

480 - VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES

480 Voluntary
Societies

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CONFIDENTIAL

5 May 1945

Miss Charlotte Owen
122 E. 22 St.
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Charlotte:

Following are brief comments on points raised in our exchange of correspondence, and in conferences held recently in your office:

1. Training Center Program

The program at Maryland has been changed radically in the past month. It has been telescoped to a two-week affair to prepare staff for work in the assembly centers for German operations. As far as I know, Dr. Chamberlain did not speak at the Training Center in April. I think the change in plans had to do with this shift in type of training program.

2. Displaced Persons Program and Volagencies

As you know, SHAEP, with the concurrence of the combined Chiefs of Staff, has revised its position with regard to the use of volagencies in the Displaced Persons program in Germany. A directive of April 1945 entitled "Use of Non-indigenous Voluntary Welfare Agencies under UNRRA Coordination for Work with Displaced Persons in Germany" includes many points, among which are: "The Combined Chiefs of Staff have specifically authorized the Supreme Commander to invite voluntary welfare agencies into Germany, in connection with work with Displaced Persons under the supervision and coordination of UNRRA...."; and, "If such non-indigenous welfare agency desires to work with Germany, it will communicate with the European Regional Office of UNRRA which will work out with such organization an agreement and plan of operation...." There is a further clause in the directive which states that "All foreign voluntary agencies other than the American Red Cross and the British Red Cross will be withdrawn from Germany not later than 15 May 1945 unless such agencies work out an agreement with UNRRA and are admitted into Germany in accordance with policies and procedures established...." There are, of course, special provisions made for the work of the American and British Red Cross as far as activities not connected with the care and repatriation of the United Nations displaced persons in Germany.

In connection with this change of position, UNRRA has undertaken in the European Regional Office to provide for the use of voluntary agency personnel. We have from this side attached certain conditions to this use, and these conditions are now under consideration at ERO.

I know, of course, of your informal Committee on Germany, and of its interest in seeing what can be done. In this matter Dr. Chamberlain was at Headquarters about ten days ago, and talked with Mr. Hoehler and Mr. Cooley, although not with the Welfare Division as such. At a conference at which

the whole question was discussed, Mr. Hoehler reported that Dr. Chamberlain expressed the view that American volagencies were interested in participating in this program.

3. Personnel in the Balkans

As you know, the objective of my conferences with executives of volagencies in your office a few weeks ago was to initiate discussions as to method and procedure for termination of use of such personnel on loan to UNRRA. In general it was agreed that these agencies would be in contact with their staff members in the field to ascertain their interests with regard to their future plans. The agencies agreed to advise me directly upon receipt of such information, and to recommend what in their view would be the proper necessary steps. As you know, we had informed our Missions that without clearance from the agency, no personnel is to be approached for direct UNRRA employment. The alternatives for American volagency personnel in the Balkan Mission are:

- a. to be released for agency work in that are on supplementary projects, or in other areas of agency operation;
- b. to be released for direct UNRRA employment;
- c. to be recalled.

Altho we had expected that by this time Harry Greenstein would be back with full data regarding American volagency personnel, he has not yet arrived. In the meanwhile, we are expecting momentarily full evaluations of American volagency personnel performance in the field with recommendations by the Chief Welfare Officer of each Mission.

4. Enclosures on Yugoslav Repatriation Movement.

I am enclosing copies of an additional repatriation movement story in which volagency personnel are referred to.

5. Personnel

You will be interested to know that Buell Mabon, Acting Chief of the Greece Mission, has been in Washington the past few days. Yesterday morning he agreed to take Cass Reed as Distribution Officer to Greece. All other volagency personnel still at Headquarters have been requested. James Rice, JDC, has been released to his agency. Edna List is in the process of being released to the International Rescue and Relief Committee for work in Italy.

If you feel that it is indicated, I can arrange to come up to New York for a day or two within the next two weeks in order to discuss with you and your staff some of the questions on personnel, and also to be available for conferences with representatives of volagencies.

Enclosures

cc: James Brunot
SILVERSTEIN:sc

Sincerely yours,

Max Silverstein
Welfare Division