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Social Matters
Relief and Rehabilitation

FILE NUMBER / NO. DU DOSSIER: SO 535/1

UN

Clear PAL 25/2/16

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE

RELIEF IN HUNGARY

UN SECRETARIAT PROGRESS REPORTS

PART / PARTIE

FILE BEGINS / DOSSIER COMMENCE LE: NOVEMBER 1956

ENDS / TERMINE LE: Jan. 1957

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CONFIDENTIAL

SO 535/1 UN

File closed as of 31 December 1960
in accordance with the programme for periodic retirement of registry files.

Any future correspondence on this subject will be continued under the same file number.

Pouch

LH/ms

RECORDS CONTROL
SO 535/1 UN
14 JAN 1957

11 January 1957

Cher Monsieur Obez,

A la demande de Mr. Myer Cohen, je vous envoie ci-joint les exemplaires Nos. 1 - 13 du bulletin sur "Hungarian developments" que nous préparons quotidiennement au Bureau du Sous-Secrétaire chargé de l'aide au peuple hongrois. Ces bulletins vous sont envoyés à titre d'information. Nous sommes à votre entière disposition au cas où vous auriez besoin de renseignements supplémentaires sur un point quelconque mentionné dans l'un de ces bulletins.

Veuillez agréer, cher Monsieur Obez, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Laszlo Hamori
Bureau de l'aide au peuple
hongrois

Monsieur Pierre Obez
Liaison Officer for Relief to
the Hungarian People
Palais des Nations
Genève, Suisse

MJ/clc

CONTROL

27 DEC 1956

Mr. Myer Cohen

30 November 6

~~SO 530~~

Mary Jeffreys

So 535/1 UN

Daily report on relief

The only communication we received from a government yesterday was that from the Philippines (dated 28 November 1956), which informed the Secretary-General that the ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ amount of $2,500, to which they referred in their letter of 20 November, will be remitted through the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva.

cc: Mr. de Seynes
Mr. Duckworth-Barker
UNICEF

ORIGINAL DIRECT

MJ/jm

cc: Mr. de Seynes
Mr. Duckworth-Barker
UNICEF

Mr. Myer Cohen

29 November 6

RECORDS CONTROL

29 NOV 1956

~~80-530~~
S0535/1 UN

Mary Jeffreys

Daily Report on Relief

The following additional communications have been received from Governments.

Yugoslavia Letter of 23 November from Permanent Representative.

Government has decided to contribute to the relief of the people of Hungary 150 million dinars. This will be given directly and in kind as follows :

Rice; beans; soap; firewood; lumber; glass and cement.

Republic of Korea Letter of 26 November from Permanent Observer

Korean National Red Cross has already contributed $3,000 in United States currency.

President Syngman Rhee has contributed an additional $1,000. An additional 20 million hwan has also been contributed by the armed forces, business circles, and civic groups.

Collections for Hungarian relief are continuing through out Korea and it is expected that an additional 2,550,000 will be raised by the middle of December. These sums are in Korean currency.

Government is prepared to send goods in kind through American Red Cross channels. These goods are expected to be in the form of flannel and cotton textiles.

Denmark Note of 26 November from Permanent Representative.

Danish Red Cross collection, Aid for Hungary, had on November 14 resulted in a fund amounting to 3.2 million Danish Kroner. This fund is being used for financing (a) an ambulant hospital with a capacity of 200 beds and personnel of 148 including 12 doctors and

and 50 nurses. It carries medical supplies worth .5 million Danish kroner.

The Danish Red Cross hospital arrived in Vienna on November 3 and was refused passage to Hungary. Hospital was put at the disposal of the International Red Cross and stationed at Graz to assist the Refugee Reception Service. The hospital is now in Vienna awaiting entry permit into Hungary.

(b) Additional supplies of which the following have been dispatched:

148 tons of food stuffs
16 tons of medical supplies
35 tons of hospital equipment and stores.

While complete records are not available of the supplies which have been dispatched by various Danish Volunteer Agencies, it is known that 20 tons of clothing have been collected and dispatched by Denmark's national committee of students.

cc. Mr. de Seynes
Mr. Duckworth-Barker

MJ/jm

MR. MYER COHEN

RECORDS CENTRE

27 November 6

S0535/1 UN ~~SO 530~~

28 NOV 1950

MARY JEFFREYS

DAILY REPORT ON RELIEF

We have received no communications from Governments on relief since my report of yesterday. You may, however, be interested to note that we have now received thirty eight replies to our cable of 15 November of which only the following have offered relief to or through the United Nations:

Guatemala	100 quintales of coffee
Luxembourg	1,000,000 francs
Philippines	$2,500
Tunisia	A hospital unit (one doctor and 5 nurses) 1,000,000 francs.

Where the other replies have referred to relief in contrast to refugees, they have informed us of the action being taken through their own Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies to provide the assistance in cash or kind.

In the case of replies from some Governments (notably Netherlands and Sweden) it is rather difficult to differentiate between aid to refugees and relief.

cc: Mr. de Seynes
Mr. Duckworth-Barker
Miss Aline Cohn

MJ/dk

ORIGINAL DIR... RECORDS CONTROL

28 NOV 1956

Mr. Myer Cohen 26 November 6

So 535/1 UN. ~~SO 530~~

Mary Jeffreys

X Ref So 535/2 UNHCR

~~XR SO 531~~

Daily Report

A. Communications from Governments

The following communications have been received since my note of Friday 23 November:

Japan Letter of 21 November.

Japanese Government considers it appropriate to offer assistance through public subscription to Japanese Red Cross, who can then forward it to Hungary through the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. The Japanese Red Cross is already receiving heavy contributions as a result of its appeal.

Sweden Letter of 22 November.

Swedish Government has decided to receive 3,000 Hungarian refugees (Sweden originally agreed to take 1,000). This includes some TB cases. Swedish Government and Swedish Save the Children Association will bear cost of transportation (estimated at 9 million Swedish kroner). Swedish Government has handed over to Swedish Red Cross Society medical supplies, etc. valued at 495 kroner and has appropriated 500,000 for humanitarian aid to Hungary. How this latter amount is to be used is now under consideration.

It is estimated that NGO's in Sweden had up to 19 November shipped assistance in kind to Austria and Hungary to the value of 4.1 million kroner.

The Swedish Save the Children Association has undertaken expenses for three months for five children's homes with a total of 325 beds in Austria. The Swedish Intra-European Missionary Society has undertaken to run two refugee camps in Austria with a total of 1,330 refugees and to feed 150 refugees. This Society further intends to arrange for settlement of 200 refugees in the F.R. of Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

../..

It is estimated that a fund-raising drive by the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation will result in a sum of approximately 8 million kroner. This fund will be equally divided between the Swedish Red Cross Society and the Swedish Save the Children Association.

China — Chinese Government is ready to contribute 200,000 pounds of rice, 100,000 pounds of sugar and 10,000 pounds of black tea for the relief of Hungarian refugees who have escaped from Hungary. The Government undertakes to pay for the transport expenses of these goods (total contribution is roughly equivalent of $50,000 U.S.).

Netherlands — Two notes: one of 21 and the second of 23 November.

Netherlands is arranging to receive 700 more refugees than the 1,300 who have already arrived. Expenses are being borne by "National Committee for Relief to Hungary" assisted as necessary by the Government. For current year Netherlands Government will make an extra contribution to UNREF of 100,000 guilders. Netherlands Red Cross units are active in Austria and Hungary and have supplied blood plasma, medical supplies, foodstuffs, etc. and trucks, ambulances and blankets. Dispatch of more Red Cross units is under preparation. The National Committee for Relief to Hungary has so far received contributions to the amount of 1,595,000 florins. The Netherlands Red Cross has collected 1,927,784 florins in financial contributions and 1,212,699 florins in material aid.

Uruguay — Letter of 24 November.

Government offers asylum to 100 Hungarians, preferably farmers.

B. Information from Office of UNHCR as at Friday, 23 November at 6.25 p.m.

During the day of 22 November there were 3,600 arrivals in Austria bringing total arrivals to 61,000.

It was considered that approximately 51,000 refugees were in Austria (telegram of 6.25 p.m. Geneva time, 23 November), of which 31,773 are accounted for in camps and 16,455 in private houses.

UNHCR has not yet received any further information today.

MJ/clc

Mr. Myer Cohen

23 November 6

SO ~~530~~ 535/1 UN

Mary Jeffreys

REC CONTROL

Daily report

23 NOV 1956

x ref 50 535/2 UN

A. Communications from governments

The following communications have been received since my note of 21 November:

Greece Note of 17 November from Permanent Representative.

Greek Government has already offered to the Hungarian people through the intermediary of the Greek Red Cross assistance in convertible currency and in goods to the value of $3,000.

Turkey Letter of 19 November from Permanent Representative-medical supplies and blankets have been sent to Hungary by Turkish Red Crescent Society.

Turkish Government also concurred in decision of European Council which will appropriate 73 million francs from its 1955 (?) budget for aid to the Hungarian people

Council of Europe?

(Decision to receive 500 refugees already reported upon).

Iceland Note of 21 November from Permanent Delegation.

General collection in Iceland for relief to Hungary amounts to Icelandic Kronur 620,000, (this amount probably to be used mainly for purchase of medicinal cod liver oil subject to confirmation of the International Red Cross).

B. Information from Office of UNHCR as at Wednesday night, 21 November

Registered arrivals in Austria: 41,111.

(In addition large numbers not registered making probable arrivals since beginning of emergency at least 55,122)

Departures number: 9,400

Broken up as follows:

Switzerland	2,739	with 460 awaiting movement
Belgium	2,423	
Netherlands	1,279	" 300 " "

Germany	1,154	with	422	awaiting	movement
U.K.	714	"	200	"	"
Sweden	555	"	200	"	"
France	242	"	250	"	"
U.S.	206	"	130	"	"
Australia		"	150	"	"
	Total awaiting movement		1,962		

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

RECORDS CONTROL

TO: Secretary-General

Date: 14 November 1956

FILE NO.: SO 535/1 UN.

THROUGH:

FROM: Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs

SUBJECT: Hungarian Relief

1. I should like to give you a brief statement of our conception of relief operations within Hungary. We have assumed, in view of the urgency of the situation, it would not be feasible to conceive of establishing United Nations machinery for the supplying of relief to Hungary. The actual operations involved in such a programme are:

(1) Securing a list of requirements;

(2) Reviewing such a list in order to determine the validity of the requests;

(3) Exploration of ways and means of securing the supplies needed -- this includes securing funds from Member Governments and various humanitarian organizations;

(4) Purchase of supplies;

(5) Transportation of supplies, either overseas, over land or by air;

(6) Turning the supplies over to responsible officials or organizations in Hungary for distribution;

(7) Some degree of assurance that the supplies are distributed in accordance with the purposes with which they are granted.

2. With this type of an operation in mind, we have been proceeding on the assumption that the task could be most expeditiously carried out by the International Red Cross (CICR), which, as you know, has its headquarters in Geneva, working in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies. It is our understanding that the International Red Cross is staffed and prepared to carry out the operations listed above. To the extent that they do not now possess all of the personnel required, they could rather quickly secure additional staff for work on the above-listed operations, including the distribution of supplies in Hungary.

3. I have had several trans-Atlantic talks with M. Boissier, the Secretary-General of the International Red Cross, and he has indicated a lively interest in undertaking this difficult task. He has made it clear, however, that the International Red Cross could not serve in a strict sense as the agent of the United Nations, although he is quite prepared that the United Nations should act as a channel for various resources (supplies and funds) to the International Red Cross. M. Boissier has been in negotiation with the Hungarian Red Cross in Vienna, with a view to arranging the necessary details for the actual relief operations. Once he has secured agreement with the Hungarian Red Cross and the Hungarian Government, I propose that the United Nations and the specialized agencies maintain close

liaison with the International Red Cross in order to assist the operation in all ways possible.

4. I believe that the United Nations should serve as a means of helping to raise funds through contributions from Member Governments and humanitarian organizations and that if required a limited number of personnel from the specialized agencies could serve in technical capacities in connexion with the operation. I have already had indications from FAO and WHO of their willingness to assist as requested.

5. It is possible also that assistance from UNICEF will be required, and this too should be co-ordinated with the work of the International Red Cross. It is understood, of course, that UNICEF could only assist if requested to do so by the Hungarian Government.

6. I have outlined our conception of this operation above so that you would be fully aware of the steps being taken to carry out the resolutions of the General Assembly and to bring relief to Hungary as quickly as possible. References in the press which refer to United Nations relief supplies and United Nations supervision over distribution are giving me some concern, since I do not believe there is any possibility of either being done in a satisfactory manner at present. There is a further danger in these reports, namely, that the International Red Cross will feel that its position of neutrality is being compromised and that it will not be able to proceed with the operation along the lines we had hoped. I have already had a telegram this morning from M. Boissier expressing his concern on this matter.

7. It is my recommendation that for the reasons given above, we should proceed immediately to conclude negotiations with the International Red Cross and with the League of Red Cross Societies, so that the operation can get under way without delay and also so that we may be of the greatest assistance to these two organizations through securing supplies and funds and in other appropriate ways. In my view this is the best means for bringing immediate relief to the Hungarian people. However, if after your visit to Budapest you thought it was in the interest of the United Nations to establish its own operating machinery for the provision of relief in emergency situations, and if funds were made available for this purpose, we could proceed to do this at the same time as the emergency operation is being carried on by the International Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies and could conceivably either take over from them or supplement their work if this were considered to be desirable.

Ph. de Seynes

Memo 12 Nov.
from Mr. de Seynes to the S.G.
Subject. The Situation in Hungary
Extract

SO 535/2 UN
20 DEC 1956

B. Relief in Hungary

In a telephone conversation with Mr. Beisecier on 10 November, he said that he was reluctant to become the agent of the United Nations for distributing aid to the Hungarian people for he was anxious to retain the strictest neutrality, but he would probably be willing to accept, under a suitable formula, United Nations money and supplies for use in bringing relief. Since then, the first convoy has entered Hungary and today we have received the Hungarian Note which includes a reply to the note verbale handed by you on Saturday to the Hungarian Representative, which welcomes assistance of the United Nations agencies and the International Red Cross. Tomorrow morning, we have scheduled a meeting with Mr. I. Horvath and, depending on the outcome of our conversation with him, we will then have a clearer picture of whether or not we can approach the International Red Cross as the principal channel for relief to Hungary.

Copy in SO535/1 UN

ENCLOSURE

All papers filed beneath this enclosure have been extracted from the files kept by the Office of the Under-Secretary for Relief to the Hungarian People. None of the material has been placed on the Name Index kept by Records Control

DRAFT

PART A

OFFERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS OF RELIEF TO HUNGARY
TRANSMITTED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY GOVERNMENTS
(as at 12 noon, 27 November)

CAMBODIA

The Cambodian Government offers 3 million French Francs for the relief of the Hungarian people.

CEYLON

The Government of Ceylon is willing to offer 5,000 pounds of tea for the relief of distress in Hungary.

GUATEMALA

Guatemala will contribute for assistance to the people of Hungary 100 quintales of the best coffee.

LUXEMBOURG

The Government of Luxembourg has decided to offer 1 million francs to aid the Hungarian people.

PHILIPPINES

The President of the Philippines has approved a donation of $2,500 to the Hungarians.

TUNISIA

The Government of Tunisia has offered to the Hungarian people through the United Nations:

1 hospital unit (1 doctor and 5 nurses)
1 million francs.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Government has made available £15,000 to the Secretary General in response to the appeal in General Assembly resolution A/res. 399 of 9 November.

(for other funds being made available by the United Kingdom see Part B of this report.)

PART B

INFORMATION TRANSMITTED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING ACTION BEING TAKEN TO PROVIDE RELIEF[1/] TO THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE. (AS AT 12 NOON 27 NOVEMBER 1956).

ALBANIA

(Information available at 16 November)

Albanian government will put at disposal of Hungarian Government:

1,000 tons of petrol for tractors
2,000 rubles

AUSTRIA

(Information available at 16 November)

The Austrian people from the beginning of recent events in Hungary sent assistance to Hungary in the form of food, medical supplies (including blood and plasma) and clothes in very large quantities. It is not possible to make an estimate of the amount and value of the assistance thus provided.

BULGARIA

(Information available at 19 November)

On 10 November the Bulgarian Government decided to render aid to the Hungarian people and immediately to donate the following:

Sugar	-	1,000 tons
Rice	-	700 tons
Beans	-	1,000 tons
Biscuits	-	100 tons
Cement	-	5,000 tons
Beams	-	2,000 cubic meters
Boards	-	2,000 cubic meters
Fire-wood	-	30,000 cubic meters
Black coal	-	26,000 tons
Crude oil	-	3,000 tons

1/ Information provided by Governments concerning assistance to refugees has not been included in this report.

BULGARIA (continued)

A relief fund subsidized by nation-wide donations has been set up at the Central Council of the Bulgarian Red Cross to provide further medical supplies, foodstuffs and manufactured goods.

COLOMBIA

(Information available at 20 November)

Colombian Government has already donated a fund for the Hungarian Relief to the League of Red Cross Societies (Geneva) through National Red Cross.

FINLAND

(Information available at 19 November)

All relief supplies from Finland will be given through International Red Cross.

Aid collection organized by the Finnish Red Cross was estimated to amount to about 80 million Finnmarks.

In addition, the Finnish Government contribution amounts to 50 million Finnmarks.

20 million Marks' worth of medical supplies, food and clothing had already been delivered in accordance with the instructions of the Red Cross Co-ordinating Committee in Vienna. (All further aid will be given through the same channel).

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

(Information available at 16 November)

The Government has appropriated DM 1 million for Hungarian relief.

A German Red Cross hospital unit was active inside Hungary at the beginning of November and also took medical supplies to Budapest. A second relief unit of German Red Cross is at present participating in refugee relief in Austria.

The German Red Cross is furnishing to the International Committee of the Red Cross:

Personnel; motor vehicles; medicine and deliveries in kind.

A collection of the German Red Cross amounted to DM 5 million. (Donations in kind could not be estimated).

GREECE

(Information available at 17 November)

Greek Government has already offered to the Hungarian people through the Greek Red Cross a contribution in convertible currency and goods amounting to $3.000

ICELAND

(Information available at 21 November)

Joint collection has taken place in Iceland for Hungarian relief with a total collection of 620,000 Icelandic kronur. (It is expected that this will be used mainly for purchase of medicinal cod liver oil subject to confirmation by the International Red Cross).

JAPAN

(Information available at 21 November)

Japanese Government considers it appropriate to provide assistance through public subscription to the Japanese Red Cross and subsequently, the International Committee of Red Cross in Geneva.

The Japanese Red Cross has already been receiving substantial contributions from the Japanese people.

Netherlands - See over

POLAND

(Information available at 16 November)

The following supplies have been sent to Hungary:

1,210 litres of blood and plasma
30,700 kilos of medicaments and dressings
87 600 kilos of other supplies such as window panes.

The public collection for the aid fund already totals 18.million zlotys.

NETHERLANDS

(Information at 21 November)

Netherlands Red Cross units are active in Austria and Hungary. On 5 November 1956, the following supplies were shipped to Hungary:

blood plasma; medical supplies; infant food stuffs; condensed milk; canned meat; cheese; cocoa; trucks; 5 ambulances; 2,500 blankets; 3,000 sheets and pillow cases.

Despatch of more Red Cross units is in preparation

The Netherlands population is making generous donations to Netherlands Red Cross and Nationsl Committee for Relief to Hungary.

(Information at 23 November)

Netherlands Red Cross had collected 1.927.784.00 guilders in financial contributions and 1.212.699.00 guilders in material aid. (It is not known what proportion of these funds will be used for assistance to refugees and relief inside Hungary, respectively).

ROMANIA

(Information available at 19 November)

Romanian Government has decided to give to Hungary 13 million lei.

Romanian Organizations near the frontier have also made available to Hungarian Organizations:

food stuffs; vegetables; window glass
fuel oil; and other products.

SWEDEN

(Information available at 22 November)

The Swedish Government has turned over to the Swedish Red Cross medical supplies (including instruments and medicine) valued at 495 thousand kronor and has made military aircraft available for transport.

It is estimated that non-governmental organizations in Sweden had (up to 19 November) shipped assistance in kind to the value of 4.1 million kronor to Austria and Hungary.

These shipments include:

213 tons of medical supplies
food stuffs and clothes valued at 2 million kronor sent by the Swedish Red Cross Society (Government contribution of medical supplies referred to above forms part of this shipment) and
125 tons of children's clothes, food stuffs and medicine sent by the Swedish Save the Children Association.

It is estimated that a fund-raising drive by the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation will result in a sum of 8 million kronor. This will be equally divided between the Swedish Red Cross Society and the Swedish Save the Children Association for aid to Hungary.

TURKEY

(Information available at 19 November)

Various types of medical supplies and blankets have been sent to Hungary by the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

U.S.S.R. (Information available at 26 November)

The Soviet Government as a matter of first priority is supplying:

50,000 tons of grain and flour; 3,000 tons of meat; 2,000 tons of butter; 3 million tins of milk; 5,000 tons of sugar; 100,000 tons of coal; 10,000 tons of cement; 10,000 cubic metres of lumber; 5.000 cubic metres of round building timber; 300,000 square metres of window glass; 1,000 tons of light sheet iron; 3,000 tons of rolled ferrous metal; a large quantity of drugs; and other products.

A considerable quantity of building material and equipment is being donated to the Budapest Municipal Council under a decision of the Moscow Council of Workers' Deputies.

Government granted to Hungary a credit of 100 million roubles (consisting of 60 million roubles worth of goods particularly required such as: coke lead, cotton, synthetic rubber etc.) and 40 million roubles in convertible currency.

U.S.S.R. Government is already supplying Hungary with 100,000 tons of oil and 70,000 tons of coke over and above the amounts supplied for 1956 under existing trade agreements.

UNITED KINGDOM

(Information available at 27 November)

Government has made two grants of £25,000 each to the British Red Cross for supplies to Hungary and have borne transport costs of the supplies totalling about £15,000 (funds being made available to the Secretary General are recorded in part A of this report).

Funds raised in the United Kingdom by public subscription totalled approximately £545,000 on 21 November. ~~These figures include:~~

~~£265,000 (Lord Mayor of London - Hungarian relief fund)~~
~~£159,000 (British Red Cross)~~
~~£ 53,000 (British United Nations Association)~~
~~£ 27,500 (Save the Children Fund)~~

Most of these funds will be used for the provision of supplies, transport etc. directly in Austria (the British Red Cross has already spent over £ 85,000 in this manner).

Total financial contributions (including those made to Refugees) have already been made by Governmental and public subscription amounting to a total of approximately £ 650,000 or the equivalent of more than $1,800,000.

It is not known what proportion of these funds will be allocated for refugees in Austria or relief in Hungary respectively.

PART C

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF FORTHCOMING RELIEF SUPPLIES TO HUNGARY

The following information has been received from Mr. Myrdal, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe.

Offers of relief supplies of eastern countries as at 10 November

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Total value - 13 million dollars

of which:

Flour	-	5,000 tons
Potatoes	-	5,000 tons
Meat	-	100 tons
Firewood	-	3,600 tons
Window glass	-	100.000 square metres
Roofing materials	-	325,000 square metres
Sawn timber	-	3,000 cubic metres
Round timber	-	2,000 cubic metres
Cement	-	5,000 tons
Lime	-	10,000 tons

Additional deliveries - 7 million dollars (consumer goods, pharmaceutics)

CHINA: Total value - 7.5 million dollars

EAST GERMANY: Total value - 10 million dollars

MONGOLIA:

Wheat	-	2,000 tons
Meat	-	115 tons

Note: Pharmaceutics and medical supplies are not specifically listed.