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534/31(1)

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CR. 37 (5-55)

FOR CONNECTED FILES SEE INSIDE COVER

POUR LES DOSSIERS CONNEXES VOIR AU VERSO

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CONFIDENTIAL

534/31(1)

TELEPRINTER CONFERENCE BETWEEN MR. COHEN & MISS COHN (NEWYORK) AND MSSRS
ALEXANDER & OBEZ (GENEVA), TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER 1956, 1103-1242 EST.

FROM NEWYORK:

MISS COHN PRESENT OUR END

- I DONOT WANT TO GO INTO SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSALS AND COUNTER PRPOSALS
REGARDING US CONTRIBUTION OF 4 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSED BETWEEN READ AND MYER COHEN. HOWEVER THERE IS A VERY
REAL PRACTICAL PROBLEM. AT THE END OF HIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
WITH COHEN LAST NIGHT, READ PROMISED TO LET COHEN KNOW TODAY
WHAT HIS DECISION WAS. NO MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED HERE.
CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THIS ALL STANDS?

OVER

- I PRESUME YOU ARE ACQUAINTED WITH READS TELECON YESTERDAY
REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF US CONTRIBUTION. THE DECISION
READ HAD TO MAKE WAS REGARDING WHETHER UNHCR WOULD TURN OVER
A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT TO AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT, IMMEDIATELY,
AND PREFERRABLY UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE AUSTRIAN GOVT.
BEFORE THE UN WILL TURN OVER ANY OF THE 4 MILLION TO UNHCR
THEY MUST HAVE SOME WORD FROM READ.

OVER

- YES

- HAVE JUST SPOKEN TO STATE DEPT WHO HAS RECEIVED THOMPSONS

MESSAGE ALONG LINE YOU ARE INDICATING WHICH DOES HAVE A DIFFERENCE.
AGREE. CAN YOU AFFIRM HOWEVER THAT READ IS WILLING TO TURN OVER
THE 2 MILLION AS YOU OUTLINED? HE WAS NOT WILLING YESTERDAY
TO TURN OVER ANYTHING BEFORE A WEEK OF NEGOTIATION. THIS
IS CRUCIAL PART BUT IT IS HOPED THAT MONEY WOULD BE TURNED OVER
UNDER SOME FORM OF AGREEMENT. HOWEVER I DONOT WANT TO
GET INTO SUBSTANCE AS COHEN WANTS TO HANDLE THIS HIMSELF AND HAS
ASKED FOR READS ADDRESS IN VIENNA SO WE CAN REACH HIM.
WHAT IS HOTEL IN CASE WE CANOT REACH THROUGH BRANCK OFFICE?

OVER

- PLS ANSWER ABOUT HOTEL WHERE READ CAN BE REACHED.
I THINK THAT THIS ALL WE CAN DO NOW. NICE TO TALK TO YOU

- WHERE IS RED READ NOW? STILL IN GENEVA?

REGARDING YOUR QUERY IT IS MY PERSONAL OPINION THAT STATE WOULD
CONSIDER PROPOSAL MOST SATISFACTORY BUT QUESTION IS WILL MEYER
COHEN QUERY HOWEVER I WILL USE ALL PRESSURE, INCLUDING MY
INFLUENCE WITH STATE DEPT. IF YOU GET CONTACT FOR READ TONIGHT,
PSE ADVISE SOONEST.

- THAT IS ALL FROM HERE

- I HAVE ONE QUESTION? WOULD THE 2 MILLION TO BE TURNED OVER
TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVT BE UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH THEM? IF SO,
WHAT WOULD THE AGREEMENT COVER? COHEN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WANT TO
KNOW THIS.

RPT FRM WE NOR THE AUSTRIAN GOVT AFTER WORD GOVT GA

- MEYER COHEN IS COMING DOWN NOW TO THIS OFFICE (TELETYPE) AND WILL
COMMENT DIRECTLY ON YOUR PROPOSAL

SOMEONE IMMY GET OBEZ TO THE TELEPRINTER AS COHEN HAD A TELEPHONE
CALL IXKXX INTO HIM AND WILL TALK TO HIM ON TELEPRINTER INSTEAD.
SUGGEST YOU CONTINUE WITH YOUR PROPOSALS SO COHEN HAS FULL PICTURE
WHEN HE ARRIVES IN A MOMENT.

UNITED NATIONS
USA DEC 19 AM 11:47
TELEGRAPH UNIT

XBXKXKXKXKX

MR MEYER COHEN NOW PRESENT

I HAVE ASKED MR MEYER HERE DIRECTLY TO COMMENT ON YOUR PROPOSALS

- I UNDERSTOOD FROM JIM READ LAST NIGHT THAT HE WOULD SEND ME HIS
VIEWS ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE 4 MILLION BEARING IN MIND
THE STRONG DESIRE OF THE US GOVERNMENT THAT AT LEAST 2 MILLION
BE HANDED OVER TO THE AUSTRIANS ON WEDNESDAY MORNING
AND BEARING IN MIND ALSO THE VERY CORRECT VIEW OF HIS THAT IS
MR READS THAT IN TURNING OVER FUNDS THERE SHOULD BE AN AGREEMENT
AND A PROPER PLAN OF OPERATION. DID JIM READ LEAVE ANY SUCH MESSAGE
FOR ME BEFORE HE TOOK OFF FOR GENEVA?

- ALINE SPEAKING

- IT IS CORRECT THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO USE ENTIRE 2 MILLION
FOR LEAGUE OF RED CROSS PROLONGATION?

- COHEN NOW DISCUSSING YOUR PROPOSAL WITH STATE DEPT OVER PHONE
AND PLEASE STAND BY. IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE CARRIES ON THIS

- COHEN NOW DISCUSSING YOUR PROPOSAL WITH STATE DEPT OVER PHONE
AND PLEASE STAND BY. IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE CARRIES ON THIS
CONVERSATION ALONE WITH YOU FOR THE PRESENT.

- MEYER COHEN SPEAKING

- WE HAVE BEEN TALKING WITH STATE DEPT REP NOW IN NY AND THEY ARE
PHONING THE PROPOSALS TO WASHINGTON TO GET REACTION OF MR PHILLIPPS.
IF YOU AGREE, WE MIGHT TAKE A SHORT INTERMISSION ON THIS MATER
WHILE I TALK WITH OBEZ AND THEN WE CAN RETURN TO THIS IN ABOUT
10 OR 15 MINUTES.

- I HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR 2053 CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE VISIT
OF A FAO OFFICIAL TO HUNGARY AND I DONOT QUITE UNDERSTAND
THE CONTENTS OF YOUR CABLE. THE PROBLEM IS ONE FOR CONSIDERATION
BETWEEN THE SECRETARYGENERAL AND DIRECTORGENERAL OF FAO AND I
DONOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WISH US TO WAIT BEFORE COMMUNICATING WITH
THE DIRECTORGENERAL FAO.

OVER

- OK

- OK

-

OK GA PSE

UNITED NATIONS
DEC 18 AM 11:47
TELEGRAPH UNIT

- THATS IS ALL FROM MEYER COHEN

received
1204 EST

Am

- INTERRUPTING LIVE TFC IN ORDER TO SEND MESSAGE FROM MR COHEN

- I HAVE THE FOLLOWING TENATI TENATITIVE PROPOSAL WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BUT NOT FINALLY ACEPTED BY THE STATE DEPT. I WANT TO GIVE IT TO YOU NOW SO THAT YOU CAN PUT IT TO JIM READ WHEN HE PHONES YOU AND CAN PERHAPS THEN ADVISE ME WHETHER THIS IS ACCEPTABLE. THE PROPOSAL IS

1. THE 2 MILLION DOLLARS BE TURNED OVER ON WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY MORNING TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVT,
2. THAT 500,000 DOLLARS BE TURNED OVER AT THE SAME TIME TO THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETY,
3. THAT THE REMAINING 1,500,000 DOLLARS BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, THE AUSTRIAN GOVT, AND THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETY (END OF PROPOSAL)

IF THIS IS ACCEPTABLE TO YOU AND IF I CAN GET THE STATE DEPT TO AGREE AND I THINK I CAN, I WOULD THEN IMMEDIATELY TRANSFER OVER TO YOUR ACCOUNT THE ENTIRE 4 MILLION DOLLARS.

PERHAPS THE QUESTION OF ITEMS 1 AND 2 ABOVE ARE NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR THOSE AMOUNTS COULD BE TURNED OVER BY THE HCR UNDER AGREEMENT FOR MX MUTUALLY AGREED PURPOSE, IF YOU SO DESIRE.

MAY I HAVE YOUR VIEWS PLEASE?

- THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT IS UP TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. I HAVE ONLY SUGGESTED IT ASA SOUND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE.

OVER

- AS INDICATED AT THE BEGGINING OF MY MESSAGE I AM WAITING FOR FINAL OK FROM STATE BUT I BELIEVE WE CAN SECURE IT AND ITEM 1 IS AGREED WITH ME

- I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY YOUR VIEWS ON ITEMS 2 AND 3 AND CERTAINLY WOULD NOT SUGGEST THAT YOU COULD NOT MAKE BILATERAL ARRANEM// ARRANGEMENT WITH THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETY. THE ONE REMAINING PROBLEM AS I SEE IT IS WHETHER THE AUSTRIANS HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE AND THE US GOVT HAS REASON TO DESIRE THAT MORE THAN 2 MILLION DOLLARS GO TO AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. THIS IS THE POINT WHICH NEEDS TO BE CLARIFIED WITH THE STATE DEPT AND I AM TRYING TO DO SO NOW.

OVER

- YES I EXPECT IT J MOMENTARILY
IF WE DONT HAVE IT IN 15 MINUTES, I SUGGEST WE CALL OFF THE TELETYPE AND RESUMEL// RESUMELATER BY CABLE. DO YOU AGREE?

OVER

MIN

- WE HAVE STATE DEPTS ANSWER NOW WHICH WE WILL GIVE YOU IN A MOMENT. IN MEANTIME TO REPLY TO YOUR LAST QUESTION, MR NIXON HAS LEFT WASHINGTON AND IS DUE IN VIENNA TOMORROW.

HERES MEYER COHEN

- THE NEWS IS GOOD AND I AM GLAD TO TELL YOU THAT WE HAVE REACHED FULL AGREEMENT TO PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN OUTLINED BY YOU IN YOUR TELETYPE MESSAGE.

THIS AREE// AGREEMENT IS A BASED ON THE UNDERSTANDING WHICH THE STATE DEPT NOW HAS RECEIVED THAT AMBASSADOR THOMPSON AND THE AUSTRIAN GOVT HAVE AGREED EXACTLY TO THE SAME PROPOSAL THAT YOU HAVE PUT FORWARD WITH REGARD TO ITEMS 2 AND 3.

I WILL TAKE IMMEI IMMEDIATE STEPS TO HAVE THE ENTIRE 4 MILLION DOLLARS TRANSFERRED TO YOU ACCOUNT TO YOUR ACCOUNT IN NEWYORK IN COOPERATION WITH YOUR OFFICE.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL

UNITED
1956 DEC
TELE

- THATS IS ALL FROM MEYER COHEN

- MISS ALINE COHN HAS MORE TO SAY

- CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR NEGOTIATIONS . NEW SUBJECT
ISRAEL DELEGATE HAS REQUESTED ME FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
REGARDING SUBJECT WHICH SHE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING
WITH READ HERE AND WHICH , ACCORDING TO HER , HE HAD SAID

PLS GO AHEAD WITH YOUR CONVERSATION

THIS IS JUST BEING SENT TO SAVE TIME. CAN BE READ LATER.

HE HAD SAID I WOULD HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION ON AFTER HIS DEPARTURE.

HE IS

PLS ANSWER MR MEYER COHEN

- I AGREE THAT 2 MILLION DOLLARS SHOULD BE HANDL// HANDED OVER
TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVT ON THURSDAY MORNING. THE MONEY WILL BE IN
YOUR ACCOUNT WITHIN THREE HOURS OF NOW.

HE HAD SAID I WOULD HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION ON AFTER HIS DEPARTURE.
MR READ HAD HANDLED THIS MATTER BY HIMSELF AND DID NOT LEAVE ANY
INSTRUCTIONS WITH ME NOR DID HE SEND ANY FURTHER INFORMATION
WHICH DELEGATE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE TOMORROW.

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS.? I ASSUME YOU KNOW TO WHAT MATTER
I REFERR WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF CODE DISCUSSIONS FRM GENEVA.
OVER

- THANKS VERY MUCH. THIS IS ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY AND AGAIN THANK
YOU FOR YOUR BRILIANT NEGOTIATIONS AND I AM GLAD THIS MATTER IS
SETTLED. YOU CAN ASU// ASSUME THAT MONEY HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED
WITHOUT FURTHER CONFIRMATION AS INSTRUCTIONS HAVE JUX JUST BEEN
GIVEN TO THIS EFFECT BY MR MEYER COHEN AND OUR UNREF ACCOUNT
NR 2 IS IN SAME BANK WHERE 4 MILLION DOLLARS IS DEPOSITED.
THAT IS ALL AND GOOD NIGHT.

- END OF CONFERENCE CONVERSATION

TELEGRAPH UNIT
10 PM 12.42
NATIONS

WE WILL CONTINUE TELECON MEANWHILE

- COHEN TO OBEZ
- THANK YOU FOR EXPLANATION . IF THE SECGENERAL SENDS A CABLE TO DIRECTORGENERAL OF FAO ON THIS MATTER I WILL IMMEDIATELY SEND YOU A COPY. OUR GENERAL THINKING IS THAT A UN MISSION SHOULD GO IN AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME ACCOMPANIED BY E TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM FAO RATHER THAN AN FAO O// PERSON // PERSON SHOULD GO IN ALONE. HOWEVER THIS MATTER IS BEING DISCUSSED TODAY WITH THE SECRETARYGENERAL. I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. THAT IS ALL AND THANK YOU

- NY
- E OF CONVERSATION CONFERENCE
 - THAT IS ALL WITH OBEZ IS ALEXANDER STILL THERE
 - WE EXPECT TO HAVE A MESSAGE FOR HIM IN A FEW MINUTES

IN THE MEANTIME WE WILL ZRT AND YOU CAN DO THE SAME . THE TELECON IS NOT RPT NOT CONCLUDED AS YET. AWAITING MATERIAL

FINE

UNITED NATIONS
1955 DEC 18 AM 11:55
TELEGRAPH UNIT

27 DEC 1956

Miss A. Cohn, Acting Representative
of the UNHCR
Myer Cohen, Executive Director
for Relief to the Hungarian
People
Relief to the Hungarian People

27 December 1956

SO 534/34 (1) UNHCR

..... I would appreciate if you would bring the
attached correspondence to the attention of the
High Commissioner for Refugees.

*Incoming letter sent to Miss Cohen
with blue slip.*

RECORDS CONTROL

27 DEC 1956

SO 534/31 (1) UNHCR

27 December 1956

Dear Mr. Canaday,

I wish to acknowledge your letter of December 17 addressed to the Secretary-General, enclosing a copy of a letter you have received from Vienna concerning Hungarian refugees.

Your interest in bringing this matter to our attention is very much appreciated as well as the efforts you are making to send blankets and other help in support of the programme of aid for the Hungarian refugees.

I am bringing your letter to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Sincerely yours,

Myer Cohen
Executive Director for
Relief to the Hungarian People

Mr. Ward M. Canaday
The Overland Corporation
Toledo 4, Ohio



*File
refugees*
PS
13/12/56
14/12/56
Mr. De S...
So 534/31(1) UNHCR
29 DEC 1956

8 December 1956

Dear Mr. Voorhees,

When I saw you last Thursday in the company of Mr. Christopher Phillips of the State Department you suggested that I send you a memorandum on the situation of Hungarian refugees especially with regard to the needs of Austria and other countries where the refugees are given temporary asylum.

I am happy to enclose such a memorandum and also to tell you how glad I was to see you back in the role of coordinator of United States efforts in this crisis, having worked with you before in a similar emergency.

It was also fortunate that I could see Hallam Tuck and General Hardig for a few minutes before they left for Vienna. I have informed our representative, Dr. Beermann, in Vienna of their arrival, and instructed him to be in touch with them immediately.

Yours sincerely,

James M. Read
Deputy High Commissioner

Mr. Tracy S. Voorhees
Special Representative on Refugee Problems
White House
Washington, D. C.

cc: Mr. Phillips

JMR/kn

MEMORANDUM

1. The General Assembly on November 9 passed a resolution sponsored by the United States of which Part B reads as follows:

Considering that as a result of the harsh and repressive action of the Soviet armed forces, increasingly large numbers of refugees are being obliged to leave Hungary and seek asylum in neighbouring countries;

(1) Requests the Secretary-General to call upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to consult with other appropriate international agencies and interested governments with a view to making speedy and effective arrangements for emergency assistance to refugees from Hungary.

(2) Urges Member States to make special contributions for this purpose.

2. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees even before the passing of this resolution was actively at work in an endeavour to assist the Austrian Government in this crisis, having issued an appeal on November 5 to approximately fifty governments asking them to take refugees immediately from Austria and also to contribute to the care and maintenance of those remaining on Austrian soil during the winter.

3. Since the passage of the resolution of the General Assembly on November 9 two others have been voted in the same body, both of them sponsored by the United States, the relevant parts of which read as follows:

Requests the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Refugees to make an immediate appeal to both Governments and non-governmental organizations to meet the minimum present needs as estimated in the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees to the Secretary-General and authorizes them to make subsequent appeals on the basis of plans and estimates made by the High Commissioner with the concurrence of his Executive Committee.

and:

Requests the High Commissioner in consultation with the Secretary-General and with the Governments concerned to develop a comprehensive assessment of the needs, both material and financial, of the Hungarian refugees to be submitted to the UNREF Executive Committee for its approval at the earliest possible date.

4. For five years the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has maintained a Branch Office in Vienna headed by Dr. Victor Beermann, who has a staff of some seventeen people. Dr. Beermann is the Chairman of a coordinating committee which includes representatives of the United States Escapee Program, the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, the

League of Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, other voluntary agencies and the Ministry of the Interior.

5. While aware of the fact that Mr. Voorhees' attention is primarily directed at present to the task of transportation to the United States of refugees from Hungary and their reception and placement, the Office of the High Commissioner is hopeful that active consideration will also be given to the very urgent problems of assistance and relief to those refugees remaining in Austria, on whose behalf the Austrian Government and people are carrying out an effort far beyond the possibilities offered by the country's area, population and economy. Mr. Read was happy to hear Mr. Voorhees express interest in the problems of Austria and other countries who have taken refugees from Austria.

6. Actually all the countries with the exception of Italy which have taken Hungarian refugees from Austria have agreed to take them on a permanent basis, and should be able to absorb them without outside aid. Switzerland is taking 4,000 permanently and 6,000 temporarily but her economic resources should make this possible without international assistance.

7. Up to 7 December 1956 119,029 refugees had entered Austria. Of this number 47,718 had left for new destinations in Europe or overseas, leaving 71,311 refugees in Austria. In the last week new refugees have been arriving in that country at the average of 2,500 a day. Departures are currently averaging 3,000 a day but it is not expected that this rate will be maintained into the New Year. It is estimated, therefore, that at least 60,000 Hungarian refugees will remain in Austria for an indefinite time.

8. The refugees entering Austria arrive without baggage or belongings, deprived of any means and in a state of exhaustion. They need to be cared for immediately, to be clothed, lodged and fed. At the present time there exist in Austria 63 camps operated by the Federal Government and seven large reception centers. As of 26 November, the Austrian Government reported having spent for refugees from Hungary during the four preceding weeks 128 million schillings, which corresponds to \$4,800,000.

9. In compliance with the resolutions of the General Assembly cited above, an appeal was addressed jointly by the Secretary-General and the Deputy High Commissioner on November 29, 1956, to Governments members of the Organization and of Specialized Agencies for an additional \$10 million, considered as the minimum sum necessary for emergency aid during the next six months to the estimated 60,000 refugees who will remain in Austria.

10. The figure of \$10 million is based on the minimum needs for Austria for six months, calculated according to the table attached. The appeal does not restrict itself to the needs of Austria, though the emphasis is on the needs of that country. The figure was arrived at by deducting from the total given in the table all the contributions which had been made up to the time of the appeal (November 29), as well as all other substantial contributions from the Red Cross and other sources which could be foreseen at the time as being available for basic requirements of the Hungarian refugees in Austria.

11. Substantial pledges or actual contributions are being received from other governments and Mr. Read was happy to hear that the United States Government will probably continue to contribute generously to this effort to aid Hungarian refugees in Austria and to alleviate the heavy burden being carried by the Austrian Government.

New York
8 December 1956

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED BY AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT

First Six Months, Based on 60,000 Refugees

Care and Maintenance	\$10,800,000
Financial & Welfare Assistance	2,280,000
Transportation (within Austria)	240,000
Accommodation	7,000,000
Furnishings and Equipment	2,500,000
Administrative Costs	400,000
	<hr/>
	\$23,220,000
	<hr/>

RECORDS CONTROL
So 534131(1)
11 JAN 1957

Miss Aline Cohn,
Acting Representative of the High Commissioner
in the United States

7 December

6

Lazlo Hazori,
Office for Relief to the Hungarian People

2247

Extracts of a letter from Mr. Hadik-Barkoczky, 2243 15th Street,
San Francisco 14, California.

The following are extracts of a letter which was received
from Mr. A. Hadik-Barkoczky dated 24 November 1956:

"What have we to do in case the Hungarian families
here get word from escaped relatives, safe now in Austria?
If a son, mother or sister etc. escaped, can this member
of a family here obtain his permit of entry to the United
States right away in avoidance of red tape?"

"As many Hungarian families are 'new comers' them-
selves, they cannot yet afford the expenses of transportation
of their relatives to the United States. What arrangements
to supply means of support are provided, and what have we to
do in respect of a brief result in case of Hungarian family-
sponsors, who are American citizens or who did not obtain their
citizenship yet?"

I have written to Mr. Hadik-Barkoczky that the above questions
were transmitted to you for your attention.