

4012. POLAND- Displaced Persons, background

How.



Prepared for Membership  
March 19, 1945  
S. Grossman

## POLAND - DISPLACED PERSONS

### I Displaced Foreigners in Poland. Total - 413,307.<sup>†</sup>

#### A. From European United Nations Countries:

1. Belgium	35,157 <sup>(1)</sup>
2. Czechoslovakia	142,000
3. Greece	30,000
4. Luxembourg	2,600
5. Netherlands	152,000
6. Norway	1,550
7. U.S.S.R.	(number unknown)
Total	<u>363,307</u>

#### B. From European Enemy and Ex-Enemy Countries:

1. Germany	(number unknown)
2. Italy	50,000
3. Rumania	(number unknown)
Total	<u>50,000<sup>†</sup></u>

+ + +

(1) Known to include prisoners of war.



## II Poles Displaced Outside Poland. Total - 3,447,927.

### A. In European United Nations Countries:

1. Belgium	13,000
(2,000 war fugitives, 9,000 workers, 2,000 unclassified)	
2. France	75,000
3. Greece	200 <sup>(1)</sup>
4. Luxembourg	100
5. Netherlands	2,000
6. Norway	7,000
7. United Kingdom	(number unknown) <sup>(2)</sup>
8. U.S.S.R.	750,000
(40-45% Jewish, located in Asiatic Russia)	

Total 847,299

### B. In European Enemy and Ex-Enemy Countries:

1. Bulgaria	10,000
2. Germany (incl. Austria)	2,450,000
Austria - 200,000	
3. Hungary	9,000
4. Italy	3,100
occupied - 2500 Liberated - 600	
5. Rumania	<u>76,000</u> <sup>(3)</sup>
Total	<u>2,546,102</u>

(1) AFHQ figure, October 1944 - 59,500 ; 200 given by Report No. 18, Intelligence Division, Greek Section, Balkan Mission, November 23, 1944.

(2) 8437 adults by March 1942.

(3) From Cable 911 London, 13 October 1944 ; 20,000 given by SHAEF, May, 1944. Poles and Hungarians in Rumania total 50,000 maximum, according to Sir Herbert Emerson, see Khatigan letter, 7 February 1945.



C. In Neutral and other European Countries:

1. Finland	9,000
2. Sweden	1,650
Total	<u>10,650</u>

D. In Non-European Countries:

1. British Africa (in camp)	18,187
2. India (In "settlements")	5,630
3. Iran (In camps)	4,435
4. Palestine	12,274

Civil refugees 3,145  
Families of  
discharged soldiers 1,500  
School boys 2,157  
School girls 400  
Military 6,072

5. America (In camp) (Mexico - Santa Rosa, near Leon)	2,500
6. New Zealand (700 children, 150 teachers, transferred from Iran)	850

Total 43,876

x x x



## Poles in Camps

### I British Africa<sup>(1)</sup>

Total - 18,187

1. Makindu, Kenya

158

2. <sup>Transit camp.</sup>  
Rongai, Kenya

no information<sup>(2)</sup>

3. Masindi, Uganda

3,659

21 miles from Masindi near Lake Albert, auspices of EARA, administered by Uganda Government, expenses met by Uganda Government, eventual source of funds unknown. "seven" attractive, busy villages rather than camp, one village for orphan children, playground, church, workshops, 18-room school for 1600 children, vegetable gardens, etc. In May 1943, men 8.4%, women 44.1%, children 47.4%.

4. Koja, Uganda

2,802

40 miles from Kampala, on Lake Victoria, auspices of EARA, administered by Uganda Government, expenses met by Uganda Government, eventual source of funds unknown. "Attractive busy village" rather than camp. Hospital with 6 buildings, school for 300, communal gardens and livestock farm. In May 1943, men 14.9%, women 46.8%, children 38.3%.

5. Tengeru, Tanganyika

4,016

12 miles from Arushu, auspices of EARA, Territorial staff and funds, eventual source of funds unknown. Six village groups, orphan blocks, lake, hospital, school for 1460, kindergarten, trade school, gardens, grazing, chickens, workshops, cultural center, "homelike village community." In May 1943, men 9.3%, women 49.8%, children 40.9%.



65. Kondoa, Tanganyika 429

Near Kondoa, auspices of EARA, territorial staff and funds, eventual source of funds unknown. Basic rations, etc. provided by Tanganyika Government. In May 1993, men 6.0%, women 51.5%, children 42.5%.

76. Ifyunda, Tanganyika 751.

Near New Iringa, auspices of EARA, administered by Tanganyika Government, territorial funds, eventual source of funds unknown. 200 buildings. In May 1943, men 6.2%, women 68.8%, children 25%.

87. Kidugala, Tanganyika 836

Near Kidugala, auspices of EARA, territorial staff and funds, eventual source of funds unknown. 250 buildings. In May 1943, men 4.9%, women 44.9%, children 50.2%.

98. Morgoro, Tanganyika 403

109. Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika 5

110. Kigoma, Tanganyika 188

12. 11. Abercorn, N. Rhodesia<sup>(3)</sup> 587

Auspices of EARA, British administration, source of funds unknown.

13. 12. Fort Jameson, N. Rhodesia 163

Auspices of EARA, British administration, source of funds unknown.

14. 15. Bwana M'kubwa, N. Rhodesia 1,176

Auspices of EARA, British administration, source of funds unknown.



<sup>15</sup>  
14. Lusaka, N. Rhodesia 973

Auspices of Eaka, British administration,  
eventual source of funds unknown.

<sup>16</sup>  
15. Katambora, N. Rhodesia 16

<sup>17</sup>  
16. Marandeklas, S. Rhodesia 556

<sup>18</sup>  
17. Rusapi, S. Rhodesia 711

<sup>19</sup>  
18. Digglefold, S. Rhodesia 218

<sup>20</sup>  
19. Oudtshoorn, <sup>Union of</sup> S. Africa <sup>(4)</sup> 540  
Near Capetown, funds Polish.

21. Mauritius

~~As from 1917~~

(6)



<u>II India</u> <sup>(15)</sup>		<u>Total - 5,630</u>
1. Jamnagir		344
2. Kolhapur		3,732
3. Karachi		1,337
4. Panchgani		111
5. Bombay		106
Polish funds all.		

<u>III Iran</u> <sup>(16)</sup>		<u>Total - 4,435</u>
1. 3 Teheran camps		2,188
Poles in Teheran live in camps, in towns, or army camps. Not ordinary type refugee camps.		
2. Isfahan		1,051
Refugees grouped in 13 institutions and 6 houses, places formerly owned by wealthy merchants - lesser royalty. UNRRA representative acting in advisory & administrative capacity, assisting Polish Delegation in charge of operation.		
3. Ahwaz		1,196
Camp property of Iranian army, transient camp. UNRRA representative works in camp as coadministrator along with Polish commandant. Polish funds all.		

#### IV Palestine

March 1944: 3158 boys, 642 girls in Scout camp; also 4100 non-camped individuals. Funds Polish.

#### V Italy

Camp at Ferramonti near Tarsoia includes Poles.

#### VI Mexico

Colonia Santa Rosa, near Leon, <sup>campuses of FEA;</sup> administration Polish, <sup>also</sup> FEA and private sources. Polish funds.

#### VII U.S.

Camp at Oswego, New York (Fort Ontario) includes Poles.



### Comment.

In November 1944 the Camps Division, anticipating that UNRCA <sup>should</sup> be prepared to assume responsibility for the camps in East Africa, Iran, and India, sent a detailed airgram to Cairo asking for information which, if received, would have covered the complete operating picture of the camps. Included, for example, were the following types of questions:

a) On location, camp population by age and sex, family groups, nationality, etc.

b) On cost of operations, food, medical care, maintenance, etc.; source of funds and central disbursing office for such funds.

c) On inland supply lines for camps, port of discharge, railroad or other inland shipping facilities, types <sup>and quantities</sup> of items necessary to be imported and items available locally, procedure for importing and obtaining locally camp supplies.

d) On <sup>adequacy of</sup> facilities and equipment.

e) On capital investments entailed in acquisition of camps.

f) On wages and allowances to camp residents, employment outside camp area, etc.

g) On administrative organization, nationality of staff, salaries, etc.



- h) On welfare services and staff.
- i) On centralization of administration.
- j) On governmental or other authority responsible for administration of each camp, and present supervisory machinery.
- k) On legal status of residents and cooperation of local authorities and camp administration.

This airgram has been followed by several cables requesting reply to be expedited, but to date no action has been taken by Cairo. \*

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\* Note: Source of this information appears in the reports brought back from Cairo by Flynn.

March 19, 1945.



Footnotes

Single  
space  
these footnotes

- (1) Numbers from UNRRA Balkan Mission Chart on Refugee Population in Camps, 31 December 1944.
- (2) 320 Poles being sent to Rongai from Makindu transit camp in August 1944, according to Pierce Report No. 1.
- (4) Figure from Pierce Report No. 1, August 1944.
- (5) Movements reported: a) In August 1944 1000 Poles were transferred from Iran to India (Balkan Mission Report, September 1944); b) 900 Poles moved from Karachi, India to Mexico (Pierce Report No. 1, August 1944)
- (3) In Northern Rhodesia in addition to Poles in camps, some Poles live in ~~hotels and houses in~~ Livingstone or are employed outside camps. Camps consist usually of brick and thatch huts for 4 persons each; central block of kitchens, dining rooms and wash houses; school and recreation center, <sup>etc.</sup> Administration is in <sup>the</sup> charge of British Commandant working through a Polish leader appointed by the Polish delegation in Nairobi, assisted by Polish committees appointed by the evacuees. Education is directed by Polish administration, school buildings built by British.
- (6) Poles in Iran all originally from Russian-occupied Poland, evacuated from Russia in spring of 1942 following agreement by Russian, British and Iranian authorities. Original purpose of camps: to provide quarters until Poles could be moved to more permanent



location. Camps started April - August 1942. Responsibility for establishment assumed by MERRA, British authorities. Present administrative and operating authority is Polish Delegation aided by UNRRA representatives acting in administrative and advisory capacity. Headquarters is in Teheran. Admission to camps is now arranged by Polish Delegation. All refugees are registered at Central Registry in Teheran as well as in camp registries.

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March 19, 1945

G. Grosvenor, DPD.



Prepared as supplement  
March 27, 1945  
for Mershikov.

## POLES IN PALESTINE, LEBANON AND RUSSIA. II

### I POLES IN PALESTINE.

#### A. Numbers.

Total: 10,000 to 20,000.

Figures from various sources are as follows:

1. Palestine government, Dept of Immigration -

Refugees 8196

Immigrants to be  
repatriated (probably  
entirely Jewish) 2451

Total 10,647

2. Delegate from Polish Ministry of Social Welfare

On 1 February 1945, 6750 Polish civilians  
received subsidy from the <sup>Polish</sup> Ministry. The  
figure includes wives of military. Number  
increases as army discharges take place.

3. British Military Liaison to the Polish Military

4500 Polish military fit for service of  
any sort. This includes 2000 young  
people ages 14-18 being educated at  
Polish military schools.

In 1942 an estimated total of 120,000 Poles  
entered Palestine, most of whom went on

1) UNRRA Barkan Mission, DP 561.25, Survey in  
Palestine, Jan. 30 - Feb. 27, 1945.



to East Africa or India. This total included 20,000 Polish civilians entering Palestine <sup>from Russia</sup> via Persia in January 1942; ~~←~~ 40,000 more civilians entering in August 1942; and 60,000 military (including boys of 12, women of 65) entering throughout the year. //

At present there are about 2000 active adult military personnel.

There is evidence that the Polish displaced persons group is very much larger than any official record indicates.

### B. Condition

Poles in Palestine are much better off than other refugee groups in Palestine. They are not massed in camps but live in family units or near friends. Civilians get generous stipends; military get pay, work, shelter <sup>and</sup> protection and pay no taxes. Funds for the two groups are paid by the Polish Ministry of Social Welfare and the Polish Military authorities which are financed from two British grants, civilian and military. Typical settlements are as follows:



- a. Ain Karam, 9 miles east of Jerusalem.  
Ten buildings taken over by Polish Government (qul's hotel, <sup>old</sup> women's home, 2 hospitals, school, community clubrooms)
- b. Ramallah, 20 miles north of Jerusalem.  
Ten houses for women, children and invalided veterans, 20 people living privately in town.
- c. Bethany, 10 miles from Jerusalem.  
1 building for 20 mothers and children
- d. Jerusalem.  
Clinic, 2 building hospital, officers' hotel, Anglo-Polish center.

+ + +

## II POLES IN LEBANON

Total: 750 to 1000

This <sup>total</sup> includes <sup>a) a unit of the Polish Army; and</sup> <sup>b) 130 students</sup> at American and French universities, who live in houses provided free by the Lebanon Government and administered by the Polish Government, the latter paying tuition out of subsidies. In March 1945 an additional 300 Poles (including 150 students) are expected from Persia. A further 500 will come from Persia according to an agreement recently signed between Persia and Lebanon.



One group of refugees lives in Beirut, another lives in <sup>nearby</sup> Gazir where fifty houses have been rented. Rent <sup>is</sup> paid by the Polish Government and deducted from occupants' stipends. 430 people at present receive stipends. All Polish refugees in Lebanon came from Russia via Persia.

### III POLES IN RUSSIA

No figures.

There is a sizeable Polish refugee group in Russia. The Russians, according to reports of refugees from there, have granted tracts of land, assisted in developing cooperatives, in securing employment, and generally helped to make them not only a self-sustaining but a productive group.



R 210. Poland *Cynthia*

26 March 1945

To: Mr. Menshikov  
From: Fred K. Hoehler  
Subject: Some Suggested Plans and Questions Relative to Polish Displaced Persons Operations

I should like to make the following suggestions which you might take into consideration while discussing displaced persons problems with the Provisional Government of the Polish Republic:

1. Draft of the detailed plans and instructions for displaced persons operations in Poland will be handed to the Displaced Persons Specialist of the Delegation by the Division in ENO.
2. The Head of the Delegation should be prepared with the assistance of the Displaced Persons Specialist to discuss with the Provisional Government their responsibility on behalf of displaced persons and UNRRA's authority and capacity to assist both in Poland on behalf of Allied nationals and intruded persons, and outside of Poland on behalf of Poles who are displaced in other United Nations territory.
3. It would be well to acquaint the Provisional Government with the conditions and provisions of the multilateral agreement which was drafted by the Technical Sub-Committee on Displaced Persons in London, and also to ascertain their attitude toward the general provisions of this agreement. At the same time, it should be ascertained whether the Government has, or plans to enter into, any bilateral agreements with any of the United Nations Governments on the care and repatriation of refugees.



4. It should be determined while the Delegation is in Poland whether the Provisional Government proposes to maintain and assist in the repatriation of United Nations nationals displaced within Poland. If they care to handle this as a Government responsibility, they should be asked to what degree they would want assistance from UNRRA in the provision of supplies, personnel and especially technical assistance.

If the Provisional Government is unable, or desires not to, accept full responsibility, then they should make a formal request to UNRRA to send in personnel to assist in, or to take major responsibility for, the maintenance and repatriation of Allied nationals displaced in Poland. UNRRA can do the following things:

- a. Provide personnel to administer a registration scheme for all Allied nationals and set up assembly centers for the maintenance and care of people until they are ready for repatriation.
- b. Invite in representatives of National Governments to screen and to assist UNRRA in servicing their nationals.
- c. Arrange for the movement and transportation of persons who have been screened for health, security and national status to the country to which they are to be repatriated or returned.
- d. UNRRA can be of assistance upon request in dealing with intruded, enemy, or ex-enemy nationals who are to be removed and returned to their home country.
- e. In order to carry out these services, UNRRA would require supplies which should be requested by the Provisional Government.



The amounts and details on this would necessarily be worked out on the ground.

5. The Provisional Government should be asked whether or not they desire the assistance of UNRRA in service to Poles who are displaced outside of Poland. In some instances this service would have to be arranged through agreements with Allied National Governments which had definitely planned to provide care and repatriation for nationals of other countries displaced within their country. There are situations in which UNRRA may have to arrange to take over special care for persons who are now maintained in camps or assembly centers under specific arrangements with other governments, such as those existing with respect to the Poles in the Middle East camps and elsewhere. It is important that we know what the Provisional Government's attitude is toward Poles displaced outside of Poland, and that they be prepared to assist in their screening and formulate adequate plans for their reception upon their return to Poland. There are many factors, such as provision for care, shelter, clothing, food and other necessities which should be available in Poland for any large number of Poles who are returned.
6. If the question of internally displaced persons comes up for discussion, it should be pointed out that this is essentially a Government responsibility, and UNRRA assistance would be in the nature of welfare services, health services, supplies or plans for movement and transport, and must be requested if they are desired.



20 March 1945

TO: Governor Lehman  
FROM: Fred K. Hoehler

I am attaching a memorandum which I have prepared for Mr. Menshikov. This raises some questions which he may wish to discuss when he gets to Poland. I have discussed this with Mr. Cooley so he can take care of any suggestions or changes which may be necessary.

I shall be away on leave for 10 days beginning Wednesday Noon.

Attachment

cc - Mr. Cooley

p090. Poland  
X withdraw with govt

September 12, 1944.

TO: Thomas M. Cooley II  
FROM: George Rooby  
SUBJECT: Repatriation problems in Poland.

The Polish Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, London has issued last May information bulletin No. 8 giving in its entirety interesting data and outlining procedures in regard to contemplated relief and rehabilitation work in Poland.

Passages dealing with repatriation of displaced persons have been translated and are attached herewith for your consideration. Because of our desire to bring the material before you prior to your departure for Montreal the translation was done rather hurriedly without revision.

We particularly wish to call your attention to section 8 on personnel matters (page 3) because of the implications the Polish intentions may have in connection with our recruiting program for Germany.



Extracted from the Polish text of information bulletin No.8, May 1944  
of Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in London (Division of Social  
Reconstruction).

## V. REPATRIATION.

### General principles of Polish repatriation.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare has submitted to the  
"Six months Committee" a tentative plan of repatriation in co-ordination  
with various other Government Agencies.

The "Six months Committee" was created for the purpose of working  
out plans in the social and economic field during the transition period  
immediately following cessation of hostilities.

### 1. Legal Organization.

The organization of the post-war repatriation movement is a technical  
problem, limited in time, which in view of the volume involved will exert  
a decided influence upon the shaping of political, social and economic  
conditions of Poland. The repatriation movement and its consequences are  
of interest to almost all governmental administrative levels. Although  
repatriation problems will require a tremendous administrative apparatus,  
it must not become a burden to the other existing ministries. For this  
reason a separate temporary agency must be created under the guidance  
of a General Commissar for Repatriation, appointed by the President of  
the Republic (Polish) upon recommendation of the Minister of Labor and  
Social Welfare.

The duties of the G.C. will be the organization and operation of  
the repatriation (of Polish citizens). He must also take into consideration  
all desiderata formulated by the chiefs of other government departments  
which might be interested in the movement of people on Polish territory  
and the consequences such movement might entail. For this reason there  
must be set up a panel of delegates and experts and attached to the G.C.  
These delegates will represent such ministers as are directly interested  
in repatriation matters. They will act in an advisory capacity.

### 2. Spheres of competence.

An efficient repatriation depends upon a through co-ordination of  
all factors involved, of a proper exploitation of transportation facilities  
and an adequate resettlement program in the country.

For this reason the G.C. responsible for the administration of the  
program (repatriation) should not be limited in his technical functions  
by other administrative governmental bureaus.

Repatriation does not mean the actual transport of repatriates to  
predetermined places only, but includes also all preparatory functions  
prior to the return of the refugees to their homes.



Such functions are: registration, entry visas, food, clothing and employment while in liberated areas and investigation of claims towards present employers after the return home.

In view of above considerations the organization of the office of the G.C. must proceed without delay and institute the necessary preparatory work in order to achieve success.

The competence of the G.C. with regard to the individual repatriate will cease the moment the refugee

- a. has reached his place of destination
- b. is brought to a designated place in the case when he himself has made no decision in this respect.  
(employment facilities in transit stations).

Shelters, orphan asylums etc. do not come under the jurisdiction of the General Commissar for Repatriation.

### 3. Repatriation of Polish Prisoners of War.

- a. Polish military P. Of W. in camps in enemy territory will be repatriated by the Polish military authorities.
- b. Polish military P. of W. in enemy territory but used as farm or industrial labor will be treated like civilian repatriates if they will present themselves at repatriations stations abroad and express the wish of returning home.

### 4. Repatriation of foreigners - citizens of Allied Nations.

Polish repatriation authorities are organizing the repatriation of citizens of Allied Nations on Polish territory after due agreement with the representatives of the respective countries in co-operation with UNRRA. The repatriation of foreigners will be undertaken in first line in view of the shortage of housing facilities for returning Poles.

Prisoners of war, citizens of Allied Nations found on Polish territory will be repatriated by military or civilian authorities of their own countries in strict agreement with Polish military or civilian authorities.

### 5. Repatriation methods.

Organized repatriation depends on repatriation stations. In the movement from abroad it is planned to establish:

- a. assembly centers in which repatriates will remain until a possibility for their return home will present itself.
- b. repatriation centers abroad in which refugees will be processed for the homeward trip. Their stay in these centers will be strictly limited to 4 days. From these stations the refugees will be sent out in convoys to their point of destination or transit camps in their country.

Above 2 types of stations will be, as far as Polish repatriates are concerned, established and administered by UNRRA or by the Allied Nation on whose territory the station will be established. The function of the G.C. is limited to cooperation, control and protection of the interests of Polish citizens. In every case the establishment of documents falls



into the exclusive sphere of competence of the General Commissar for Repatriation.

It is also planned to create on Polish territory, aside from the organization abroad;

- c. frontier points to serve as assembly centers which in turn will refer refugees to;
- d. frontier repatriation stations comparable to similar centers existing abroad. From these frontier stations Polish refugees will be transported directly to their places of destination or to transit camps.

To take care of the internal repatriation traffic (in Poland proper) it is planned to establish:

- e. centers similar to those explained under d.

For refugees who have no fixed point of destination and for whom no steady employment was found in the first phase of the program, there will be organized:

- f. local transit camps where repatriates can remain 4-6 weeks. During this period authorities as well as the refugees himself will endeavor to find for him steady gainful employment.

All types of repatriation stations mentioned above under letters c to f will be organized and administered by the G.C. or by UNRRA in case an agreement has been reached to that effect.

Stations mentioned under letters a and b will also be organized on Polish territory for the benefit of Allied Nations citizens who will be returning to their places of domicile abroad.

#### 6. Employment.

A successful solution of the employment problem will greatly depend on the plan worked out by the competent government agencies (farm settlements etc.) The G.C. having no influence on the labor market will play the role of an intermediary between worker and employer and cannot be held responsible for securing gainful employment for every returning repatriate.

#### 7. Advantages of the repatriation apparatus.

The most attractive features in organized repatriation from the standpoint of the repatriates will be the supply of transportation, prompt processing for the return trip, information service and employment office. The solution of these problems will depend on an early and efficient planning by all interested agencies.

No pressure or other forceful methods or directives should be employed in relation to the refugee.

#### 8. Personnel.

The setting-up of the repatriation apparatus acting independently or



under the auspices of UNRRA will require large numbers of trained workers. Not knowing presently UNRRA's plan for Germany it is difficult to quote exact figures of needed employees. It is assumed, however, that for Germany alone considerably more than 1000 people will be required. The General Commissar will have the obligation to place as many Polish employees as possible on UNRRA's budget. Irrespective of this, a large group of Polish employees will remain on the payroll of the G.C. in view of the special duties they will be called upon to perform. To this group will belong:

- a. National delegates assigned to all of UNRRA's assembly areas abroad.
- b. a team of 2 workers in every foreign repatriation station with the specific assignment of registration, information, employment and control of documents and visas.

#### 9. Repatriation stations in Poland.

These stations must be organized in large cities and towns only because of the following advantages:

- a. better housing facilities.
- b. existing supply of water and electric power.
- c. greater transport facilities.
- d. abundance of local manpower.
- e. better sanitary conditions.
- f. more advantageous service of supply.

#### 10. Barracks.

It is contemplated to import pre-fabricated barracks to house 80,000 people. Necessary requisitions have been filed with the Bureau of Supply (Polish). These barracks will also be used for the local transit camps.

#### 11. Duration of repatriation period.

Taking into consideration: a) the natural anxiety of refugees to return home, b) the comparatively small distances Poles will have to travel, c) the demand for manpower on the part of the army as well as industry and farms, it is assumed that the bulk of internal and European repatriation will be accomplished within 100 days from the time organized movements will commence. As far as the repatriation from Russia and the relatively small groups of Polish refugees from overseas are concerned it will be consummated at a later date depending on political conditions and availability of transportation facilities.



Displaced population and groups.  
Poland.

October 30, 1943.

The Polish population has been so extensively moved about within Poland that it is hard to estimate how many are in permanent homes. Over 3,000,000 may be estimated as displaced, within the territory.

Great displacement was caused by the partition of the country between Germany and Russia, and consequently by the invasion of Russia. It may be estimated that around 4,000,000 Poles are outside their ~~home~~ country.

On the other hand the settlement of Germans from the Reich and southeastern Europe has brought into Poland a considerable number of German and other European nationals.

The flight of Polish nationals from the Western Provinces to the east began after the German invasion in 1939. By a decree of Oct. 8th, 1939 Hitler incorporated Western Poland into the Reich. The population of the incorporated territory is put at 10,740,000 including some 600,000 racial Germans. The rest of the occupied territory was put into the Government General. The German Government expelled to the Government General many of its former inhabitants. The number of those expelled or left is estimated at 660,000. Due to the fact that no provision for their reception was provided their whereabouts will be difficult to establish.

About 500,000 Reich Germans are estimated to have been settled in the Incorporated Provinces including officials and industrial workers and possibly another 500,000 others repatriated from eastern Europe and from the Baltic states. Some 134,000 persons of German race were brought to the W. Provinces from Russian held Poland as settlers in the Incorporated Provinces. These Germans brought their families. Polish sources estimate the number of Germans brought in from the Reich and eastern Europe as 800,000. Besides, 10,000 Dutch colonists were brought and a number of Norwegian youth employed somewhere in Poland.

Figures of German settlement must be viewed with caution. They may be magnified for the effect at home. Probably 300,000 settlers from the Reich and 300,000 from eastern Europe would be a fair guess as to the number of German Settlers.

Even with the shifts of population it is reported that 75 % of the population in the incorporated Provinces remains Polish. Of the original 10,000,000 inhabitants of the Incorporated Provinces some 1,600,000 went to the Government General, an unknown number are workers in Germany so that it is probably reasonable to assume that 2,500,000 Polish nationals are displaced outside the Provinces.

600,000 Polish nationals are estimated to be racial Germans. They were probably registered as Germans.

In the Government General it is estimated that 300,000 Germans have come in from the Reich. In 1941 the region of Lublin was declared an area of German colonisation. Not long after the occupation this area was set aside as a ghetto and some 30,000-40,000 residents of German race were removed. Subsequently, ~~German~~ the Jews sent there, removed and a number of Germans from Russia and eastern Europe settled in the region.



When Russia occupied the Eastern Provinces she at first permitted the entry of fugitives from the west and a large number estimated at thousands crossed the border but later the border was closed. It is reported that by an agreement of Nov. 3rd, 1939 with Germany, 134,000 Germans left their homes in eastern Poland and were transferred to the Incorporated Provinces. They were very likely registered as Germans so presenting a problem of nationality. Some Poles also returned. 30,000-400,000 Ukrainians and Bielorrussians went to the Russian provinces from the Government General.

The plight of the Polish Jews is tragic. Of the 3,300,000 Jews in Poland in 1939, the number who remain is conjectural. The highest estimate is 1200,000; the lowest 300,000. It is safe to say that this group are all displaced persons. They have been driven from their homes and are now in ghettos in various cities or in labour camps. With the heavy death rate present figures may be much lessened as time passes ~~ex.~~ on.

In addition to the Germans living there the Government General has been used as an area to which the deportees whom the Germans desired to clear out of west and southeastern Europe have been deported. The number of these deportees is given by one authority at about 650,000 towards the end of 1942 and has been much increased since so that it may be raised to 750,000.

The Leith-Ross Committee figures are much higher. About 900,000. Whatever the number actually deported to Poland, it is probable that not more than half of them will be found alive. In Germany according to the Polish estimate there were 400,000 prisoners of war., other estimates are much higher. Of these 56,000 are reported by the Red Cross held as prisoners of war. They are reported to be officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the professional Polish army. The others have been released and included among the forced laborers. The estimate of the Polish forced laborers in Germany service appears to be agreed upon as 2,000,000 or more. Judging by an earlier report 25% are women. They may not all be found in Germany. There were in addition by Polish estimates 50,000 civil prisoners in Germany.

After the Russian occupation of the Eastern Provinces a plebiscite was held as a result of which the territory was annexed to the Soviet Union and by decree of Nov. 29th, 1939 the inhabitants were made Soviet citizens. A large number of the inhabitants were deported to the interior of Russia. Another considerable number of Polish soldiers and civilians entered Lithuania after the German invasion. Soldiers were interned. Later when the German army invaded the Baltic countries the Poles it is reported were sent to the interior of Russia.

A reasonable number of persons it is estimated <sup>that</sup> was deported from the eastern Provinces or ~~some~~ fled to Russia, would be 1,200,000 their whereabouts are uncertain. Some are said to have been transported to the north to Siberia and central Asian Soviet territories. The number surviving is uncertain as the death rate has probably been high. From both Russian and Polish sources Polish prisoners of war taken to Russia total 181,000. A difference has arisen as to the citizenship of persons deported or fled to Russia. They are claimed by both Russia and Poland. The Polish Government reported to the Leith Ross Com. as of Aug. 1943 that there were 692,000 of their nationals in Russia of whom 42,000 were given as civilian prisoners.

A considerable group of expatriated Poles ~~from~~ went from Russia to Iran and from there to other countries. The number of civilians is estimated at 40,000.



Most have left for Africa where there are at least 21,000 in camps, 3000 are supposed to be in Palestine; some 2000 went to Br. India whence 750 went to a camp to Mexico. Over 5000 may remain in Teheran. About 25000 Polish soldiers came from Russia and joined the Polish army in the Near East. A Br. Indian report is quoted estimating that army as 100,000 including 25,000 from North Africa.

Another flight ~~from~~ of Poles took place thru Hungary and Roumania where only a few remain. Many civilians went to France and other European countries including American countries. 3000 arrived in Italy, more in France. Some tens of thousands of soldiers found their way in France of which a good part escaped to Britain. About 14000 crossed the Swiss border and were interned.

The Czechoslovak Government has reported to the Leith-Ross Com. that 50,000 of their nationals are in Poland and many desire to return to Czechoslovakia after the war.

11

Poland, 010, 1  
(background)

UNITED NATIONS  
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

28 June 1944

TO: Thomas M. Cooley  
Deputy Director, Division on Displaced Persons

FROM: Frank Weisl *FW*  
Chief, Eastern European Branch

The following appeal appears in ZYWIA, a Polish peasant women's underground paper, of January 1944. It has been copied and translated by us from a photostat of the original paper:

Quote

ATTENTION.

Mass migrations of people fleeing before the approaching front have already begun. The railway stations in the Lublin District are full of refugees camping in the stations and going west without any definite direction. We must come to the assistance of these people. We appeal to all women whom our paper will reach, and all organized peasants to immediately help the population driven out and fleeing the front. We appeal in particular for you to:-

- 1) facilitate to those who pass through, the purchase of the prime necessities (hot food above all),
- 2) organize care of children and sick people,
- 3) supply food to those who cannot buy it and want to proceed,
- 4) inquire about the destination of the refugees. Those who go into the unknown without fixed destination should be stopped and directed to villages situated far away from frequented highways, and there<sup>they</sup> should be surrounded with sympathetic care.
- 5) observe diligently whether there are homeless children without protection. These should be stopped and received into families.
- 6) counteract possible profiteering and increasing prices for articles of food. These actions must be started at once. Energetic help and sympathetic, brotherly attitude to all those who are in need, is the first command. The details of the action will be elaborated by each village, and by each community, depending on the needs and their possibilities.

Help!

Unquote.



Thomas M. Cooley

-2-

28 June 1944

I would appreciate it if you would let us know if similar material is of interest to you if we should come across it in the course of our studies of original Polish sources.

cc. Mr. M. Menshikov

30 June 1944

TO: Frank Weisl  
Chief, Eastern European Branch

FROM: Thomas M. Cooley, II

Thank you for your excerpt from ZYWIA of January 1944. The item is very interesting and we should appreciate receiving, as you suggest, further material regarding displaced persons obtained from similar sources.

ELC:ley:mcs  
30 June 44



Poland, Gen. Info.  
01011

UNITED NATIONS  
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

20 June 1944

TO: Thomas M. Cooley II  
FROM: V. J. Tereshtenko *V.T.*  
SUBJECT: Memorandum regarding population in Poland

Attention: Miss E. Longley

As agreed, I am sending you herewith a copy of my short memorandum submitted to Mrs. C. A. Ryshpan on June 3, 1944 regarding population in Poland.

Attachment.

3 June 1944

TO: Cicely A. Rysban ✓  
FROM: V. J. Tereshtenko  
SUBJECT: Population in Poland.

In accordance with your suggestion, I am submitting herewith some data regarding the population of the area re-incorporated into the U.S.S.R. in September, 1939. There are two sources of information on this subject, which I could consult immediately: (a) Year-book of Poland, September, 1939 - June, 1941 (published by the Polish Ministry of Information); and (b) the chart "The Political and Administrative Division of the U.S.S.R." prepared by me for the U. S. Department of Agriculture and released by it in January 1943. The chart was based on the following sources:

1. R.S.F.S.R. Administrative-Territorial Division as of April 1, 1940. Moscow 1940 (in Russian).
2. Political set-up of the U.S.S.R. and R.S.F.S.R. Charts. Published by the Supreme Soviet of the R.S.F.S.R. Moscow 1939 (in Russian).
3. Constitution of the U.S.S.R. Official translation from Russian published in Moscow.
4. N. Mikhailov. Land of the Soviets.
5. N. Mikhailov. Soviet Geography.
6. The Statesman's Year-Book, 1942.
7. World Almanac, 1942.
8. Moscow newspapers "Pravda", and "Izvestia".
9. Decisions of the Supreme Council of the U.S.S.R. for 1941.

I. According to the Year-Book of Poland

A. "According to 1931 census:"

"Russian occupied area divided into":



To: Cicely A. Ryskpan

- 2 -

3 June 1944

"Lithuania"	-	489,000
"White Ruthenia"	-	4,243,000
"Ukraine"	-	<u>7,280,000</u>
Total:		12,012,000

B. "According to an estimate for 1939.  
Status as on August 31:"

"Russian occupied area divided into":

"Lithuania"	-	537,000
"White Ruthenia"	-	4,733,000
"Ukraine"	-	<u>7,929,000</u>
Total:		13,199,000
Total for Poland:		35,339,000

II. According to the Chart "The Political  
and Administrative Division of the  
U.S.S.R."

Population estimate as of January 1939:

"West Ukraine"	-	about 8,000,000
"White (Byelo) Russia"	-	<u>about 4,800,000</u>
Total:		about 12,800,000

(Thus, according to the Soviet statistics, after the re-incorporation of ~~West~~ Ukraine and White Russia into the U.S.S.R., the population of Poland was: 35,339,000 - 12,800,000 = 22,539,000)

V. Tereshtenko/lef  
3 June 1944

*Research*  
RESTRICTED

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
Research and Analysis Branch

R & A No. 1892.12

THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE  
BY CONSUMER GROUPS: POLAND

24 October 1944

ERRATUM

Attention is called to a typographical error in line 9 of page 25 of the above study. For "the figure of 100,000", read "the figure of 1,063,000". Recipients of this report are requested to make this correction on their copies or to attach this erratum sheet to the report.

RESTRICTED



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P  
Y

43, Lowndes Square,  
London, S.W.1.

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*Am*

398/44/EK

6th June, 1944.

*Poland-Relief*  
*© A.P. Div*  
*© Health Div*  
*© Welf. Div*

Dear Sir Frederick,

Thank you for your letter of June 2nd, 1944 concerning UNRRA's activities in connection with the problems of health, welfare and displaced persons, to be carried out in Europe during the period of military occupation. As far as the Polish Government are concerned, their opinion on the three questions of principle put forward by you, is as follows:

- a/ It is the desire of the Polish Government that UNRRA should co-operate during that period with the Polish Government in dealing with such problems of health and welfare, i.e. the immediate care of the hungry and those in need, as may arise in the Polish territories cleared of the German occupation.
- b/ Similarly, it is the desire of the Polish Government that UNRRA should assist them in the care and repatriation of displaced persons found in the Polish liberated areas.
- c/ Finally, it is also the desire of the Polish Government that UNRRA should organize and carry forward, in co-operation with the Allied Military Authorities, the Polish Government, and Allied Governments concerned, the care and repatriation of displaced persons, both Polish or formerly resident in Poland, who may be found in enemy territories, or elsewhere.

I also agree with you that the exact scope and nature of such assistance during the period following Allied Military control should be subject to detailed arrangements to be agreed upon in due course between UNRRA and the Polish Government

Yours sincerely,

/s/ J. KWAPINSKI

Minister

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7th June, 1944

My dear Ambassador,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 6th June relative to the wishes of your Government for assistance from UNRRA in regard to health, welfare and displaced persons, which I shall be glad to transmit to the Director General.

I note that your Government wish the repatriation of Axis nationals who were resident in your country prior to the war to be postponed until such time as proper agreements between UNRRA and your Government have been concluded to deal with the matter.

As regards your last paragraph, my enquiry as to whether your Government would welcome the assistance of UNRRA was not directed only to the military period but also to the period following Allied military control, and I assume that your replies may also be interpreted as covering the activities of UNRRA in either period on the understanding that for the period following Allied military control detailed arrangements will be agreed in due course between UNRRA and your Government as to the exact scope and nature of such assistance. I should be grateful if you would confirm that this is correct.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ F.W. LEITH-ROSS



UNITED NATIONS  
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1944

TO: GOVERNOR H. LEHMAN,

FROM: E. R. FRYER

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE CAMPS DIVISION HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A CONTINUING STUDY OF CONDITIONS IN EUROPE, ESPECIALLY POLAND, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE NEEDS FOR CAMPS IN THAT COUNTRY. SINCE YOUR RECENT STAFF MEETING, AT WHICH ADDED EMPHASIS WAS PLACED UPON POLAND, WE HAVE DOUBLED OUR EFFORTS AT ANALYZING THE CAMP SITUATION AND ARE WELL ON THE WAY TO PRESENTING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OUR OPERATIONS THERE.

THE POSITION OF THE PEOPLE OF POLAND AND POLISH NATIONALS OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF POLAND AT THE PRESENT TIME IS CHAOTIC TO AN EXTENT THAT TAXES THE IMAGINATION. WE FEEL THAT THE PROBLEM OF CONTROLLING AND HOUSING THE DISPLACED PERSONS OF POLISH NATIONALITY WILL TAX ALL THE INGENUITY OF CAMPS DIVISION AND WILL BE, IN EFFECT, OUR MAJOR TASK WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF CHINA.

ACCORDING TO THE BEST AUTHORITIES AVAILABLE, THERE ARE AT THE PRESENT TIME, FIVE MILLION OR MORE POLES DISPLACED WITHIN POLAND ITSELF. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 2,500,000 POLES IN GERMANY IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND AT FORCED LABOR, WHO WILL HAVE TO BE REPATRIATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE ARE TWO TO THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND ADDITIONAL POLISH NATIONALS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.

WITHIN POLAND ITSELF CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES POINT TO THE FACT THAT THERE ARE ONE MILLION PERSONS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES, SUCH AS RUSSIANS, CZECHS, AND SERBS, WHO MUST ALSO BE REPATRIATED. TO HANDLE ADEQUATELY THIS GREAT NUMBER OF VARIOUS DISPLACED PERSONS WILL MEAN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GREAT NUMBER OF CAMPS OF VARIOUS TYPES AND DESCRIPTIONS.

GOVERNOR LEHMAN - CONT'D.

IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT UNRRA CONTEMPLATES SENDING A MISSION OF OBSERVERS TO POLAND IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN VIEW OF THE TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY WHICH WILL BE PLACED UPON THE CAMPS DIVISION IN ADMINISTERING THE NEEDS OF THIS COUNTRY, WE FEEL IT HIGHLY ESSENTIAL THAT A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE CAMPS DIVISION, WHO UNDERSTANDS THE LANGUAGE AND THE CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE AND ALSO UNDERSTANDS THE CAMP OPERATION, BE ASSIGNED TO THIS MISSION TO GATHER THE NECESSARY DATA WE WILL NEED IN OUR PLANNING. YOU ARE AWARE THAT WE HAVE IN OUR DIVISION, DR. JAKOB SAPER, WHO IS A CITIZEN OF POLAND AND WHO HAS EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE COUNTRY, ITS LANGUAGE, ITS PEOPLE, ITS ECONOMY AND ITS PROBLEMS. I HAVE IMPLICIT FAITH IN HIS JUDGMENT, IN HIS ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE MULTIPLICITY OF PROBLEMS AND OF HIS COMPLETE LOYALTY TO UNRRA AND THE IDEALS FOR WHICH IT IS STRIVING. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DR. SAPER BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CAMPS DIVISION IN THE PROPOSED MISSION.