernier point de votre lettre, le Ministère de l'Agriculture est déjà entré en contact avec les industries et les organisations "ad hoc" dans l'attente des renseignements ultérieurs que V.E. aura la bonté de me faire connaître quant aux types et aux quantités nécessaires en Hongrie.

Je profite très volontiers de l'occasion pour vous prier d'agréer, Monsieur le Directeur Général, l'expression de mes sentiments de haute considération.

(sig.) Colombo

Son Excellence B.R. Sen
Directeur Général de la FAO
Roma
Viale Terme di Caracalla

COPY

Ambassade des Pays-Bas
Bureau de l'Attaché Agricole
6861 E/JR.

Rome, 21 January 1957
Via P.S. Mancini 2

To the Director of the Agriculture Division
of the Food and Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome

Dear Dr. Wahlen,

I am writing to you regarding FAO's action for Hungary.

As I told you this morning during our telephone conversation, I have now received instruction from my Minister, Mr. Mansholt, to inform you that the Netherlands Government is prepared, in principle, to make available to FAO, in the form of a gift, in aid of the Hungarian people, a quantity of two thousand five hundred m. tons of seed potatoes. The Government's final decision and its formal communication to FAO will follow as soon as confirmation is received that the Secretary General of the United Nations is in agreement with FAO's action.

Yours sincerely,

sig. Dr.C.C.L. Eygenraam
Agricultural Attaché

COPY.

Ambassade Royale de Suède

Rome, January 28, 1957

Sir,

I have been instructed to inform you - in reply to your letters of January 4 and 16 to the Swedish Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Norup - that Sweden is in principle prepared to participate together with other countries in the FAO emergency relief to Hungary in respect to seeds.

The Swedish authorities are very interested in getting the soonest possible detailed information from the FAO as to the possibilities and the ways of practically carrying out this relief action. They would further much appreciate it to be informed as to the participation of other countries in the FAO relief to Hungary and how their contribution is proposed to be put into effect. Mr. König, First Secretary of this Embassy and Liaison Officer to the FAO, will call on Dr. Wahlen to discuss the matter further with him.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Eric von Post)
Swedish Ambassador

His Excellency
Mr. B. R. Sen
Director-General of the Food and
Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations, Rome

COPY

Der Bundesminister
für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft
und Forsten, Bonn

29. Januar 1957

Hilfsaktion Ungarn

Herr Prof. Knoll, als Beauftragter der FAO in der Saatguthilfsaktion für Ungarn, wurde heute in Begleitung Ministerialrat Dr. Rohrbach vom Herrn Minister zu einer abschliessenden Besprechung empfangen.

Herr Prof. Knoll legte dem Minister

1. den Text einer Vereinbarung zwischen der FAO und den bevollmächtigten Vertretern des Landes Ungarn
2. das Protokoll einer Besprechung mit dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz in Wien

vor. In beiden Dokumenten werden die Einzelheiten der Verteilung des Saatgutes und der Ueberwachung durch Beauftragte der FAO festgelegt.

Nach ausführlichen Erläuterung, die Herr Prof. Knoll zu einzelnen Fragen der Hilfsaktion gab, und die sich insbesondere auf Fragen erstreckten, die Herr Direktor Wahlen in seinem Schreiben vom 19.1.1957 an den Herrn Minister behandelt hatte, stimmte der Herr Minister der Lieferung von Saatgut nach Ungarn als Geschenk der Bundesregierung endgültig zu und erklärte sich damit einverstanden, dass, gemäss dem Vorschlag der FAO, das Saatgut im Wege des Verkaufs an die letztempfangenden ungarischen Bauern abgegeben wird. Er nahm Kenntnis von dem Wortlaut der Empfangsbescheinigung, die hierbei von den Bauern zu unterzeichnen ist und in der die westdeutsche Herkunft des Saatgutes ausdrücklich erwähnt ist.

Der Herr Minister machte zu den ihm vorgelegten Dokumenten einige Vorbehalte , die er für die endgültige Vereinbarung der FAO mit der ungarischen Regierung gern berücksichtigt haben möchte:

1. Zu Seite 4, Verteilung des Saatgutes, Punkt 3b.
   Der Verteilung von 15% des Saatgutes an die Genossenschaften kann nicht zugestimmt werden. Die Gesamtmenge muss an freiwirtschaftende Bauern ausgegeben werden.
2. Zu Seite 7, Zahl der Beauftragten der FAO.
   Der Herr Minister sprach den Wunsch aus, dass die Zahl der Beauftragten der FAO, die für die Ueberwachung der Aktion eingesetzt werden, nach Möglichkeit etwas erhöht werden sollte.
3. Er bittet auch zu erwägen, ob die Waggons mit dem Saatgut nicht durch Beauftragte der FAO begleitet werden können, um den Transport sicherer zu gestalten.

4. Der Herr Minister legt Wert darauf, dass die Verwendung des Verkaufserlöses nur unter Einschaltung des Internationalen Komitees vom Roten Kreuz geschehen kann. Diese Einschaltung des Internationalen Komitees vom Roten Kreuz ist auf Seite 5, Absatz 4 der Vereinbarung mit der ungarischen Regierung vorgesehen und in Punkt 11 des Protokolls zwischen der FAO und dem IKRK in Wien bestätigt worden. Danach steht die Bestimmung über die Verwendung des Erlöses dem Spenderland zu, das mit dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz darüber nähere Vereinbarung trifft. Ueber die erfolgte Verwendung des Geldes würde das IKRK der Bundesregierung Rechnung legen.

Herr Prof. Knoll wurde vom Herrn Minister ermächtigt, auf der Sitzung die am kommenden Freitag in Genf zwischen Vertretern der FAO, der UN und des IKRK stattfindet, das endgültige Einverständnis der Bundesregierung mit der Hilfsaktion - mit den oben angeführten Vorbehalten - mitzuteilen.

Der Herr Minister gab Auftrag, die vorgesehenen Saatgutmengen unverzüglich zu kaufen und für den rechtzeitigen Abtransport Sorge zu tragen, damit die von der FAO genannten Liefertermine eingehalten werden können. Danach soll die Gerste zwischen dem 1. und 15. Februar und der Hafer zwischen dem 15. und 25. Februar die deutschen Abgangsstationen verlassen.

Vor Absendung des ersten Transportes ist Abruf durch die FAO abzuwarten.

Die Transporte sollten bis zur österreichisch-ungarischen Grenze in geschlossenen Zügen erfolgen, da der Uebertritt nach Ungarn über eine einzige Grenzstation erfolgt und vorher keine Verteilung der Waggons notwendig ist.

Alles Nähere über die Abwicklung der Transporte ergibt sich aus der beigefügten Anlage über die Besprechung zwischen der FAO und dem IKRK.

COPY

MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

Luxembourg, le 1 février 1957

Monsieur le Directeur,

Me référant à votre lettre du 4 janvier 1957, concernant l'action d'urgence en vue d'assurer les besoins de semence de printemps en Hongrie, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le Gouvernement luxembourgeois est prêt à mettre à la disposition de l'agriculture hongroise cent tonnes de plants de pommes de terre.

Je saisis cette occasion, Monsieur le Directeur, pour vous renouveler l'assurance de ma considération la plus distinguée.

Monsieur B.R. Sen
Directeur général de
l'Organisation des Nations Unies
pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture
R o m e.

AMBASSADE ROYALE DE DANEMARK

J.nr. 75.C.32.

Rome, 4th February 1957.

Sir,

Referring to my letter of the 21st January 1957, in which I informed you that the Danish Government on principle are willing to take part in the FAO-action in accordance with the resolution no. 399 regarding help to the Hungarian people, approved on the 4th November 1956, by the United Nations' General Assembly, I have the honour, upon instruction received from the Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, to inform you that it would be preferred that the Danish delivery of the additional contingent of seed potatoes be exercised by the FAO on behalf of the Danish Government and that the contacts between the Danish authorities and the Hungarian Government be limited to the practical arrangements connected with the delivery as to the sending and payment of the delivery etc.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) Holger Bech

His Excellency

B.R. Sen

Director-general of the F.A.O.,

Rome.

COPY

AMBASSADE ROYALE DE DANEMARK J.nr.75.C.32.

Rome, 4th February, 1957.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 16th January, 1957, to the Danish Minister of Agriculture regarding the urgent Hungarian need for food stuffs and fertilizers I have the honour to inform you that the Danish Government, taking into consideration our offer of additional supplies of seed potatoes and the actual supply situation in Denmark, do not for the moment find it pratically possible to participate in this part of the FAO emergency action.

I beg you to receive, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) Holger Bech

His Excellency
B.R. Sen,
Director-General of the F.A.O.
R o m e.

Please file SO 534/23(1)
K.W.S.

RECORDS CONTROL
26 FEB 1957

Notes of Discussion with ICRC on Friday, 15 February

Discussions in Washington

Mr. Michel and Mr. Willie Meyer said that they had met with a fairly favourable response from State Department officials who said that the main technical difficulties in the way of providing relief supplies other than for traditional relief were the the United States legislative restrictions on the sale of supplies within Eastern European countries. There were of course also major political aspects of this problem. They will pursue means to overcome these difficulties, and hope to have a decision from the Secretary of State within a week or ten days as to his views on policy. They also indicated that the United States would not oppose relief action by other Western nations. Mr. Michel said that he had asked the State Department officials to make this position known to other governments, particularly in Europe, as soon as possible.

Flour:

With regard to specific items, Mr. Michel said that the United States is considering the possibility of providing a large quantity of flour (possibly up to 100,000 tons) as a substitute for wheat, provided the flour would be given to bakeries with a pro rata allotment to the bakeries to cover their costs. The bread would then be distributed free to the population, with appropriate labels. Mr. Michel said that he had pointed out the economic difficulties that would arise with such an arrangement and had urged further consideration of the possibility of the sale of flour in accordance with the ICRC's proposals (A/3503, paragraph 72). A final decision on this point was hoped for within a week or ten days.

Coal:

Mr. Michel said that the United States was also considering the possibility of providing from twenty to fifty thousand tons of coal for gratis distribution to hospitals and similar institutions. This would have either to be shipped from the United States or obtained from Western Germany or Belgium, with replacement from European stocks. Payment would probably have to come from the $100,000,000 dollar mutual security funds available for use at the discretion of the President - and this presented some difficulties.

Transportation of relief supplies

Mr. Michel and Mr. Meyer pointed out that, if relief supplies (such as coal) should be made available in large quantities, problems may arise in connection with the payment of port handling charges and rail transportation. The European railways which now provide free transportation for the smaller quantities required for traditional relief may not be willing to do so in connection with the larger quantities involved in a general relief programme. Mr. Meyer said he had been told in Paris that the French Government (M. Noel) had offered rail transportation within France to the United Nations as part of their contribution to Hungarian relief. Mr. de Seynes said that he had not been informed of this offer - nor has any evidence of this offer been found in United Nations records.

Utilization of relief supplies

In response to questions raised by Mr. de Seynes and Mr. Cohen, Mr. Michel said that the lower priority items mentioned in the report of the joint mission could be handled for general emergency relief under the ICRC sales plan. If the quantities of these and other items were large enough they would be distributed in accordance with the general emergency relief sales plan; otherwise they would be used for the traditional emergency relief programme, that is, direct free distribution to special categories of persons.

Approaches to governments

Mr. de Seynes said that he was constantly in touch with a number of the main delegations who may be in the best position to meet the relief supply requirements listed in his report. He was planning consultations on Wednesday the 20th and Thursday the 21st of February with the following delegations: Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden. He invited the representatives of the ICRC to be present and participate in these consultations. Each delegation would receive a copy of an aide memoire indicating the requirements, methods of distribution and sale, etc. Mr. Michel and Mr. Meyer submitted their comments on parts of the draft aide memoire which described the activities of the ICRC.

Use of funds available to United Nations

There was some discussion of what might be the best possible use of the cash contributions made to the Secretary-General for relief within Hungary. Further consideration should be given as to how these funds could best aid the ICRC in its operational activities.

MC/ms

SO 534/23(1)

RECORDS CONTROL

~~SO 531(1)~~

11 FEB 1957 11 February 1957

Dear Mr. Kaufmann,

I am pleased to give you the answers to the four specific questions which you put to me on Friday, 8 February, concerning the seed potatoes which the Netherlands Government is making available for Hungary:

(1) The question of variety of seeds, etc., and type of packing should be discussed with FAO;

(2) The date and the place the seeds should be delivered should be discussed with FAO;

(3) The addressee should be the International Committee of the Red Cross since this will permit the shipment of the seed potatoes free of charge from the country of origin to destination. In discussions with FAO, the details of this arrangement can be explained.

(4) Discussions with FAO should be either with Dr. Wahlen or Dr. Knoll.

In addition to the above replies to the specific questions, I expect to be able to inform you shortly that arrangements for distribution satisfactory to the Secretary-General have been worked out with the International Committee of the Red Cross and FAO.

Sincerely Yours,

Myer Cohen
Executive Director for Relief
to the Hungarian People

Mr. J. Kaufmann
Counsellor of Embassy
Permanent Mission of the Netherlands
to the United Nations
New York, N.Y.

ACTION COPY

TO Cohen
File No.
✓ Action Completed
Initials K.W.J.
Return to Registry Section
(Room 2074)

31 JAN 1957

23 GENEVA 33 31 1055Z

SO 534/23(1)

UNATIONS NY

UNGVA 211 DESEYNES FROM OBEZ STOP WAHLEN INFORMS ME THAT GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOW WITHDRAWN ITS OBJECTION TO SALE OF SEEDS IN FAVOUR HUNGARIAN REDCROSS STOP SHALL CABLE DETAILS AS AVAILABLE

CFM 211

JAN 31 6 44 AM

Please file Resources available U.S.

K.W.S.

SO 534/23(1)

US$15,000,000

1. $1,500,000 - 2,000 tons foodstuffs diverted from voluntary agencies, stores in Austria (including small amount to Hungary).

2. $140,000 - 800 tons flour borrowed from Austria for use primarily in Hungary.

3. $905,000 - 1,000 tons dried milk; 200 tons rice turned over to ICRC for feeding programme in Hungary.

RECORDS CONTROL
SO 534/23(1)
1-FEB 1957

Mr. Pierre Obez, Liaison Officer for Relief to the Hungarian People — 30 January — 7

Myer Cohen, Executive Director for Relief to the Hungarian People

Indonesian offer for relief inside Hungary

1. The Indonesian Delegation advised me this morning that their Government was substituting an equivalent quantity of sugar for the copra which they had originally offered. They are therefore sending tea, coffee and sugar valued at Rupiahs 150,000 including cost of shipping.

2. The Delegation has drawn our attention to the fact that the League of Red Cross Societies Circular No. 16 of 17 January mentions a different shipping address in Vienna from the one notified to us by the CICR. Is the address still "Comité international de la Croix-rouge, station Freudenau-Winterhafen, Vienna, Austria" ?

DRAFTER Cohen

REGISTRY FILE COPY

FILE No.

SKN32 FFF NEWYORK 193 24 2116EST UNGOVT VIA WU

FOODAGRI

ROME (ITALY)

541 BROADLEY CONFIDENTIAL YOUR CABLES TO SEN ON ACTION BEING TAKEN BY FAO TO SECURE SEEDS CMA FERTILISER AND FEED FOR LIVESTOCK AND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH HUNGARIAN GROUP IN ROME CONCERNING METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD HAVE BEEN PASSED TO ME BY ORR AT SENS REQUEST STOP DELIGHTED

P2

TO LEARN OF SUCCESS ALREADY ACHIEVED BY FAO IN INTERESTING GOVERNMENTS IN THIS RELIEF ACTION STOP VIEW RELEVANT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ENTRUSTING SECGEN WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR UNDERTAKING THE NECESSARY MEASURES CMA AND FACT THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE HOLDING SECGEN RESPONSIBLE CMA AND IN VIEW OF CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS INVOLVED I FEEL CERTAIN

P3

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL I BE KEPT FULLY AND CURRENTLY INFORMED ALL DEVELOPMENTS FAO ACTIVITIES IN CONNEXION HUNGARIAN RELIEF STOP WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE BEING CONSULTED IN ADVANCE WITH REGARD TO ALL AGREEMENTS WITH HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES CMA CICR CMA OR DONORS STOP IN CONNEXION WITH THESE AND OTHER

P4/43

MATTERS I SUGGEST DISCUSSIONS GENEVA BETWEEN FAO CMA CICR AND UN STARTING FRIDAY FEBRUARY FIRST STOP INTEND SENDING MYER COHEN GENEVA FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS STOP GRATEFUL YOUR CONFIRMATION ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS STOP THIS MESSAGE REPEATED TO SEN OTTAWA AND PELT GENEVA

DESEYNES UNATIONS NEWYORK

CFM 54

UNITED NATIONS
JAN 24 PM 12 19
TELEGRAPH UNIT

DRAFTER Cohen

RECORDS CONTROL
SO 531(2)
28 JAN 1957

REGISTRY FILE COPY

FILE No.

SKN31 FFF NEWYORK 245/244 24 2211EST UNGOVT VIA WU
UNATIONS
GENEVA (SWITZERLAND)
169 PELT FOLLOWING CABLE SENT TODAY TO BROADLEY QUOTE VONFIDENTIAL
YOUR CABLES TO SEN ON ACTION BEING TAKEN BY FAO TO SECURE SEEDS
CMA FERTILISER AND FEED FOR LIVESTOCK AND OF DISCUSSIONS
WITH HUNGARIAN GROUP IN ROME CONCERNING METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION
OF FOOD HAVE BEEN PASSED TO ME
P2/51/50
BY ORR AT SENS REQUEST STOP DELIGHTED TO LEARN OF SUCCESS ALREADY
ACHIEVED BY FAO IN INTERESTING GOVERNMENTS IN THIS RELIEF ACTION
STOP VIEW RELEVANT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ENTRUSTING SECGEN WITH
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR UNDERTAKING THE NECESSARY MEASURES CMA AND
FACT THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE HOLDING SECGEN RESPONSIBLE CMA
AND IN VIEW
P3
OF CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS INWOLVED I FEEL CERTAIN YOU WILL
UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL I BE KEPT FULLY AND CURRENTLY
INFORMED ALL DEVELOPMENTS FAO ACTIVITIES IN CONNEXION
HUNGARIAN RELIEF STOP WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE BEING CONSULTED IN
ADVANCE WITH REGARD TO ALL AGREEMENTS WITH HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES
CMA CICR CMA OR DONORS
P4
STOP IN CONNEXION WITH THESE AND OTHER MATTERS I SUGGEST
DISCUSSIONS GENEVA BETWEEN FAO CMA CICR AND UN STARTING FRIDAY
FEBRUARY FIRST STOP INTEND SENDING MYER COHEN GENEVA FOR THESE
DISCUSSIONS STOP GRATEFUL YOUR CONFIRMATION ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS
STOP THIS MESSAGE REPEATED TO SEN OTTAWA AND PELT GENEVA UNQUOTE
MYER COHEN
P5/44
WHOM I AM SENDING TO REPRESENT ME IN DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULED
ARRIVE GENEVA THURSDAY AND I SUGGEST DISCUSSIONS WITH FAO AND
CICR BE SCHEDULED STARTING FRIDAY STOP WILL BE MOST GRATEFUL
IF THESE DISCUSSIONS COULD BE HELD UNDER YOUR CHAIRMANSHIP
STOP PLEASE INFORM OBEZ

DESEYNES

CFM 169

UNITED NATIONS
ESI JAN 24 PM 10 19
TELEGRAPH UNIT

FAO action on Seed
Fertilizers
Feed

COPY

ROMA JAN 21 1340 (RECEIVED 24 JANUARY 1957)

SEN FOODAGR NYK CONFIDENTIAL

FOLLOWING INFORMATION SUMMARISES PRESENT FAO POSITION HUNGARIAN RELIEF STOP REQUEST LETTERS FROM FAO TO GOVERNMENTS DECEMBER 28 BASED ON RESOLUTION 399 AND AGREEMENT UN/ICRC REFERRING TO RELIEF NEEDS HUNGARIAN PEOPLE LISTS ASCERTAINED SEED NEEDS SPRING WHEAT 5000 TONS OATS 5000 TONS SEED POTATOES 2500 TONS BARLEY 5000 STOP FOLLOWING QUOTE FROM LETTER QUOTE IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE IS HERE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CHARTER OF OUR ORGANIZATION THE QUANTITIES GIVEN ABOVE ARE SMALL IN RELATION TO OVERALL REQUIREMENTS IN EUROPE AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE IN MY ESTIMATION TO FILL THE NEEDS OF A PEOPLE IN DISTRESS WITHOUT GREAT DIFFICULTIES HOWEVER IN ORDER TO MEET THE TIME LIMITS WHICH REQUIRE THAT THE SEED BE READY FOR DISTRIBUTION IN HUNGARY BETWEEN THE END OF JANUARY AND MIDFEBRUARY I WOULD SUGGEST THAT IN ADDITION TO STRAIGHT DONATIONS TO HUNGARIAN RELIEF THE POSSIBILITY OF SHIPPING SUPPLIES THROUGH THE NORMAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS BE INVESTIGATED THIS MIGHT BE ARRANGED ON THE BASIS THAT THE SEEDS BE DELIVERED AGAINST COMPENSATION OF HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AFTER THE HARVEST OF 1957 UNQUOTE LETTER ALSO REFERS TO FURTHER NEEDS FEEDING STUFFS AND FERTILISERS TO BE TREATED IN FURTHER LETTER AFTER INVESTIGATION STOP STATES THAT THIS LETTER OF 28/12 IS ONLY ADDRESSED TO GOVERNMENTS ABLE TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS QUICKLY AND IN VARIETIES REQUIRED STOP

SEED

Seed available

RESULTS OF THIS LETTER ARE SWITZERLAND 5000 TONS SPRING WHEAT BILATERALLY COMMA DETAILS NOW UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES GERMANY 5000 TONS BARLEY 2000 TONS OATS DONATION TO RED CROSS/FAO NETHERLANDS 2500 TONS SEED POTATOES DONATION TO FAO STOP

ANSWERS FORECAST OR PENDING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES STOP SECOND LETTER JANUARY 14 TO SAME COUNTRIES REFERS TO UN/FAO MISSION AND GIVES NEEDS 150,000 TONS FEEDS AND NITROGENOUS AND PHOSPHORIC ACID FERTILISERS FOR WHICH ONLY ROUGH ESTIMATES GIVEN STOP

FEED + FERTILIZER

THIRD LETTER JANUARY 18 TO GOVERNMENTS NOT THUS FAR APPROACHED VIZ USA CANADA UK NORWAY IRELAND SPAIN PORTUGAL ACCOMPANIED BY FAO PORTION JOINT REPORT WITHOUT INTRODUCTION GIVES SUMMARY OF ACTION AND REPEATS NEEDS NOT SO FAR COVERED VIZ FEEDS AND FERTILIZERS STOP HUNGARY THROUGH DELEGATION TO ECE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE HAS FORMALLY REITERATED READINESS TO SUBMIT TO FAO CONTROL DISTRIBUTION ON LINES AGREEMENT HUNGARY/RED [redacted] CROSS STOP SUPPLIES TO GO TO INDIVIDUAL FARMERS STOP STATE FARMS EXCLUDED STOP HUNGARIAN DELEGATION TO ECE COMMITTEE ARRIVED TODAY IN ROME TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF DISTRIBUTION AND CONTROL SATISFACTORY TO DONOR GOVERNMENTS

AND TO RED CROSS STOP WILL CABLE PRINCIPLES AS SOON AS ARRIVED AT STOP SENDING COPIES OF LETTERS AND OTHER RELEVANT MATERIAL EXPRESS AIRMAIL PLEASE CABLE IF MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED

BROADLEY WAHLEN

COPY

ROMA 1 JAN 23

SEN FOODAGRI
NYK

FOLLOWING AGREED WITH HUNGARIAN GROUP VISITING ROME
SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION REDCROSS AND DONOR
GOVERNMENTS STOP MAIN METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION SEEDS
TOBE SALE TO OWNER OPERATORS AGAINST RECEIPT SIGNED
BY PEASANTS STATING QUANTITIES RECEIVED AND
UNDERTAKING TO USE GOODS AS SEEDS ONLY STOP PRESCRIBED RECEIPT
FORM CONTAINS INDICATION SOURCE OF SEEDS AND STATEMENT
THAT PROCEEDS GO IN FULL TO HUNGARIAN REDCROSS FOR
HUMANITARIAN ACTION STOP THIS METHOD PREFERRED BY FAO
BECAUSE PRIMO PEASANTS GENERALLY ABLE TO PAY SECUNDO
ONLY METHOD THAT WILL PREVENT FEELING DISTRIBUTION
UNFAIR BECAUSE ONLY RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF PEASANTS CAN
BENEFIT AND PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE IN SHORT TIME
AVAILABLE THOROUGHLY TO INVESTIGATE BOTH TECHNICAL AND
SOCIAL NEED STOP FREE GIFT ONLY IN WELL DOCUMENTED
HARDSHIP CASES STOP METHOD OF FAO/ICRC CONTROL ONE
HAVE ESTABLISHED DISTRIBUTION PLAN BY DISTRICTS AND
VILLAGES ACCORDING TONEEDS TWO CONTROL OF BILLS OF
LADING AT FRONTIER
STATION THREE CHECKS OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION IN SELECTED
VILLAGES FOUR CHECK OF ALL RECEIPTS TO BE SUBMITTED
TO FAO BY DISTRIBUTION ORGANIZATIONS FIVE CHECK OF
THESE RECEIPTS IN SELECTED VILLAGES WHERE ACTUAL
SUPERVISION OF DISTRIBUTION DID NOT TAKE PLACE SIX
PROCEEDS TO BE DEPOSITED IN TRUST ACCOUNT AND DONOR GOVERNMENTS

TO DECIDE WITH REDCROSS ON USE FUNDS FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTIONSSTOP EYE FEEL THAT PROPOSED SYSTEM IS WORKABLE AND GIVES MAXIMUM OF SAFEGUARDS STOP ITALIAN AND DANISH GOVERNMENTS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OUR ACTION AND SUBMITTED PROPOSALS FOR FURNISHING SEEDS THROUGH BILATERAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS

BROADLEY WAHLEN

Please file SO 534/23(1)
K.W.T.

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Myer Cohen

Date: 22 January 1957

FILE NO.: SO 534/23(1)

FROM: K. W. Taylor K.W.T.

25 JAN 1957

SENDER'S TELEPHONE EXTENSION:

SUBJECT: Burmese rice.

Further to Mr. Maunoir's letter of 10 January 1957 (CICR), I telephoned Mr. Kyaw Min of the Burmese Delegation to inform him that the CICR would particularly welcome his Government's offer of rice for relief in Hungary. Mr. Kyaw Min said that he would convey this information to Rangoon and would provide the other information requested by the CICR concerning the quantity, shipping arrangements and time of delivery, as soon as he was informed of his Government's formal decision concerning this offer.

Thanks.
M
22/1/57

COPIE

COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

Mr Taylor
Action pls
14/I

Genève, le 10 janvier 1957

Mr. Kyaw Nun of the Burmese Delegation informed of CICR reaction on 22 Jan. K.W.S.

Cher Monsieur,

Votre aimable lettre du 8 janvier m'est bien parvenue et je vous en remercie.

Comme je vous l'avais déjà indiqué au téléphone, l'offre du Gouvernement birman serait particulièrement bienvenue pour l'action du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge en Hongrie. Il nous sera naturellement agréable de savoir, dès que possible, sur quelle quantité de riz elle porterait et quels seraient les délais de livraison à un port européen, compte tenu des possibilités d'acheminement au moment de l'expédition. Il nous intéresserait également de connaître les intentions du Gouvernement birman en ce qui concerne le règlement des frais de transport.

Pour le surplus, je pense, comme M. Cohen, que s'il est souhaitable, dans les conditions actuelles, de recevoir des contributions en espèces, la plupart des gouvernements intéressés préféreront en revanche maintenir des offres de secours en nature. Nous pourrons alors examiner de quelle manière il conviendra d'en tenir compte pour la couverture des programmes d'assistance déjà mis sur pied.

Je vous prie de recevoir, cher Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

J.P. MAUNOIR
Chef de Section
Division exécutive

Monsieur Pierre OBEZ
Chargé de la liaison pour les questions
relatives à l'aide au peuple hongrois
Office européen des Nations Unies
Palais des Nations
Genève

COPY

ROMA JAN 21

SEN FOODAGRI

NY

REMYTEL 21/1 CONFIDENTIAL WORD JUST RECEIVED FROM NETHERLANDS EMBASSY THAT CABINET HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE DONATION TO FAO 2500 TONS SEED POTATOES SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT SECGEN STOP

SUGGEST YOU DISCUSS WITH SECGEN

BROADLEY

file

Press Release No 567 b

Confirmation of press release already distributed in Vienna to the local Press and to Press Agencies.

Lady Mountbatten visits the International Committee of the Red Cross

VIENNA ICRC - Information.

Lady Edwina Mountbatten arrived on Saturday in Vienna, where she expects to stay for about a week in order to visit, as Lady Superintendent-in-Chief of the St.John's Ambulance Brigade, the International Red Cross organisations which are caring for Hungarian refugees. Her first visit on Saturday afternoon was to the Vienna Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, where she was received by Dr. Bircher, Head of the Vienna Delegation of the ICRC, who gave her information concerning the organisation of the International Committee's Hungarian relief action. Lady Mountbatten then visited the Committee's Vienna warehouses where so far 10 million kilograms of gift relief supplies have been received from all quarters and prepared for despatch to Budapest. Lady Mountbatten said that she was deeply impressed by the organisation of the International Committee's direct assistance to Hungary, and expressed the hope that further gifts and funds would be placed at the disposal of the ICRC to enable it to continue its relief action.

VIENNA, January 19, 1957

Press Release No 565 b

Confirmation of press release already distributed in Vienna to the local Press and to Press Agencies.

So 534/23(1)
25 JAN 1957

Spanish Rice for Hungary

VIENNA ICRC - Information.

The Spanish Government has placed at the disposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies one million kilograms of rice for distribution to people in need in Hungary, and the Hungarian refugees in Austria. A partial consignment, of which a portion has been diverted to the CARITAS relief actions, arrived recently in Vienna and was handed over on Wednesday morning at the Viennese railway-station, Donaukai, by the Spanish Ambassador, Sr. José Sebastian de Erice, to the representatives of the organisations entrusted with the Hungarian relief action. When handing over the long line of wagons decorated with the Spanish colours, the Ambassador said that the Spanish people's gift of rice brought a message of affection and sympathy for the Hungarian people in their hours of trial. He also said that his Government had made the gift not only to help Hungary in its distress, but also to support Austria in its stupendous efforts to carry out this great humanitarian task. On behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, its General-Delegate for relief to Hungary, M. G. Rutishauser, thanked the Ambassador for this very generous and welcome gift. He gave the assurance that the rice would be distributed fairly and conscientiously to those in need and said that the sending of rice from Spain was a further and noble proof of international solidarity with the Hungarian people. The Viennese representative of the Hungarian Catholic Action, Karl E. Paulai, also spoke cordial words of thanks for this further token of understanding and sympathy with the Hungarian people.

Vienna, January 16, 1957

duplicat

COPIE

COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

Genève, le 10 janvier 1957

Cher Monsieur,

Votre aimable lettre du 8 janvier m'est bien parvenue et je vous en remercie.

Comme je vous l'avais déjà indiqué au téléphone, l'offre du Gouvernement birman serait particulièrement bienvenue pour l'action du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge en Hongrie. Il nous sera naturellement agréable de savoir, dès que possible, sur quelle quantité de riz elle porterait et quels seraient les délais de livraison à un port européen, compte tenu des possibilités d'acheminement au moment de l'expédition. Il nous intéresserait également de connaître les intentions du Gouvernement birman en ce qui concerne le règlement des frais de transport.

Pour le surplus, je pense, comme M. Cohen, que s'il est souhaitable, dans les conditions actuelles, de recevoir des contributions en espèces, la plupart des gouvernements intéressés préféreront en revanche maintenir des offres de secours en nature. Nous pourrons alors examiner de quelle manière il conviendra d'en tenir compte pour la couverture des programmes d'assistance déjà mis sur pied.

Je vous prie de recevoir, cher Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

J.P. MAUNOIR
Chef de Section
Division exécutive

Monsieur Pierre OBEZ
Chargé de la liaison pour les questions
relatives à l'aide au peuple hongrois
Office européen des Nations Unies
Palais des Nations
Genève

KWT/lh

REC... CONTROL

22 JAN 1957

SO 534/23(1)

21 January 1957

Dear Pierre,

I enclose a copy of a note dated 9 January 1957 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala and a copy of a letter dated 7 January 1957 from the Permanent Representative of Ceylon concerning the action taken by their Governments to implement their offers for relief to the Hungarian people. I have suggested that the Guatemalan Government notify the International Committee directly of the arrangements made for shipment of the coffee.

Yours sincerely,

Myer Cohen
Executive Director
for Relief to the Hungarian People

Mr. Pierre Obez
Liaison Officer for Relief
to the Hungarian People
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

KWT/lh

RECORDS CONTROL

22 JAN 1957

SO 534/23(1)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his note PS/H/2673 of 9 January 1957 informing him that negotiations are being carried out to expedite the delivery of one hundred quintales of coffee for Hungarian relief to Vienna, Austria. It is assumed that the Government of Guatemala will notify the International Committee of the Red Cross of the arrangements being made for this purpose.

The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation for the action being taken by the Government of Guatemala in this matter.

22 January 1957

His Excellency
Sr. Emilio Arenales Catalan
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Guatemala
to the United Nations
Empire State Building
350 Fifth Avenue
New York 1, N. Y.

DELEGACION PERMANENTE DE GUATEMALA

ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

RECORDS CONTROL
50534/23(1)
22 JAN 1957

PS/H/2673

The Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit the notification received from the Government of Guatemala to the effect that negotiations are being carried out to expedite the delivery of one hundred quintales of coffee for Hungarian relief to Vienna, Austria, in accordance with instructions contained in a letter of 12 December from the Executive Director for Relief to the Hungarian People of the United Nations.

New York, 9 January, 1957

bd

So 534/23(1)
22 JAN 1957
NAME
CONFIRMATION COPY
OF MESSAGE DESPATCHED

for Cohen 29/4

3 S NY 296 7 1649Z ;

UNATIONS

GENEVA ;

28 OBEZ CONFIDENTIAL FOR DESEYNES REFERENCE YOUR 6 STOP REACTION STATE DEPARTMENT TO SCHEME SUCH AS OUTLINED PARA SEVEN CICR LETTER DECEMBER 28 NOT FAVORABLE AND DOUBTS EXPRESSED AS TO LEGALITY SALE REPEAT SALE SURPLUS COMMODITIES IN HUNGARY STOP DOUBTS RELATE TO PROVISIONS UNITEDSTATES LEGISLATION GOVERNING DISPOSAL SURPLUS ;

P2

COMMODITIES IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES STOP DESPITE THESE VIEWS IT IS OFFICIALLY REPORTED TODAY THAT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE IS AUTHORIZING SALE SURPLUS COMMODITIES TO POLAND TO BE PAID FOR IN UNITEDSTATES DOLLARS STOP THIS INDICATES CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON DISPOSAL SURPLUS COMMODITIES MAY BE SET ASIDE BY EXECUTIVE DISCRETION WITHOUT REQUIRING NEW ;

P3

LEGISLATION STOP A PLAN BASED ON PAYMENT IN LOCAL CURRENCY AS APPARENTLY INTENDED IN PARA SEVEN CICR LETTER DOES NOT FALL WITHIN THE EXECUTIVES DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS STOP PARA WAS INFORMED IN WASHINGTON CICR IN MIDST NEGOTIATING AGREEMENT WITH UNITEDSTATES GOVERNMENT STOP WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT CICR MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE INSURE ;

P4

AVAILABILITY RELIEF SUPPLIES THERE ARE IMPLICATIONS SUCH BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR OUR EFFORTS CHANNEL CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH UNITEDNATIONS STOP VIEW OUR AGREEMENT WITH CICR EYE BELIEVE THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITEDSTATES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS AFFORDS CICR OPPORTUNITY PRESS CASE FOR CHANNELLING CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH UNITEDNATIONS STOP PARA SOME THREEMILLION DOLLARS OF THE FIFTEENMILLION IN ;

P5

SURPLUS COMMODITIES ALREADY REPORTED COMMITTED AS FOLLOWS COLON NINEHUNDRED THOUSAND TO CICR CMA ONEHUNDRED FORTYTHOUSAND TO AUSTRIA TO REPLENISH EMERGENCY ADVANCES AND ONEMILLION FIVEHUNDRED THOUSAND TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SEMICOLON APPARENTLY ONLY THE CICR SUPPLIES PRINCIPALLY FOR HUNGARY AND OTHERS FOR REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA STOP EYE HAVE AGAIN CALLED ATTENTION SECGEN ;

P6/46

AND CORDIER TO NEED FOR POLICY DISCUSSIONS AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENTAL INTENTIONS WITH REGARD UN PARTICIPATION HUNGARIAN RELIEF ACTION STOP WE AWAIT YOUR VIEWS AND YOUR RETURN STOP

FAO ACTION IN FAVOUR OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE

The following countries were approached by letter of 4 January 1957 in respect to seed supplies :

Austria	Luxembourg
Belgium	Netherlands
Denmark	Sweden
France	Switzerland
Italy	Yugoslavia

on 16 January the same countries were again approached with respect to feeds and fertilizers.

The following countries received a letter, dated 19 January, outlining the action taken in respect to seeds and inviting them to consider the possibility of furnishing feeds and fertilizers :

Canada	Spain
Ireland	United Kingdom
Norway	United States
Portugal	

West Germany

So 534/23(1)

ACTION COPY

Mr COHEN

22 JAN 1957

NAME INDEXED

File No.

☑ Action Completed

Initials MC 4/I/57

Return to Registry Section (Room 2074)

3 - JAN 1957

48 GVA 148 3 1517Z

UNATIONS NY

UNGVA 6 COHEN FROM OBEZ REFERENCE BOISSIERS LETTER TO SECGEN AND ATTACHED MEMORANDUM STOP DE SEYNES WISHES RECEIVE IN GENEVA YOUR ADVICE CONCERNING CICR PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN PARA SEVEN MEMORANDUM STOP IN MEETING YESTERDAY CICR GAVE FOLLOWING PRECISIONS STOP VERY LIMITED EXPERIMENT OF ACTION UNDER EMERGENCY GENERAL RELIEF

P2

PLAN OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM HAS ALREADY BEEN UNDERTAKEN WITH 2500 TONS OF WHEAT MADE AVAILABLE BY GERMAN GOVERNMENT WHICH AGREED TO CONDITIONS OF DISTRIBUTION OUTLINED PARA SEVEN STOP CONTACTS TAKEN BY CICR IN VIENNA WITH US EMBASSY ON SAME SUBJECT HAVE NOT PRODUCED FAVOURABLE REACTION US AUTHORITIES ON PROPOSAL AND

P3

CICR INCLINED TO BELIEVE THESE AUTHORITIES MIGHT BE RELUCTANT ACCEPT SYSTEM PROPOSED IN PARA SEVEN STOP DE SEYNES WOULD WISH TAKE NECESSARY CONTACTS WASHINGTON ON THIS PROBLEM UPON HIS RETURN BUT WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU CAN SECURE ALSO INFORMALLY SOME INDICATION THEIR REACTION TO PLAN STOP WRITING.

CFM: 6 2500

Mr. Cohen informed of this by telephone to Washington on 3 Jan. He has the required information and will complete action Friday with K.W.

UNITED NATIONS 1957 JAN -3 AM 11:24 TELEGRAPH UNIT

MMT/lh

7 JAN 1957

SO 534/23(1) 7 January 1956

Dear Pierre,

To bring up to date the offers of relief inside Hungary, you might wish to inform the ICRC that the Australian Government recently offered 20,000 Australian pounds for this purpose, and the Delegation of Ceylon has just told us that the Government of Ceylon is converting its offer of 5,000 pounds of tea to cash. The amount mentioned for the cash offer is $3,151.26, which is being paid in ~~£~~ Sterling.

Within the next few days I will be sending you an up-to-date version of the Controller's document listing pledges or payments through the Secretary-General, and also a new Assembly document reproducing the text of the latest replies from Governments to appeals for relief or refugees.

Yours sincerely,

Myer Cohen
Executive Director
for Relief to the Hungarian People

Mr. Pierre Cbez
Liaison Officer for Relief
to the Hungarian People
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

KWT/lh

RECORDS CONTROL

15 JAN 1957

SO 534/23(1)

4 January 1957

Sir,

In my letter of 21 December 1956, I had the honour to inform you that we had brought the Indonesian offer of relief in kind to the Hungarian people (tea, coffee, or copra) to the attention of the International Committee of the Red Cross. I now have the honour to inform you of the reaction of the International Committee to this offer.

The International Committee states that it would welcome the offer of tea and coffee provided it can be delivered quickly and, if at all possible, in small packages to facilitate the handling of distribution to individuals. The International Committee points out that the copra could not be used easily under present circumstances in Hungary, and suggests that it might be preferable not to include the copra in the shipment if the Indonesian Government could make the increase of its contribution by the same amount in tea and coffee.

The International Committee has also advised that the shipment should be made to the following address: "Comité international de la croix-rouge, station Freudenau-Winterhafen, Vienna, Austria." Shipping invoices should be sent either direct to the Vienna International Red Cross Committee Delegation, Hotel Wandl, Vienna, or through the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland.

I regret that, at present, neither the United Nations nor the International Committee of the Red Cross has any means at its disposal to undertake the actual shipment of relief supplies to Vienna. If, however, your Government should need any further particulars to facilitate shipment of the relief supplies to the above address in Vienna, the matter should be taken up directly with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, to whom I am sending a copy of this letter.

May I again express the warmest appreciation for your Government's cooperation in this humanitarian task.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Myer Cohen
Executive Director
for Relief to the Hungarian People

His Excellency
Dr. Sudjarwo Tjondronegoro
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Indonesia
to the United Nations
5 East 68th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

KWT/lh

RECORDS CONTROL

15 JAN 1957

SO 534/23(1)

4 January 1957

Dear Pierre,

I refer to Mr. Maunoir's letter of 21 December 1956 concerning cash contributions for relief in Hungary and the Indonesian Government's offer of tea, coffee and copra. I will comment on paragraph 2 separately.

With regard to the Indonesian offer, we called the Delegation a few days ago to let them have the International Committee's suggestion that copra be omitted and that the contribution be increased by the same amount in tea and coffee. We also drew attention to the shipping problem and asked whether it would be at all possible to transform the offer into a cash contribution. Unfortunately, the Delegation could not say anything definite on either point before checking with Djakarta. However, it is my impression that the Government will not be in a position to convert the offer to a cash contribution.

..... I enclose a copy of my letter to the Permanent Representative and will be in touch with you again as soon as we have any further reactions.

Sincerely,

Myer Cohen
Executive Director
for Relief to the Hungarian People

Mr. Pierre Obez
Liaison Officer for Relief
to the Hungarian People
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

KWT/lh

4 JAN 1957

SO ~~531(1)~~
~~534/21(1)~~
534/23(1)

3 January 1957

Dear Pierre,

The Burmese Delegation has told us confidentially that their Government is considering an offer of rice for Hungarian relief and refugees, to be used at the Secretary-General's discretion. A final decision, concerning the quantity as well, will only be taken in the middle of this month.

In the meantime, and in order to expedite further action, you might get the International Committee's advance reaction to such an offer. We have however noted that rice is listed among the basic products that would be welcome for "emergency general relief."

In view of the problems of transportation and timing mentioned in Mr. Maunoir's letter of 21 December in connection with the Indonesian offer, we put out a feeler to the Delegation concerning the possibility of converting the offer to cash, but apparently Burmese foreign exchange difficulties would not permit this. My general impression is that few countries in this area (including Ceylon and Indonesia) would be able to convert offers to cash and that it will be necessary to take shipping delays into account in accepting offers of relief supplies and fitting them into a later stage of the programme if practicable.

Sincerely,

Myer Cohen
Executive Director
for Relief to the Hungarian People

Mr. Pierre Obez
Liaison Officer for Relief
to the Hungarian People
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

RECORDS CONTROL

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

11 JAN 1957

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Myer Cohen, Executive Director for Relief to the Hungarian People

Date: 2 January 1957

FILE NO.: So 534/23(1)

FROM: K. W. Taylor K.W.T.

SENDER'S TELEPHONE EXTENSION:

SUBJECT: Possible Burmese offer of rice

At your request, I saw Mr. Kyaw Min of the Burmese Delegation. He told me that his Government was considering an offer of a quantity of rice for assistance to the Hungarian people. He said that a final decision concerning the offer would probably be taken in the middle of January. It would be available for use at the Secretary-General's discretion for relief inside Hungary or for Hungarian refugees. He asked what the procedure would be for determining whether the offer would be acceptable.

I told Mr. Kyaw Min that, if he wished, we could inform the International Committee of the Red Cross confidentially that his Government was considering such an offer in order to obtain their preliminary reaction. I stressed however that with regard to such offers, the International Committee had said that if the gifts in kind were acceptable they should reach their Vienna address "as soon as possible", and that in one case the International Committee had asked whether an offer in kind could be transformed into an offer in cash. Mr. Kyaw Min said that in view of its foreign currency problems, he doubted whether this could be done.

..... A letter to Mr. Obez along the lines indicated is attached for your approval and signature.

noted 4/I/57

Please file
KWJ

Mr Taylor
Seen KWJ
27/XII

So 5 34/23(1)

le 11 décembre 1956

Monsieur le Directeur,

Comme suite aux indications que j'ai fait parvenir à M. Michel concernant les ressources mises à la disposition des Nations-Unies pour les secours à la Hongrie telles qu'elles sont contenues dans le document A/3405, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître que nous avons reçu depuis les offres suivantes:

L'Indonesie offre du thé, du café et du copra pour une valeur de 150.000 roupies. Cette offre comporte également la couverture des frais d'expedition.

La Laos met à la disposition des Nations-Unies la somme d'un million de francs français.

Je vous serais obligé de bien vouloir me faire connaître votre avis sur l'utilisation de ces ressources pour l'aide à la Hongrie afin que nous puissions faire parvenir dès que possible aux gouvernements interessés les indications nécessaires quant à la suite qui peut être donnée à leurs offres.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Directeur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

P.R. Obez
Chargé de la liaison pour les questions
relatives à l'aide aux Peuples hongrois

Monsieur R. Gallopin,
Directeur executif,
Comité international de la Croix-Rouge,
Avenue de la Paix,
GENEVE

REG

50534/23(1)
3 - JAN 1956

INFO. COPY

Action To COHEN
File No.

10 DEC 1956

66 GENEVA 180 10 1727Z

UNATIONS NY

UNGVA 1984 MYER COHEN FROM OBEZ COPY TO PELT YOUR 1981 FIRSTLY CONTRIBUTIONS INDONESIA LAOS NOT MENTIONED DOCUMENT A3465 STOP APPRECIATE ADVICE THEIR NATURE STOP SECONDLY AFTER CONSULTATION THEIR DELEGATION REDCROSS MAKES FOLLOWING COMMENTS STOP OFFERS IN CASH SHOULD BE RESERVED PENDING FURTHER ADVICE UTILIZATION FOR BUYING SUPPLIES

P2

AS NEEDED STOP THIS APPLIES TO UNITED KINGDOM CMA CAMBODIA CMA LUXEMBOURG AND CASH CONTRIBUTION TUNISIA STOP CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND, GUATEMALA AND CEYLON ARE WELCOME PROVIDED SUPPLIES CAN BE DELIVERED QUICKLY VIENNA STOP RE OFFER CEYLON REDCROSS SUGGESTS IF POSSIBLE TEA BE SENT IN SMALL PACKETS TO FACILITATE HANDLING DISTRIBUTION

P3

INDIVIDUALS STOP SUPPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO FOLLOWING ADDRESS QUOTE ENTREPOT COMITE INTERNATIONAL CROIX-ROUGE STATION FREUDENAU DASH WINTERHAFEN VIENNA UNQUOTE SHIPPING INVOICES SHOULD BE SENT EITHER DIRECT VIENNA INTERNATIONAL REDCROSS COMMITTEE DELEGATION HOTEL WANDL VIENNA OR THROUGH GENEVA STOP OFFER TUNISIA DOCTOR AND NURSES NOT NEEDED AT PRESENT STOP DELEGATION

P4/30

CICR STRESSES AGAIN URGENT NEEDS POWDERED MILK CMA COAL FOR HOSPITALS AND WINDOW GLASS STOP ASSUME YOU WILL INFORM ME MEASURES TAKEN FOR DELIVERY SUPPLIES GUATEMALA AND CEYLON.

CFM 1984 1981 A3465