

Repatriation of Displaced Persons in UNRRA Camps - Austria

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REPORT OF CHIEF REPATRIATION OFFICER ON HIS VISIT TO
CAMPS IN THE U.S. ZONE - 20TH & 21ST MAY, 1947.

ASTEN.

My first impression of Asten was one of amazement to find that the Camp was staging an Exhibition of D.P. work. I am of the opinion that the efforts concentrated over a period for this Exhibition could have been more profitably directed towards Repatriation Campaign. Groups of Austrian visitors were being conducted around the Camp, and their presence seemed to be of greater importance than was mine.

There is a very fine exhibition of Posters and Repatriation material at the entrance to the Camp, which is due mainly to the efficiency of their Director.

The screening of the Chetniks by the U.S.A. Authorities has not been completed, as the Army decided to transfer their attention to the Poles recently brought from Hellbrun. The U.S. Army Screening Officer estimates that 50% of the 500 Yugoslavs from Markt Pongau will be found ineligible. No screening of Yugoslavs has taken place for the past four weeks.

The Yugoslav Repatriation Film was shown in the Theatre in Enns, but the people were not favourably impressed, their chief exception to the film being the presence of so many soldiers.

The mail coming into the Camp is handled by the Austrian Post Office situate there, and the residents complain that they receive no favourable reports from home. I requested that this mail should be channelled through UNRRA and a check kept, as is done at Spittal. The Amplifier system in the Camp is not functioning but efforts are to be made to have it put in order, and I have suggested that the transit repatriates passing through this Camp be encouraged to make broadcasts prior to their departure.

The Yugoslav Civilian Repatriation Mission Representative is working in the Camp, but I was informed that he has few callers at his Office. I spoke with both this man and the Welfare Officer and suggested he could be more effectively employed by moving about among the people and cultivating their confidences and answering their questions. I discussed with this Representative the influence of the Chetniks against Repatriation and he was of the opinion that it was considerable. He informed me that one Chetnik, an invalid, had applied for repatriation but on returning to his Barracks was assaulted by other Chetniks. This incident was not known to the Welfare Officer, but I believe the Director was aware of it. I requested that details of this incident be supplied to this Headquarters for the information of the U.S. Army to prove our claim that the presence of the Chetniks is a hindrance to repatriation.

A list of about 40 known anti-repatriationists was handed to the D.P. Officer in Lienz about two months ago, but to-date no action has been taken.

The Welfare Officer claims that he is unaware of any anti-repatriation material coming into the Camp.

I gathered the impression that the Welfare Officer is very identified with the people, many of whom address him by his christian name, and he, in turn, returns this familiarity.

I spoke for about one hour with a Yugoslav Professor who works in the UNRRA Office, and whom the Welfare Officer considers unrepatriable. It was clear to me that this man is a repatriable and I feel certain he could be persuaded to go home. He showed great interest in my discussion about his future prospects and promised he would give serious thought to going home. He asked me when I would return to Asten, and indicated he was anxious to talk to me further. I informed the Welfare Officer that he should devote special attention to this man, as his repatriation would have a beneficial effect on the rest of the Camp.

ASTEN (continued).

I later spoke that an ex-soldier and found he showed signs of thinking towards repatriation and agreed with me that his only possibility of future happiness lay in returning home. I also drew the attention of the Welfare Officer to this man and pointed out that these two people, chosen at random, showed obvious signs of being repatriables.

Among the 70 Yugoslavs from out of Camp and awaiting repatriation at Asten was a lady Doctor of Laws who had been a previous resident in the Camp, and had been my chief Welfare Assistant during my stay there. She was always violently opposed to repatriation and I have spent many hours in the past trying to convince her that it was her duty to her children to go home. She greeted me very effusively and informed me she was leaving the following day. As she had a very large following in the Camp, and was trusted by the women with children, I was amazed to find that the Welfare Officer had made no use of her presence in the Camp to encourage repatriation. I drew his attention to the wonderful opportunity he had missed, and suggested these groups of repatriates coming from outside could be used advantageously in his campaign for repatriation. I asked this lady Doctor to communicate with me immediately she returns home, which she promised to do. I secured her address and will inform Belgrade and suggest every effort be made to have her broadcast back to Asten. I suggest we send a letter from this Headquarters congratulating this woman on her decision to return home, and ask her co-operation in assisting others to do likewise. I am sure she could be of great service to us.

A vast majority of Yugoslavs passing through Asten in transit to Yugoslavia were ex residents of this Camp, and the fact that 70 of them from out of camp are being repatriated, while only three from within the Camp have registered, leaves a doubt in my mind as to the effectiveness of the repatriation drive at Asten.

HELLBRUN.

The atmosphere at Hellbrun is one of good solid work and a sincere effort to implement fully all our directives with regard to Repatriation.

The Director informed me that he was of the opinion that a Ukrainian Civilian Mission is desirable, although the D.Ps themselves have not approached him in this matter.

I discussed with the Welfare Officer the various points laid out in your memo to me and found that adequate attention was being given to each.

I suggested that repatriates give farewell speeches to the Camp prior to leaving for the transport, and this was promised to be done.

I also suggested that mail be checked in an effort to disprove the contention of DPs that very few letters come back from repatriates.

A professor is returning on the next transport, and I arranged that he should give a broadcast to the Camp and promise to broadcast from Warsaw immediately after his arrival there. The details of this will be attended to by the Welfare Officer, who will accompany the repatriates to Warsaw.

The Welfare Officer has also undertaken to bring back letters from returned repatriates and to publish them in the Camp.

I also suggested the formation of "Discussion Groups" to discuss the factual information supplied to the DPs.

The fact that a number of the Leaders of the Camp have gone, and are going, home is in itself an indication of the successful work being carried on at this Camp.

22/5/47.

Chief Repatriation Officer.

170/R/1

Report on Polish Repatriation Transport.

The Polish Repatriation transport left Salzburg on May 9, 1947. This transport left with 95 repatriates aboard, 68 from Upper Austria, and 27 from Lower Austria. Five persons left the transport during the first night somewhere in Germany making a total of 90 persons actually registering in at Dziedzice.

Escort: There was a total of six American military escort with a lieutenant in charge.

UNRRA persons - Dr. Sillett, Medical Officer and myself; a D.P. Director, acting D.P. Leader for transport, Groujea Zaschner.

Equipment:- Entire transport of freight cars with one hospital car equipped with beds and stove where hot drinks could be made for the D.P.s.

The freight cars were equipped with candles, water, latrine pails and a few ladders. We were later able to secure a supply of lime, several brooms, and cots and blankets for the escort.

Food:- There were three ten-in-one rations, for each person in lieu of the 60 days ration for repatriates. There was also one Indian Red Cross Package for each person. As regards food during the time of transport, there was an over-supply since enough had been put on board for 110 people. It consisted of bread, biscuits, butter, cheese, meat, marmalade, milk, sugar, coffee, tea, and extra milk for the children. An inventory was made quickly of the food, and it was issued to the D.P.s for one 24 hours period each time. Hot drinks were made several times daily in the hospital car. Food was provided by Polish Red Cross several points along the way. At the Reception point there was still one whole cheese, butter and marmalade which were turned over at the reception point to U.N.R.R.A. officials. The remaining tea, coffee, canned milk, biscuits, Red Cross packages and ten-in-one's which were over and above the needs of the transport, and were not perishable were inventoried, receipted for by the escort, and returned with the transport to Salzburg.

There were no problems on the transport except the delays explained by the train crew as unavoidable. Connections were made in Germany with a repatriation train from Augsburg so that by the time we arrived in Poland, total transport was more than 600 persons. Since the other section was much larger than the one from Austria, our section was cared for first. All of ours were unloaded at the reception centre by noon on the 13th May.

The UNRRA Officials stationed at Dziedzice to supervise the food distributions expressed their surprise and appreciation regarding the execution of the unloading and food distribution of the transport. I feel that all due credit should go to the D.P. leader of the transport and the military escort who although they had no previous experience in this work and seemed to know little as to how to proceed, were completely cooperative and helpful during the entire journey. All took their responsibilities seriously. After seeing that all were cared for at the reception centre, Dr. Sillett and I proceeded on to Katowice, and I proceeded on to Warsaw the same night.

Before leaving Dziedzice I attempted to verify the present addresses of former repatriates whom I planned to interview. I found, however, that records of repatriates are maintained not by UNRRA but by P.U.R. Officials stationed there. Because of the thousands entering this reception centre, records are not kept alphabetically, but only by transport numbers depending on the date and place from which transport originated. Since I did not have this information from Austria, nothing further could be done until I could communicate with Vienna.

M. MITCHELL
Chief Care and Welfare Branch.

TRANSPORT - May 28.

Mrs. Mitchell

HQ/R/1

Capt. Mikkelsen did an excellent job for the Army in cooperating with UNRRA for train supplies. The number of box cars was adequate, numbering an average of 12 persons per car. Steps for the Salzburg trains were provided for the first time, 50 army cots, 63 blankets, stores in the children's and hospital cars, candles, toilet paper, adequate food. The UNRRA milk for the children was welcome and well used. The three box cars for the 18 unaccompanied children were equipped by the Reception Center team with slats across the doors for safety, and other families with children, seeing this, improvised similar bars. Prof. Zenon Winski from Hellbrunn took the responsibility of DP train commander and also rode in a children's car to help the 3 boy scouts and 3 nurses care for the children. Lt. Lorett and his 3 soldiers were patient and reasonable and did a good job thruout. Miss Houseman, the nurse and I, rode in the extra hospital car sent to the children.

Ideal weather thruout the trip was a large factor - the beauties of the German hills - the wildflowers, woods and grainfields of Czechoslovakia were all at their best. The people could buy good beer to quench their thirsts in Czechoslovakia, the two week old baby slept peacefully, the children quitted down and began to enjoy the trip after the first night, and from every angle, it was indeed a pleasant journey home for the people. Musical instruments came out along the way, and the people gave expression to their satisfaction.

The train left Salzburg about 8 pm Wednesday. Thursday morning at 7.30 we stopped at Regensburg and daily rations were distributed. The Linz section train commander with the Lt. took charge. The measuring went slowly, and distribution had to be finished at Schwanfeld, the next stop, at 10.30am, altho we stopped 1 1/2 hrs in Regensburg. At Schwanfeld the locomotive switched to the other end of the cars, putting the children in front for the run to Czechoslovakia. The last stop in Germany was Furth in Wald, where a superficial check of the train was made.

In Czechoslovakia we made an early evening stop at Pilsen, for a few hours, and at last a delegation came requesting that 10-in-1s be issued now as they were "hungry". Even Mr. Winski blushed when he told me the delegation request. The obvious fact that cigarettes in the 10-in-1s are negotiable in Czechoslovakia and hence in demand was soon clarified. We explained we would prefer to keep the people sober and the request was impossible, so the delegation disbanded.

I should like to give the Hellbrunn nurse, Wanda Avent the two girls and the three boy scouts and the children themselves special commendation for their making the trip a success.

May 30, ration distribution went much faster, also at 7.30, but within 45 minutes, as the careful measuring was abandoned in favor of generous estimating. We made a long stop at the Polish border. Music was again prevalent. A repatriation hospital train from Regensburg, quite deluxe, stopped beside us there. The people said they hoped they would be allowed to sleep on the tracks in Dziedzice till morning, but borders are not so simple, and at 2:30 am we awakened to very loud radio music - national Polish songs, and then announcements that each car leader should report to the Polish Red Cross Hut - we were in Zelaznyowice. We had our passports stamped - the children received hot milk and the adults received soup. A train check was made, and all was in order. Our Hellbrunn lad who brought his motorcycle was particularly pleased, as it was officially OK'd for him to keep. Songs and announcements continued. It was light at 4 a.m.

One piece of information we didnt have was requested - how many people are planning to travel to the larger cities - Krakow, Posnan, Warsaw and would like box car space arranged at Dziedzice? This we couldnt answer. Everyone was awake when we left at 4:30 and watching the Polish countryside - even here occasional bombing showed. The people threw their extra bread to peasants standing by the tracks. We arrived in the Dziedzice yard at 6:30 am and saw another large train being unloaded on the siding. At 11 a.m. we pulled over and began our unloading. We had previously done a strenuous job of recovering army property, but a small loss - 8 blankets, 4 cots could not be reconciled. Lt. Lorett and Mr. Fruhling of UNRRA went to work on 60 day food and Red Cross Parcel distribution.

Before the main issue, however, Mrs. Germanova and her staff from the Polish Red Cross took a bulk issue for the 18 children and unloaded them and their luggage to take to the home near Katowice. This time the children didn't want to leave their boy scout friends.

The distribution of food for everyone finished shortly after 12, and the people were busy greeting sons, sisters, friends and moving their belongings in little carts up to the Reception Center. Altho it was already Saturday afternoon, processing continued swiftly by PUR in the Reception Center. Pictures were taken for identity documents and records were made. The people were housed in good barracks. I saw some of our people leave that afternoon and others the next morning, Sunday. Some of them had to stay a few days especially the ones going to resettled territories where more planning is necessary.

With travel orders to Warsaw, I was allowed off the train and spent Sunday nite in the UNRRA - Army billet in Rzedzie. I found Sunday morning that a train was taking the Warsaw people in 3 box cars at 11 a.m. I packed and went to the station to accompany them. They were waiting there for the train to come with piles of boxes, luggage, furniture, bicycles - about 36 people. The train, a regular passenger train pulled in, with the 3 box cars on the end - they had 15 minutes to load. The wildest scramble imaginable ensued - no systematic loading possible - boxes were also loaded in an empty coach preceding the box cars. The box cars themselves were piled ceiling high - people were squatting dangerously on top of them. Mr. Rybowski was yelling that he'd left his documents, and 2 chairs sat vacant on the ramp as the train pulled out. Mr. Winski with whom I'd planned to travel was way back in one corner of a car, under what I don't know, and I couldn't even say where I'd meet him in Warsaw. Later I learned that the coach was for the people and the cars for the luggage - I don't know who made the mistake or if the people knew about the coach.

A train for Warsaw was leaving. Psczycyna, 9 kilometres from Dziedzicze at midnite, and the Lt. stationed in dropped me there in the early evening. I took a book to read, but ~~just~~ a woman offered to show me the castle and park. Psczycyna dates from 1200 is undamaged and picturesque, but having the confusing German-Polish ownership background. The woman's husband is a head bookkeeper for a coal mine in Katowice. He earns 7000 Zloty monthly, but she says 15000 is a minimum necessity to feed and house a family of 4. Hence one must have two jobs or continually sell possessions. We saw the lovely park, rhododendrons in full bloom, and talked for an hour. Then as I cut across the square some woman with their children stopped me to talk and then took me to have supper with them. They too are having a difficult financial time, relying on relatives; they are waiting for their husbands to come back - but I found their husbands are German PWs in the British Zone. Later I talked to a young man at the station who told me he works in a bakery for 2400 Zloty monthly.

The train to Warsaw was crowded but fast and comfortable. - No sleeper was available. The forests and grain fields showed in the full moon light, but near Warsaw by day, the grain looked dry. There's been no rain in May, and a drouth is imminent.

Of all the stories one hears of Warsaw's ruin, of cities one may have seen - Frankfurt - Vienna - one is still not prepared for the mile after mile of ~~plagant~~ desolation - of anonymity in rubble which comprises the fiend - made desolation once known as Warsaw. The natives comment sadly that the spots they once knew - where was their first rendezvous - beloved spots - are unrecognized - only another block in the endless chain of dusty debris - bricks - broken rusted metal and cement dust. Their own town is a stranger to them. Only when I passed by the unknown soldiers tomb - the city hall - the gutted opera house did I catch a slight feel that here once was a city. There is so little beauty - that necessity of life - left for the people. But there were flowers, oranges, lemons, strawberries, cherries, peddled on the street - little stores with charming modern displays - ~~got~~ ^{lingerie} delightful, if one did not glance up to the broken skeleton of a building above. Everywhere loads of debris are being removed, but it is an Augean stable task. Women walk by barefoot there goes an 8 yr old beggar - one legged on a crutch. It is so sad and so huge and so gaunt that the newcomer must wonder how anyone even dared the task of removing, the first fallen ~~rich~~ ^{rich} to rebuild a home. And yet the people here have seen the rebirth progress - the UNRRA building itself was finished after the war - bricks fill in and new plaster and debris goes out maybe only one floor where five stood before - and the University flourishes and the museum telephone work even better - life rises and 40,000 people live in Warsaw - one third

of the normal population.

I had dinner in the garden restaurant of the Polonia - where white walls, green lattice, murals, electric light - vines - a fountain - a tree and music create an elegant atmosphere. The best to eat, yet a heavy evening wind was blowing dust from the rubble in our food and at one time a harsh crash and an extra dirt spray loosened a fallen bit of brick work in the background above. The people stirred a little and murmured. Yes this is Warsaw - rather lovingly. One knows the city will again stand in new beauty.

Monday morning when I arrived, it was still too early to greet the UNRRA staff, so I took the precious taxi driver - he spoke English after 5 years in the RAF, on several errands, and went out to a workers housing project where I found one of our Hellbrunn men Mr. Dykowski from the transport only a few hours home with his wife, twin daughters and 3 sons. He was so excited and happy he could not say enough, but must repeatedly thank God and everyone that he is home - that he must write at once and shall take the letter telling everyone to come home. I took pictures of all the family and promised to come back for the letter.

UNRRA HQ agreed to make an appointment for me with the radio programmer and Mr. Hayes and Mr. Sabin took me to lunch. The appointment was made for Tuesday a.m. and I got a few hours of postponed sleep.

Tuesday morning I met Mr. Boguslawski of the Polish Radio in Warsaw, and we discussed plans. He was most cooperative and helpful. No censorship of speeches would be considered. He approved of my 3 choices for speeches - said let Mr. Kazorowski, the tenor, sing instead. He didn't like too much talking, and if the tenor was good their radio could use him. In the afternoon I took an UNRRA car and a translator and visited Mr. Dykowski again who agreed to speak and also Mr. Kazorowski, in a suburb of Warsaw with his mother. He too agreed to come.

The next morning Wednesday, I took Maria Kapinski, as interpreter from the Welfare Office and we set off after UNRRA transport delays, at 10:30 a.m. Dostamea, Nowe Miasto, about 80 kilometres. The trip took us into the country from ravaged Warsaw through grain fields some thriving some touched by the drought, through forests - small towns - in many places German tanks and trucks lay rusting - on, over dusty roads - through Grojec where the weekly market day had brought countless people, horses, wagons - stalls were busy and people intense and gay though the market day is a fraction of pre-war scale. On to the village of Dostamea where Prof. Winski had his new home. He was living in the back of a school with his wife and 4 children, in two rooms. His invitation for me to stay overnight was so urgent, that since Thursday was an official holiday. I accepted, and sent the car back at 3 p.m. after being assured a train did run from Nowe Miasto 4 kilometres distant.

Prof. Winski had arrived home Monday. He was terribly depressed - because of the poverty all about and because the war had not skipped over his charming wife. Since his absence in concentration camps and in Austria; she had developed a religious zeal approaching a psychosis, spending hours each day in lunch, refusing to eat meat and neglecting the children. She talks directly at intervals. He has a daughter 5 years he had never seen, a boy 17 years, a daughter 11, and a boy 15 who met him at Dziedzice. The 11 years old daughter had been with his sister, a school teacher 20 kilometres distant, and I witnessed the first reunion of the 3 Wednesday evening. The 2 daughters, as is normal, cannot see enough of their father and guard him jealously.

The town of Dostamea has about 800 persons, while Nowe Miasto has 3000. The towns lie above the valley of the Pilica river. We swam in the river Wednesday evening - in the river valley were grazing two large herd of cattle also many horses, pigs and ducks. It was a fruitful peaceful pastoral scene. The animals are now owned and tended collectively by the town. The horses in the town are mainly thatched huts, dust is very thick all about but grain, and first trees are growing. The children seem healthy. It is a very primitive life, however.

Thursday was Corpus Christi Day and we ~~walked~~ walked to Nowe Miasto for services - to see with several thousand others the colorful procession by the 4 altars built in the public square. Prof. Winski met many old friends, and we had the Polish gold fruit soup with one family. The daughter, after 3 years of English in high school, tried her skill with me, and did very well.

Prof. Winski said that all his friends mourn the poverty of Poland and see little future ahead for its prosperity. His own family ate potatoes and sour milk except for a portion of hash and macaroni from the 10-in-1s and a sausage that his sister brought. We took a horse cart to the Nowe Miasto station Thursday afternoon at 4 pm and in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs arrived in the outskirts of Warsaw 24 kilometres distant. The "train" was crowded with returning holiday people.

By truck and horse carriage we came to to the heart of Warsaw, and Prof. Winski hurried to reach his cousins house by 10 pm to secure an overnite sleeping permit.

Friday morning Mr. Dybowski, Mr. Kazorowski, Prof. Winski and I met with Mr. Boguslawski at the Polish radio station to prepare the evening program. Stenographers typed the speeches of Mr. Dybowski and Prof. Winski and we walked a few blocks to the Radio studios for recording. Here Mr. Kazorowski rehearsed once with his accompaniest. It was decided to have him sing directly over the air as the radio recording facilities are not adequate at present for the best music recording.

Then began the speech recording - first the microphones were imperfect - then Mr. Dybowski who had carefully rehearsed his speech and his family at home and denied any nervousness was siezed with the malady of many greater artists - mike fright. He became suddenly unable to talk and only the friendly interview technique of Mr. Boguslawski restored his confidence. Then Prof. Winski who had been celebrating his home coming with his cousin became ill and had to leave the studio. The mike had bugs anyway, so we walked to another studio, and finally at 3 pm, we left the studio having heard the played - back transcription, which was not perfect, but natural and satisfying. I was particularly pleased because in Rzedicze both UNRRA officials were very discouraging, telling me that similar broadcasts had been attempted without success. In Warsaw I had learned that this was true but only because returning DPs were always swallowed up in the country and had not been available for broadcast. The amount of work involved in producing 3 live repatriants on the spot at one time to broad cast for 10 minutes is indeed amazing, but it finally happened, and the program went on the air at 21:00 hrs June 6, 1947, over Warsaw 3, short wave band 49.06.

I went in the late afternoon to UNRRA HQ to report "mission finished" - to thank those who had helped with introductions, transport and interpreters and to pick up my ticket for Prague. That evening I had an excellent dinner with friends, the manager of a chemical factory in Warsaw and his family. The daughter is in University and like all students in Poland is studying doubly hard to make up for the last years.

The glimpses of one week as above related were spotty but left me with the regretful feeling.

Alverda Lerrigo
UNRRA Team 316
Salzburg

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REPORT OF CHIEF REPATRIATION
OFFICER
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1947.

The SPRING REPATRIATION PROGRAMME is in full force in all camps throughout the three Zones of Austria. With the close co-operation of the Polish and Yugoslav Repatriation Mission, much valuable material is being circulated among Displaced Persons, and good results are expected. All UNRRA personnel have been repeatedly requested to intensify their efforts at camp level to ensure the success of this campaign. An Admin. Order has been issued requesting camps to erect large display boards to impress upon the Displaced Persons the short life of UNRRA, and the advice of the various Generals and UNRRA Chiefs to hold regular repatriation rallies and to punctuate all camp social activities with appeals to the Displaced Persons to give urgent consideration to their early repatriation. Arrangements are being made with the Austrian Press and Radio to give wider publicity to repatriation moves.

On 22nd April a transport of 405 Polish Displaced Persons left the British Zone for Poland. This train was accompanied by Dr. Thompson and Nurse Vincent. Another transport of 342 Polish Displaced Persons left the U.S. Zone on 24th April, and was accompanied by Dr. Gerber, Nurse Duvilliers and Mrs. Peinczyhowska.

Among the Poles repatriated from the U.S. Zone was the Canonical Priest of all Poles in Austria. This information was immediately communicated to Warsaw, and a broadcast from this repatriate should be of immeasurable value in influencing those Poles remaining in Austria. The success of Polish repatriation from Austria is being maintained, and the continued close liaison and mutual assistance between the Polish Authorities and UNRRA will, we feel confident, ensure the success of our Spring Repatriation Campaign among the Polish Displaced Persons in Austria.

During the month of April 75 Yugoslavs were repatriated from the British Zone and 9 Yugoslavs from the U.S. Zone.

The reported repatriation of a Yugoslav Army Captain from the U.S. Zone was also communicated to Belgrade, with the request that arrangements be made for him to broadcast back to Austria. The Welfare Officer of Camp Spittal (which contains 4222 Yugoslavs) is now in Yugoslavia and will return after two weeks with answers to queries given her by numerous potential repatriates. She has the confidence of the camp population and it is expected that her visit to Yugoslavia will have a favourable effect on repatriation from that camp. Reports from the Yugoslav Camps indicate that the people are showing active interest in the material being circulated among them. Newspapers and factual pamphlets are eagerly sought by the Displaced Persons and the special Radio programmes are regularly listened to. Again, we must emphasise the undesirability of printed and radioed attacks on selected Displaced Persons in the various camps. Most of the Yugoslav Displaced Persons are victims of anti-repatriation propaganda, and the fear complex it has created is not lessened by these attacks. This point of view was brought to the attention of the Yugoslav Authorities in Vienna, and it is hoped that some action will be taken in Belgrade to omit these attacks in future publications and radio broadcasts. The Yugoslav civilian repatriation Mission is working in the U.S. and British Zones, but no appreciable effect of their influence is yet apparent.

A Conference between the Chief Repatriation Officer and the DP.PW. Division ACA, British Element, was held, and arrangements were made whereby, when necessary, transient repatriates would be permitted to enter UNRRA Camp at Villach pending their early onforwarding to their destination. This arrangement is mainly to facilitate the movement of Poles from the Middle East via Italy.

As a result of numerous representations to the Authorities concerned for the speedier processing of Nominal Rolls from the Far East and the Middle East, we have been informed that as from the 1st April these Lists require clearance from the Austrian Ministry of the Interior only. This obviates the long processing by the Quadripartite Working Party. As most of the Lists submitted to the Ministry of the Interior prior to that date had been cleared by them, and had been passed to the Quadripartite Working Party, from whom no decisions had been forthcoming, it was decided to re-submit these Lists to the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and to have them cleared according to the new arrangement. This was done, with the result that all Nominal Lists except the last one from Shanghai have been cleared. Prospective repatriates, although cleared by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, must prove their claim to Austrian citizenship to the satisfaction of the Austrian Government Representative in the initiating country before they can be finally listed for repatriation.

We were also informed by the Exit and Entrance Division ACA British Element, that in future all groups of repatriates entering Austria must be covered by a collective Passport and Entrance Visa - issued by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior. The Chief Repatriation Officer interviewed Ministerialrat Komers of the Ministry of the Interior, and discussed plans for the implementation of this directive. An assurance was given that the Austrian Authorities would arrange the necessary collective passports and entrance visas for future groups of repatriates coming to Austria.

The first group of Austrian repatriates from Palestine arrived at Venice on 26th April. They were transported by the UNRRA Italian Mission to Villach, where they were transferred to an Austrian train for onforwarding to Vienna. This group was accompanied from Venice to Vienna by Mrs. Mitchell and Nurse Tondreau of this Mission. When the Italian train reached Villach it was discovered that the Austrian Authorities were anxious that the Italian train should proceed direct to Vienna, and thereby obviate the necessity for using Austrian Rolling Stock - which they promised would be arranged for these repatriates. This Headquarters issued instructions that the Italian train was to be returned immediately to Italy, and insisted upon the Austrian Authorities fulfilling their responsibilities. The Repatriation Officer interviewed Ministerialrat Komers and complained of this apparent breach of faith, and insisted that an Austrian train be made available for the transport of these people to Vienna. This was done.

T. James Lindsay

T. James Lindsay.
Chief Repatriation Officer.

3rd May, 1947.

149/R/1

REPORT OF CHIEF REPATRIATION OFFICER

FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1947.

During the month of MARCH a Polish Repatriation Train, scheduled to leave the British Zone, was cancelled by the British Army Authorities through lack of fuel. A transport of Polish repatriates left Salzburg in the U.S. Zone on the 20th March with _____ persons aboard. This transport was accompanied by Dr. _____ Nurse _____ and Miss _____ Welfare Officer. 11 Polish Displaced Persons were repatriated from the French Zone, and 74 Yugoslavs from the British Zone.

Throughout all three Zones of Austria the UNRRA Repatriation Drive has been successfully maintained in spite of the adverse weather conditions and the disturbing influence of the Brazillian Mission which, in conjunction with the I.G.C.R., began its quest for emigrants in the U.S. Zone. With the improvement of weather conditions we had every reason to expect a large scale repatriation move on the part of Polish Displaced persons throughout Austria.

Our chief problem seemed to be one of obtaining sufficient transport to convey to Poland the large number of people who had expressed their desire for repatriation. An estimate from the Polish Repatriation Commission set this number at 4,000 persons. The arrival in the Emigration Field of the Brazillian Mission was certainly undesirable at this time, and its effect upon potential repatriates might have been catastrophic but for the immediate action on the part of the Deputy Chief of Mission, who gave instructions to all Zones to widely publicize the extremely limited and comparatively infinitesimal opportunities offered by the Brazillian Mission. Thus was a possible deterrent to repatriation used as repatriation propaganda. This experience has proved how necessary it is in the future to publicize the exact facts concerning requirements of representatives of Governments in quest of emigrants to prevent displaced persons from placing their hopes in reported large-scale emigration schemes instead of accepting repatriation. The facts on eligibility and requirement figures of Governments-seeking emigrants, however disquieting they may be, are infinitely preferable to the exaggerated rumours that are accepted, magnified and spread by the Displaced Persons themselves.

The SPRING REPATRIATION DRIVE was initiated on 24th March, and will continue until 30th June. A conference of all Welfare Officers was held at C.H.Q. and instructions for the implementation of this Drive were given; problems peculiar to individual camps were discussed, and methods of attacking them were decided upon.

In view of the extremely co-operative and helpful attitude of the Polish Government and its representatives in Austria, and their friendly attitude to their nationals in D.P. camps, we feel that, unless some unexpected difficulty arises in the near future, our Drive with these people will be very successful.

The Yugoslavs present a more difficult problem, but we feel that, with the now closer co-operation of the Yugoslav Authorities, and the increasing supply of factual information coming through to the Camps, together with the assistance of the Yugoslav Repatriation Committee at present working in UNRRA Camps, repatriation from among these Displaced Persons will be considerably increased. Special Radio broadcasts from Belgrade, instituted at our suggestion, have been increased to three sessions weekly. The Authorities conducting these broadcasts would be well advised to lay ^{less} stress on their attacks on "Collaborators, Fascists and War Criminals" whom they

claim are being sheltered in camps throughout Austria and Germany. This element will certainly not accept repatriation and should be disregarded in broadcasts to encourage repatriation. These Radio attacks create a guilt-complex in the minds of the innocent Displaced Persons, and thus nullify the purpose for which they were requested. Every effort is being made to have a successfully repatriated Yugoslav pay a return visit to the Camp where he was a resident in an effort to stimulate repatriation.

A conference was held with Colonel Logan-Grey (A.C.A., British Element), the Yugoslav Repatriation Commission and the UNRRA Repatriation Officer, at which arrangements were made for the reception and assistance of this Repatriation Mission in the British Zone. The co-operation of the British Element in facilitating the work of the Mission in the British Zone was assured.

The Repatriation Officer conferred with Major Hornsby, Movements Officer, B.T.A., and discussed the possibility of transport from Italy of Austrian Repatriates from China and the Middle East. In view of the serious shortage of rolling stock and fuel, no assistance could be expected before the end of April, and even then, no guarantee could be given that transport would be available. Under no circumstances would it be possible for rolling stock to go beyond the Austrian border.

The Austrian Civil Authorities were also interviewed on this matter and a promise was received that every effort will be made to give transport facilities from Italy to Austria as soon as weather and fuel conditions improve and approval can be obtained from A.C.A. This possibility will be pursued further, and a conference between the Ministerialrat fur Inneres, the Austrian Railway Authorities and the UNRRA Repatriation Officer has been arranged to take place early in April.

The Chief Repatriation Officer interviewed the Polish Repatriation Commission with a view to obtaining assistance from the Polish Government to help solve the acute transport problem. It was decided to approach the Polish Government with a view to:-

- (a) having transports sent down from Poland to collect repatriates or
- (b) supply fuel for transports emanating from the British Zone of Austria.

The Chief of the Polish Repatriation Mission is at present in Poland and will discuss this matter with his Government.

Repatriation from Shanghai and Palestine.

Further lists of Austrian Nationals during repatriation from Shanghai and Palestine have been received by this H.Q., and are presently being processed by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, who will onforward them to the Quadripartite Working Party for final approval. With the improved weather conditions the problem of housing returning repatriates should be less acute.

The Chief Repatriation Officer, with the Chief of Mission and Deputy Chief of Mission, attended the Repatriation Conference held in Paris 13-15th March.

Miss Warner, Field Supervisor, is absent on furlough and is not expected to return to duty until 7th April.

T. James Lindsay

T. James Lindsay
Chief Repatriation Officer.

TJL/EW
29th March, 1947.

HQR/11

REPORT OF CHIEF REPATRIATION OFFICER

FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1947.

During the month of MARCH a Polish Repatriation Train, scheduled to leave the British Zone, was cancelled by the British Army Authorities through lack of fuel. A transport of Polish repatriates left Salzburg in the U.S. Zone on the 26th March with _____ persons aboard. This transport was accompanied by Dr. _____ Nurse _____ and Miss _____ Welfare Officer. 11 Polish Displaced Persons were repatriated from the French Zone, and 74 Yugoslavs from the British Zone.

Throughout all three Zones of Austria the UNRRA Repatriation Drive has been successfully maintained in spite of the adverse weather conditions and the disturbing influence of the Brazilian Mission which, in conjunction with the I.G.C.R., began its quest for emigrants in the U.S. Zone. With the improvement of weather conditions we had every reason to expect a large scale repatriation move on the part of Polish Displaced persons throughout Austria.

Our chief problem seemed to be one of obtaining sufficient transport to convey to Poland the large number of people who had expressed their desire for repatriation. An estimate from the Polish Repatriation Commission set this number at 4,000 persons. The arrival in the Emigration Field of the Brazilian Mission was certainly undesirable at this time, and its effect upon potential repatriates might have been catastrophic but for the immediate action on the part of the Deputy Chief of Mission, who gave instructions to all Zones to widely publicize the extremely limited and comparatively infinitesimal opportunities offered by the Brazilian Mission. Thus was a possible deterrent to repatriation used as repatriation propaganda. This experience has proved how necessary it is in the future to publicize the exact facts concerning requirements of representatives of Governments in quest of emigrants to prevent displaced persons from placing their hopes in reported large-scale emigration schemes instead of accepting repatriation. The facts on eligibility and requirement figures of Government-seeking emigrants, however disquieting they may be, are infinitely preferable to the exaggerated rumours that are accepted, magnified and spread by the Displaced Persons themselves.

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T. James Lindsay
Chief Repatriation Officer.

HQ/R/11

REPORT OF CHIEF REPATRIATION OFFICER

FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1947.

During the month of February 1947 the intensive repatriation drive was maintained with particular success among the Polish Displaced Persons. Transport originated in the British Zone, and augmented at Salzburg left for Poland on the 18th February, with 192 Poles aboard. This transport was accompanied by Dr. Danby, Nurse Van Urk and Miss Durce acting as Welfare Officer.

U.S. Zone
British Zone
French Zone

At a conference held with the Polish Repatriation Mission, the Chief Repatriation Officer was informed that a large number of Polish Displaced Persons in all zones had expressed their desire to return. This is attributable in no small measure to the repatriation drive conducted in all UNRRA camps, and the implementation of action set out in the Administrative Order No. The opening up of communication channels between returned Displaced Persons and those remaining in Austria has had an extremely beneficial effect on repatriation. The Chief of the Polish Repatriation Mission expressed his keen appreciation of the close liaison and co-operation between UNRRA and his Mission.

A more intensive drive along these lines having proved so successful with the Polish Displaced Persons is underway, and with the co-operation of the Yugoslav authorities we are hopeful of similar results. Regular supplies of Yugoslav newspapers have been arriving from Belgrade, and distributed throughout the camps. The recent amnesty law was mimeographed and a copy has been sent to every Yugoslav family in the UNRRA camps in all zones. Arrangements are in hand for the production of suitable repatriation posters for display in Yugoslav camps. The films depicting life and reconstruction in Yugoslavia have not yet arrived but are expected early in March. These films will be immediately exhibited in all Yugoslav camps.

On 7th February 1947 a conference with Ministerialrat Komers and Captain Pritchard, PW.DP Division, A.C.A. (British Element) was arranged by the Chief Repatriation Officer, to discuss what measures had been taken for the reception and care of the second group of repatriates from Shanghai due to arrive in Vienna on 13th February 1947. The Chief Repatriation Officer emphasised the fact that the responsibility for care of these people would be assumed by the Austrian Authorities at the Austrian Frontier where the UNRRA responsibility would cease. Ministerialrat Komers informed the meeting that the Austrian Government was aware of its responsibility and was doing its utmost to receive and care for these people. It was discovered that the Austrian authorities had no accommodation arranged for these returning repatriates and no-one seemed to have assumed the responsibility. Ministerialrat Komers suggested that either UNRRA or the British Army might assist in this respect and he was informed that neither of these authorities would accept this responsibility which was entirely that of the Austrian Government. In reply to the Chief Repatriation Officer's query as to whether accommodation would be found in time to house these people, Ministerialrat Komers replied that he hoped so.

The Chief Repatriation Officer requested the British Authorities to call a conference on the 8th February with the Austrian authorities concerned to insist that the necessary accommodation be found. At this meeting the Ministry of the Interior was represented by Ministerialrat Komers and representatives from the Wohnungsamt and Austrian Ministry of Social Welfare. It was again discovered that no "definite preparations had been finalised for the housing of the returning repatriates, and the Chief Repatriation Officer insisted that immediate action would be necessary to avert the threatened serious situation. As a result of this conference an extraordinary meeting was held on Monday, 10th February, at the Rathouse at which the Burgomeister of Vienna presided, and immediate steps were implemented to provide accommodation.

On the 13th February a second group of repatriates from Shanghai, numbering 759, reached Vienna. They were met at the Station by representatives of the Austrian Government, UNRRA officials and representatives of the Russian Army. The arriving repatriates were conveyed in trucks supplied by the Austrian government, from the station to the various billets requisitioned by the Austrian Government.

T.J.LINDSAY
Chief Repatriation Officer.

TJL/~~MMW~~
5th March, 1947.

170/R/1

MEMORANDUM

25 February 1947

To: Chief, Eligibility & Repatriation Division

Subject: Yugoslav Repatriation

1. In connection with our Yugoslav repatriation drive, it is desired that Mrs. M. Mitchell visit all UNRRA assembly centers housing Yugoslav DP's at the earliest practicable time. Her itinerary should be arranged so as to visit the following assembly centers first in the order named:

British Zone - Spittal

Judenburg

U.S. Zone - Asten

2. It is desired that Mrs. Mitchell make a general survey of our efforts toward the repatriation of Yugoslavs. She should discuss repatriation of Yugoslavs with all Class I employees of the assembly centers visited with a view to determining exactly what is being done to encourage these people to return to their homeland. Among other things, she should check the following:

- a. Arrangements made for reception of weekly radio broadcasts from Yugoslavia.
- b. Distribution of questions and answers prepared by Yugoslav Government. Insure that one set in Yugoslav language has been distributed to every Yugoslav family and that copies are also posted in places frequented by DP's.
- c. Distribution of newspapers among DP's.
- d. Distribution and publicity given to letters received from DP's who have returned to Yugoslavia.
- e. Use of photographs of Yugoslavia furnished assembly center Directors.
- f. Round table sessions attended by Class I employees and DP barracks leaders.

3. Some of the most important steps we are taking to induce repatriation are mentioned in paragraph 2 above, but it is not intended to limit the discussion to these items. Each and every step mentioned in our Admin. Order 240, subject, Action to Encourage and Effect Repatriation, should be checked.

4. In the event it is found that some repatriation activities which could be followed have not yet been initiated, it is desired that

Mrs. Mitchell inform the assembly center Directors that those steps should be started without further delay.

5. A confidential report showing the existing status of repatriation activities and procedures which will be initiated immediately, together with Mrs. Mitchell's comments, will be furnished the Deputy Chief of Mission.



CHARLES S. MILLER
Colonel, U.S.A., Retired
Deputy Chief of Mission

cc: Mr. Lindsay
✓ Mrs. Mitchell

CSM/b

170/R/1

Repatriation to Poland on February 20th, 1947.

No. of males	801
No. of females	90
No. of children 0-7 yrs.	25.

On February 19th I visited the repatriation train from the British Zone at Salzburg Station. This train had left two days before from Villach and consisted of one third class wagon with supplies and one hospital wagon with 21 beds, and box cars with good heating facilities. The DPs from the French Zone, Innsbruck, arrived that evening and were taken to Hollbrunn Camp for the night. The people from Salzburg and Linz had not yet arrived.

On February 20th in the morning the different UNRRA supplies and Red Cross parcels for the trip were brought to the station and most of them loaded in the third class wagon that was permanently guarded by British soldiers. Stoves and latrines were being installed in the wagons from the American Zone, and food and fuel were brought in for the journey. Gradually the DPs arrived; the train also arrived from the Linz area. The Commanding Officer of the train was on this part.

During the trip from the British Zone some mothers with small children were taken into the hospital wagon and during the 20th people were selected (pregnant women, old people and some sick) for the hospital wagon, leaving enough empty beds for emergency cases for the remainder of the journey. During the day candles, toilet paper, magazines, milk and biscuits for children, and other rations for the day were distributed. During the day a discussion was held about a woman nine months pregnant who was on the train with two children, but finally it was decided to take this woman along as she desired to go back to Poland as soon as possible. A second hospital car was supposed to be installed in the American part of the train, but as the first hospital wagon with 21 beds proved sufficient for this trip, this wagon was kept in reserve for families with children. A woman with TB who had been isolated with her husband was sent off the train back to the sanatorium, as her letter stated that she was travelling at her own risk and that she was seriously ill. This action was taken in cooperation with the Commanding Officer and the Polish Liaison Officer of the train. 1st Lieut. Chyzynski, Polish Liaison Officer, accompanied the train and acted as interpreter and liaison with the Polish people during the trip.

The train left Salzburg at 22.55 in the evening of the 20th. Heating facilities in all wagons were good, and the wagons were not too crowded. Some beds were issued to each wagon and the people who needed special care were taken into the hospital wagon. One blind man arrived late in the evening and was taken into this department. The journey continued satisfactorily. Whenever the train stopped the nurse and myself walked along the different wagons checking up the health conditions and special wishes of the people. Early every morning food was distributed to the people and during the day children's food, candles and other items.

Minor medical cases occurred such as headaches, sore throats, stomach complaints and others. In the hospital wagon we had a case of sciatica and one of bronchitis as well as minor fever cases. The medical equipment was sufficient for the trip.

Just before the train left Prague a woman came to the hospital wagon complaining of pains in the abdomen. When I examined her I found she was in labour and would be delivered very soon. We hardly had time to sterilize instruments and gloves when the baby arrived and I had to deliver under very primitive conditions in the hospital wagon. Mother and daughter were in good condition. The patient was mentally deficient and this might be the reason why, although she was expecting her first baby, she arrived at the last moment before delivery. I had to stop the train to perform this delivery and afterwards the woman and baby were taken by Red Cross

car to a hospital in Prague. A birth certificate was issued to the Polish Liaison Officer signed by the Commanding Officer of the train, the Polish Liaison officer, the nurse and myself.

A minor case of nervous reaction occurred in a woman seven months pregnant, but after treatment with bromides she felt much better.

On February 23rd we passed the Polish border and after arriving at Dziedzice on the morning of the 24th all remaining food and UNRRA supplies were distributed to the children and people on the train. The Red Cross parcels were issued to repatriants after showing their repatriation certificate. A few people did not have the repatriation certificates but were still in possession of ID cards and received their parcel after giving up their ID cards to the Commanding Officer. The people left the train and went to a camp prepared by the Polish Repatriation Commission opposite the station where they were provided with tickets to their home stations, after filling up the official registration form. Some people left the train immediately and did not return to the train to receive their Red Cross parcels. We discovered this since the number of parcels issued was smaller than the number of repatriants. All the remaining Red Cross parcels and UNRRA non-expendable items were turned over to the Commanding Officer of the train who returned to Salzburg on this train. A receipt was signed by him and will be delivered to the Supply Officer in Salzburg.

Recommendations.

1. After regularly checking up the number of repatriants on the train at Salzburg and later after having crossed the Polish border, we found that a number had left the train in Germany. It is therefore very important that ID cards be called in before the departure of the train to prevent people going backwards and forwards on their old ID cards.
2. It is important that Red Cross parcels should only be issued after production of repatriation certificates.
3. Food, amenity and medical supplies proved to be sufficient for the trip.

Lt. M. Danby

M. DANBY.
Medical Officer.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING POLISH REPATRIATION TRAINS.

Your passport should be sent to Vienna as long as possible, beforehand, if possible two weeks before. You will need a Czech visa, a Polish visa, Travel orders for Poland and a Grey card to come back through the Russian Zone.

Make sure you have a sufficient supply of rations before you start the journey. If you are leaving the train at Dziedice you will need ten days rations. If you are returning with the train to Austria you will need fourteen days supply. You should indent for these rations at least three days before departure. Make sure that you have plenty of tea or coffee, tinned milk and sugar.

Take your camp bed, pillow and plenty of blankets, and if possible, a sleeping bag. You should of course take an ample supply of your warmest clothes and strong shoes or boots. You will need your mess tins, knife, fork, spoon, cup, plate, and tin opener.

Take a canvas bucket or enamel basin for washing. If travelling on a train from the U.S. Zone, a tin in which to heat water and a bottle for drinking water are also likely to be useful. Take a supply of toilet paper, D.D.T. and water purifying tablets are also recommended. You may need the former if you stay in any hotels in Poland.

There are few, if any, lighting facilities on these trains. Be sure to take a flash light, and if possible, have candles.

If you are travelling on a train from the American Zone, it is possible that a supply of strong string, nails and wire will be useful, also coat hangers. In case of emergency at Prague, the UNRRA Telephone No. is 64955/6-7.

When you reach Dziedice, contact the UNRRA official at the station. If you are leaving the train there, he will give you information about reaching Katavice. If there is no UNRRA official there, you can buy a train ticket to Katavice, for 60 slotys. Otherwise you will not need any Polish money, as UNRRA in Poland will provide this.

At Katavice you can stay in the Monopole Hotel which is opposite the station and only a few yards from the UNRRA office (No. 13. on the same side of the street). If you go any further into Poland, UNRRA in Katavice will make all the necessary arrangements for you. From the time that you leave the train you will be entitled to a living allowance of 14.00 slotys a day whilst you are on duty.

If you go on to Warsaw, UNRRA there will make the arrangements for your return journey to Prague and book you a through ticket. If you return direct from Katavice UNRRA can only book you to the Czech border, so that you should have a supply of Czech money. This can be obtained on your outward journey through Prague. In that case you can telephone UNRRA and ask them to send you a car to take you to the UNRRA office and ask them for enough money to pay your fare from the Czech Polish border back to Prague. If you do this, make sure of the time of departure of your transport and its number, so that you have no difficulty when you return from the office.

UNRRA in Katavice or Warsaw will inform Prague of the time of your arrival on the return journey. You are entitled to a living allowance of 350 Kroner for each night you spend in Prague on duty.

If you remain on the train throughout you should have no difficulties, but a small sum in Polish slotys is provided to meet any emergencies. You should reclaim this from UNRRA, so that you are able to return the original sum intact to Vienna.

Zlotys:	1300 to the £ (UNRRA rate)
Kronen:	201 to the £.

UNRRA officers travelling on trains are responsible for being present at any searches of D.P. property which are conducted en route (exempt after crossing the Polish Border.)

UNRRA officers on trains are responsible for the UNRRA property put on board, and which has to be returned to Salzburg or Klagenfurt. If no UNRRA officer returns on the train, receipts for all these stores should be obtained from the Train Commander. Immediately on return to Austria these receipts should be sent to the UNRRA Zone Supply Officer in Salzburg or Klagenfurt, as the case may be.

UNRRA officers are responsible for the distribution of the Red Cross Parcels, which must not be distributed until after the Polish Border is crossed. Only in a grave emergency such as the complete breakdown of the milk supply for the children on the train, can they be opened en route, as they are intended for the repatriates on arrival.

If any repatriates have to be put off the train en-route in case of serious illness, full particulars should be recorded and handed to the officials in Dziedice.

3rd December.1946.

100/121

Report on Conditions in Poland affecting Repatriation.

by M. Danby, Medical Officer

(Polish repatriation train February 20th 1947)

After the repatriants had left the train I continued to Katowice, arriving there late on the afternoon of the 24th, and contacted the UNRRA officials. On the morning of the 25th I continued to Warsaw arriving there in the evening, after a long delay. On February 26th I reported to Mr. Berger, Repatriation and Welfare Department, Polish Mission, and we discussed different problems. Amongst these were the amnesty decree by the Polish Government; 33,000 people had already been released from prison. 300 to 400 people who had been hiding in the woods of Poland had come out of hiding. On the 22nd a declaration was made on the rights and freedom of the people. All information concerning these decrees was forwarded to Vienna. Mr. Berger gave me the recent literature on repatriation and after having read this, we had a conference on the spring repatriation programme for Polish DPs for Germany and the possibilities for Austria. This programme was to be discussed in Vienna with Mr. Lindsay and Mrs. West (see attached sheet of matters discussed at conference). The possibility was also discussed of a small group of DPs coming to Poland to study the situation and give personal information on their return to the camps.

After I had given a detailed report on the situation in Austria relating to Jewish camps, the repatriation of Jews was discussed. About 20 Jews had returned on this repatriation train. In the report by Mr. Rosen of August 1946 he reported about the Jewish settlements in Silesia. It was arranged with Mr. Berger that I should visit the Jewish settlements of agriculture and the fishing enterprise at Szczecin, and the Jewish settlement at Wroclaw, Walbrzych and Rychbach industrial centres of Lower Silesia. In answer to my query, Mr. Berger said that all workers would be able to find a job immediately on their return and that there was special need for all trained people, and in particular doctors, nurses and dentists. Housing conditions would be good for repatriants, especially in the recovered territories.

On the 27th I had a conference with the chief of AJDC in Poland, Mr. Bein, who confirmed that Jews who wanted to return to Poland and work could find immediate employment, especially as artisans, in mines, railroads and industries. No possibilities exist for speculation or peddling and such people were not wanted by the Jews themselves in Poland. If groups would like to return, special arrangements for resettlement could be made if AJDC were notified in advance regarding the ages, sex and trades of the repatriants. Mr. Berger told me the same thing concerning the organised return of 50 or more Jewish people. Mr. Bein confirmed that the Jews were treated well by the Polish Government and had all rights and freedom.

After talking to Mr. Bein I had a conference with Lt. Col. Dr. Kahani, Chief Rabbi of Poland, who confirmed to me at the same time that the Jews were well treated by the Government and that there were good possibilities for people who wanted to return. Bigger Jewish communities existed, amongst others at Warsaw and Lodz, and there are 90,000 to 100,000 Jews in Poland at present.

Jewish Settlements at Szczecin. On arriving at Szczecin on the 28th I contacted the Deputy Director of the FUR office, Captain Wichura, as the Director, Mr. Sowinski, had gone away. Captain Wichura put me in touch with the Chairman of the Jewish Committee of Szczecin, Dr. Haber, and the members of the committee, by having one of his officers accompany me and effect the introduction. With the Jewish Committee I discussed the situation and living conditions of Jews in their area and the answers I received indicated that the information given was according to the political

group represented. The Chairman, being a Zionist, told me at the beginning that he would not be able to give me the correct information as he was not interested in the repatriation of Jews to Poland. Other members of the committee belonging to different parties showed great interest in the repatriation of Jews and gave me fully detailed information. We made up a programme to visit the local Jewish social and cultural institutions and to continue to the Jewish fishing enterprise at Tzebiez (formerly Ziegenort) the next day.

We first visited the T.O.Z. (Towzystwo Ochrony Zdrowia - Polish Jewish association for public health) which exists throughout Poland. At Szczecin twelve doctors were giving medical aid to the Jewish community of about 7,000. About 200 out-patients were treated daily and about 20 people were visited in their homes. Among these doctors were several specialists attached to the institution, and there was also a dental clinic. Their own pharmacy, in the same building, prepared about 250 prescriptions a day, free of charge. About 1,000 packages of additional food were issued to sick people each month. I visited the whole building consisting of rooms for medical and minor surgical treatment, a pharmacy, dental clinic and others. More medical equipment was needed.

Then we visited the children's home, Janusza Korczaka, where 68 children from 0 to 5 years stayed during the day. In this home there were different departments for each age group from 0 to 1 and above. The baby department was very well equipped with little cots, playing pens, and chairs and tables and toys for bigger children. Special meals were served to the children according to the necessities of the age group. Well-trained nurses and nurse-aides looked after the children who stayed at this home during the day time and returned to their homes as soon as their mothers had finished work.

We then visited a home for old people where 35 old men and women were living, being taken care of by trained nurses. A central dining room with radio, and an adjoining kitchen and the different bedrooms were visited.

A kindergarten for about 70 children from 4 to 7 years was next visited; we found the children sitting at tables and having a very good afternoon meal. They sang songs for us. I noticed that the children's rooms were decorated with nice paintings and drawings, and the best paintings of the children were on display on the walls, being changed every week. Among these children were several orphans whose parents had died under German occupation.

A school with 8 classes for 350 pupils was next visited. This had been a school building formerly and was well equipped. As it was already late, the children had left. In this school, as well as in the kindergarten, the children were taught in Polish and Yiddish.

On March 1st we left by car belonging to PUR (very bad road conditions) for Tzebiez where we wished to visit the Jewish co-operative Rybak Szczecinski, the fishing enterprise. On 20th October 1946 the director of the enterprise, Mr. Rosenberg, received an order from the Jewish community to build this fishing co-operative. At the moment 20 Jewish families are working at Tzebiez and up to 1st July 1947 50 families can be taken on. Two fish shops of the co-operative were installed at Szczecin; 5 fishing waters near Szczecin hired for sweet-water fish. Tzebiez village, about 20 miles from Szczecin, is situated on the river not far from the coast and at the moment about 16 houses in the village are owned by the co-operative. 35 permanent workers and 15 temporary are employed in this enterprise, among them 8 non-Jewish. The fishing co-operative has two cutters and a motor control boat, and all the nets, motors and fishing tackle were prepared for the coming season. Due to the bad weather conditions fishing will start later than other years. 80 tons of ice had been prepared for export in a bunker and 25 tons of ice in a shed.

The co-operative has a central kitchen where I talked to some of the workers; most of the Jews had come back from Russia where they spent the war years, and they all seemed happy in their new surroundings. We saw other members of the co-operative at their work and I talked to them. They all looked healthy, and had good living conditions - two or more rooms for the families - and well furnished with German furniture. We had our supper with the workers in the central kitchen and a good meal was served consisting of soup, and after this vegetables, meat, potatoes and coffee.

Great damage by war has been done to this area, but on the way to Tzebiez we passed many villages where a large number of houses were still unoccupied and in good condition; we noticed the same thing in Tzebiez itself. Polish repatriants coming to the recovered territories will find good possibilities for living as a great number of farms and houses are still unoccupied and can be obtained by them.

On the way back our car broke down and we had to walk back to Tzebiez and spend the evening with the different Jewish workers of the co-operative until the car was repaired. Several children were living there with their parents.

A big Jewish agricultural settlement was planned and already prepared in a village about 30 miles from Szczecin to concentrate Jewish farmers; at present Jewish farmers were spread over more than 10 villages. No Jews would be living in this new settlement until the spring. Due to very bad road conditions it was impossible to visit these different villages.

On March 2nd I returned to Warsaw and on March 3rd Mr. Berger, Mr. Widdicombe and myself had a talk regarding the Szczecin visit.

Repatriation and Jewish settlements in Silesia. On March 4th I left for Wroclaw and had a meeting with the director of PUR, Mr. Jarmolinski, on the 5th. He gave me general information on repatriation in Silesia. From Russia and east of the Curzon line 1,507,555 Poles had returned to Wroclaw and Lower Silesia. From western and southern countries 279,133 had returned. 71,942 Jews were repatriated from Russia including a few Jews returning from concentration camps. All these figures are as at February 1st 1947. In heavy industry 14,308 Jews with families were employed and 450 in agricultural work; their work proved to be very good. The rest were working in textile industries and in mines, as artisans in engine and wagon industries, and others.

In this area they need repatriants for work in light industries, textile, chemical and other skilled trades in any quantity. Non-skilled workers can be used as well. Good housing conditions can be guaranteed for industrial workers and those working in coal mining. There are also good possibilities for agricultural workers.

Amongst repatriants generally there are 114,555 families working in agriculture - a total of 416,348 people. In non-agricultural industries there are about 100,000 families, in all 315,000 people. Repatriants have received the following help:

In cash:	125,865,143 zlotys.
In food:	5,857 tons.
Bales of clothing:	1,676
Bales of shoes:	1,694 (1 bale = 60 pairs of shoes)
Crockery & kitchen utensils:	30 tons.

By February 1st 1,200,000 Germans had been sent away from Lower Silesia, 180,000 still being there. 250,000 Germans had passed through Lower Silesia on their way to Germany. Breslau has 200,000 Polish inhabitants and 15,000 Germans still remain but will leave during 1947. The northern

part of Lower Silesia has been badly damaged and 50 to 60% is not yet habitable. The south of Lower Silesia is hardly damaged. There is a very great need of medical personnel everywhere, especially in the country. German doctors are still being retained since there are no Polish replacements.

The university, polytechnic school and commercial school in Wrocław are very crowded with 9,000 students. All types of schools are available including industrial schools. Workers can be trained in these schools at government expense.

10,000 people are working in the railway trade in Wrocław which was ruined but has now been rebuilt. There are possibilities for employment everywhere, amongst others in the metal and aeroplane industries.

After giving me this information the Director of FUR introduced me to Mr. Eggit, Chairman of the Jewish Committee of Wrocław. Mr. Eggit informed me that there were about 30 towns in Silesia where Jews were settled, among them about 10,000 in Wrocław and about 60,000 in Lower Silesia.

We then visited the Dr. Korszak kindergarten where about 100 children from 3 to 7 years were cared for until 5 o'clock, being provided with three meals daily. 25 children were living in the children's home which was very well equipped; they received 5 meals daily. This kindergarten was on the first floor of a school building that had been the Jewish school in Wrocław before the war. On the other floors of the building there was a school for 284 children. We visited the different classes where the children were having their lessons. All children receive a breakfast meal during schooltime. 100 children in this school receive 3 meals; these are orphans or children who have lost one of their parents. We visited the gymnastic hall during a lesson, and also a carpenters workroom on the top floor where 100 children were receiving instruction in carpentry. There were a dispensary and a recreation room in this school.

After having our meal in the canteen of the Jewish Committee we visited the Jewish press for Wrocław and the whole of Silesia, and the committee promised to give me back numbers of their newspapers that had appeared in turn in Polish and Hebrew. At the same time this press prepared all announcements and advertisements. All the workers on this paper were Jews.

The Jewish Centrala was visited afterwards. They deliver raw materials to 100 co-operatives in the country and receive the finished products from these co-operatives. We visited the different departments of the Centrala seeing the departments where clothes for men and women, underwear, shoes, handbags and all kinds of items were stored, and these articles were delivered to the consumers. The Centrala seemed to be well organised and the workmanship was good.

We next visited a factory for men's and women's clothing where 140 Jewish workers were employed. This factory started six months ago with five workers and had been increased each month. At the moment well qualified workers were earning salaries up to 17,000 zlotys a month. Shops for the sale of this clothing were situated in the basement of the factory. The factory was well equipped with motorised sewing machines and motorised cutting machines. A club for the workers was in process of being built. The plan is to have 300 workers in this factory, and at the same time the director, Mr. Flacz, is bringing in people from the country to train them in this special work. Afterwards they are able to go back to their small villages and teach other young people. I talked to several workers in this factory; they seemed to be working hard and were satisfied with their employment and living conditions.

We also visited a home where young men and women were living; they had dormitories, recreation rooms and a central dining room. These young

people are being trained in handicraft schools or are working in factories and, as they have no parents or family, they live in this home. This home and similar ones in other places are called Bursas.

The chairman of the committee and the committee members were very interested in the conditions of Jewish people in displaced persons and refugee camps, and the chairman and his committee members told me that there is plenty of work for everybody who wanted to return. They were well treated by the government, and had good working and living conditions. They promised to print an open letter to the camps giving detailed information about the Jews in Silesia.

On March 6th we left by car, under very difficult road conditions (snowdrifts), for Rychbach, about 30 miles from Wrocław. 7,000 Jews are living in this town with about 10,000 to 11,000 non-Jews. About 1,700 Jews are working in Rychbach. In the whole district of Rychbach there are 13,000 Jews of whom 4,000 are working. The greater part of the Jewish inhabitants had returned from Russia, but there were also some from concentration camps. About 1,000 are working in the textile industry, and 270, including families, on farms. The other Jews are working as shoemakers, tailors, bakers, in a brush factory, as barbers, metal workers, painters and in other trades. The vice-burgmaster of Rychbach is a Jew. Jews are also working in all kinds of administrative work. Their living conditions are good, they have all rights from the Government and there are no difficulties with the local non-Jewish population.

We visited a tailor's co-operative that has been in existence for ten months where at present 104 Jews are working; it is planned to increase this to 200 in the future. Men's and women's clothes were being produced from the material delivered by the Centrala in Wrocław. Young people were being trained in this co-operative. In a shoemaker's co-operative we met 60 Jewish workers making very nice and fashionable men's and women's shoes. A co-operative bakery - one of the five of the town - employing altogether 45 Jewish workers, gave the impression of being very clean and modern.

A beautiful kindergarten for 117 children from the ages of 3 to 7 was visited at Rychbach. Here the children are well cared for, receive good food and have pleasant playing conditions. All the rooms were decorated with bright paintings; dormitories gave the children an opportunity to have their afternoon rest. Under the energetic direction of Mr. Taub, a trained children's welfare worker, this Palac Dziecka is a great success. We were invited for lunch and had an opportunity of sharing the children's meal which was very well prepared and adjusted to the needs of the children.

At the ORT school an agriculture department with 14 pupils, a radio technical department with 30 pupils and a tailor's department with 56 pupils were visited. This school offers very good training facilities.

Agricultural resettlement. In the district of Rychbach there were 40 Jewish farms on an area of 1000 HA, with 270 people living on these farms. If large agricultural projects are concerned, 3 or 4 Jewish farmers work on one farm. During the past month the number of horses on Jewish farms in the district had increased from 88 to 112, pigs from 94 to 195, poultry from 325 to 682. The cows had decreased from 200 to 145 after having been redistributed among the population. At Pietroleś near Rychbach we visited a 43 HA Jewish agriculture settlement with 7 horses, 12 cows, 18 pigs and a large number of chickens, geese, sheep and others. Electric milking of cows was employed and demonstrated to me. 4 Jewish farmers were working on this farm which was very well kept and was the model farm of the whole district. The house where the families were living was well furnished. The Jews working on this farm had been farmers before the war in Central Poland.

We then continued our trip to Walbrzych, the centre of industry and especially coal mines. Due to bad road conditions we arrived late in the afternoon and had to stay there the night. I spent the evening with the chairman of the Jewish committee, Mr. Fischbein, and other committee members who were very keen to give me all information and were very interested in the position of Jewish camps.

9,000 Jews are living in Walbrzych with a population of 110,600 non-Jews. 2,542 Jews are working in industry. Mr. Fischbein informed me that Jewish workers were especially asked for by the different industries as they work very well and set a good example. 2,000 or more Jewish workers could immediately find good work and housing conditions in Walbrzych. Jews are working in all trades - in the glass industry, coal mines, in administrative work, as judges and in the town council, medical and other professions. Housing conditions are very good, families living in two or more rooms according to the size of the family. German furniture can be obtained for about 5 times the peace-time value for workers. For instance, a complete room costs 800 zlotys. The free professions have to pay 10 to 30 times the peace-time prices. A worker earns an average of 4,000 to 5,000 zlotys and receives his food rations on ration tickets at low government prices, and also a free midday meal. Rents for apartments are 100 to 150 zlotys a month for workers.

There are six Jewish schools for children from the age of 3 to 7 with 406 pupils, and a school for 183 children from the ages of 7 to 14. 285 children from 0 to 3 years received a monthly assistance of 500 zlotys. A nice children's home is being built at the moment, and a 200 bed hospital given by AJDC is at present being installed at Walbrzych.

On March 8th we visited Panstwowa Huta Szkła, the big glass factory, where 94 Jews are working out of a total of 756 workers. This factory produces a raw glass, glass for ornaments, unbreakable and looking glasses and other types of glassware, with a production of 220,000 sq. metres of raw glass a month and 9,500 sq. metres of looking glass a month. Jews are working as melters, glass cutters, drivers, in an administrative capacity, and in other departments. The director, Stup, and the chief engineer of the factory are Jews. We visited the entire factory, talking to the different workers who were satisfied with their present conditions and liked their work. Many of them had had other professions formerly, such as tailors and shoemakers. Many of them had learnt their new trade in Russia or had been trained recently; some of them were formerly employed in the glass trade. Living quarters for workers are available from the factory with an average of two rooms and a kitchen - in most cases a bathroom as well. There are also available a canteen, theatre and recreation hall, co-operative for shoemakers, tailors, barbers and for food for the workers, including a kindergarten and sports club. By working without pay during holidays the workers were able to produce a large gift of glass for Warsaw. A notice about the best workers, with their pictures, was regularly posted on the bulletin board of the recreation hall, among them a great number of Jews.

We then visited one of the coal mines where the engineer showed us round the different sections. As we arrived too late and did not have time to go underground, we visited the coke ovens and the adjoining ammonia and other factories, and all the technical departments above ground. 600 Jews are working in the coal mines of Walbrzych, most of them having learnt this trade during recent years, having been employed in quite different trades formerly; only a few had previously worked in coal mines.

During the visit to the coal mine I was able to talk to several of the Jewish workers in the coke department and machine rooms. By working overtime these Jewish workers had been able to give 500 tons of coal from their bonus to a Jewish children's home in Warsaw.

On my return to the committee the chairman gave me a number of open letters written by Jewish inhabitants of Walbrzych to camps in Austria, together with several Jewish newspapers with information on the work of Jews in the different industries in Walbrzych. The chairman gave me a letter written in Polish and signed by all members of the committee for publication in all camps giving detailed information on the work and social and cultural life of the Jewish community in Walbrzych.

While I was here a mother came up to me with a list of names of families whose children had left the country last year and were living in refugee camps. This mother, as well as the chairman of the committee, told me that these families wanted their children of 11 to 15 years back, as they were living under good conditions and wished to have the families reunited. I promised the chairman to take up this matter in Vienna. He had already informed UNRRA Warsaw about this matter and I advised him to contact Warsaw whenever he had new lists of names.

We returned to Wroclaw, and in the meantime the committee had printed leaflets for all camps giving the camp inhabitants information about life for Jews in Silesia.

General conclusions on Polish repatriation, including the return of Jews.

After visiting the different parts of Poland and contacting the various authorities, I have come to the conclusion that at the moment repatriants to Poland will find work immediately, good living conditions and help from official authorities. They will find their wages, food and accommodation will be sufficient. There is no luxury, but people will be able to lead a normal life. This conclusion applies not only to Polish repatriants in general, but also to Jews returning to Poland.

M. Margaret Danby

M. DANBY.
Medical Officer.
14.3.47.

10/R/1

Report on Displaced Persons repatriated to Poland

A visit was made to Antoni Koczy who returned to Poland in October, 1946. He was located living with his wife and child at Rybnik, ul Raciborska 24, Górny Slask, where they occupy a room in the home of a former friend. Their former place of residence had been bombed.

Mr. Koczy is not employed. He is registered with the local employment authorities as a chauffeur but is unable to buy the necessary license which costs 60,000 st. He says he is willing to do any kind of work available. Says he is not eligible for an allocation of land.

The family has managed by assistance from the wife's mother and by selling things which they had accumulated and brought back with them from Salzburg.

In answer to my question "Are you glad you came home?" Mr Koczy answered, "Yes, if I had work. But this way I would rather be back in camp. It wasn't so difficult". "As soon as I can get work, we will be all right". Both Mr. Koczy and wife seemed concerned at this time only with their economic situation, and at no time made any reference to their political opinions. They appear reasonably well and were appreciative that some one from Austria would make the effort to locate them. Mrs. Koczy sent a note to a friend at Hallbrun.

The small town in which this family lives is in the mining and agricultural section. Time did not permit investigation as to the reason for Mr. Koczy's unemployment. While he is not a trained miner, and might not prefer to do this type of work, it appears inconsistent that he should suffer indefinitely in a section where workers are needed. Lack of Housing facilities precludes the free movement of workers from place to place to obtain work.

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Emil Goerscki returned to Rydlitow ul Paderewskiego, No. 79, Górny Slask where he lives with his mother and sister. He was not at home at the time of the visit, but I talked with the relatives. He has a heart condition which prevents him from doing manual work and will accept only some kind of office work when he can find it. He and members of his family are very happy that he is at home. Mr. Goerscki's mother owns a large house and a small farm where she lives in the small village. A portion of her land was taken over by a nearby mining company who will compensate her for the ground. Mr. Goerscki is communicating with friends at Hallbrun.

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Carol Zielenco. I was not able to interview this family because they had only very recently returned and could not be located through the record at the Reception Centre.

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Father Jelsenski left Salzburg April 1947 for Gniezno. The case was discussed with Mr. Widdcombe, CHQ. UNRRA, Polish Mission since CHQ Vienna had requested Father Jelsenski to broadcast on the radio. Communications were late in getting through and Father Jelsenski had arrived in Jezitz and departed before such arrangements for broadcast could be made. Some time later, Mr. Widdcombe was in the vicinity where Father Jelsenski resettled and talked with him about the broadcast.

Mr. Widdcombe feels that after being in contact with a number of other persons, he had been warned not to make public broadcasts without the prior approval of his Church superiors. Father Jelsenski stated that he will still be willing to make a broadcast to people in Austria as soon as the written permission for this can be secured from the Cardinal. Mr. Widdcombe has made several attempts and expects to call the Cardinal in the very near future regarding the arrangement for such a broadcast.

Joseph Marcella. Mr. Marcella was interviewed at his place of employment (a large cement company) in the village of Pieszycka, about 35 kilometers from Katowice. According to the information which I had it was supposed that Mr. Marcella had been a displaced person who had returned to Poland. On the contrary I found that he has lived at his present address constantly and was never a displaced person. However, I learned from him that he had just received a message through the Red Cross that his daughter Olga who had been in Germany was now living in Austria and I assumed that it was in connection with this daughter's welfare that the inquiry was requested.

Mr. Marcella stated that he and this daughter are the only remaining members of his immediate family. His daughter ran away from home during the war. During the German occupation her conduct became problematical and Mr. Marcella stated "that he was unable to control her". Judging from his manner I would question whether he had much understanding for a child under the then existing circumstances, or that his manner of dealing with her behaviour would be particularly intelligent. He stated that she became untruthful and dishonest and caused much trouble for him. Finally she reported him to the German Gestapo saying that her father should be taken to a concentration camp. Mr. Marcella was able to avert being taken to camp and the following day the girl ran away. He had heard nothing from her until the message from the Red Cross. Mr. Marcella states that he is earning a good living with a steady employment and that he maintains an apartment. In answer to the question, would he desire to have his daughter home, he replied "If she is now honest and will not cause me more trouble she may return". I cannot say that he displayed any real enthusiasm regarding her return, and I am confident that should she return to make her home with her father, a good deal of case work should be done on her as well as her father. It was explained to him that, if possible, a conference would be held with the daughter regarding her father's present situation, and the position of her return home in the near future.

MRS. WEST.

170/R/1

POLAND TRIP 3/2 - 22/2 1947.

Adèle J.M. Tjon de Waart

Dutch Nurse

team 327 Children's Centre
Leoben.

Being in C.H.Q. Vienna on the 30th of January 47 I got the message to join the repatriation train due on the 3rd of February 47 to Poland. The train coming from Italy was to be picked up in Kufstein (French Zone Austria).

I loved to go, had my papers and everything ready in December 46 and was very much disappointed, when just one day before leaving jaundice made me unable to go.

Filling in the required forms and leaving my passport in the travel section Vienna, I sent the next day 2 passport photo's to the same office by signals, which were not required the first time I should go. Instructions to personnel accompanying Polish Repatriation trains were provided by Miss Warner, Repatriation Section C.H.Q. Vienna and seemed to be very helpful.

On the 2nd of February in the late afternoon a message came from H.Q. Klagenfurt to go on to Kufstein the next day. Transport was not provided. The idea was, that Miss Florence Boester, American Welfare Officer, Camp Admont, Brit. Zone, would have a car to bring both of us and the luggage to Salzburg and from there on to Kufstein. The difficulty however was, that Miss B. was in Linz at that moment, not knowing better than to accompany the Polish Repatriation train due to leave the 15th of the same month. We succeeded to get through to her the same evening and to discuss the matter with her.

Miss Butler (Chief Nurse Brit. Zone) was so kind and helpful to promise me her car + driver to bring me to Salzburg, where Miss Boester would wait for me having transport to Kufstein. On the way to Liezen I should pick up Miss B's luggage, needed for the trip, at the F.F.S. office.

On the 3rd of February we left only at noontime. The driver had to go through all kind of formalities in the morning to be able to go into the American Zone. Outside Liezen we came into a snowstorm, went into a ditch, but with help of a couple of Army boys everything was o.k. after 10 minutes. The driver was checking the tyres all the time, When I asked him whether there was something wrong, he told me, the tyres were very bad and indeed, after a couple of minutes the first one was flat and had to be repaired. We came into Liezen and heard in the F.F.S. office that Miss B.'s luggage was returned to Admont by mistake. It was supposed to be on the way to L. again and it would not be long. Being 4 o'clock already and not knowing exactly at what time the train was coming into Kufstein, I was getting nervous a bit. After 20 minutes the luggage came back indeed and we went off again, but after a short time 2 of the tyres went flat at the same time. I was getting more and more excited, the more we happened to see one cat after the other on the road, which I could not possibly see as a sign of " good luck to you ". Indeed there was some more to come. At the U.S. Zone border the driver's papers seemed to be not in order, the discussion of which cost us at least another 20 minutes. It was then 10 o'clock in the evening and finally, pointing out the necessity of going on, they did let us go. In the meantime I often warned the driver to be careful, the road being bad and slippery and better to come too late for the train than a bit earlier in hospital, which he agreed. But, without his fault, just outside Salzburg, our last and biggest accident happened. A car coming along, the driver of which did not dim the headlamps at all, we were totally blinded and unable to see 2 huge trucks standing on the right side of the road without any backlights. What happened we could not realize at the same moment, except an awful crash and the sound of breaking glass at my right side and we found ourselves just cross the road at the left. The first thing we asked each other was, 'are you alright?' and that being so, we thanked God and I personally St. Christopher, whose small silver byou, given to me by my fiancée, before he left UNRRA, I always carry with me. We came out of the car, the door at my right being badly damaged and there only we realized what a wonder it was that we were saved. The back upper part of the car was completely smashed and taken off. Poor driver, he was a young YougoSlavian D.P. the car was his own, he was working for UNRRA only a short time and he was not certain about any insurance. The drivers belonging to the standing trucks tried to argue with us, but we thought it better not to waste any of the precious time and to have a statement made by the M.P. and the Austrian Police. The American M.P. seemed to have not anything to do with it, driver and car being civilian, therefore we went to the Austrian authorities. Not any damage was caused to the engine, thus we continued our way to Salzburg. Arriving in the Hofwirt hotel at 11 o'clock, the first person I saw there, was Miss Boester, who, to my greatest relief, that we had to meet the train in Kufstein the day after. I was so happy to be able to have a good sleep after all what happened and to give the driver accomodation and when they gave me a room to share with a former UNRRA-colleague of Dutch nationality, who joined the A.J.D.C. lately and who welcomed me very cordially, I just felt pleasant having a nice talk in double Dutch together.

The next morning I phoned to Miss Butler and asked her what had to be done with the car and she thought it better to have the most urgent repairs done and let the driver return to Leoben.

The same morning we left for Kufstein per stationwagon, via the autobahn in Germany, which saved us a lot of time and our papers were in order to cross the German border as well. At 2 p.m. we arrived. The Director, Mr. Squadrille, and nobody else in the team, knew anything about a repatriation train coming through. We phoned to Vienna and heard that the train in question was due to leave on the 6th, 2 days later. What to do? In the office of the Kufstein camp we got tea, biscuits, butter and marmalade, it was a treat, for we did not have a meal at lunchtime, but we noticed, as the Director himself stated, that food and billeting for us would be a big problem. We decided to go to Innsbruck to await further orders there. The Chief Accountant of Vienna happened to be in Kufstein camp and he was just leaving for I. Our luggage we had to leave behind having not much room in the jeep and Dr. Dunne who would be with us on the train, was supposed to come the next day and would kindly take it with him. The billeting-office in Innsbruck sent us to the Golf-hotel in Igls, about 10 minutes' drive outside I. a beautiful place where we had dinner and the usual French wine together and we enjoyed our stay there very much.

The next morning, our first thing to do was, to go back to the UNRRA-office, asking whether there was ^{any} more news. There was not. We went to see the AJDC-people in I. Adolf Pichlerplatz 10, where Miss Boester had some business to do. After that we had some sightseeing by car, which was kindly given at our disposal for a few hours. After coming back to the H.Q.I. they thought it better for us to go back to Kufstein, because it was not at all certain whether the train would stop in I. and having had bad experience with former UNRRA-people who had the biggest trouble to trace the train, it was supposed to be safer. We hesitated, but there was no choice.

Back in Kufstein we made acquaintance with Dr. Dunne, Irish Medical Officer, who would be the third member of our party, and with Miss Easto, Vol. Societies, who brought our papers with her from Vienna, that we felt as a relief! The second reception was pretty cool. The members of the team offered us the sittingroom and one of them, who changed "duty" had the meal with us together, while the others had their meals in their own rooms. After the dinner we were brought to a hotel in town, where we were billeted for the night.

After breakfast the next morning we went to the railway station and made inquiries about the train. The only thing they could tell us there, was, that there was a train with repatriates from Italy to come, destination Poland. That was a step nearer! In the afternoon we did some shopping, nice ceramicwork was in the shopwindows and we walked to the UNRRA-camp where Miss Brydone, Chief Nurse French Zone, took us round to see the medical setup there. Especially the baby-clinic with the separated boxes and drawers underneath impressed us favourably. After dinner we inquired again at the railway station and heard that the train was not supposed to come in before 3 o'clock the next morning. That meant spending another night in K. We asked the railway-official on night duty to ring us when the train was leaving Innsbruck, that would give us still $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours and we could get things ready in time, having a little rest before.

In the evening one of the servants of the K. team asked us to write our names in the guest-book and the supply-officer came to see us about giving rations there, which we discussed with him and refused. Our Poland trip would not be any shorter by the fact that we had to wait in K. for our train more than 48 hours and we were sure that they could indent for the personnel accompanying repatriation trains through normal channels. Very unpleasantly surprised we were at the lack of hospitality and understanding in that team. The same evening we had a nap and at 3 a.m. the phone rang and the train was due to come in at about 4.30 a.m. It was 5.30 in fact when we heard the train coming and the man on duty said to us more or less sneeringly "47 Stück, alles Viehwagen". We left the luggage on the station and the doctor and I went along the train to ask for the train commander, for no living soul was to be seen. Finally the engine driver told us to go to boxcar N.20, we walked back in snow $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. Boxcar N.20 was closed as all the other ones. After a while of banging on the door, we tried not to make too much noise, as we feared there might be babies in the cars beside, we eventually heard a sleepy voice asking who that was. Not too friendly, I'm afraid, we said we were the UNRRA-doctor and the UNRRA-nurse and asked whether we were expected or not. We really were afraid that the train might leave, leaving us behind and we could not possibly carry our heavy bedrolls through the snow for such a distance. After a few minutes somebody came out and we followed him to the "Fahrdienstleitung" to tell the Railway-official on duty not to leave until 6.30 a.m. to give us time to fetch the luggage which had to be put on a sleigh to carry it to our compartment, a cattle car as all the other ones. I was amazed not to say disappointed and why? Asking for some practical suggestions in the Repatriation section Vienna, they told me personally not to worry about taking too many things with me, as for cooking utensils, drugs and other necessary items, because we should go on a very good train with 2 fully equipped

I certainly did not say anything of the sort
P. Warner

hospitalcars, a kitchencar, an officerscar, etc. I took that for granted and did not bother about taking unnecessary supplies with me!

The military people gave us an emergency place in their car and we tried to rest a bit on our bedrolls on the floor. Frozen we were when we got up later. When we were given a hot mug of coffee we felt better again. Being daylight we made acquaintance with an American Major, being in charge of the transport, with a British UNRRA-Major, being liaison-officer and to our big surprise with an Irish medical officer, an American Welfare officer and an Australian nurse, the last 3 people all being UNRRA. Was not it amazing? That explained to us, why we were not so extremely welcome and maybe not expected! Was there any need for 2 UNRRA-doctors, 2 U. nurses and 2 U. Welfare officers on a trip for 565 repatriates? These UNRRA-people (it was their second trip) came all the way from Italy, had worked with the people for several days. It was a most confusing situation! We shared duties as good as possible. The hospitalcar, also a boxcar, was right in the middle and we looked after the right side while they managed the left.

During the first morning we got a car for ourselves. It was really a task to make the "Viehswagen" a bit homelike, but with assistance of the Army- and UNRRA-people who provided us extra blankets to cover the walls and to lay them on the floor (it was terribly draughty), nails, a stove, dry wood and placed a batman at our disposal, we managed all right. As for the work, ^{longer} there was really not anything to be done, we walked along the train at the different stops and asked whether there were any sick people, how many children and babies there were in the car and had a look at the same time at the cleanliness of the quarters. The majority of the people came from Africa, where they had been in camps since 1943. They seemed to be a happy crowd together, were pretty well looked after. At the start of the trip everybody received a " 10 in 1 " parcel. The children under 6 years old were getting one tin of milk daily and once during our being on the train fresh loaves of bread, one a head, were distributed. On many stops fresh water would be fetched and if water was not available, snow was always there.

After a few hours stay in our cattlecarhome, we could enjoy it very much and we had the feeling, that we were closer to the people, than if we had travelled in a comfortable officers' compartment. After all, was not it much more fun and a nice experience to remember? We thought to be very lucky to have the Irish doctor with us, who seemed to be an extremely handy person and who brought several most useful things along, e.g. a primus stove, an aluminium hot water jar, candles, string etc. Without them we should have been pretty badly off.

The first day on the train passed very smoothly as well as the next days. Except for quite a few cases of constipation, a few colds and a couple of headaches, the people were in good healthcondition. We realized it was better not to question them too thoroughly as to their condition, as we had only a minimum of drugs and medical supplies. Therefore the doctor's remedy lay in his Irish sense of humor. He did not ask too many questions, but made yokes here and there, took some snapshots of different groups of people and they felt satisfied and happy. I did not yet mention that the people prepared their own cooking. They had a small iron stove in each car, there was plenty of wood and sometimes coals (of unknown origin). The mothers looked after their own babies and there were not too many troubles. As for toilet facilities, in the front part of each car, a small place was partitioned off, only to reach from outside, where a high wooden box with cover was placed, which was emptied a few times a day and provided with chlorine of lime. That reminds of funny things happening on the way. When the train stopped somewhere, nobody knew for how long that would be. I asked the Major the first morning whether they could tell us at each stop, how long the train was going to stay, it varied from 5 minutes to a few hours. It was difficult not knowing, as regards the work to be done and for the people also. It was impossible, his answer was, he did not know it himself, which we considered an unsatisfactory answer, but we could not do anything about it. No signal was given before the train left, but all of a sudden, off we went, with the result that more than once people were left outside. I myself had a funny experience the first morning. The train stopped and I asked the Major whether I could go outside for a few minutes, he said alright and I went to the place in the car mentioned before. After one minute I felt the train moving and could not get out anymore. But I happened to be not the only victim. A couple of moments later 2 men came into the same place and asked me whether they could stay there, being so frightfully cold outside. And there we stood the three of us, seeing the humor of the case. Unnecessary to say that Miss B. and the doctor were worried about me, but the Major assured them that everything was o.k. and that they would see me again the next stop. In the meantime I got frozen there and had to do a good deal of tapdancing. A nice cup of hot coffee given to me when I came back after 3 quarters of an hour and a plave near the stove warmed me up totally and was a lot of laughter when I told them my experience, how I passed the time away in that funny little place learning some Polish. All's well that ends well.

*Everyone was instructed to bring these in their written
direction
P. Warner.*

Early in the morning at 7 a.m. on the 3rd day Czech officials came into our car to check our papers. We did not go into Prague on our outward journey having the intention to go on to Warsaw and to have the arrangements for our returntrip made in the Unrra-office there.

Coming nearer to the Polish border the people were getting more and more excited and restless. On the 4th day at 5 p.m. we were stuck only 15 Km. from the border, not knowing the reason. Everybody had packed already and it was a big disappointment indeed that we had to stay another night in the cars. There blew a terrific cold wind and we did not feel happy at all. The only thing was, that we could assure the people, that we could unload the first thing in the morning at 7 a.m. in Dziedice. At the 11th we were in the place mentioned and in a heavy snowfall we had to unload people and luggage. The repatriates had to turn in some items as stoves, pipes, buckets etc. which they got on loan at the Start. They received then a signed paper with which they could get food for the first next days. There were no Red Cross parcels this time.

The few patients in the hospitalcar had to be admitted into a Polish hospital, but we did not have to do anything with that either, the first doctor and nurse took charge of them. The receptioncamp where the people had to stay one or two days was just opposite the station the entrance of which was decorated with green, welcomegreetings all around and portraits of the Polish President and some other big shots. What I felt extremely amazing was, that nobody was there to welcome the repatriates. A very cool reception I should say! Having no office in D. anymore no UNRRA-official was at the station.

When we were sure that nothing could be done by us anymore, we said good-bye to the American Army Major and to the 4 UNRRA-people, who had to stay till all formalities were fulfilled. We hoped to meet them in Katowice. They had to return on the same train and were not even allowed to go to K. without an escorte.

At 12 o'clock noontime we took the train to K. Miss B. had some Polish money and bought the tickets, 60 Zlotys each. The train was awfully crowded and we did not manage better than finding a 3rd class compartment, where we had to go in with our heavy bedrolls and everything. At 14.30 p.m. we arrived in K. found the Monopol Hotel, just opposite the station very easily and there our first trouble was, having to argue with the 3 porters who brought our luggage on a small carrier and who demanded 2 packets of cigarettes each. We thought it too bad and inquiring at the desk we heard that 1 packet each, equivalent of \pm 240 Zlotys would do very well. The difficulty was, we had no Polish money yet to pay them with.

We booked our rooms and had a nice wash before going to the UNRRA-office only a few yards from the hotel No.13 on the same side of the street. We wanted to go further into Poland and the K.office made all the necessary arrangements for us and paid us the living allowance, 3 x 1400 Zl. (1300 Zl. to the £.UNRRA rate) that was for the first 3 days. Miss Boester phoned from there to Warsaw to inform them about our coming 2 days after and I made inquiries after the Polish Red Cross office, having to speak to one of the ladies there. We had a walk in town. Katowice, called the Pittsburg of Poland, is a very unattractive and dirty place. You feel filthy after a short time being outside. We were amazed to see all kinds of lovely things in the shopwindows. The pastries were beautiful, whipped cream everywhere. And nothing rationed, everything on the free market, but very expensive.

Back in the hotel we ordered our first Polish meal. There are 3 meatless days a week, all kinds of poultry you still can get then. So we ordered chicken with different vegetables, mashed potatoes, compôte, beer, coffee and a drink of wine. The bill was 2100 Zl. including the tip for the 3 of us. For such a good meal not too bad we thought. There was a very good band of 8 men playing and there was a dance. The next morning we had an apple, fresh rolls, plenty of butter, poched eggs and coffee for breakfast. for 1050 Zl. the three. Then we went to the UNRRA-office again and got our reservations for Warsaw. The train was ~~to~~ due to leave the same day at 20 p.m. but was supposed to have a couple of hours delay. We discovered a hairdresser in the Monopol Hotel, had a hairwash + set and a manicure, which was badly needed and paid 260 Zl. each. They worked very well and quickly. The same morning I went to see Madame Germanowa at the Polish Red Cross. I had to ask her ^{me} about a report on our Polish children who were repatriated in November 46. She welcomed very cordially, inquired after a few Unrra-people she had met before, Mrs. West. Miss Dorit Camil, Miss Vi Bretoi and sent her kindest regards to them. Together with her I visited the Polish Assembly Centre where the children are coming after repatriation and waiting for parents and relatives. I was more or less pleasantly surprised to find some of our children back we had in our Children's Assembly Centre at Leoben, Austria for quite a long time. I felt sorry that they still had not been able to go to their own homes. The children were very well looked after. The wooden barracks in which they are living are big, winterized, centrally heated well painted and kept clean, tidy. Nobody expected us and the impression the whole setup gave me was pleasant.

Our train to Warsaw left that night at 23 p.m. We had no sleepers and it was awfully hard to get in, the compartments were overcrowded. At last one of the Railway-officials opened an empty women compartment for us and when somebody tried to come in, he used to say " no, no, reserved for the American Delegation ". Was not it funny?

In Warsaw we were billeted in Hotel Central, an unattractive place, We had to complain there while our sheets seemed to have been in use before. We had a marvellous lunch at Hotel "Pollonia", a place where the diplomats of many foreign countries used to come. After lunch we went to the UNRRA-office. There we were very cordially received by Mr. Berger, Chief of Mission. He was most helpful to us, made arrangements for us to see the A.J.D.C. people, knowing that especially Miss Boester was most interested in the Jewish problem and gave us a car to our disposal.

Warsaw is in a terrible state, 80% of the houses and the buildings is destroyed and uninhabitable, and we could not understand where all the people we saw in the streets were living. There are a few streets rebuilt with emergency shops. The whole impression was most depressing. Mr. Berger told us that the living allowance in Poland would be Zl.1700 a day + Zl.300 a day for hotel expenses and we got the difference that made with the arrangements made in the Katowice office calculations. We had a very good dinner at "Canoletto", a nice little place with music and dance.

The next morning we had a simple breakfast in our hotel and went to the A.J.D.C. office by car. We had a nice and very interesting talk with the people there and after a while I went to the tracing-bureau A.J.D.C. and made some inquiries for relatives for one of my friends. At least fifteen people were working there and working very hard and efficiently I heard later on. The names of the people I asked for could not be found in their card-system unfortunately but they promised me to advertise in different newspapers in Poland and to let the person in question know.

We intended to go on to Krakow, feeling more and more depressed in Warsaw and the UNRRA-office booked our ticket for the next day. In the afternoon one of the AJDC-workers, a nice American girl, accompanied us on a tour through Warsaw's ghetto, where we only saw the remainings of the former biggest Jewish community. Everything was flat, here and there heaps of bricks.

We had supper in another place again, in "Simon Stecki" this time and we could enjoy it very much as usual. The Polish way of cooking is excellent we thought, very tasty.

On our last day in Warsaw we visited a Jewish children's home in Otwock, outside W. operated by the Central Jewish Committee and financed by the A.J.D.C. Seventy children aged 3 - 16 years were there at the moment, orphans and half orphans. It was a beautiful place in the most beautiful scenery. Nice little tidy rooms in which each child has got its own cabinet, which was kept in perfect order. The children looked happy and seemed to consider this institute as their temporary home. We left W. the same day at 18 p.m. We got a third class sleeper and Miss Boester and I were surprised to discover that such a sleeper had no less than 5 berths and the 3 other ones were occupied by men. We asked the railway official whether that was a mistake, but it seemed to be alright, no beds were free in the women's department. We just layed down without undressing and being tired we had a rather good sleep. We arrived in Krakow at 9.30 the next morning. There we took a horsesleigh to the Franzuski Hotel, where we were billeted. The man charged us only Zl.200 with all our luggage. The hotel was a very nice place, the people at the desk most helpful and agreeable. Miss B. and I shared a room, we had good beds and bedlights even, which we did not see for a long time, central heating and hot and cold water in the room. The doctor and I attended A Mass at 11 o'clock in the morning in a nice

little church just opposite our hotel. In the afternoon we had a walk being Sunday however, we could not go in anywhere. In the evening we went to the "Casanova Club" a most attractive cosy place, where we had a simple supper. There was a good variete-program, an excellent band and dance. We heard there Poland's best comedien, Karol Hanusch and although we could not understand one word, we realized, that he must be very good indeed. The bill we had to pay afterwards was extremely high.

The next morning we should be taken back to Katowice by car at 11 a.m. Miss B. and I got up earlier than usual to go in town and to see something more of Krakow. It is a very beautiful and interesting university-city with many buildings and towers of old architecture. We saw the big markethall and were amazed what variety of lovely articles was for sale there. We visited an antiquariate and Miss B. found some most interesting silver articles of Jewish art used in Synagogues. Coming back to the hotel we got a ring from Katowice that the car which should fetch us, broke down on the road and that we could better take the bus at 1.30 p.m. It took us about 2 hours and we were back in K. again. We went to the UNRRA-office and asked them to make reservations for Dr. Dunne and me to go on to Prague the same night. Miss B. should stay in Poland a few days longer because arrangements were made for her to visit a Jewish settlement in former Breslau. I phoned Madame Germanowa from the Polish Red Cross and being not in the office anymore she promised me to send her report on our Pol. little repatriates to the UNRRA-office next day where Miss B. would pick it up. We had our last Polish meal together in the Monopol Hotel. The train due to leave at 20.53 left only at 22. p.m. And we nearly missed it even, the porters being so awfully tight and quarrelling all the time. Fortunately the railwaystation is just opposite the hotel as I mentioned before. We gave them our last Zl. 300 with which those gentlemen were not satisfied at all. We were lucky to have a first class compartment for ourselves and could have a good rest afterwards. What to say about the impression we got in Poland? The situation is most confusing, we thought. The food is excellent, all clothing free, but would the average man be able to buy all that? We had an interesting talk with one of the railway-officials a man having a pretty responsible job. He told us his wages were Zl. 2400 a month, with Zl. 200 for each child, he had 2. The first 900 calories a day were supplied to working people by the government at a cheap rate. The balance then had to be bought at the free market, at exorbitant high prices as we had noticed. To give a few examples: 1 K.G. of butter costs Zl. 500, 1 packet of cigarettes Zl. 240, cheap pastries Zl. 10-15, for which you pay in better restaurants up to Zl. 150. A cup of coffee in an average restaurant costs Zl. 150. Clothing is particularly expensive, but everything unrationed and without coupons. The impression given us by the average man is, a secret fear and complete dissatisfaction, certainly politically, and also economically. Before giving an open answer we noticed more than once that people looked over their shoulders whether anybody was listening. An attitude known so well by me personally from our bad years under German occupation. We met a Polish Jew coming from Palestine on the way to Germany to fetch a Jewish boy of 12 y. old, hidden there during the war. We discussed life in Poland and we mentioned him some prices, he drew our attention to the fact that it was not 1300 Zl. to the £. but only 400. That explained to us the Zl. 1300 to the £. (UNRRA-rate) as given in our instructions. Thus was life in Poland 3 times as expensive as we thought it was.

From the Katowice office we got only tickets to the Polish-Czech border, because the through tickets to Prague ought to have been provided by the Warsaw office. Katowice however gave us a letter written in Polish for the railway authorities in Prague, that expenses would be borne by the UNRRA-office there. The railway-officials in the train did not pay much attention to that letter and it meant an awful nuisance to see the same man coming into our compartment at least 4 times during the night, trying to get American dollars, and if not any, English money out of us. Arriving in Prague the next morning at 11 a.m. I cleaned the matter with the railway-authorities there, who were very understanding and agreeable. A porter who took our luggage out of the train and brought it into the station charged us 20 Kr. (201 to the £.), very reasonable. After phoning to the UNRRA-office, Kralovska 1, they advised us to take a taxi and to bring the driver along to be paid there, we had only a couple of Kronen to meet any emergencies. We got billeting in the travel section, it would be hotel Flora, Stalinova, a good distance away but to reach quite easily with tramcar No. 10.

The living-allowance in Czechoslovakia we were entitled to, was 450 kr. for each night we spent in Prague on duty, of which amount the hotel-expenses had to be paid, this contrary to arrangements in Poland where the living allowance was separate.

We had lunch in Canada Hotel, a place only a few steps from the UNRRA office, the tickets for which were provided in UNRRA. The lunch was very simple and not tasty, we thought, cost us only 30 Kr. Dinner we had the same day in the UNRRA-canteen, Stepanska No. 24, a nice cosy place, food better than at lunchtime, but not to compare with the meals we had in Poland. We were spoiled there. It seemed to be a very good idea especially for transient personnel to have some UNRRA-places to go to. You need not to bother about rations there, for food and clothing is rationed in Czechoslovakia. We went to a Cinema that evening where the "Nurnberger Trial" was given, paid 16 Kron. each for balcony seats. We did not understand one word of the speech, only the pictures were speaking to us. The next morning we went again to the UNRRA office and had an appointment at 10 a.m. with one of the UNRRA-employees, who was so kind to take us to a few shops where it was worth while to have a look round. The most beautiful glassware and silver is to admire in many shops. Prague is a very interesting town and its reputation to be the museum of the mediaeval history of Central Europe and being ranked among the four most beautiful towns of all situated in the interior of the Continent, speaks certainly for itself. Special industries in Cz. Sl. are glass and crockeryware, textiles, automobiles etc. Karlsbad and Marienbad being not too far away and being interested from a medical point of view, we inquired in the travel section of the UNRRA office whether they could provide us transport for the next day. It seemed to be impossible, the roads were too bad, because there was a quite a lot of snowfall.

It was a great pity that the weather was far from agreeable, the sky being always cloudy and snowing nearly all day long. We felt more or less depressed after a while. I forgot to mention the numerous most lovely flowershops we saw all over Poland and in Prague. The biggest variety in tulips, lilacs, lilies of the valley etc. was to be found there. It reminded me so much of the beautiful shops in my home country. The last morning of our stay in Prague we went to see the famous Charles Bridge with the 30 statues on both sides, certainly one of the most beautiful views of Prague, with the fantastic grouping of roofs, spires and towers of the Mala Strana. That morning we left a note in the UNRRA office for Miss Boester who was supposed to come back from Poland at noontime and we should like to have lunch with her and to hear about her experiences of the last few days. Indeed she came to the Canada Hotel and we had lunch and a nice talk together. Afterwards we took tramcar No. 10 and went to the Flora Hotel together where Miss B. was also billeted. We bought some pastries round the corner and ordered tea for three in my room, for we should not have a hot meal anymore. The train to Vienna was due to leave at 5.30 p.m. from the Wilson station and the car would fetch us at 5 o'clock. Arriving at the platform, we met Miss Margaret Pohok, Child Welfare Specialist C.H.Q. Vienna who was on her way back. We had a compartment next to each other and paid a visit now and then. The journey Prague to Vienna was not very pleasant. We had no sleeper although we asked for reservations already 4 days ahead. Moreover the train was leaving from the Prague Station. There was no heating during the night. We were frozen after a while and when the doctor at a stop at Mezimost near the Austrian border, managed to get us 3 mugs of hot coffee, we thought it a God's send. Miss Pohok had a very interesting experience by discovering a big black market affair, in the form of a box wrapped in black paper and hidden under her seat, which contents seemed to be a number of small boxes filled with saccharine. After talking to a customs inspector who happened to be in her compartment for a while, her attention was drawn when she heard that a new way of blackmarketeering was to hide parcels in other compartments under seats.

We came in at the N.W. station at last at 1.30 p.m. pretty hungry. The UNRRA bus came to fetch us and we went off to the Post Hotel where Mr. Carton, Travel Section Vienna, cordial and efficient as always had ordered us a hot meal which we could more than enjoy having had our last one more than 24 hours before.

This was the end of the Poland trip, at the start more or less disappointing, but after a while enjoying it very much and feeling it was a grand experience richer in life.

Sing 7.

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February 7, 1947

The Committee for Social Welfare (Department for Repatriation) attached to the Cabinet of the Prime Minister of the Government of the Federative Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia replies to questions put by UNRRA Yugoslav Mission in connection with the problems of the Repatriation of Yugoslav citizens.

Question: What is the attitude of the authorities of the Federative Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia as regards the fate of refugees from Yugoslavia?

Answer: The competent factors of the Federative Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia with the policy they have pursued so far as regards the punishment of quislings, collaborationists and war criminals, have clearly emphasized the principle that the treatment of the criminal leadership which organized and directed the struggle against the National Liberation Movement on the side of the forces of occupation must be clearly differentiated from the treatment of the deluded as well as of the forcibly mobilized Yugoslav Nationals who were misled by this leadership and forcibly enrolled into its ranks. Applying this principle, responsible authorities of the Federative Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia have granted broad amnesties which have encompassed the adherents of all armed formations in the service of the forces of occupation excepting prominent ideological initiators, organizers and leaders, thus enabling them to become a part of the normal life of our peoples' community.

The authorities of the Federative Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia adopt an identical attitude towards those persons who fled from the country.

Guided by this just principle, having in view the increasing moral deterioration of refugees which is conditioned by specific circumstances of life in emigration, and not wishing them to experience the fate of Russian Byelogardists or persons similar to them, the responsible authorities of Federative Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia are, naturally, not indifferent to the fate of refugees, but are doing all that is necessary so that the misled Yugoslav emigres might return to their homeland, to their people and to their countries as soon as possible.

Question: Who is entitled to repatriation according to the existing regulations of the Yugoslav authorities?

Answer: Considering the above-mentioned viewpoint on the problem of refugees, our State authorities adhere to the standpoint that in principle every of our citizens has the right to return to the country.

The most important categories of Yugoslav displaced persons who have the right to be repatriated, are as follows:

a) all former prisoners of war: men, non-commissioned officers and officers of the former Yugoslav Army. They - excepting individuals, to a greater part high-ranking officers, who denounced members of the National Liberation Movement to the enemy and thus bear the responsibility for

their sufferings and death - have in no way infringed upon the interests of their homeland and are therefore, naturally, not mentioned at all in the amnesties which have been granted so far.

Officers and non-commissioned officers, prisoners of war of the former Yugoslav Army as well as members of quisling formations and corresponding political organizations, who are at present in countries in which the repatriation has not been officially concluded, lose their citizenship after the legal term of two months has expired and after it has been ascertained that also the other conditions in article 3 of the Law on the Loss of Citizenship of the 23 of October 1946 are existent. But taking into consideration the objective difficulties such as illness, remoteness from assembly camps and from our diplomatic and military representative organs, etc., owing to which the mentioned persons were unable to make a declaration within the specified term with regard to their return to the country - the Law clearly provides for such persons not losing their citizenship.

As this Law does not apply to those Yugoslav citizens who are at present in countries in which the conclusion of repatriation has not been announced, their citizenship is not questioned.

Enemy propaganda deliberately misinterpreted the mentioned regulations with the aim of creating the impression among our citizens that they have been deprived of all possibilities to return to their country.

However, from the above given interpretation full light is cast upon the falsity of this propaganda.

Even those who have already lost their citizenship and who have subsequently realized their mistake, may return home. Permission for repatriation in these cases will be granted individually on grounds of applications which are submitted.

b) All internees, deported persons, forced and voluntary labourers;

c) All persons who during the withdrawal of the forces of occupation left the country either under coercion or under the influence of propaganda;

d) Adherents of Chetnik, Nedic's units, units Slovene and Croat Home Guards, Moslem militia, Skiptar armed formations and all other armed formations in the service of the forces of occupation, as well as persons who belonged to corresponding political organizations or to the corresponding administrative or legal apparatus; furthermore members of the Ustasha Army, Ljotic's armed detachments and members of the Russian Voluntary Corps, who were mobilized after January 1, 1942.

e) Persons of Yugoslav nationality who during the occupation succumbing to terror of propaganda, became members of the "Kulturbund". The permission for repatriation in such cases will be granted individually on the grounds of applications which are submitted.

f) Children - Yugoslav citizens under 14 years of age regardless of their national appurtenance;

g) Women - foreign citizens who are married to Yugoslav citizens in so far as they submit proof to our representatives abroad that they were not members of Fascist organizations;

h) Right to repatriation is also given to those of our citizens of German nationality who went abroad before the war and who during the war through their acts proved to be adherents of the National Liberation Army.

The permission for repatriation in such cases will be granted individually on grounds of applications which are submitted.

Question: What is the treatment of the Yugoslav authorities accorded to the repatriated persons?

Answer: The criminal propaganda of the emigre leadership is fighting with all its strength against repatriation and is endeavouring to create the impression that there is no possibility at all for repatriation by spreading nonsensical lies about murder and robbing of repatriated persons, about concentration camps which allegedly await them etc.

As can be seen from the above given replies, all the laws and decrees which deal with the question of refugees and deported persons who have up to this date not returned to the Country are inspired by one basic principle, namely, that all those persons who were deported, deceived or deluded, may return to their homeland quite unhampered. This is proved by thousands of emigres who every month return to the Country where they are treated as citizens with fully equal rights, this is finally proved by the fact that of all persons repatriated so far only 0.4%, i.e. only those who owing to their criminal acts were arraigned before court where they answered according to the Law for criminal acts against the people and the State.

Enemy propaganda is also spreading rumours to the effect that emigres upon their return to the Country are subjected to legal persecution if their return to the Country has not taken place one year and a half after the termination of hostilities. Naturally, this is also an ordinary lie which is aimed at preventing the repatriation. It is necessary to underline that no one has so far been called to account nor will anyone in future be held responsible for this.

The treatment of the repatriated persons in the country is the following:

Everyone of our citizens who is repatriated has the right to free transport and necessary food up to his birth-place, - up to the place where he has decided to settle. After arriving in the country, the repatriated person remains two to three days at the frontier assembly station for the indispensable medical examination and personal registration. According to an agreement with Unrra Mission in Austria, everyone of our repatriated persons from this country, after coming to Yugoslavia, receives food for sixty days. After the medical examination and personal registration is completed, the repatriated person is transferred to the place where he wishes to settle. The transfer is conducted at the expense of the State.

The repatriated person has the right to bring unlimited quantities of personal belongings and goods for himself and his family. The repatriated person also has the right to bring foreign currency into the country which he is bound to declare upon his arrival, which in no way can be considered to be an exceptional measure towards the repatriated person - but is an obligation of all those who enter our Country, in accordance with the legislature of the Federative Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia.

Immediately after his crossing into our Country, the repatriated person acquires all the rights and duties as are enjoyed and discharged by all other citizens of the Federative Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia.

Act no.
discussion of total situation
forthwith direct i.e. work which
has been done - handicaps - attitudes
personnel change - outlook for future

personnel
Schools - Fuel situation
shop program

Repatriation ←

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- 14

WHAT EVERY RETURNING CITIZEN SHOULD KNOW.

The following answers to questions most asked by Polish D.Ps have been obtained by UNRRA following discussions in Warsaw and with the Polish Central Repatriation Mission for Germany.

Work and Employment.

1. Q. Will I be welcomed having delayed my return for so long?

A. Poland welcomes all Poles who will work. The earlier you come, the better prospect and job you will have and there will be no discrimination against you for having delayed.

2. Q. Is there work for me in Poland?

A. Yes. There is more work than there are workers. Both on the land and in the towns. In factories and in the regained territories in Lower Silesia Germans are still working, but only because there is a shortage of Polish workers. In this emergency period it is comparatively easy to acquire technical qualifications in a short period of time and to learn to operate machines, some of which are still being operated by Germans. Throughout Poland the factories and workshops are in urgent need of technicians and workers.

3. Q. How do I get work?

A. You should enquire at your local Labour Exchange as soon as you arrive home.

4. Q. I have no tools. Can I get them?

A. Tools and equipment are allocated to workers where they are available. In the early stages of repatriation there was a great shortage of tools but more and more tools of different kinds are becoming available.

5. Q. Do I have to pay for tools now?

A. No. Tools and equipment are allocated by the Government on a long term repayment-basis.

6. Q. I do not wish to return permanently to the district from which I came, but I should like to visit my relations and friends there before I settle down elsewhere. Is this possible?

A. The free railway facilities exist for a reasonable period after a repatriate's entry to Poland and can include visits to more than one locality.

7. Q. If I do not like the place I go to, can I make a change?

A. Yes.

8. Q. Can I be sure that my children will have the opportunity to attend school?

A. The Government is specially developing educational facilities so that free education may be provided for all. Universities, technical and trade schools are fully functioning with already more students than before the war. More teachers are required.

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Agriculture

9. Q. Must I have been a farmer to get land?
- A. Not necessarily but you must be able to put the land to use yourself before you can receive any.
10. Q. Do the peasants receive land as their private property? How much do they receive?
- A. All the land you receive will be your private property. Everybody who receives land becomes automatically its owner. The holdings are private property - they consist of 7 to 15 hectares.
11. Q. Is it planned to establish collective farms?
- A. The tales you hear about collective farms are only rumours. It is in the interest of the Polish State to have private holdings which are sufficiently large to be self-supporting. Collective farms are not being introduced anywhere in the country and will not be introduced.
12. Q. What happens to large private or state-owned estates?
- A. The main purpose of the agrarian reform is to distribute the land among the peasants. That is why large estates are being divided up. However, model farms and estates specialising in the production of seeds, bees and so on have been taken over by the state. In many cases the former owners of these estates have stayed on as their managers.
13. Q. How large a farm can I obtain?
- A. The allocation of the land is dependant on the quality of the soil, the number of members in the family and the capacity of the group to cultivate the land fully.
14. Q. Can I choose the land I get and where it will be?
- A. Yes. Everyone chooses his place of settlement. In some cases this creates difficulties for the Polish Government, as it is easier to organise transport to one place, but nevertheless the Polish Government does not try to influence anybody in his final choice and in some cases the repatriants can even choose their spots of land if land is available in that region.
15. Q. I owned a farm /or other property/ East of the Bug; will I be repayed for land, livestock and equipment?
- A. Yes. You will get land within the Polish frontier and you will have the same opportunity as other settlers to a share of the available implements, seed and stock.
16. Q. My farm was robbed by the Germans. How do I process a claim?
- A. You file a claim with the Polish Government. Details of how to file claims can be obtained at Stettin and Dziedzice reception centres.
17. Q. How do I get seeds and animals?
- A. Seeds and animals are allocated by the Government on a repayment basis. There is at present a great shortage in cattle, but it is part of the Polish import programme. Livestock, machinery and seeds are distributed by local agricultural committees in consultation with Social Welfare Committees. At present the demand of livestock is considerably larger than the supply; that is why the Polish Government supports the breeding of cattle, horses and pigs. Fertilizers are already being produced at CHORZOW and a large quantity of fertilizers is being imported.

18. Q. Are the peasants being assisted by experts and agricultural instructors

A. There are agricultural instructors, breeding specialists, etc. who tour the country regularly. Apart from this everybody may approach his local Peasants Self-Help Office and obtain advice. There is still a shortage of instructors but a number of new instructors are being trained in agricultural schools.

19. Q. I have no money and no home to go to; how can I get money to live?

A. The PUR will show you a place for resettlement, help you find work and in special cases you may obtain Government assistance.

State and Legal Questions

20. Q. Does the State assist repatriants and settlers on the western territories

A. The State attempts to help repatriants and settlers in every way, by loans, by supplying them with livestock and machinery, fertilizers, seeds etc. Peasants in the western territories are exempted for a period of two years from taxes.

21. Q. What is the attitude of the Government to former soldiers and officers of the National Army /AK/?

A. The Government considers that in the AK were very many good Poles who hated the Germans and loved Poland and fought for her liberation. The Polish population honours the memory of all who died in the fight for Poland and respects all surviving POLISH soldiers. The Government expects from soldiers of the former AK the same honest and loyal service as it expects from any other citizen of Democratic Poland.

22. Q. Is it not true that all Poles east of the Bug are sent to Siberia?

A. No. Not only it is not true, but the reverse is the case. Two million Poles have already returned to Poland from East of the Bug and have been resettled in Poland.

23. Q. Who will protect me from the bandits? /NKZ/

A. Naturally, the Polish Government who have taken the necessary military and police measures.

24. Q. What happens to repatriants from the East and those who returned from the West but lived before the war beyond the Bug?

A. We intend to repatriate all Poles from the East as well as those from the West. Poles who returned from the West and who lived prior to 1939 beyond the Bug, as well as Poles from the East can settle in the Western territories; no differentiation is made between them with regard to their resettlement. This also applies to ex-soldiers who have the same rights.

25. Q. Are Poles allowed to return East of the Bug?

A. If you are a Polish citizen and claim Polish rights, you will not be resettled east of the Bug, as this territory has now become part of the Soviet Union but if you claim Soviet citizenship, you may negotiate with the U.S.S.R.

26. Q. How much furniture can I bring from Germany?

A. You may bring as much furniture as the US and Brit. Authorities allow you to load on to the transport. There are no restrictions on the part of the Polish Government.

27. Q. How much of what I bring the Polish Government take from me in Customs-duty?

A. Nothing.

28. Q. Can I go where I like? How do I get there?

A. The Polish Government will provide free rail transport to the place the repatriate decides to go to. The choice of the place depends upon the individual.

29. Q. I had money in a Benefit Funds before the Germans took it. Who will now give me my benefits?

A. This is part of the compensation for which you should file a claim with the Government.

30. Q. How is it that many of our friends have returned to Poland in previous months and although promising to write no further words has been heard.

A. International mail facilities for letters written in Polish have only this month been authorized by the Allied authorities and arrangements to speed up correspondence are therefore now being made.

31. Q. Why are people not permitted to write about conditions in Poland? I write many letters but get no answers.

A. See above for the answer to this question. The Polish Government places no restrictions upon people who wish to write about conditions in Poland.

32. Q. Will not the Government take the property from me? What is the use of working?

A. If you owned land before the war, you may keep as much as you and your family are able to work. Also factories employing not more than 50 workers may remain under private ownership. If you own a large house and are unable to occupy it, this house may be requisitioned by the Government for occupancy by other people. In the present housing shortage this is a system which is being adopted by many other countries than Poland.

33. Q. My friends are all in the camp and we do not want to be separated. They are from East of the Bug. Will we be separated?

A. Where groups of people want to go back and settle as a unit, they will be helped to do so if possible. The Polish Government has already arranged many such settlements and hopes to arrange more.

34. Q. I am a Pole from the Polish Ukraine and I have not seen my family yet I have heard they are in the new areas. How can I find where they are? /or/ my family have been resettled somewhere from East Poland. Have they been sent away to Russia?

A. The CH of PUR in Lodz have records of all the repatriants from the East and the West. Apply to them and give them particulars of the people you wish to find and they will help you.

35. Q. How much financial assistance may I expect for resettlement?

A. The amount of financial assistance to repatriants on their return varies with the credits available to the Local Repatriation Authorities. At some periods when large credits had been obtained, this sum was as high as 1000 zl. In addition, repatriants are entitled to receive investment loans to assist them in resettlement. The average loan may be 15000 zl. Artisans have also been entitled to loans amounting to between 15000/20000 zl. A shopkeeper would be allocated a shop and receive a loan for starting

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his business. Peasants in the Western territories are exempted from taxes for a period of two years.

36. Q. What ration do I get on my return?

A. From the Polish Government - a category one (I) workers ration for the first 30 days, and thereafter the normal polish ration.
From UNRRA - the special 60 day ration as a reserve to help you start your new family life.

Miss Gorton
Mr Mitchell
U.N.R.R.A.
AUSTRIAN MISSION
CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Polish Nationals Originating
from Territories Joined to the U.S.S.R.

ADMIN. ORDER NO. 254

SERIES: Austrian Mission

Vienna, 18 November 1946

The Polish Repatriation Mission in Austria on the 8th of November 1946, furnished the following information on the repatriation of Polish Nationals originating from territories joined to the U.S.S.R.:

"Polish citizens of Polish nationality, irrespective of place of birth or place of residence prior to the war, consequently also Poles previously residing in the Eastern territories now joined to the U.S.S.R. are entitled to settle down within the frontier of the Polish Republic."

"They are being treated in the same way as all other Polish citizens, are entitled to benefit the same rights and privileges as all repatriants, and particularly have the same rights for land, accommodation, and work facilities in the recovered territories."

Charles S. Miller
Deputy Chief of Mission
FOR R. H. R. PARMINTER, Brigadier,
Chief of UNRRA Mission to Austria.

NW/cz

CH.2 and AM. 4

144/R/11

REPORT OF CHIEF REPATRIATION OFFICER

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 1947.

The repatriation transport which was due to leave for Poland on 20th January was cancelled, and the repatriates who were to have travelled on that train will be held over until February 20th. The Polish repatriation drive which was inaugurated in November, 1946, has been maintained, and efforts are being made to obtain more relevant material to intensify the campaign in anticipation of better results as the weather improves.

On January 15th, a Polish transport in transit from Italy was joined at Kufstein by Dr. Clark, and Nurse Fiegleva in compliance with a request from the Italian Mission, for representatives from the Austrian Mission to accompany the train to Poland. This transport was organized by UNRRA Italy when plans for Poland to send a special train down for the repatriates in Italy was cancelled on account of insurmountable difficulties involved.

A request was received on 30th January, to supply UNRRA personnel for a second train coming from Italy. The staffing of repatriation trains originating outside of Austria has created problems in that the short notice given is barely sufficient to comply with processing requirements of the transit countries through which the transport will pass. The attitude of the Polish authorities towards granting visas to personnel from Austrian Mission joining transit transports has occasioned considerable delays, often causing personnel to be cleared too late to join the transport. At a recent conference, the Polish authorities agreed to issue visas within a few hours of submission of requests.

A film on Poland was transferred to the British Zone where a formal showing was given to the Liaison Officers, Military and Government representatives on January 10th. Arrangements have been made for it to be exhibited throughout the Polish camps, and in areas where Displaced Persons living outside camps can also be present.

As a result of the conference held last month between the Deputy Chief of Mission, Colonel Miller, the Repatriation Officer Mr. T. J. Lindsay and the Yugoslav authorities in Vienna, we have been officially informed that a number of our requests have been complied with. Regular radio broadcasts from Belgrade, along the lines of our suggestions have been inaugurated, and supplies of Yugoslav newspapers have already arrived and have been distributed to the camps. We have also been informed that films dealing with reconstruction in Yugoslavia will be forwarded to us in the immediate future, for exhibition in our camps.

The Chief Repatriation Officer, conferred with Ministerialrat Komers to discuss arrangements for the Austrian Government's reception of the first group of repatriates from Shanghai, and was assured that the Austrian Government would assume full responsibility for the care of these people from the moment of their entry into Austria. Arrangements would be made for their reception at Villach and their speedy forwarding to Vienna. Subsequent events showed that the fulfillment of these assurances left much to be desired.

The Israelitische Kultusgemeinde conferred with the Chief Repatriation Officer on the possibility of UNRRA obtaining an hotel in which these people could be accommodated until they were assimilated into normal life. In view of the fact that these repatriates are Austrian citizens, and that UNRRA's responsibility would cease on their arrival in their home-land, it was suggested that they make this request to the Austrian government whose responsibility these people would be. The responsibility of the Austrian Government towards these returning repatriates was stressed in correspondence from UNRRA to the Ministry of the Interior.

The first group of Austrian repatriates from Shanghai arrived on 25th January and were met by the ^{Chief} Repatriation Officer, representatives of the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde, and the A.J.D.C. Arrangements for their reception and housing, which were carried out by the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde and not by the Austrian authorities, were adequate. Interviews with representative repatriates from Shanghai indicated that unless the Austrian Government assumed more responsibility for their returning nationals, grave problems would be encountered with the arrival of the next group of 759, due to reach Austria on February 12th. The Chief Repatriation Officer called a conference with the Ministry for the Interior, A.C.A. (British Element) and the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde at which these anticipated problems were discussed, and assurances given by the Ministerialrat Komers that measures would be evolved to meet these emergencies. The responsibility of the Austrian Government for the reception and care of these people was stressed by Capt. Lawrence (A.C.A.) and Mr. Lindsay. Ministerialrat Komers informed the meeting that the billeting of the returning repatriates was being organized by an Austrian Repatriation Committee who were assuming all responsibility.

A request was received from the Austrian Ministry of the Interior that UNRRA Shanghai be informed to delegate the work of establishing repatriates claims to Austrian nationality, to the Board of the Austrian Residents Association. This request was cabled to Shanghai.

Palestine Repatriates.

FURTHER lists of Austrian nationals desiring repatriation have been submitted by the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde in Vienna, and have been forwarded to the Ministry of the Interior. In view of the political situation in Palestine, Austrian nationals in Palestine are submitting their request for repatriation through the Kultusgemeinde in Vienna. The fourth list of Austrian nationals desiring repatriation from Palestine has been cleared by the Ministry for the Interior, and is now being processed by A.C.A. (British Element).

Repatriation of Children to Yugoslavia.

During the month, arrangements were made whereby a Child Welfare Officer should accompany a child repatriation transport to Yugoslavia. Upon her return this officer gave an excellent report and brought a number of interesting letters with her. The Chief Repatriation Officer has requested copies of these letters for mimeographing and they will be circulated to the Yugoslav camps in an effort to encourage repatriation. Arrangements are being made to have this officer visit the Yugoslav camps to relate her experiences to Mothers with children, in an attempt to repatriate them.

Reuniting of Families.

The reuniting of families has been incorporated in the work of this department. Progress to date has been slow, but conferences are planned with the authorities concerned, to discuss means by which this work can be expedited.

The UNRRA Director of the French Zone has informed us of an agreement between the French Zone and USFET for the reuniting of families on an exchange head for head basis. We have taken the initiative under this scheme and have forwarded to Germany application forms for the exchange of six people whose relations in the French Zone are awaiting them.

HWP/11

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21st January, 1947.

Checked with Mr. Lindsay the figures of Poles leaving
Dziedzice on 10th December.

The correct figures are:- 298 Poles from U.S. Zone (170 from
Land Salzburg and 128 from Upper Austria), 144 from the British
Zone and 110 from the French Zone, making a total of 552.

Jm Burton

6th January, 1946.

To : Deputy Chief of Mission.

Subject: December Monthly Report - Repatriation Section 15 Nov 64

1. Repatriation to Poland.

December was the final month of the sixty-day ration scheme for returning Poles. A train which left for Dziedzice on 10th December conveyed 340 Poles from the U.S. Zone, 144 from the British Zone, and 1090 from the French Zone, making a total of 1534. This compares with a total of 648 who departed during November from the British Zone, and a total of 887 who departed during October, 354 from the British Zone and 533 from the U.S. Zone. The total for the three months (these figures taken from repatriation train departures) is 2,115,2087.

The train which left the U.S. Zone on December 10th was proclaimed to be the last train under the sixty-day ration scheme, which ended on December 31st. The British Zone had, however, proceeded on the assumption that any Pole who registered for repatriation on or before 31 December would be eligible to receive the sixty-day ration. It is anticipated that a train conveying all those who registered up to this date will be despatched during January. The Austrian Mission has requested that the UNRRA team at Dzialdowice, who would otherwise have been withdrawn, be retained to cover the arrival date of this train.

The Polish repatriation train which left on December 10th showed a welcome and marked improvement on previous trains. The responsibility for this movement was an American one, but there were British and French cars on the train. On the suggestion of the UNRRA Repatriation Branch, the British military authorities lent a kitchen car, Red Cross car and officers' living car. UNRRA released supplies of tea, cocoa, milk, and sugar, to make hot drinks for this train. As a result of the letter sent by the Deputy Chief of Mission to General Mark Clark, the American military authorities took effective steps to remedy the complaints made about previous trains. On the day of departure, the cars originating from the Salzburg and Linz areas were equipped with latrines in each car, with steps for each car, with supplies of coal and boxes to contain it, with large covered water containers, and with camp beds for all the DP's. Adequate care was taken to see that all the stoves in the cars were properly fixed. Last-minute instructions were received that Captain Nowinski of the U.S. Zone DP Office and Captain Sonnenborn of Combined Repatriation Executive, should travel on this train.

The UNRRA officers who travelled on the train were Mrs. Pienczykowska, Welfare Officer, Dr. Mammel, M.O., and Miss Spanjer, Nurse. The reports received so far state that the journey was accomplished in little more than three days, that there were no complaints, and that the amenities provided were much appreciated in view of the extreme cold.

The Polish repatriation film "The Way Home" was obtained from Germany, and has been shown at Asten and Hellbrunn camps. Letters received in Asten and Hellbrunn from returned DP's have been mimeographed and distributed to all Polish camps in Austria. Literature received from Warsaw has also been distributed to all camps.

2. Jugoslav Repatriation

Information has been received from Belgium in connection with the projected interdicted Japanese exportation scheme.

The Yugoslav Government has agreed to provide much needed information for Yugoslav repatriation. A special weekly broadcast will be initiated 6 January. A film showing present conditions in Yugoslavia, 1½ hours duration, will be available by the middle of January. Newspapers containing general information and also news of individual activities will be furnished. Other steps requested by UNRRA will be taken soon.

3. Ukrainian and Soviet Repatriation

On her visit to Salzburg in connection with the departure of the last repatriation train, Miss Warner visited Ukrainian and Baltic camps, and as a result, letters have been despatched to the UNRRA Mission to the Ukraine and to the Soviet DP Office in Vienna, in the hope of speeding repatriation of these groups.

4. Shanghai and Palestine Groups.

All lists of Austrian nationals awaiting repatriation from Shanghai and Palestine so far submitted have now been cleared both by the Austrian Ministry for the Interior and ACABRIT. This will permit repatriation of 2,230 Austrians from Shanghai and 357 from Palestine as soon as transport facilities permit. A small group whose names were on the first list are already en route from Shanghai to Austria.

PHYLLIS WARNER
For: Chief, Repatriation Branch.

PW/MLW

HQ/R/11

3 December 1946.

TO: Chief Eligibility & Repatriation Division, C.H.Q.

SUBJECT: November Narrative Report - Repatriation Section.

I. The plans to intensify the encouragement of repatriation, formulated during October, were put into effect during the month of November with special attention to the Polish Camps throughout Austria. Mrs. Mitchell, Field Supervisor, and Mr. Lindsay visited Helbrunn Camp and arranged with D.P. representatives plans for regular meetings at which problems affecting the future of the displaced persons will be discussed with emphasis on repatriation. Arrangements were made for the formation of discussion groups whose function will be to study and discuss the information about Poland supplied to the camps by the Polish Authorities and U.N.R.R.A.

Mrs. Mitchell paid a visit to all Polish and Yugoslav camps in the British, French and U.S. Zones and held meetings with D.P. representatives to discuss problems affecting repatriation.

During the month conferences were held with the Yugoslav and Polish Military Missions in Vienna and repatriation problems and difficulties were discussed. Both Missions have co-operated excellently with us in our effort to supply D.P. camps with factual information about Poland and Jugoslavia.

On 25 - 30 November Miss Warner accompanied Mr. Leff of the UNRRA Mission to Jugoslavia on a tour of the Yugoslav camps in the British and U.S. Zones in order to enquire into the conditions affecting Yugoslav Repatriation and the means by which the UNRRA Mission to Jugoslavia can help in this task.

II. Screening Team.

During November the screening team has been working in the U.S. Zone where there are about 2000 displaced persons yet to be screened. This team is at present working in camp Lexenfeld. The lack of personnel and the narrative report on each case now insisted upon by the Military Authorities greatly retarded the progress of this work. Early in November Dr. Bedo, Chief Repatriation Officer, departed for the United States and will return to duty about the 15 December.

III. Repatriation Transports.

On 11 November a Polish transport left Linz, U.S. Zone, with 425 repatriates. This number was increased at Salzburg by the addition of 225 people from that area. This train was accompanied by the following UNRRA personnel:-

Dr. Salter, Medical Officer; Miss Ottersen, Welfare Officer; and Mrs. Cullen, Public Relations Officer, from C.H.Q. Criticisms contained in the reports of these UNRRA officials have been the subject of conferences with the Military Authorities concerned and we are hopeful of corrective action being taken.

Miss Warner spent the early part of the month travelling to Poland with a repatriation train in order to gain experience of the conditions in these trains with a view to effecting improvements in them. She returned to Vienna on 9 November and immediately left for Linz-Salzburg in order to assist with the despatch of the repatriation train which left the U.S. Zone on 11-12 November. It was necessary for UNRRA to do a great deal of last-minute emergency work in order to make the conditions of travel bearable.

IV. Greek Repatriates.

During November the secretary to the Greek Legation in Prague completed the processing of Greek nationals desiring repatriation from Austria and submitted a request to the British Military Authorities to have these people transported to Greece. Some difficulty has arisen with the Italian Government who request individual passports and visas for all people entering Italy. This matter has been taken up by the British Military Authority in Rome and a speedy and satisfactory solution of this difficulty is expected.

V. Shanghai & Palestinian Groups.

The first list of Austrian nationals awaiting repatriation from Shanghai was cleared by both the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and A.C.A. (British Element) and the necessary permit for repatriation of these people to Austria has been granted by both these Authorities. This information was cabled to Shanghai. The Palestine list and the second Shanghai list are still under consideration by these two Authorities. We are assured that the permits for these groups will be issued in the immediate future.

Mr. Lindsay conferred with representatives of the P.W. and D.P. Division of A.C.A. (British Element) and discussed the long delay in granting entry permits to Austria for the Austrian nationals awaiting repatriation from Shanghai and Palestine. Subsequent conferences between the various divisions of A.C.A. (British Element) concerned evolved a definite procedure for handling the processing of group applications for repatriation and we have been assured that in the future such applications

will be speedily dealt with.

A direct result of these interviews and the functioning of the new system of processing was the granting by A.C.A. (British Element) of the long awaited permit for the first submitted list of Shanghai repatriates. The second Shanghai list is now being processed and from enquiries we have made should be completed within the next few days.

Mr. Lindsay made unsuccessful efforts to trace the whereabouts of the Palestine list submitted to A.C.A. (British Element) last September. In an effort to expedite the granting of the permit for this group, a new list was prepared and re-submitted, and is now being processed according to the plan recently evolved by A.C.A. (British Element) and good progress is reported.

In an interview between Mr. Lindsay and the Bundesministerium für Inneres it was decided that two representatives from the Palestine group should be authorized by the Austrian Government to decide the claims to Austrian nationality of those people awaiting repatriation to Austria. This information was cabled to Cairo and immediately acted upon. The names of these selectees have been received from Cairo and submitted to the Bundesministerium für Inneres for approval.

TJL/DP

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On 25 - 30 November Miss Warner accompanied Mr. Leff of the UNRRA Mission to Jugoslavia on a tour of the Yugoslav camps in the British and U.S. Zones in order to enquire into the conditions affecting Yugoslav Repatriation and the means by which the UNRRA Mission to Jugoslavia can help in this task.

II. Screening Team.

During November the screening team has been working in the U.S. Zone where there are about 2000 displaced persons yet to be screened. This team is at present working in camp Loxenfeld. The lack of personnel and the narrative report on each case now insisted upon by the Military Authorities greatly retarded the progress of this work. Early in November Dr. Bede, Chief Repatriation Officer, departed for the United States and will return to duty about the 15 December.

III. Repatriation Transports.

On 11 November a Polish transport left Inns, U.S. Zone, with 425 repatriates. This number was increased at Salzburg by the addition of 225 people from that area. This train was accompanied by the following UNRRA personnel:-

Dr. Salter, Medical Officer; Miss Ottersen, Welfare Officer; and Mrs. Cullen, Public Relations Officer, from G.H.Q. Criticisms contained in the reports of these UNRRA officials have been the subject of conferences with the Military Authorities concerned and we are hopeful of corrective action being taken.

Miss Warner spent the early part of the month travelling to Poland with a repatriation train in order to gain experience of the conditions in these trains with a view to effecting improvements in them. She returned to Vienna on 9 November and immediately left for Linz-Salzburg in order to assist with the despatch of the repatriation train which left the U.S. Zone on 11-12 November. It was necessary for UNRRA to do a great deal of last-minute emergency work in order to make the conditions of travel bearable.

IV. Greek Repatriates.

During November the secretary to the Greek Legation in Prague completed the processing of Greek nationals desiring repatriation from Austria and submitted a request to the British Military Authorities to have these people transported to Greece. Some difficulty has arisen with the Italian Government who request individual passports and visas for all people entering Italy. This matter has been taken up by the British Military Authority in Rome and a speedy and satisfactory solution of this difficulty is expected.

V. Shanghai & Palestinian Groups.

The first list of Austrian nationals awaiting repatriation from Shanghai was cleared by both the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and A.C.A. (British Element) and the necessary permit for repatriation of these people to Austria has been granted by both these Authorities. This information was cabled to Shanghai. The Palestine list and the second Shanghai list are still under consideration by these two Authorities. We are assured that the permits for these groups will be issued in the immediate future.

Mr. Lindsay conferred with representatives of the F.W. and D.P. Division of A.C.A. (British Element) and discussed the long delay in granting entry permits to Austria for the Austrian nationals awaiting repatriation from Shanghai and Palestine. Subsequent conferences between the various divisions of A.C.A. (British Element) concerned evolved a definite procedure for handling the processing of group applications for repatriation and we have been assured that in the future such applications

will be speedily dealt with.

A direct result of these interviews and the functioning of the new system of processing was the granting by A.C.A. (British Element) of the long awaited permit for the first submitted list of Shanghai repatriates. The second Shanghai list is now being processed and from enquiries we have made should be completed within the next few days.

Mr. Lindsay made unsuccessful efforts to trace the whereabouts of the Palestine list submitted to A.C.A. (British Element) last September. In an effort to expedite the granting of the permit for this group, a new list was prepared and re-submitted, and is now being processed according to the plan recently evolved by A.C.A. (British Element) and good progress is reported.

In an interview between Mr. Lindsay and the Bundesministerium für Inneres it was decided that two representatives from the Palestine group should be authorized by the Austrian Government to decide the claims to Austrian nationality of those people awaiting repatriation to Austria. This information was cabled to Cairo and immediately acted upon. The names of these selectees have been received from Cairo and submitted to the Bundesministerium für Inneres for approval.

TJL/UP

HQ/K/1.

My

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
AUSTRIAN MISSION
CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Ref. Re.21

24 November, 1946.

U.S. Army
10 RUE WILHELMSTRASSE
TELEPHONE: U 46560

To : Chief Welfare Officer, Welfare & Repatriation Division.
Subject: October Monthly Narrative Report - Repatriation Section.

1. Repatriation Plans.

During October, plans to intensify the encouragement of repatriation were formulated and are now being implemented. An administrative order stating the steps to be taken with this aim in view was issued, and an intensive effort to carry these out will be launched in all camps, particularly Polish. Literature, photographs, and films will be featured in this repatriation drive and due emphasis on the 60-day ration scheme will be given. The Polish Military Mission and the Polish Red Cross have expressed their willingness to cooperate in this effort and are already lending valuable assistance. Posters for exhibition in the Polish camps have been produced and have been designed to answer some of the more common queries in the minds of potential Polish repatriates. These posters will be used in connection with an exhibition of pictures of Polish transports, reconstruction in Poland, etc.

Conferences were held with the Polish Military Mission, Polish Red Cross, Army authorities, and UNRRA Welfare Officers. Repatriation policy and problems affecting its successful implementation were discussed and recommendations for the removal of handicaps prejudicial to the encouragement of repatriation were made to the authorities concerned. A direct result of these conferences was a cabled intimation from the 3rd U.S. Army in Germany, stating:

"Reference your cable P 4770. Third US Army policy is as follows: In addition to the normal reserve travel ration for each person repatriates will be permitted to take all belongings which are proved to be their personal property except items prohibited by military government to exit GERMANY, items too bulky to carry such as furniture, machinery and vehicles, articles of a nature and in a quantity indicating black market activity and violation of security regulations. Possession of all items of property of US origin such as chocolate, cigarettes, Army underwear and any other items distributed by UNRRA will not be challenged by border guards if issue to repatriates is verified by UNRRA officials. It is recommended that UNRRA officials accompany searching details at the border for purpose of identifying goods issued by UNRRA. US Constabulary is being notified of this policy."

A request that transports be supplied with heating facilities prior to the date decided upon by the U.S. Army, viz. 1st November, was also granted.

2. Visit of Mr. Berger of the Polish Mission re Repatriation.

The Chief Repatriation & Welfare Officer of the Polish Mission (Mr. Berger) visited Vienna, and during his short stay was able to be present

at the conferences held in connection with Polish repatriation. He also accompanied Mr. Lindsay on an official visit to Hellbrunn Camp, where repatriation policy and problems were discussed with the Director. The barracks leaders at Hellbrunn were addressed on the conditions and prospects in Poland for returning repatriates.

3. Miss Warner - Assistant Repatriation Officer.

Miss Warner commenced her duties as Assistant Repatriation Officer. She is devoting special attention to the coordination of repatriation movements. She has visited Klagenfurt, Salzburg, and Linz, and has consulted the Army and UNRRA authorities at these centres in connection with this work. At present, Miss Warner is accompanying a transport to Poland to experience personally the difficulties and problems encountered.

4. Screening Team.

The Screening Team, under the direction of Doctor Alexander Bedo, has been working in the French Zone at Kufstein and at Landeck where the screening is now finished. There is still considerable work to be done in the US Zone. All ineligible displaced persons have been removed from Asten where the screening was completed some weeks ago and a number of Polish displaced persons have been moved in. During October, the screening of Parsch, White Russian Camp, was completed, and recommendations for the exclusion of ineligibles have been made to the U.S. Army authorities. The work of screening is greatly retarded due to the lack of personnel. Doctor Bedo has strongly recommended appointment of more personnel for this work.

5. Repatriation Transports.

On 10th October, a transport left Wels, US Zone, with 400 Polish repatriates. At Salzburg 250 more repatriates joined this transport. This train was accompanied by Miss Evelyn Harnett, Welfare Officer, and Miss Van Styk, UNRRA Nurse. Another transport left Villach for Poland on 29th October with 137 repatriates from Italy, and 354 from the British Zone of Austria.

6. Greek Repatriates

As a result of numerous unsuccessful efforts to have the Greek Liaison Officer in Vienna comply with the instructions of processing Greek repatriates issued by ERO, Mr. Lindsay visited Prague and conferred with the Greek Charge d'Affaires who was very cooperative and decided to send the Secretary to the Legation to screen all Greeks in Austria and to arrange transit visas through Italy and entrance visas to Greece for all those desiring repatriation. This official arrived in Vienna on Monday, 28th October, and began screening in Vienna. Together with Mrs. Mitchell, UNRRA Welfare Officer, and the Greek Liaison Officer, he left Vienna by car to continue screening at Graz, Klagenfurt, and Kleinmünchen near Linz. Upon completion of this screening, negotiations will be instituted with the Army authorities for the transport of these people to Greece.

7. Shanghai and Palestinian Groups - Plans for Repatriation

The delay in finalizing the plans for the repatriation of Shanghai and Palestinian Austrian persecutees has been occasioned by the fact that the necessary permit for their entry into Austria has not yet been approved.

An assurance has been given that this official notification of approval would be sent to us in the immediate future. The granting of the ACC permit for the Palestinian group is expected to follow closely on that for the Shanghai group.

T. James Lindsay
T. JAMES LINDSAY,
Repatriation Officer.

TJL/MLW

OK

U N R R A
CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS FOR GERMANY.

18 September, 1946.

SUBJECT: TWO MONTHS RATION FOR POLISH REPATRIATES.

1. INFORMATION.

The offer of the British, French and U.S. Governments that on or after 1 October for a period of three months, 60 days food ration would be given in Poland to repatriating Polish DPs from Germany, is now firm.

Combined plans to make this offer effective have been discussed in a conference held by Chief of Mission, UNRRA Germany at Arolsen on 13 and 14 September and attended by representatives from USEFT, British Control Commission for Germany, the Polish Government, Polish Mission to Berlin, UNRRA Mission to Poland, U.S., British and French UNRRA Zones in Germany, and E.R.O. Telegram 2969 of 29 August from UNRRA E.R.O. outlining the operating procedure in connection with this scheme to be adopted by the respective UNRRA Chiefs of Missions in Germany and in Poland was issued to all concerned, together with Progress Report No.4 and letter to C.H.Q. of 21 August.

2. The object of this instruction is to record the alterations in planning which were determined at the Arolsen Conference of 13/14 September, and to recapitulate the timing of the actions which the various authorities represented at the conference agreed should take place to enable execution of the common plan.

3. The following moves are arranged :-

a. By E.R.O.

- i. CONTAINERS. the following will be moved by air to both Lubeck and Warsaw (Djiodzice) as initial reserve to arrive between 18 and 23 September:

to each - first flight - greaseproof paper	20,000	4.4
4lb paper bags	60,000	13.2
6lb " "	15,000	6.6
cord - yards	17,500	7.5
		<u>31.7</u>

to each - second flight - paper sacks 1,875 30 cwt

- ii. The following will be loaded on ship in U.K. 21 September for UNRRA B.S.D. Hamburg, marked P.R.S.

greaseproof paper	60,000	sheets
4lb paper bags	380,000	bags
6lb " "	30,000	"
Cord	140,000	yards
Sand bags	200,000	bags
paper sacks	36,250	

- iii. Additional requirements must be notified to E.R.O. by CHQ early in October according to success of scheme.

- iv. A small ship to transport 250 tons of food each trip has been chartered by E.R.O. to be ready to load at Lubeck on 21 Sept. arriving Stettin approximately 26 September, and returning to repeat the movement until British Zone ship "Sea Eagle" is in operation as expected at beginning of October.

- v. E.R.O. is forwarding notice of all ETDs to Arolsen repeated Warsaw.

b. C.H.Q.

- i. Personnel: Supply Officers for Stettin and Djiedzice arrived in Warsaw by air 15 September. Supply Teams are leaving Arolsen by road on 18 September with ETA Stettin and Djiedzice 19 or 20 September. 19 drivers are included with teams but UNRRA Mission to Poland is to replace these, whereupon drivers will be returned to CHQ.
- ii. Visas are being obtained in Berlin by Brig. General V. Meyer, UNRRA D.C.O., Berlin.
- iii. Publicity is being coordinated at CHQ with a view to general release on 27 September. CHQ Public Information representative arrived at Warsaw by air 15 September to collect Polish Government declaration which will be printed in Germany immediately on his return. Zones will be notified of firm date for publicity release.

CHQ Public Information office will provide advance copies of proclamations, bills and posters for USFET and CCG and will arrange for distribution to Zones and through them to Teams before general release date.

- iv. Supply - Supply & Transport Division will arrange to lift containers arriving from U.K. at Hamburg on 27 September to Lubeck for UNRRA Warehouse and shipment, and to Hanau for USFET who will arrange earliest onward transmission with DP trains.

c. UNRRA Zones.

- i. All three UNRRA Zones will obtain from the Food Supplying authorities brief instructions on the use, method of cooking and precautions necessary for preservation of food items. These instructions will then be translated into Polish and printed (or duplicated) by Zones on leaflets which should be forwarded with Zone food supplies for Poland, and also displayed in camps.
- ii. All three UNRRA Zones will have printed in Polish the food eligibility certificate as shown in APPENDIX E, which will be issued to each Polish DP repatriating after 1 October. These should be numbered consecutively, and, if possible each 1,000 in a different colour, and forwarded to entrainment centres.
- iii. All three UNRRA Zones will inform UNRRA teams of the 60 day plan before general publicity release date - 27 September.
- iv. All three UNRRA Zones will ensure very close contact with Polish liaison officers in connection with the 60 day plan, and will arrange that all DPs repatriating under the plan are authorized to leave by the respective liaison officer.
- v. All three UNRRA Zones will organize a Polish Repatriation Committee in any camp where there are Polish DPs.
- vi. All three UNRRA Zones will arrange for an exhibition (as from 27 September, the date of official publicity

release) at each camp where there may be Polish DPs, of the official Polish Government declaration and of other posters, handbills and photographs to be issued in connection with the scheme, and also of an example of the actual ration as will be given in Poland (see APPENDIX B for U.S. and French Zones, and APPENDIX C for British Zone). These exhibitions should be guarded against theft. The rations should show a typical ration for an individual, and a typical ration for a family of four, (i.e. four rations added together). The rations may be obtained from normal camp supply points on request.

vii. UNRRA U.S. Zone will maintain close liaison with USFET throughout the operation of the scheme.

viii. UNRRA British Zone will

- (a) maintain close liaison with PW/DP and Food & Agriculture Divisions of C.C.G.
- (b) accept necessary quantities of rations in bulk at 626 Warehouse, Lubeck, and arrange for their guarding and labour for portage to ship for Stettin.
- (c) see that a sufficient reserve of rations is in hand at Stettin throughout the operation as compared with the flow of DPs.

ix. UNRRA French Zone will

- (a) maintain close liaison with DP and Supply Divisions of French Zone Control Headquarters at Baden Baden.
- (b) arrange with French Zone authorities to forward to Djedzice by special train sufficient rations for 60 days for 2,000 persons as a reserve, to leave French Zone not later than 23 September, and to forward replenishments with trains leaving after 1 October carrying DPs.

d. USFET is arranging for the following :-

- i. to despatch a special train with a reserve of rations for 10,000 DPs for 60 days and a loan of 50,000 sacks to arrive at Djedzice on 25 or 26 September, where it is to be unloaded within three days by UNRRA Supply Detachment.
- ii. to continue the present travel rations with each DP plus sufficient for subsequent journey in Poland.
- iii. to arrange wide publicity for the scheme in collaboration with UNRRA Public Information and including a statement by General McNarney.

e. BRITISH ZONE C.C.G. has been asked -

- i. to provide rations as required by flow of DPs at Lubeck UNRRA Warehouse with the first reserve of 250 tons by 20 September.
- ii. to arrange for sufficient trains and ships to lift up to 10,000 DPs weekly.

- iii. to carry forward from October onwards replenishing rations from Lubeck to Stettin on the "Sea Eagle" or other ships, whereupon the UNRRA chartered ship will cease its journeys.

f. FRENCH ZONE AUTHORITIES.

- i. As final authority for the 60 day plan was only obtained in Paris on 12 September, it was not possible to invite a representative of the French authorities to the recent conference.
- ii. UNRRA French Zone were, however, represented and all necessary planning is to be arranged by them directly with the French authorities at Baden Baden on the general lines previously discussed there by Colonel Fletcher and General de Marguerittes dit Lizo.

g. UNRRA MISSION TO POLAND is arranging

- i. plans for all Administration of the Supply Detachment at Stettin and Djiedzice, including provision of accommodation, PX, Polish money for subsistence, etc.
- ii. provision of necessary equipment and labour at each depot in conjunction with Polish Government and P.U.R.
- iii. provision of petrol, oils and repairs for UNRRA vehicles with Supply Detachments.
- iv. replacement of Class I drivers (with Class II personnel and return of former to C.H.Q.)
- v. arrangements with Polish Government for
 - (a) necessary visas;
 - (b) declaration required for publicity;
 - (c) despatch of highly placed representatives, possibly Prime Minister, to tour Polish reception centres in Germany at end of September;
 - (d) prevention of black market in 60 day ration, particularly at Stettin and Djiedzice and at railway centres through which DPs may travel;
 - (e) use of films for publicity among Polish DPs.
- vi. Reception of advance containers at Warsaw airfield on 20 and 23 September and onward despatch to Djiedzice.
- vii. Transfer from Djiedzice to Stettin after 25 September of 20,000 sacks loaned by USFET.
- viii. Provision and supervision of supply accounting regulations for Supply Detachments (see APPENDIX F.)

4. COORDINATION.

- a. Mr. Edward A. Reich, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Operations, Germany, at Arolsen, will serve as coordinator of the entire program.
- b. Lt. Col. Morley Fletcher has been appointed to the staff of Chief of Operations, Germany, as special assistant in connection with the plan.

c. UNRRA Zone Coordinators are as follows :-

- i. U.S. Zone - Mr. Ralph Collins.
- ii. British Zone - Col. R.W.P. Dawson.
- iii. French Zone - Mrs. E. J. Zach.

5. The following appendices are attached :-

Appendix A - Schedule of timing of action.

- " B - U.S. Zone 60 day rations } at Djiedzice.
French Zone " " }
- " C - British Zone 60 day rations at Stettin
- " D - Breakdown into containers.
- " E - Entitlement voucher.
- " F - Accounting instructions.

Myer Cohen

MYER COHEN
Acting Chief of Operations, Germany.

Distribution all concerned.

APPENDIX A.

TWO MONTHS POLISH REPATRIATION ACTION PLAN

SCHEDULE OF TIMING OF ACTION

1. TARGET DATES for entire plan 1 October to 31 December, 46

This applies to Polish DPs in Germany officially repatriating by train or ship between these dates

2. PUBLICITY RELEASE in all Zones and countries, and exhibitions in camps 27 Sept. 1946.

3. PERSONNEL MOVEMENT

	STETTIN	DJIEDZICE
Supply Officers arrive	17 or 18 Sept.	17 or 18 Sept.
Supply Teams arrive	20 Sept.	21 Sept.

4. CONTAINER MOVEMENT.

a. By air

Priority I flight arrive	LUBECK	18 or 19 Sept.
" I " "	WARSAW	20 Sept.
Priority II " "	LUBECK	18 or 20 Sept.
" II " "	WARSAW	23 Sept.

- b. Sacks - 50,000 U.S. Loan arrive DJIEDZICE 25 or 26 Sept.
(20,000 to be moved to STETTIN from DJIEDZICE)

c. By sea from U.K.

Load Tilbury	...	21 Sept.
seil	...	23 Sept.

Arrive HAMBURG	...	26 or 27 Sept.
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(for transportation by C.H.Q. -
50% to LUBECK, 50% to HANAU)

5. FOOD SUPPLIES.

	DJIEDZICE
<u>U.S.</u> : 430 tons for 10,000 DPs to arrive	25 or 26 Sept.
to be unloaded by	28 or 29 Sept.
<u>French</u> : 70 tons for 2,000 DPs to leave before	23 Sept.
to arrive	29 or 30 Sept.
<u>British</u> : 250 tons for 8,500 DPs to arrive LUBECK	21 Sept.
to load ship	21 Sept.
to arrive STETTIN	26 Sept.

U.N.R.R.A.
AUSTRIAN MISSION
CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS

SUBJECT: Action to Encourage and Effect
Repatriation.

ADMIN ORDER NO. 240

SERIES: Austrian Mission

Vienna, 29 October 1946.

1. Purpose

To encourage and effect the repatriation of all displaced persons in UNRRA assembly centres at the earliest possible moment; to coordinate and combine the efforts of personnel of the UNRRA Mission in behalf of repatriation.

The object in mind is to repatriate and restore to useful and productive lives in their homelands as many displaced persons as possible. The Austrian Mission's displaced persons operation has been instrumental in repatriating thousands of DP's, but increased efforts must be made in order to send home every displaced person who can be induced to return within the next few months.

2. Authority

Resolution No. 99 of the Fifth Council stresses the importance of expediting the repatriation of the greatest possible number of displaced persons to their countries of origin. The Council has emphasized its policy that the Administration facilitate the dissemination of information to displaced persons; establish contact between displaced persons and liaison officers of their home Governments; facilitate free communication between DP's and their friends and relatives at home; and otherwise effect repatriation. Our efforts are made in full consultation with the occupying authorities and the Governments concerned. The main task of UNRRA is to encourage and assist in the early return of displaced persons to their homelands. Their maintenance in assembly centres is purely a temporary measure.

3. Procedure

In order to implement this policy, and further stimulate repatriation, the following action will be taken by this Mission. This directive is published with a view to intensifying steps previously initiated and taking additional action which will bring about more effective results.

a. Open a channel of direct mail communication between DP's and their families at home. This will assure them that they are not cut off from their home country. The receipt of letters from friends and relatives will contribute much to a feeling of confidence in the homeland.

b. Print and distribute extracts from letters received from returned DP's or post some such letters on accessible bulletin boards.

c. A greater effort will be made to assist DP's to contact relatives at home. The addresses of the Red Cross Offices throughout the home country of the DP's should be displayed on a large poster inviting the people to contact the office in the district where their relatives were last known to reside. Any Government agency existing for this purpose in Poland (The National Tracing Bureau) or Yugoslavia should also be employed.

3. d. Facilitate the work of Missions from the homeland of DP's. Encourage DP's to see members of such missions and discuss the present conditions in their homeland.

e. Undertake a vigorous campaign to supply facts to the DP's concerning their homeland:

- (1) This could be aided by a series of posters, each one devoted to a question and answer, and displayed in camp mess-hall or other suitable place where the people congregate. UNRRA team members can supply the questions, and the answers can be obtained from the respective military missions in Austria.
- (2) An exhibition of photographs showing life at home today should be organized along the lines of an Art Show. Photographs should be interspersed with informative posters.
- (3) Obtain and distribute leaflets and pamphlets describing present conditions in home countries, including employment, housing, education, welfare, religion, agrarian reform, re-training opportunities, vocational field, social legislation, finance, and other matters.
- (4) Obtain and distribute newspapers from home countries. This provides displaced persons with latest information concerning events in their homeland, including news of their own particular localities. It will assist in bridging the gap which divides them from their homeland.
- (5) Radio broadcasts from home countries should be made available to DP's. These should include musical and entertainment features interspersed with talks on economic and social reconstruction, and interviews with returned DP's.
- (6) Films depicting present life in home countries will be obtained when available and taken on a tour of DP assembly centres. Movies showing reconstruction and development of the country will be useful in aiding repatriation. A film just completed by this Mission follows a family from UNRRA assembly centre movement on the transport, and numerous incidents occurring until they actually reached their home.
- (7) Arrange a series of round table sessions with barracks leaders and other interested DP's, at which UNRRA personnel who have visited Poland and are known to the DP's can lead discussions on repatriation.

f. Return movement to homes -

- (1) Make a final canvass of DP's immediately prior to departure of transports for their home country, to give them further opportunity to return. This has proved effective.
- (2) Make every effort to provide adequate transient staging centres. These should be adjacent to or have transportation lines easily accessible. Housing facilities should be satisfactory, otherwise other repatriation efforts may be nullified.

3. f. (3) Improve conditions of transports for return movements.

(4) Members of the UNRRA staff will continue to accompany transports of returning displaced persons. This will normally include a welfare officer, a medical officer, and a nurse. UNRRA personnel will submit full reports concerning the convoys, including recommendations for improvements in conducting future similar movements.

(5) Publicize additional privileges for those returning to their homes, such as priority for clothing.

(6) In the case of DP's from Poland, give thorough publicity to the additional 60-day food allowance for those returning to their homeland.

g. Strict implementation of Army policy of enforcing the application of Austrian Labor Laws. Otherwise, DP's may find the comparatively easy life in UNRRA assembly centers more attractive than the prospect of the conditions which they imagine are awaiting them at home.

h. The implementing of a vigilant supervision of camp newspapers to prevent subtle anti-repatriation propaganda.

i. Discourage and prevent anti-repatriation propaganda from coming into the camps from outside sources.

j. Set up in each assembly center a DP committee termed "Liaison with the Home Country" or under some similar title, which will assist in stimulating the urge to repatriate.

k. Displaced persons and refugees, including elected or self-appointed leaders, who strive to influence adversely or prevent the repatriation of other displaced persons and refugees, will be removed to other UNRRA assembly centers where their efforts to prevent the repatriation of other displaced persons and refugees will be minimized (ERO Order 40 E, 12 September 1946). The transfer of such persons and their families (unless families do not desire to transfer) will be promptly effected in cooperation with military authorities.

l. Insofar as practicable, place nationalities in separate assembly centers.

m. Continued removal from UNRRA assembly centers of all persons ineligible for UNRRA assistance and care. Screening for this purpose is nearing completion.

n. Educational and vocational assistance will be made available on a temporary basis only.

o. Admit to displaced persons assembly centers only such voluntary agency personnel as do not discourage repatriation.

4. All UNRRA personnel, whether at Central Headquarters, Zone Headquarters or with assembly centre teams, who are engaged in any part of the displaced persons operations, will give their whole-hearted support, assistance, and encouragement to this programme. Any activities of UNRRA personnel discouraging repatriation will be reported to Central Headquarters with a view to removal of such personnel.

Charles Miller
Deputy Chief of Mission
Col R. H. R. PARMINTER, Brigadier,
Chief of UNRRA Mission to Austria.

CH.2 and AM.4

7 November 1946

To : Deputy Chief of UNRRA Mission to Austria
Colonel Charles S. Miller

From : Child Welfare Specialist, CHQ, Miss Aleta Brownlee

Subject: Field Visit to Yugoslavia - October, 1946.
W/5

1. Purpose of Visit:

The largest number of children of United Nations nationality who have been located in Austria to date are Yugoslavs. Most of them are located in the British Zone of Austria. There has been difficulty in securing the cooperation of the British Military Authorities to effect the repatriation of these children. The problem has centered largely about a group of 49 Yugoslav boys at Ramsau in the care of the Catholic Church which brought them to Austria as a N.S.V. School from Zagreb in October, 1944, under the auspices of the German occupation authorities. The nationality of the children has never been in question, but the British Military did question the quality of care which might be provided for them in Yugoslavia. Although not conceding the right of the British Military to demand other information than that relating to the nationality of the children, it was thought by the Yugoslav Repatriation Office that it might be helpful if UNRRA Austria had recent information in regard to child care in Yugoslavia. At their request, the trip was made at a time when 16 children whose parents had been located in Yugoslavia were being returned. These were the first Yugoslav children for whom military clearance had been received in the British Zone, except for four crippled children and one feeble minded child. It was not required that parents be located in these cases. It should be noted that I was Child Welfare Specialist in Yugoslavia from April to October, 1945, and as such somewhat familiar with their program.

2. General Conclusions and Recommendations:

a. The general standard of care for children who have no parents is good, and there is reason to believe it will steadily improve.

b. Yugoslavia has a government which is purposeful and which is planning intelligently not only for economic recovery but also for a better life for its people. Therefore, children who live with their own families can be assured decent housing, education, and necessary medical care. Most important they will be given training for a useful life.

c. In view of these facts, there is no reason why all Yugoslav children in Austria should not be repatriated as quickly as possible. To prolong further their separation from their people and their country is cruel, and to accede to permanent separation condones German atrocity.

d. To this end I have recommended to the Repatriation Office of FPR of Yugoslavia in Vienna that they should consider establishing

(Distribution to Teams)

reception care in Zagreb, that the children should be sent there as soon as their documentation establishes nationality and that tracing of relatives will be done more expeditiously within Yugoslavia than from Austria.

e. In order to assist in documentation, the Yugoslav Red Cross is prepared to execute an agreement with UNRRA Austria whereby 6 Red Cross workers will be made available to work with UNRRA on the program of repatriation of children to Yugoslavia. A worker is now enroute to Austria.

f. UNRRA Yugoslavia can assist the children's program in the following ways which were discussed with Mr. Sergeichik, Chief of Mission.

- (1) There is unevenness in the quantity and quality of supplies which children's homes have. The government might be encouraged to set a priority of availability for certain items of clothing, shoes, sheets.
- (2) There is a certain amount of educational and play material in each home, but there is never enough. Private agencies could be encouraged to supply this, or it can now be purchased.
- (3) Every encouragement should be offered any request of the government for special training of workers.

3. Repatriation of 16 Children and 2 Adults from LEOBEN:

At about 9:30 A.M., September 27th, the 16 children and two adults to be repatriated were ready, and all gathered in the dining room at Leoben for a morning tea before leaving, composed of bread and butter, salami, eggs and cocoa. The ambulance and truck were loaded with their baggage and shortly after 10 A.M. were off, amid farewells from those remaining. Several of the children who have no parents inquired why they could not go also. The group was accompanied by Mrs. Klok and Miss Davis, Welfare Officers, and two nurse maids for the smaller children. Two hours later we reached the border, first Austrian, then British, and then Yugoslav where the children had a picnic. The British authorities notified the Yugoslavs of our arrival. They telephoned Maribor and told us the Yugoslav transport would arrive no later than 3 P.M. which it did. It was a fine large sight-seeing bus, and brought 6 Red Cross and Welfare staff members, and an interpreter for me since they had been informed that I would accompany the children.

A doctor was in charge and as Mrs Klok gave him the individual records, he talked briefly to each child. The Partisan guard who stood by was interested and also talked to the children. When the children had all been seen, he signed a receipt for the list and the UNRRA Austrian staff told them goodbye. They all looked a little solemn as we left but soon began to sing, except the small PROHASKA children who were tired and cried. Since they had been at LEOBEN only a week, a second farewell and change was more than they could bear. However, when we arrived at the Children's Home in Maribor, their pretty, young mother was eagerly awaiting them. She had not seen Johanu since he was 9 days old when the N.S.V. took him from her.

A general notification of the impending arrival of the children had gone out but parents had not been told the exact time. Most of the children stayed over night at the Children's Home, but by the next morning early all children whose homes were in or near Maribor had gone home and on the noon train a worker was taking 4 children to Ljubljana and others had gone toward Zagreb.

The Children's Home, which is used as a receiving home, is one which was built before the war for that special purpose. It is a large white building with pleasant large grounds and play areas. Inside, it is spotlessly clean with kalsomied walls, and cement or white scrubbed floors. We were taken immediately to the dining-room where dinner was ready for us, a soup, bread and butter, veal cutlets, potatoes and vegetable and apple kuchen. The long table was set with a white cloth and there were enormous platters of fruit, peaches, pears, and grapes, pitchers of raspberry juice, and flowers were scattered along the table. The children were very tired from all the excitement and were taken to rest immediately after eating while I was shown through the building. The dormitories are quite small - 12 children in each.

The present population of the Home is 43 children aged 7-14. They are all full orphans. They were in school, separated into 2 groups, older and younger children, or rather those more or less advanced, as some older children have never been to school at all during the war years. The teacher pointed out one extremely pretty little girl of 14 from Trieste who had been working under Italian occupation in a factory and was just now starting in school. The school rooms were bright and pleasant with long tables and chairs rather than desks. The walls were decorated with drawings and poems written by the children. They sang for us and showed evidence of good training. The school Master is a middle-aged man probably a teacher before the war, and he is assisted by 6 young men of about 18 or 20 who act as supervisors as well as teachers. There is also a house mother or welfare officer, a warm motherly person, and the kitchen staff is well above the average. All are voluntary Red Cross workers and the Home has been equipped by the Red Cross.

Then we went to see a new home for babies and younger children, also orphans, except that the mothers of a few babies are working, and the fathers dead. This was formerly a private home with a large garden but it is well adapted for the care of children since the rooms are quite large. It, too, was spotless as were the children. There were new enamel cribs and beds, the babies wore white sweaters indoors and warm blue coats and pants out of doors. (Gifts of American Red Cross). There was a sufficient staff of nurse maids, a separate milk kitchen, isolation room, play rooms, and dining rooms with red checked table cloths with beautiful white applique animal figures on them. (Jugoslav Red Cross). The children out of doors had an enclosed play yard, swings, sand box, etc. The person in charge of this home is a young kindergarten trained teacher.

Then we visited a babies' hospital which is caring for about 100 babies, five in each room. There was a clinic in process with about 20 mothers and babies there. This hospital is connected with, but apart from, a general hospital. The person in charge is a very pleasant middle aged woman physician. She served two years in the woods with the Partisan Army and on the wall of her office in this very modern hospital are pictures of the little log cabin in which she had operated and delivered babies during the war.

There are also in Maribor a domestic science school for 160 girls, a student home for 140 boys and an apprentice's home for 80 boys.

4. Plan of Work:

UNRRA Yugoslavia had requested that I go immediately to Belgrade. Upon arrival there, I conferred with MICHAEL SERGEICHIK, Chief of Mission, and Doctor Kenneth Sinclair Loutit, who is in charge of Health and Welfare including Repatriation. I had with me the complete file in regard to the children at Ramsau as well as a card file of nearly 400 children who had been reported as Yugoslav by the Austrian authorities in the British Zone. They were very much interested and Mr. Sergeichik said he would make requests for any travel I wanted as soon as a plan was made with the Yugoslav authorities. Doctor Loutit and I met with the Minister who is in charge of the Central Welfare Committee, Mr. LAZAREVIC, and with Mrs. Dedjer, who is responsible for Child Welfare. We later met with Mrs. Nedelkovic, Secretary of the Yugoslav Red Cross, and it was finally decided that I would make a trip through Bosnia and Croatia. Mrs. Dedjer also wanted a request made for Montenegro, which was done although we had no information about children in Austria being from there.

I found that the Red Cross has no Central Tracing Bureau, but that tracing is done in each of the federal states, however, we gave them the information we had in regard to the children and they intended to send lists of the children to each federal state. They also themselves brought up the question as to whether it would be possible for Red Cross workers to help UNRRA Austria in the location and documentation of children. I told them this would be possible, discussed the Czech and Polish Red Cross program in Austria with them, and gave them a copy of the administrative order in respect to Voluntary Societies. They acted on this almost immediately appointing six women to go to Austria and securing visas for them; however, Doctor Loutit and I made a request that only one come until an agreement with UNRRA could be effected.

I also left with them copies of our face sheet for individual children, and suggested that each federal state use this as a basic record for children who are lost as has been done by the Slovene Red Cross, since we have been successful in locating many of these children when we have sufficient information.

At Doctor Loutit's request, I called with him to see the British Ambassador, Mr. Peaks, and went over with him the full Ramsau record including correspondence with the British Military Authorities. He said that the matter had been taken up with him by Mr. Sergeichik a few days previously, and he was glad to have this background of information in case it becomes necessary for the Yugoslav Government to make a formal protest to his office. He was in perfect agreement with the principle that children of known nationality should be returned to their own country.

I arrived at a very bad time for UNRRA as the Katzin Committee was in Belgrade and most of the regional office directors were called in. It took nearly two weeks to secure passes for travel, partly due to the usual time required for UNRRA travel authorization and partly because answers were awaited from Bosnia and Croatia. Bosnia reported that they had no children in Austria

and Croatia authorized my visit. It was unfortunate that there was not sufficient time to discuss the matter of Bosnia since $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Ramsau children come from Bosnia. However, I did return to Belgrade that way and had the opportunity of observation although I contacted no officials and once started, the government did everything to make my trip successful. I was provided with a letter from the Central Welfare Committee, and welfare officials were notified of my impending visit. I was given English speaking staff, both Ministry and Red Cross, to take me where I wanted to go. I was absolutely free to visit any place or any family in Croatia, my only limitation being that of time. I was especially interested in the secretaries in each community. These are key positions and I found them intelligent and very well informed people. They were all fully informed in regard to their countries policy in regard to children and all made the point that there is no discrimination in regard to a child because of the political activity of his parents. I am sure that this is true, as I observed the same thing in visiting children's homes a year ago.

I was provided by UNRRA with transport and with an able interpreter.

5. Background Information on Child Care in Yugoslavia.

According to a statistical report prepared by the Central Welfare Committee in May, 1946, there are in Yugoslavia a total of 573,000 war and other orphans and half orphans. During the war it is estimated that 450,000 children lost their lives as a result of military operations and 400,000 babies died. Sixty-four children's homes, 517 school kitchens, 13 asylums for defective children and 94 day nurseries were seriously damaged or completely destroyed.

The child welfare program is largely decentralized in the federal states. It is carried on cooperatively by the government and large membership organizations such as the Yugoslav Red Cross and the Women's Anti-Fascist League. These latter provide supplies and staff and sometimes operate a home completely. There are now in Yugoslavia 1245 children's homes caring for 130,908 children, 360 nursery schools and school children's homes for 30,324 children, 12 homes for 860 physically and mentally defective children, 11 homes for 1635 children whose education has been neglected, 39 for 2495 apprentices, 227 day nurseries for 11,021 children and 598 school kitchens where 64,440 children are fed.

In addition to group care for children 19,291 are placed in foster family homes. The greatest losses were felt in Bosnia and Herzegovina and many children from these areas have been cared for in Montenegro, Slovenia, and Croatia. Bulgaria cared for 11,845 children for a period of 6 months, 1560 of these children suffered from tuberculosis and were cared for in hospitals, Serbia also cared for over 4000 children from other areas. During this year plans have been made to send 3000 handicraft apprentices to Czechoslovakia.

The credits of the Ministry of Finance of F.P.R. of Yugoslavia for the support of children beginning April 1st and ending December 31, 1946 are:

1000 dinars monthly per child sheltered in children's homes and 500 dinars per child cared for by a family with a yearly addition of 1500 dinars per child for clothing and footwear, medical supplies and teaching materials. In addition to this, plans are underway to utilize a social credit of 38690000 dinars for the reconstruction of children's homes and other social care.

In order to insure qualified personnel for children's homes, each federal state has organized training courses. To date 15 such courses have been held, and this is a continuing program. My own impression that good physical care is given the children, and that staff members, though usually not specially trained are warm, understanding persons, was confirmed by the American Red Cross representative, Mr. Jacob Hoppner, who has visited at least 100 children's institutions.

6. ZAGREB.

Upon arrival in Zagreb, I reported to UNRRA Regional Office, The Director, Mr. Ross, made an appointment with his opposite member in the Ministry of Supply, who went with us to the Ministry of Welfare. There I presented my letter of introduction from the Committee of Welfare in Belgrade. The Ministry in Zagreb was expecting me and said that they would make any arrangements for visits to institutions or family homes which I wanted to see. We had a brief discussion of their general program. They have a total of 27,040 children in their care. (See attached chart 1st copy). They have about 50 institutions under this Ministry. Under the Ministry of Culture which is responsible for children over 14 are students homes and apprentices homes. The Ministry staff was very much interested to know of Yugoslav children in Austria, and immediately asked how soon they could expect them to be returned. They have had a tremendous loss of children who were killed during the war. In this area, particularly, they were killed by the USTACHI. Although the USTACHI followed the practice of the Germans in establishing N.S.V. homes for selected children (such as group now at Ramsau, Austria), they also in their camps both starved and killed tremendous numbers of children. The Ministry had pictures of such children taken in USTACHI camps and I also had personal knowledge of this situation because when I was in Belgrade over a year ago, the bodies of the people killed in the camps floated down the Sava River in large numbers and they included many children. For this reason, concern about the welfare of the children who now remain in Croatia is very great.

I visited three children's homes in Zagreb. One for small children, one a kindergarten, and one a training school. These were all adjacent to each other in a suburban area with large and beautiful gardens. The training school was a former children's institution, one of the most modern I have ever seen. It is of concrete tile and glass construction. The dining room which is semi-circular and almost entirely of glass windows facing a view of the mountains would be worthy of a country club. The kitchen and bathing and washing facilities are excellent. There are terraces for eating outdoors and large upper-terraces for a gymnasium and play space. Since one of the great problems they face is a lack of adequate staff, this institution is used as a training school for children's workers. There were 70 girls in

training while I was there and the person in charge of the training school is the woman who was formerly Director of Child Welfare in Croatia. She also was in charge of all of the children in the woods during the war. The type of training is modern although the basic education of the girls is not as much as they would wish. The present group is taking six months training after which they will work for a period and then return. They take ordinary school subjects as well as those related to Child Welfare. In this home I saw some really remarkable examples of finger painting which very small children had done and also a handwork of various kinds mostly paper and clay. The staff was alert and eager.

A second home which had been open only two weeks is a large log cabin structure formerly owned by PAVELIC, the quisling of Croatia. This home is for children from 3 to 5. Across the gardens from this is a kindergarten and another home for children from 5 to 6. They also showed me other buildings which will soon be opened making a group in this immediate neighborhood of seven homes which will constitute a children's village or a unit for children. Each building will house no more than 50 children. The institution described above will continue to be used as a training school and there will be a special institution for children who have been maimed and crippled.

The children are fed in accordance with a planned nutrition program. They receive 3500 calories a day. The cost of food is 17 dinars a day, and the cost per month per child approximately 1600 dinars. The people I met in the Ministry of Welfare in Croatia were educated, interested people. They are doing a professional job which is evidenced by records, statistics, and charts showing their problems in the area. Their program includes aid to families, foster home care, and adoption. The actual number of children in the institutions in proportion to the total orphan or half-orphan children is low. They were eager to discuss methods of care and responsive to suggestion and comment.

7. KARLOVAC.

It was decided that we would try to visit some family homes and some institutions in the Karlovac area. Our first stop was made at a registry office in an effort to find the families of some of the children at Ramsau who were reported to be there. Karlovac is a fairly large, very devastated city. I had visited an institution there a year ago with the former Ministry of Welfare. It was in extremely bad condition and when he saw it, he said he would not leave the children there another week. The institution which we visited in the town is a former school building, very large. It houses 240 elementary school children and 250 older children. They are housed separately and the younger group is under the Ministry of Welfare and the older group under the Ministry of Culture. The children attend public school in the town and were not there at the time of our visit. The general impression I had was one of physical adequacy. However, the Ministry representative as well as I, disliked to see such a large number of children cared for in one place.

On the way to Karlovac, we had stopped to see an institution at

at Jastrebovska. This also I had visited a year ago. It is an old castle which was a Catholic institution before the war, a USTACHI home during the war, and was liberated by the Partisans in the Spring of 1945. When I first saw it, the children were still the same who had been gathered together by the USTACHI. At the time of this visit I did not see the children who were in school except the few who were in isolation. The building is being completely done over, carpenters, painters, and plumbers were working. At the time of my first visit, there were 250 children there. The present capacity now is 50. Although it is hard to modernize an old castle, they seem to be doing a good job of this. The grounds are extremely pleasant and it should make a very suitable home for children.

While we were waiting for the registry to report on the children who presumably had families in Karlovec, we made a visit to an institution for small children which was quite away out of Karlovec. The representative of the Ministry was particularly interested in this home because this group of children have never been separated since as babies they were cared for in an underground place in the hills nearby. Their present home is a kind of hunting lodge or country place not very large with beautiful grounds. It is approached by taking a ferry across the river. Although it is an old building, it is fairly well modernized. The staff seemed very good and the children happy. They had just been for a walk and came home singing.

Upon returning to Karlovec with barely time to catch the train, we found that the registry office had finally located the families we had hoped to see. The representative of the Ministry said he would visit them before returning to Zagreb and would send a report to me in Belgrade in care of Mrs. Sedjer. However, it has not arrived before I left. (Later reported all 4 families found.)

8. SPLIT:

The Minister of Welfare in Croatia had added to my letter from the Central Ministry in Belgrade a note to the welfare representative for Dalmatia. This I presented upon my arrival. I found I was expected and an English speaking Red Cross worker was assigned to take me wherever I wanted to go. We visited all of the homes in SPLIT. I particularly asked to see a home on the seaside which I had seen in April, 1945, when it had just opened to receive the children from Italy. At that time they used two adjoining buildings and housed 1500 children. They had no beds, but slept on blankets on the floor. They ate from plates made of the bottoms of tin cans. They had no chairs or benches on which to sit. In spite of this, the general atmosphere of the home at that time was excellent. Although most of the children were in school, there were two classes being held out of doors. These were primarily study classes since the children go to school only half a day, and study during the other half. The location of this home is beautiful on a little inlet of the Adriatic which is shallow enough for wading as well as swimming. One of the adjoining buildings is now being used for a hospital. There is now adequate equipment and they now house only 50 children.

I was not well impressed with the other homes which I saw, although the children were at school and it is hard to judge in their absence. Two of the homes were former catholic institutions and in all of them

there were still Sisters working. Two are for older children, one for boys and one for girls and one was a new home for small children where they did not seem to have a sufficient staff.

At noon I visited a Red Cross feeding center where 600 students from the surrounding areas are fed two meals a day. Here also there were Catholic Sisters working. The diet seemed adequate and it was to me one of the most interesting and useful projects I saw. These students come from small villages in the surrounding mountainous area and by this means they are enabled to attend school.

9. FAMILY OF JURICEV (Franjo and Nikica).

The note in regard to these boys which was given us from the institution at Ramsau stated "Father died after severe illness a natural death. Is unknown if the mother is still alive, not heard of again."

When Franjo who is 15 was interviewed, at Ramsau, he stated that Nikica is his only brother and that there are no sisters. He spoke for his brother and said they would not be interested in returning to Yugoslavia. He did not know whether his mother was alive.

We went to the Secretary of the Obbor in Sibenik. This man stated that he came from Vodice, the village where the boys lived and that he knew the family. He said the father of the boys had been with the USTACHI, but that this would make no difference in the care the boys would get upon their return whether they went to their family or elsewhere. It later developed that he spoke of their uncle and not their father who died of tuberculosis. We went to Vodice, a village on the seaside. The Secretary there did not know the family but found them by going through his registration book. When we came to the house, a woman was just coming down the stairs. We asked her if she was the mother of these two boys. At first, she seemed stunned to know that we knew anything about them. Later she cried and kissed our hands and called in the neighbors to tell them the good news, that her children had been found.

There are a smaller brother and sister, Ante and Ana, and a grandfather in the family. They lived in a neat two story stone stucco house with a walled garden practically on the seaside. The mother is a hard working peasant woman who has been beautiful. She told me that in the Spring of 1945 she received a post-card which only said "Your children are alive." She had no idea where it came from. She said the uncle of the boys who later was killed on the Russian front had taken them to Zagreb to a hospital because they were ill in 1942. She has never seen them since. She wants very much that they come home as soon as possible and sent a message to them that the family is well and anxious to see them.

10. DUBROVNIK.

There are only two institutions for children in Dubrovnik. One is a Catholic institution for thirty small children of school age. It is in the center of town in the old walled city and is a very old building. However, it was spotlessly clean and scrubbed. The play space for the children is an enclosed concrete area not as adequate as one would like, but anything else would

be impossible inside the city. The Sister-in-charge was pleasant and the general atmosphere of the place was good.

There is a large recreation and study room where the children could go to school half a day prepare their lessons. A Red Cross worker is assigned to them as supervisor of study. The Sisters do not participate in the education of the children. In this room was a mixture of decoration including banners and slogans, pictures of saints and a picture of Tito. In almost every children's home is the slogan "Tito je nas, misle Titovi", (Tito is ours, we are Tito's), and there are usually old national proverbs of various kinds also on the walls.

A second home is on an island in the Bay reached by motor-boat. The institution is a former monastery, a part of which was remodelled by the Emperor Maximilian and the gardens, which are extensive, were planned by him. The children are in one end of the building. There are five beds in each of the former monk's cells and the usual dormitory system is somewhat avoided. There is adjoining the main building a nursery school for the smaller children. This institution was clean and as attractive as such an old building could be made. The grounds offer a great advantage and they have a very large vegetable garden. The Nursery School Supervisor seemed to be a very competent young woman and the children appeared to be happy and well cared for. The Ministry plans to erect a new building on the main land in the near future and this island will then become a national park.

11. General Impressions in Regard to Conditions Affecting Repatriation.

a. The economic situation has definitely improved during the year I have been away from Yugoslavia. There is an air of purposefulness and people seem to be busy. There are shops of every kind open, the largest number are private businesses; although the new government stores "Na Ma" are most impressive. They are a combination in American terms of a Woolworth's Store and a J.C. PENNY and sell every conceivable item of merchandise. The details of the ration system has been made a subject of report which is on file in this Mission Office. It varies from time to time and place to place but on the whole there seems to be more goods on free sale than on ration. There are preferred categories not necessarily related only to the need of the individual but also related to his service to his country.

Food appears to be plentiful. Most of the markets except those on the coast are over-flowing with every kind of food. UNRRA supplies are very much in evidence. Although the prices appear to be high, I was told this was an effort on the part of the government to drain off surplus funds for the Relief and Rehabilitation Fund. We met a convoy of trucks in Bosnia where there is a problem of getting food to mountain villages before Winter when the roads close.

b. Rehabilitation: There is a great deal of work in progress in building up devastated areas. There is little left in Belgrade to show the effect of bombing. The railroads have been extended and are operating in fairly good service. There are many UNRRA engines in the yards. There is sleeper service from Zagreb to Belgrade and from Zagreb to SPLIT.

A stretch of railroad is being built in Bosnia by 1400 youth. These are not only Yugoslav young people, but include representatives of many other countries who have volunteered their labor for the Summer.

There is a great deal of work being done on the roads. In Herzegovina, I saw miles of road with neat piles of crushed rock along the side. I had not seen any trucks ~~hauling~~ rock, but finally we came to a stretch where literally hundreds of boys and girls, men and women, were sitting cracking rock by the side of the road. The rock was carried from the adjacent area since this part of the country is practically nothing but rock. Although this program has been called by some forced labor, it is considered by the people voluntary work and my impression from observing those who were working was that the latter was true. They were a very cheerful busy crowd although a bitter wind was blowing across the mountains. There is a limited amount of road machinery and paid labor, but a great deal of the work is being done in this way.

There was considerable evidence of the rebuilding of dwellings, especially in rural areas. In Croatia new tile roofs showed red in all the small villages which had been burned. In the poorest part of the Dalmatian coast, new thatched roofs had been put on the shells of old stone buildings. In Bosnia, the lumber industry was extremely busy and for miles most of the villages and farm buildings are completely new. This was also true of Serbia where the houses are attractive square white stucco structures with steep roofs of thick wooden stakes.

There is a plan for farm resettlement from the least arable parts of the country to the vrivodina, which is a very rich area. There are also plans under way for a better control of agriculture in the interests to the total economy of the country. There is improvement in cattle breeding, largely due to UNRRA assistance. I saw a large cattle market on the border between Bosnia and Serbia.

e. Clothing: The general clothing situation has improved very much. The children in Belgrade in particular appear to be very well dressed. It is noticeable also that a considerable number of peasants are wearing new home-spun clothing. There are a few places where the clothing situation is still bad. I especially noticed the ragged state of the people in KMIN. I was told that considerable amount of UNRRA used clothing had gone there, but it is probable that the peasants cannot use it. The women here, for instance, wear extremely full skirts and many of them, and there is almost nothing in American clothing which would be suitable. There is a great deal of woolen material and shoes evident in the windows. Most of this is rationed although I saw in a window some home-spun woolen goods which was not rationed.

d. Catholic Church: The trial of Arch Bishop Stepanic was in process. I talked with Father Dailey, Secretary of the Papal Nuncio, Bishop Hurley. He told me that it had been estimated that 15% of the priests had been executed and 10% of the remainder are in prison. Many of the convents and institutions have been closed. Since some of the mother houses were Yugoslav, the Nuns in these instances have returned to their own family homes. Some seminaries have been closed, but there is still one open in Zagreb. He did not have information about Catholic children's Homes, but was of the opinion that most of them would soon be closed. I was in Ljubljana on a Sunday

and it was noticeable that the Catholic Churches were packed with people. I was told that very often government meetings are called at the hours of church and that on church holidays the children may be gathered together for a special meeting.

I discussed the position of the church with a representative of the Ministry of Welfare in Croatia. He told me there are still independent Catholic institutions for children operating. The government does not now place a representative in them as they did when I was there a year ago. He said they found they were too short of staff to do this. He was interested in discussing with me a method of licensing and standard setting whereby a government may control private effort. He stated that Catholic children may continue their religious observances upon the request of their parents in whatever institution they are, or if the parents desire it, they may attend a Catholic institution. Later in Split and Dubrovnik, I saw Catholic Sisters in nearly every institution I visited, although in only one was a Sister in charge. They were likewise working in a Red Cross feeding centre for children. It seems to be a consensus of opinion that the leaders of the Church played a most unworthy part in the war and supported the USTACHI, although many individual priests were brave and patriotic in the defense of their country. Some of them are now participating in the government. I was told that the Secretary of the Maribor Odbor is a priest, and the Chief of Welfare in Bosnia is an Orthodox Priest.

e. Education: A tremendous effort is being made to educate the children who have lost so many years at school during the war. Children go to school a half day and in each institution is a teacher supervisor for the other half day study period. Teachers are required to teach only six hours a day but volunteer for more time in order to meet the need as teachers are scarce. I visited an educational exhibit in Belgrade which was beautiful and most interesting. It was held in a large room at the end of an Arcade. The Arcade was lined with more than life-sized drawings of old national heroes, largely peasant and partisan leaders. In the main room was a "maze" which delighted the children as they found new things as they went through tunnels or climbed stairs. In the main area, there were three large paintings of LENIN, TITO, and STALIN with quotations from each. The emphasis was on learning and the fact that knowledge is power and only knowledge will effect the freedom of the people. There were large poster paintings of the works of authors including English, American, and French together with their portraits. The posters included little Eva teaching Uncle Tom to read, Gullivers' Travels, Huckleberry Fin, etc. There were some beautiful detailed cycloramas of fairy stories and an exhibit of dolls in national costumes. There was a considerable library and many paintings by children. It was interesting to observe that the new work of the children does not relate to war themes, but are simpler things of animals, flowers, and farm pictures. There were a few horrible pictures done by children which could only reflect what they had actually seen. The Pioneer Organization, somewhat similar to Boy Scouts, was in evidence and the children themselves were acting as ushers and showing visitors the Exhibit.

COPY

HQ/R/1

TO: Chief Repatriation office, Vienna.

Copy: Miss D. Dodds, Area Welfare Officer, Salzburg
Col. Ryan, USFA Linz, Austria.
Medical office.

Report of Polish D.P. Repatriation train from Wels, Austria to Dziedzice, Poland. October 9th - 15th, 1946.

UNRRA Personnel : E.R. Harnett, Welfare Officer
K. Van Schayk joined train at Salzburg.

Army Personnel : Oct. 9th - 10th, from Wels to Salzburg:
Capt. + 3 G.I.'s.
Oct. 10th - 15th, 1st Lt. Train Commander,
Sgt. + 4 G.I.'s.

No Polish Mission in Linz.

Rations:

10 day Austrian Ration from Wels - 400 people
10 day Austrian Ration from Salzb., 250 people
400 Indian Red Cross parcels from Wels.
250 Indian Red Cross parcels from Salzb.
44 American Red Cr. parc. from Salzburg.

533 DP's including 21 Prisoners.
Box wagons, with stoves .
22 people per wagon.

Wednesday Oct. 9th, 1946.

Joined team at Wels - 8 A.M. Train scheduled to leave at 10 A.M., but much delay was caused by lack of co-operation between Army - UNRRA and Austrian authority. Wagons arrived early in the day - but no stoves were fixed, rain was found to be pouring in the roofs of several wagons, repairs had to be effected.

Austrian Rations were late in arriving and Army guard did not appear to take over prisoners from Austrian police, until 11 A.M.

Lack of liaison - or cooperation - between UNRRA and Austrian authorities caused much agitation-work, delay and unnecessary frustration among five of the prisoners and their families. These five men claimed that nobody had notified their wives that they were to return to Poland, consequently on the day of departure most of my time was spent, contacting families and wives. Two families met the train at Salzburg - one came from Ebensee - and one from Lager 59 Linz.

Some considerable difficulty was experienced with one man whose wife was living privately in Linz - he claimed, that he was not Polish anyway, and had no idea why he had been put on the train. The woman eventually was contacted through M.P. and civilian Police channels and she joined the train at Salzburg.

The Polish Mission eventually had the man turned over to the civilian Police authorities in Salzburg.

The DP's were entrained early morning, and at 11 A.M. a deputation came to the Director of Wels team asking that the No. of people be reduced on this transport as 25 people plus baggage was too many per one car. Two more

cars were eventually seemed from the Army reducing the numbers somewhat to 22 people. The train left Wels at 3.45 and stopped in another siding outside Wels for a period of 2 hrs - The train was ready to leave at 5.30 p.m., but was delayed for a further 2 hrs because one of the G.I. guards - unknown to the Cpt. in charge had taken one of the prisoners into Wels in search of liquor.

The train left Wels at 7.30 - I travelled down in the food wagon - and during the night, when the train stopped and started suddenly the fire stove, chimney - completely collapsed. A fire started immediately, but did not get out of hand, although results might have been serious. Arrived at Salzburg midnight.-

Thursday Oct. 10th.

Further 198 DP's from Salzburg area, plus 10 day ration joined. Train. Hot coffee and soup served at intervals during day to transport.

3 prisoners missing during the night. The train commander and his G.I.'s took over, and order was somewhat restored. Train remained in Salzburg all day Thursday and Friday - during which period had all stoves checked.

There was continual grumbling about the food from the Wels people who were receiving hot soup and coffee only. The Salzburg people received food from their camps. All people were issued with ration cards which had to be made out, and distributed at the last minute to people before leaving.

11 pregnant women travelling, one in ninth month, whom 9 insisted could not travel. She refused to leave the train even with the endeavours of two priests to make her do so.

Train left Salzburg 11 p.m. Friday.-

Saturday:

1 A.M. at Piding an inspection of all goods was made by the 66th Constabulary. Owing to the fact that the guards were armed and had fixed bayonets the crowd became abusive and refused to return to the wagons. A reinforcement of Constabulary arrived - the people were forced back to the wagons, two men having slightly injured by bayonets. This caused much hysteric among both men and women.

It was difficult, to ascertain who was in charge of the inspection - but I believe it was a Sgt., of whom I enquired into the right of the raid and was told it was nothing to do with UNRRA, and that if I did not want to get hurt, to get behind the guards and not with the DP's!!

Later a Lt. arrived, and the search was carried on in an efficient manner. It was long - intensive, and thorough, oh, every person and every wagon.

No cigarettes, candy or food was taken - to my knowledge! G.I. Clothing - blankets, watches, films, and one man had a pair of civilian gloves taken. The search ended at approx. 5 A.M., and at 6 A.M. every person had to turn out for D.D.T.

The psychological effect of the raid on the people was bad, consequently ~~to handle~~ they were nervous, distrustful, discontented and abusive, and extremely difficult to handle for the following two days.

Sunday:

Arrived Prague, where the R.T.O. took details of the raid and asked me to advise UNRRA to contact Frankfurt G.5 about the matter.

At 2 P.M. the train had to be held up for an ambulance to take off the woman who was in her ninth month of pregnancy.

Later in the day - 100 km from the Polish border - a second woman in pregnancy fell, and a local doctor had to be called. The woman refused to leave the train, and was taken on the border when she went to hospital.

Much trouble and discontentment was experienced throughout the journey continually with the distribution of food.

In spite of my continued telephoning in advance for food to be prepared at scheduled stopping places, nothing was obtained until we reached Prague, five days after the commencement of the trip.

Train arrived at Dziedzice Tuesday morning and was held in siding for two days. People were fed by P.U.R. large transit camp, near station. During Wednesday all people screened and registered and issued identity papers, by P.U.R.

There is a team of 12 UNRRA men which has been operating only 3 weeks in Dziedzice for the purpose of issuing rations.

The 60 day ration that everybody receives consists off:

Fats ... 2,81 LBS, Flour 49,09 LBS, Oats 3,75 LBS
Milk 29,02 LBS (32 tins), Salt 1,88 LBS, Fish 4,54 LBS (22 tins),
Pulses 3,75 LBS.

The people were then given Rail tickets to their respective destinations.

40 Ind. Red Cross Parcels to be returned to UNRRA. Receipt attached.
Turned over to Lt. Wendell, train commander.

Report submitted
by

Miss Harnett
UNRRA Welfare Officer.

H0/R/10

AD HOC MEETING ON POLISH REPATRIATION
RELIEF SERVICES

UNRRA MISSION TO AUSTRIA

2nd October 1946

Present:

In the chair:	Miss Barton (D. Director, Relief Services)
UNRRA:	Colonel Millar (D. Chief of Mission) Mr. Hoddinott (Public Relations) Mrs. West (Chief Welfare Officer) Mr. Lindsay (Repatriation Officer)
UNRRA Poland:	Mr. Berger (Repatriation Officer) Miss Krakowska (Assistant)
Polish Government:	Mr. J. Bieszk, 1st Secretary, Polish Consulate Major Panasiut, Repatriation Liaison Officer.

Polish Liaison Officers.

Mr. Berger stated that it was his considered opinion that a great deal depended on the quality of liaison officers as to successful repatriation of D.Ps. Major Panasiut stated that they were short of Liaison Officers in Austria, the minimum requirement was three in each Zone, the French and U.S. Zone still require one more each. He said that Warsaw had been asked to provide these personnel and he hoped they would arrive soon. Mr. Berger said that it was important to strengthen the Polish staff in the U.S. Zone: Major Panasiut said his Government were aware of this and hoped to remedy the situation.

Duties of Liaison Officers.

A discussion took place on the definition of duties of the Polish Liaison Officers, UNRRA and the Military in connection with transports; it was decided, however, to try and arrange a meeting on Friday of this week and thrash out the exact duties of these three bodies.

Searching of D.P.s baggage.

Mr. Berger said that the military authorities were discussing the question of searching D.Ps. at the present time and are promising to limit the searching. The Polish Government representative said that there was no objection to searching taking place but only to the method employed. It was agreed that this could be more usefully discussed at the meeting with military.

Publicity of conditions in Poland to Poles in camps and to Poles out of camps.

Mr. Berger explained what arrangements had been made in Germany and said a committee in Poland had been set up to handle the publicity so that all agencies concerned should speak with one voice. Some of the information supplied is required not only for the D.Ps. but for UNRRA staff in the camps who are in close contact with would be returning D.Ps. Mr. Berger went on to explain the methods being adopted: (1) the issue of a series of leaflets on Polish life to-day; (2) a weekly Radio feature prepared which can be listened to by people in camps; (3) Film Polski will issue films on current events in Poland to-day; (4) a continual review that all information put out to repatriants is concerned with things which concern D.Ps.

Mr. Berger said it was difficult to know what kind of questions were being asked in every country, such as Austria, Italy, Middle East, etc., and he would always be glad of information to assist in this respect.

Mr. Bieszk said in his opinion that anything D.Ps. hear about Poland they think is propaganda, but if correspondence is received from their family then they are more likely to return.

Mr. Bieszk suggested that a list of all Poles returning to Poland should be made; it was stated that this had already been asked for from camps but for some reason the D.Ps. do not wish to give these lists. Mr. Berger said this point was discussed at Geneva in respect of Polish, Russian and Yugoslavs but the UNRRA Council decided this was not to be done, but Mr. Berger pointed out that so long as the D.P. is agreeable for his name to be put on the list it can be registered in the National Tracing Bureau in Warsaw and then any relative in Poland can trace where he is. Also if D.P. has relatives in Poland they should give their name and their last known address and UNRRA Poland would try and trace them and send news through to the D.P. here. Major Panasiut stated that many D.Ps. feared to do this.

UNRRA Staff.

Mrs. West said that she had held a meeting with UNRRA Welfare Officers that day and has discussed ways and means of assisting the problem of repatriation:

- (a) Segregation. The Polish representatives considered that segregation of Poles not willing to return from the others would assist in the general movement.
- (b) Separation of Poles from other nationalities:
The Polish representatives agreed that separation of Poles from other nationalities, and especially from Ukrainians was essential.
- (c) Committees for repatriation in camps. Major Panasiut said he feared the creation of too many committees as these might have the reverse effect, i.e. a D.P. might stay in order to serve on the committee. He continued to say that all camps have committees (as also the D.Ps. living outside the camps). Miss Barton said she considered it would be useful if these committees contacted UNRRA Welfare Officers as they were unaware of the existence of these committees.

Currency.

Major Panasiut raised the difficulty of D.Ps taking back with them money either brought here, or saved and earned here, as the Austrian Government only permit 40% to be released from the Bank to any one D.P. Miss Barton made the suggestion that the Polish Political Mission should be able to assist by making arrangements with the Austrian Government whereby funds required for financing their Mission here could be raised from Polish D.P. money and credit given the D.Ps. by the Polish Government on their return to Poland. Mr. Bieszk said he would take this point up with the Austrian Government.

It was stressed that this was a Polish Government problem but that UNRRA would do anything they could to help: Miss Barton considered this point should be raised at the meeting to be held with the military authorities.

Group re-settlement.

Mr. Berger explained that the Polish Government were taking sym-

pathetic action in regard to group re-settlement of Poles from Germany and he asked if similar action would promote repatriation here. Apart from the one group at Wegscheid, Linz, the Polish Repatriation Officer said he knew of no other group. Mrs. West said she had asked UNRRA Welfare Officers to submit reports on this aspect.

Sixty days rations.

Miss Barton explained that in Germany as from October 1st 60 days rations will be given to all returning Poles. In Austria the U.S. military are ready to put the same plan into action but are waiting for the British and French Elements to make their decision. The drill followed is that when the D.P. turns in his identity card on leaving he receives a card which entitles him to draw food on arrival in Poland. Miss Barton went on to say that it is uncertain whether this scheme will be put into effect in time for the next transport on October 10th.

Newspapers.

Major Panasiut said he was having difficulty in sending Polish newspapers on from here to Italy and asked if any assistance could be given in UNRRA. Mrs. West promised to look into this.

Support for repatriates from Russian Zone and Vienna.

Major Panasiut raised this question and the difficulties involved for Polish repatriates from these areas, Mrs. West asked him to put all points on paper and UNRRA would look into the whole problem.

WELFARE MEETING ON REPATRIATION OF POLISH DPs.

Wednesday 2 October 1946, at 9.15 a.m.

Present:

In the Chair:	Mrs. West
UNRRA Polish Mission:	Mr. Roland Berger, Chief Repatriation Officer Miss Krakowska, Welfare Officer
UNRRA Austrian Mission Welfare Officers:	Miss Dodds Miss Lerrigo Miss Wietz Mr. d'Andrea Miss Kamil Miss Otteson Mrs. Cameron Mrs. Erichson Miss Ross Miss Prentice
Public Relations Officer:	Mrs. Cullen
Repatriation Officer:	Mr. Lindsay

I. Introduction of Mr. Berger

a) In introducing Mr. Berger to those Welfare Officers who had not already met him, the chairman pointed out his interest in the repatriation of Polish DPs and the fact that he was largely responsible for arranging the two months' food supply to all Poles who were being repatriated from Germany, as well as for the intensification of the campaign on repatriation in Germany.

b) Mr. Berger made the following points:

- 1) Picture of Poland at the present time:
 - i) The amazing speed of recovery
 - ii) Poland with its present boundaries, is a satisfactory economic unit, showing a healthy balance between industry and agriculture
 - iii) With reasonable opportunities Poland can get on its economic feet.
 - iv) The main export, coal, is being produced in substantial quantities and exported.
- 2) The UNRRA program fits into this economic pattern, being less concerned with relief than with rehabilitation. Supplies brought in are for the greater part made up of machinery, tools etc., and food takes only a secondary position.
- 3) Government policy in welfare services proper pursue two main lines. Polish welfare services continue on the same lines as before the war.
 - ii) The future social services are concerned mainly with the general raising of standards of living by full employment and extension of the social insurance scheme.
- 4) General Repatriation Position: Out of 23.9 million people in Poland over 4 million are DPs.

From analysis of the problem in Germany it is felt there is a large mass of Poles who, in the past, have been influenced by a small organised group. Inducements like a 2-month food program and a real knowledge of position in Poland are necessary, and there is every chance that this job can be cracked into within the next two or three months. The psychological attitude of DPs

has changed somewhat because:

- a) They now realise that resettlement is not so easy or advantageous as they had thought
- b) They are obliged to work;

This, together with the attitude of the Polish Government which is now very co-operative, combine to make this a particularly good time to do the job in spite of adverse weather conditions. Taking all these points into consideration there is a very good chance of repatriation three-quarters of the DPs by the end of December.

Discussion on plans to encourage repatriation:

The chairman pointed out that this meeting had been called because the main job of the Welfare Officers at present is to bring about the return of the DPs, which may require a case by case approach. The chairman then called for reports on the plans of welfare officers to encourage repatriation. Miss Kamil and Mrs. Cameron were asked to make a statement on repatriation efforts in Villach camp.

Miss Kamil emphasised two points which she considered had much to do with the return of so many Poles from Villach camp:

- a) The Polish Mission in Villach had opened up a channel of direct communication between camp inhabitants and their families at home. Before this the DPs felt very strongly that they were cut off from their own country.
- b) Polish newspapers from Poland were received and distributed in the camp.

Miss Kamil stated further that although the Polish Mission was unwelcome at first the DPs grew to have confidence in them. They gave a clear picture of what was going on in Poland, without any over-optimistic attitude, emphasising the fact that anyone returning to Poland will have to work hard, but as long as he works hard he will come out on top. The combination of excellent workers of the Polish Mission and accurate information considerably helped the repatriation movement.

In reply to a question from the chairman, Miss Kamil stated that she found that those who decided to return were those who had been in the camps for a long time - they were beginning to feel the restrictions - less food, compulsory labor, 10 km. travel limit etc. At this point Miss Dodds stressed that it was important for repatriants to go on a positive rather than a negative basis.

Miss Wietz emphasised the importance of receiving mail from home. Mr. Berger stated that when he visited Hellbrunn the previous day he found that letters had already been received from those Poles who went on the transport leaving Salzburg on September 10, indicating that postal communications were becoming more rapid. He agreed on the importance of mail, which is no longer censored in Poland.

The chairman asked for observations: Mrs. Cameron stated that 100 people were going south through Italy, probably helped by the Polish 2nd Corps, on their way to England. This was a very recent movement, started in the last two days, and FSS were concerned about it.

a) Liaison Officers - Polish Red Cross (2nd Corps)

On a question re the Polish Red Cross (2nd Corps), Miss Kamil said that officially they are out in the British Zone, but members are coming across the frontier from Italy with passes as red cross workers and have been getting into the camps.

The chairman asked for information on the situation in the Salzburg area with regard to the Polish Red Cross. Miss Dodds stated that the Polish Red Cross (Warsaw) had arrived too recently (at the beginning of September) to be able to judge. She added that the effectiveness of a liaison officer depends entirely on the individual and that possibly the members in the Salzburg area were not strong enough. The chairman stressed the very great need for more qualified red cross workers from Poland.

Miss Kamil stated that in the British Zone there was only the Polish Mission, and that they were still waiting for Red Cross (Warsaw) workers.

Mr. Berger stated that he would take up the question of more personnel from Warsaw.

Miss Wietz stated that in the French Zone the 2nd Corps are just closing down. In every town in Vorarlberg and Tyrol there is the "Association Polonaise" who seem to be fairly co-operative with regard to repatriation. There is a Polish Repatriation Mission consisting of two people in the French Zone, located at Kufstein. This mission complained that they had trouble with military censorship: newspapers etc. coming from Paris were not help up but those coming from Poland were considerably delayed.

The chairman requested that a careful check be made on the Association Polonaise and on the Polish American Relief Committee.

Mr. d'Andrea stated that in the Linz and Ebensee areas the Polish Red Cross (2nd Corps) had left entirely.

Mr. Berger promised to take up the following points in Warsaw:

- a) Strengthening of Polish Liaison Officers
- b) Augmentation of representatives from Polish Red Cross (Warsaw).

I. b). Barracks Leaders:

The chairman asked to what extent the barracks leaders were cleared as to whether they were favourable to repatriation. Mr. Berger described the situation at Hellbrunn where he spent some time yesterday. There, the proportion of the educated group in the center influencing the others against repatriation is about 5%. While it might not be possible to locate all those working against repatriation Mr. Berger felt that it would be possible to pick out two or three who were the principal agitators.

I. c). Camp Repatriation Committees: Discussion took place on the value of organizing Camp Repatriation Committees took place. Their principal value would be to sell the idea of repatriation. They could not be static committees to be effective; members would have to change from time to time, say 50% going off on each transport; they would continue their work when in Poland by writing back to the camp to give first hand accounts of life in Poland for the returned DP.

Miss Kamil stated that Villach had something comparable. However they had found that one of the chief deterrents to repatriation is the actual transport; when a transport is postponed for days or weeks the DPs have time to change their minds, particularly as certain elements influence the would-be repatriants. Another deterrent is food supplies on trains, especially for children. Proper food was not available on the last transport.

It was agreed unanimously that immediately a DP decides to return home he should be removed to a transit center.

Mr. d'Andrea presented the method used in Ebensee camp to encourage repatriation:

1. Weekly newspapers and bulletins are circulated with all information received from every source on conditions in Poland.
2. Leaflets are printed in which extracts from letters received from returned DPs are presented.
3. Camp meetings are held, with the co-operation of the Camp Commander.
4. Just before the transport is due to leave, a room to room check is made, which usually results in half as many people more deciding to go on the transport.
5. Letters from home, as already stated, proved the most important factor of all.

Mr. Tenger suggested that all Poles could register with the National Tracing Bureau, so that anyone in Poland could trace a relative. In reverse, a form might be initiated the name and address of the DP together with the name and last known address of the person he seeks and they will be traced and communicate with the DP.

Mr. d'Andrea mentioned that when the camp broke up and the DPs were to be moved to a less comfortable one, one third decided to return home.

Information on the situation of unmarried mothers and widows without income, also the care of the disabled and blind, is urgently required.

Returning to the subject of Repatriation Committees, Miss Dodds suggested that their duties should be as follows:

1. Dissemination of information.
2. Preparation for transports and special problems.
3. Reports from DPs already returned to Poland.

These three points would gradually encourage repatriation.

Mr. Lindsay stated that it was dangerous to set up a repatriation committee in some camps, but under another name it would be successful. Miss Dodds suggested "Liaison with the home country" which was unanimously approved. All workers were urged to implement this suggestion in some way in each camp.

I. e) - Segregation of intelligentsia from peasants:

Miss Kamil, emphasising the importance of this move, stated that in the British Zone DPs living out of camp and not subject to adverse influence never backed out at the last moment. Mr. Berger stated that Col. Raleigh, in the U.S. Zone, had agreed to co-operate in this segregation. On Mr. d'Andrea's suggestion that DPs should be screened for a final decision and those who said they would never return put in a separate camp, Mr. Berger pointed out that this was too strong, because they can still change their minds. For example, at Hellbrunn during his visit, seven of the anti-repatriation group had changed their minds. He felt that only the agitators should be separated.

I F) Separation of Ukrainians from Poles

Mr. Berger said that the Polish Government representatives at Geneva had said that statistics of Polish DPs should not include Ukrainians. There is great conflict between the Ukrainians and the Poles. Under the new frontiers the bulk of the Ukrainians are in the Soviet Union and the Ukraine. There are still some in Poland west of the Bug, who are being systematically transferred into the Soviet Union so that in time there will be no Ukrainians left in Poland. The Polish Government will not accept Ukrainians as repatriants. UNRRA has asked the Polish government to give a clear-cut definition of a Ukrainian, together with their interpretation of Ukrainian-Polish marriages. This will be issued to all DP Missions.

Miss Dodds drew attention to the fact that, unlike Germany, military Government regulations will not allow UNRRA to call these people Ukrainians, they are Poles. The chairman said that this point would be brought up in discussions with Col. Welker later in the day.

I. g) Group Resettlement;

Mr. Berger said that in Germany, large groups from the Lwow area have wished to return together. At the moment arrangements are being made for 250 families (800 people) in Poland. The leader of the group will go to Poland to see conditions and then a spearhead party will go on ahead to prepare for the rest of the group. This idea was welcomed by all welfare officers, and Mr. Berger said that the same thing could be done for groups from Austria. The chairman suggested that this was perhaps one way of dealing with the hard core. A group of 100 people of all types and trades would be ideal.

II a) Effectiveness of present publicity received from Poland:

The chairman asked all present to hand in lists of points on which information was desired from Poland, particularly points raised most often by DPs.

Mr. Berger stated that in Germany Public Relations and Relief Services were working closely together, and that a whole program of material from the Polish Government is to be prepared for all countries, including leaflets, radio features, newsreels of everyday life in Poland etc., but all this could be much more effective if those preparing the material can be supplied with information on what points should be covered. A Publicity Committee has been set up with representatives from the Polish Government and the UNRRA Mission.

The Public Relations Officer stated that she felt that in addition to this program, a greater impression would be made on Poles if they got information from British or Americans in the country, i.e. a P.R.O. might be sent to Poland to observe and report. In addition stories from repatriated DPs would be of considerable interest. Further, UNRRA officials in the Polish Mission could give stories of their impressions of Poland.

Mr. Berger stated that factual information material is now being produced weekly by the Welfare Division in Poland for UNRRA officials in other countries. Mrs. Cullen suggested that as much material as possible should be published in camp newspapers. Mr. Berger stated that with regard to the 60-day food scheme, the military, UNRRA in Germany and Poland, and the Polish Prime Minister all released their information at the same time.

b) Future plans.

- 1) A series of leaflets on special themes will be available.

- 2) Information on recovered territories and programs of resettlement is forthcoming.
- 3) Vocational opportunities - information will be supplied.
- 4) Agrarian program - information forthcoming.
- 5) Educational possibilities - information to be supplied.
- 6) Information on opportunities and care for widows, unmarried mothers, is available.
- 7) Up-to-date knowledge of Poland on part of Liaison Officers: Most Liaison Officers are now travelling back and forth to Poland and can supply first-hand information.
- 8) Return of Polish DPs for visit: all present agreed that this would be valuable.
- 9) Use of DPs on radio broadcasts: Radio Polski has agreed to broadcast a weekly feature, probably on Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m., covering a wide range of subjects including music etc. The chairman agreed to check up on the reception of Polish broadcasting stations in Austria when Mr. Berger has supplied a list of stations to be used.
- 10) Exchange of reports on experiences of UNRRA personnel between Germany and Austria.
- 11) Mail - the importance of this had already been discussed.
- 12) Definition from Polish Government on Ukrainians etc: - this had already been discussed.

III. Currency Problems.

Miss Kamil stated that up to now, the National Bank in Vienna had agreed to give a check to DPs which could be changed into zlotys in Poland, and this had been done. Apart from this, DPs have had money in different banks, and transfer to the National Bank is difficult. Now a directive has been issued that the money will be paid out to them, but the transfer from their own banks into centralized bank is still difficult. DPs are allowed to draw 150 Austrian Schillings per month under Austrian regulations.

Mr. Berger asked for a copy of the directive issued in the British Zone. He pointed out that in Poland a check cannot be converted immediately into the total value, since only a certain number of zlotys can be drawn per month.

IV. Child Search

a) The chairman asked Mr. Berger if he wished to raise any questions on this subject. He stated that the Polish Government is concerned about:

- 1) the abduction of children by the Polish 2nd Corps - possibly as many as 1000 children have been abducted.

- a) Laxity in the search for Polish children. In Germany the search was not being conducted so intensively. The Polish Government have said that they must have every Polish child searched for and brought home. One apparently new development Mr. Berger had heard of through Miss Kain, Child Welfare Supervisor in the U.S. Zone, was that some children taken into Switzerland are now being brought into Innsbruck and it is not clear whose care they will come under. Miss Wietz agreed to check this matter with Miss Kain.

Mr. Berger stated that he had a list from the Polish Government of 210 children who were allegedly abducted. Miss Kain had already supplied a list of 167. The chairman stated that the military had already asked that these 167 children should be returned. Miss Kain had said that the Polish Mission or UNRRA Italy were to take this up.

- b) The chairman emphasised another point in this connection: in a number of camps where there are unaccompanied children they become attached to a family who claim to be their guardian or even to be blood relatives. In one camp recently there were supposedly some 60 such children, but investigation displosed one. Careful search must be made for the other children, because in all probability this is a cloak to hide the child and prevent repatriation.

The chairman stated that she was holding a meeting on October 3 with the Welfare Officers from the French and British Zones and would discuss the matter further. She asked all welfare officers to make a special note of Administrative Order No. 189, Austrian Mission Series, on Policy on Repatriation, Displaced Children. Welfare Officers are responsible for seeing that every child is registered so that there are complete records.

Miss Wietz enquired how quickly birth certificates and other such documents could be obtained from Poland for those who had lost all their papers. Mr. Berger said this was difficult owing to the incomplete state of such records. He asked that details of such cases be sent to him in order to test whether it was possible to carry out such work.

V. Vocational and Education problems and their relation to repatriation.

Mr. Berger said that he would like to have details about training schemes in Austria so that they can be discussed with the Polish Government, who can indicate what are the best vocational training courses to give. He offered to send the syllabus of agricultural training in Poland so that DP training can be geared to it. If the returning DPs have a certificate of training of which the Poles are cognizant this would be a great help.

The chairman suggested another conference in about six weeks' time to discuss developments.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 p.m.

Mrs West.

REPATRIATION TRAIN TO POLAND.

140/R1

Before the train left Salzburg on 11th Dec. for Poland, I arranged for the Red Cross Coach to be used as a hospital.

The mattresses were wet but we managed to dry them. Blankets were available and 8 beds were made ready.

One of the D.Ps, a young man, was appointed as medical-assistant, and he remained day and night in the hospital-car, keeping it warm.

We had about 600 people, of whom 50 were children under 3 years old.

The first day the mothers asked for baby-milk, but as they had no particulars, I could not control it.

Next day I went with the assistant along the train to find out and distribute milk, at the same time inspecting conditions in the carriages.

All carriages were sufficiently heated and enough food was available.

Sick people were sent to the doctor at once.

When the train stopped for more than one hour, some soup, tea or cocoa was distributed.

The kitchen looked quite efficient.

Everybody was quiet and in good temper, no diseases were recorded.

Only one little boy with mental deficiency was found, but he was well looked after.

As no patients turned up we put some mothers with babies in the hospital. Some babies had excema, others a cold. Also 2 pregnant women were accommodated there.

The whole trip went very well and on the 13th we had already passed the Polish border (Dziedzice).

Our common room was well heated and sleeping accommodation was fair.

When we arrived in Dziedzice, a Red Cross official took charge of our one T.B. patient and of the nervous boy. The Red Cross also offered us sleeping accommodation in their building, this, however, should be discouraged as the beds were far from clean.

Generally speaking all went very well and there were no complaints whatsoever

It must be pointed out that the new telephone number of UNRRA HQ. Prague now is 64955/6-7.

J. SPANJER

Nurse.

21st December 1946.

118/13/1

POLISH REPATRIATION TRAINS

A meeting on the subject of Polish Repatriation trains was held in the Zone Director's Office, Salzburg at 10 a.m. on 29 November 1946. There were present:-

Mr. Corkery, Zone Director
Mr. Bugelli, Deputy Zone Director
Miss Lerrigo, Zone Welfare Officer
Mr. Bernstein, Zone Supply Officer
Director of Hellbrunn Reception Centre
Mr. D'Andrea, Hellbrunn Welfare Officer
Miss Warner, Repatriation Officer
Polish Liaison Officer for Salzburg
Capt. Sonnenborn, Combined Repatriation Executive
Lieut. Seibert, Movements Officer

I. Hospital & Kitchen Car.

The question of provision of a hospital car and a kitchen car for trains from the U.S. Zone was discussed. Capt. Sonnenborn said that no such cars existed in the U.S. Zone, Austria, and therefore could not be provided. He was asked if the military could allocate two box cars to UNRRA permanently to fit up as a hospital and kitchen car. He replied that this decision rested with USFA transportation and he would make a request for such allocation, but that it was unlikely to be granted. He said that on each train he could allocate two box cars to UNRRA 24 hours beforehand to be fitted up for the trip, the fittings to be removed on return. He was asked if it could be 48 hours beforehand, but said he could not give a definite undertaking about this. There was an informal agreement between Mr. Bernstein and Lt. Seibert to discuss further the temporary fitting up of such cars, including a discussion in connection with Dr. Mammel, who is travelling as Medical Officer on the next train.

II. Water Containers.

The question of water containers for the cars was discussed. Lt. Seibert said that the Army had nothing suitable available. This also was to be further discussed with Mr. Bernstein.

III. Latrines.

As the U.S. Army representatives said they were not in a position to provide any facilities whatever, Mr. Bernstein said he would endeavour to see if wood could be obtained to have latrines constructed for these trains, sufficient to provide one for each car.

IV. Hot Drinks.

It was pointed out that amongst the food supplies put on the train by the Army, there was nothing of which any hot drinks could be made. Lt. Seibert said that as the supplies came from an Austrian warehouse there was no possibility of obtaining any material for hot drinks. Miss Warner pointed out that repatriates coming on trains from Italy were provided with American 'ten-in-one' rations and trains from the British Zone had material for hot drinks and the means for making them, and that hot drinks were a necessity on a journey of several days' duration in the winter. Lt. Seibert said he did not have the means to do anything about it.

V. Milk for Children.

Lt. Seibert stated that he had no means of supplying milk for children amongst the supplies put on the train.

VI. Medical Inspection & Dusting with D.D.T.

It was pointed out that the last repatriation train was held up at the border because there was no certificate available for the medical inspection and dusting with D.D.T. of the people and that this was a military responsibility. It was agreed that in future all the out-of-camp people should be told that they must report to the reception centre for inspection 48 hours before the departure of the train, and that every effort should be made to accommodate all the out-of-camp people living outside Salzburg in the reception centre during the 48 hours previous to the departure of the train. It was agreed that it would be desirable to compel such residents to stay in the reception centre, but that this was at the moment impossible owing to the lack of room for everyone.

VII. Communication between Cars on the Train.

This was raised as an urgent necessity owing to the danger of being unable to stop the train in the event of accident, but the military reply was that this was an impossibility.

VIII. Fire Precautions.

The high fire risk on these trains was also discussed. The military representatives raised objections to putting jerry cans of water in the cars. They said they might be able to provide sand boxes, but it was not certain. It was agreed that more attention should be paid in future to the fixing of the stoves, and Mr. Bernstein undertook to try to provide wire and nails for the purpose.

IX. Receipts.

It was agreed that one UNRRA Officer on each train must be responsible for the stores furnished by UNRRA on each train, and that if he did not return with the train he must get a receipt for the stores left from the Military Commander and send this receipt to Mr. Bernstein in Salzburg.

X. Lighting Facilities.

The Army representatives stated that they could do nothing about lighting facilities for the cars. Carbide lamps were provided by UNRRA on the last trip but proved unsatisfactory. Mr. Bernstein undertook to provide candles.

XI. General.

The Military representatives admitted that ^{the living section} they had been at fault over the lack of food, stoves, medical certificates and nominal rolls in the last train. In general, however, they appeared to tend to disclaim their responsibility. Mr. Corkery pointed out that an Army directive placed all these responsibilities squarely on the military. Lt. Seibert said that the directive was in some respects intended to be an ideal rather than an instruction and that as an officer of an Infantry Regiment he was not in a position to improve the services beyond those already supplied.

It was agreed to have a further meeting with reference to the train leaving Salzburg on 10 December. This meeting to be held in the Zone Director's Office on the morning of 7 December.

2 December 1946.

DP.

~~Mr. Asst~~ Mr. Asst Mr. Asst

POLISH REPATRIATION TRAIN September 20th 1946. (From Villach stop over Salzburg)

Lt Pochalski called at this office at 10.20 am to report that there was a train in Salzburg station with 600 Polish persons from the Middle East, Palestine, Egypt, and Italy returning to Poland. He stated that 400 were ill. The train was made up at Villach, British Zone Austria; there were approximately 16 people to each box car.

Lt Pochalski stated that the cars were leaking, and he made the following requests :-

Tarpaulin for box cars
Food for 600 persons (for they had only food for three days)
Hot drinks or food for all persons on the train
Milk for the Children as many were sick with colds.

When Lt Pochalski left the office we called RTO only to be told first the train had left, and then secondly that it was still there but didn't know where it was and could not send someone to look. It seemed advisable for me to find out what the situation was.

Mrs Nichols (UNRRA Welfare Officer) joined train at Villach - had called this office early in the morning requesting candles.

When I saw her she was quite calm and collected, was of the opinion that additional milk for the children was necessary also more medical supplies.

I met Lt Pochalski and suggested he make arrangements to find tarpaulin - he said he could'nt. I then suggested that sick people be moved from the leaking box cars to dry box cars - he pointed out that this was impractical since there was 16 people in each car with all their luggage.

He thought he could obtain a few additional box cars from RTO - I suggested he try.

Dr Allwood provided the train with a medical kit for 600 persons which should last for the remainder of the journey, this was handed to Polish DP Doctor who was in charge of medical care of the train.

Magazines, candles and matches were obtained from Parsch Warehouse.

300 tins Nestles Milk were sent very promptly by Grodig with the assurance that authorization could be approved by Relief Services.

It should be mentioned that when the train pulled in from Villach, everyone was given hot coffee by the Austrian Red Cross.

The train was delayed because the Munich yards were filled. RTO here was instructed to hold the train, it seemed wise that we provide some of the essentials requested rather than telephone Munich.

The train Commander was a British Soldier.

The UNRRA person in charge was a Mr Schwartz from Italy. He had obviously had little experience with Repatriation trains and could not understand the long wait in Salzburg. However, I believe Mrs Nichols would be most helpful and understanding on this trip with people who had already been travelling for two weeks and who were naturally weary of travelling.

In conclusion, it is suggested that if possible a hot drink be served to repatriation train where people have been travelling a long time from distant places - such as Egypt, Palestine, Italy. The train of September 20th was a good example of this - when some people had been travelling 2 weeks - many were affected by change of climate - rain in non-weather proof box cars.

Joan Kain.

4. (underline) Repatriation - fill the editorial "we" HQ/R/1

REPATRIATION REPORT AUGUST 1946

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POLAND: We are now well supplied with information from Poland. We recently made a start at delivering large numbers of Polish newspapers but the Public Relation Officer of the Polish Mission has now undertaken to deliver them to their representatives at Linz, Salzburg, Ebensee, Kufstein and Villach. We have instructed UNRRA authorities in the Zones to assist the Polish Liaison Officers in the mechanism of distribution with transport and in any way possible.

Sent out

They have also distributed many thousands of the repatriation pamphlets in Polish published by P.U.R. (the Polish Repatriation Association). In addition we have sets or reports made by UNRRA officials of this mission who have accompanied convoys, by Mrs. Pomeroy and by Mrs. Mitchell, Chief Welfare Officer, Linz area. Both of these have gone as Admin. Orders and several 100 copies of a translation of Mrs. Mitchell's report in Polish have been sent out. A new report by Mrs. West, Chief Welfare Officer and by Mr. Glasek will be likewise distributed. We have been able to tell to Mr. Berger of our Polish Mission that we are now well supplied with information.

About 66% of the Polish originally found in Austria on liberation have now been repatriated. On August 8th a large Polish convoy left from Villach and was joined at Salzburg by Mrs. West, Chief Welfare Officer and Mr. Glasek, Welfare Officer of Hellbrunn camp. There were 1130 persons on board in 65 ~~xxxx~~ cars, about 700 came from the British Zone including 400 from Villach.

The convoy was run as a British Military one with an escort car which went right through to Poland with it. The British Military also provided a Red Cross Car and a mobile kitchen which handed out hot coffee at irregular intervals. The cars from the British Zone were rather crowded, sometimes with 18-20 persons and their luggage. A day and night were lost by the train being diverted to Hof in Saxony in the Russian Zone and sent back from there to near Regensburg. Some delays are probably inevitable owing to the fact that such trains have to fit in with existing train schedules, but we are taking up the question whether some can be eliminated. For instance this train was held up 3 hours at Freilassing while the matter was discussed as to whether it need be delbused. We are also enquiring whether arrangements can be made to provide one or possible two hot meals for repatriates passing through Czechoslovakia.

In spite of some discomfort our observers reported that the spirit remained very cheerful and the train was gaily decorated by the DPs and rang with song and merriment. The last was very noted in Czechoslovakia and at all sidings railway officials appeared with bottles of Schnapps which they traded to DPs mostly for cigarettes.

There was a small party of 20 children from Ebensee children's home who travelled through under the charge of Miss Bretoi in the same passenger car from there to reception centre, from where they were taken by truck to Koszle. A further considerable Polish convoy is due to leave Villach on Sept. 3rd it is hoped that there may be a contingent from Italy with it.

POLES FROM FRENCH ZONE:

The Polish Mission has been screening in the French Zone in order to see which of the Poles or Ukrainian Poles there were acceptable for repatriation. As a result a convoy of 172 from Kufstein with 200 out of camp DPs left on August 17th. *for Poland*

JUGOSLAVS:

Since April the Repatriation Officer has been pressing the Yugoslav Military Mission for newspapers and information to distribute. This was again emphasized at two recent conferences with the Yugoslavs. We particularly asked for small town newspapers, which as small items, such as weddings, births and local doings often have a more important psychological effect than leading articles of big newspapers, which are discounted as propaganda. Unfortunately we have so far received nothing at all and ERO have had almost no factual information.

from our Belgrade Mission. Recent the Yugoslav Mission put up proposals to encourage repatriation:

- (1) they asked that they might station representatives in each camp where there are Yugoslavs in order to counter anti-repatriation propaganda,
- (2) that a civilian mission of five or six persons should be allowed to travel round and speak to their fellow nationals. This mission is said to be composed of persons who were formerly DPs and who are drawn from various walks of life. The first proposal has been turned down by the military but it is hoped that the second may go through, they are still considering it. Counter-proposals were put up by UNRRA:
 - (1) that the Yugoslav Mission should at last start supplying us with information and papers from that country
 - (2) that Major Jarvie, Director of Spittal camp and Mr. Corsellis Welfare Officer from Lienz, should be allowed to accompany groups of repatriates from their own camps and should do short tours the details of which were to be arranged by the Yugoslavs. So far we had no answer.

They may not like the reference to Spittal as this camp was specially attacked by the Yugoslav Military Mission delegate at Geneva owing to the fact that Major Pirkovic of the Yugoslav Military Mission was very dissatisfied with his visit there (through actually it is the most hopeful from repatriation standpoint.) A steady weekly trickle has returned in lorry batches which are driven straight to the frontier at Rosenbach. Beginning with the first batch on April 1st, 411 persons have been repatriated from Spittal and 200 from Lienz. Arrangements now have been made for Lienz repatriates to be sent to Spittal to join convoys from there.

There was a location change in the US Zone during this month. Owing to the urgent necessity of finding room for Jewish refugees from Poland the 238 Yugoslavs from Saalfelden were moved to the US Army Camp at Markt Pongau, recently handed back to the Military as it is composed of RAMPS. This camp is usually referred to as royalist and is of course fairly solidly anti-repatriation. In addition, 550 Yugoslavs from Puch were also moved there, it is stated that more than 200 refused to go and are said to be living now outside camps in the neighbourhood of Puch. There is now only one Yugoslav UNRRA camp left in the US Zone, that of Asten near Linz, where there are 1514. About 42% of the Yugoslavs found in Austria on liberation has now been repatriated.

SCREENING:

Dr. Bedo has now completed screening in the British Zone (1) of collaborators and (2) for those technically ineligible for UNRRA care. A general percentage of ineligibility is nearer less as it depends on the composition of each individual camp. Weidmannsdorf was found to be composed of 75% ineligibles and was handed over to the Military. Exact figures are not yet available for Admont (they will not be large), Villach and Graz and the estimates of ineligibility for the other camps are Judenburg 33%, Lienz 15%, Spittal 12%. In the US Zone Miss Weinfeld has been screening at Asten and Dr. Bedo at Hellbrunn. All screening is of course done in the presence of the Military, as it is a military function. Dr. Bedo hopes to complete the screening in the US Zone of both UNRRA camps and military camps after the return from leave in October.

TURKS:

There are 261 Turks at Weidmannsdorf - through this camp is no longer on UNRRA responsibility and 59 at Judenburg. They were accepted by the Turkish Liaison Officer and it was hoped that they could be moved to join the large Turkish concentration awaiting repatriation at Mittenwald, Bavaria. It is hoped that the majority will go soon, when transport can be arranged direct, as the idea of moving them to Bavaria has been dropped.

GREEKS:

The Greek Liaison Officer is now in the British Zone to round up the few remaining Greek nationals to see which can be repatriated, any residue will not be allowed to remain in UNRRA camps. In about 10 days time it is hoped he will visit Wells in the US Zone where more than 100 Greeks have been collected.

in the same way those who cannot be accepted by him and refuse to be repatriated will than be excluded from UNRRA care.

EMIGRATION.

The Vienna UNRRA Office for emigration to USA has been now moved to Rotschild hospital and is functioning there under Miss Waller. Notice were put in the press to this effect, directing Jewish persons to apply first to AJDC and HIYAS which are operating in their old offices. The International and Rescue Organisation together with the American Christian Committee for Refugees has a separate office and are also assisting. We have not so far been visited by representatives of any Roman Catholic organisation. Over 500 persons were interviewed in Vienna during the month and 50% of them were accepted for preliminary processing and passed on to the US Consulate. During the same period 63 persons left the US Zone of Austria and Land Salzburg for Munich on their way to emigrate to the USA. ~~XXXX~~

TOURS: Mr. Gough, Repatriation Officer, visited Villach, Judenburg, Spittal, Badgastein, Hellbrunn and Asten camp on a tour and also attended conference of Chief Repatriation Officers at Frankfurt. Without overcomplacency about this mission it is possible to say that we are in many respects ahead of the German Mission from a repatriation point of view. Very little real screening seems to have been done there and nothing to separate Poles from Ukrainian Poles. The position in Austria is on a far more manageable scale and it is hardly fair to compare them.

GENERAL FACTORS:

- (1) The application of the Austrian Labour Law in the US Zone may, it is hoped, affect some who were too indolent to return to their countries.
- (2) The proposed issue of 60-90 days rations to returning Poles may have a favourable effect if it is agreed.
- (3) Segregation still remains a problem. It is something to remove those who have decided to return from an environment where they may be persuaded to change their minds. We are still using Wells in the US Zone as a staging centre for repatriates.
- (4) There is a report of a proposed reduction in the supplementary rations to DPs in the US Zone. This is a most important matter. The apparent greater willingness in the British Zone among Poles to return at the time is marked and may be connected with the lower food scale. The British Zone was more open to anti-repatriation influences owing to its geographical contiguity to the Polish forces in Italy.

F C Gough

Lundgren

110/R/1

REPORT ON TRANSPORT TO POLAND ON AUGUST 6, 1946
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1. Organization of train
 2. Journey via repatriation transport
 3. Reception:
 - a) Zebrzedowice
 - b) Dziedzice
 4. Analysis of transport conditions
 5. Processing
 6. Recommendations
-

1. Organization of train

The repatriation train was a British train originating in Villach, and American Zone sections were attached at Salzburg, where the UNRRA personnel accompanying the transport joined it. The transport was one of the largest ever to leave Austria. It consisted of 65 cars, carrying 1050 repatriants, with all their possessions. The repatriants included some 250 children, of which nineteen were unaccompanied, riding in a third class passenger coach arranged for jointly through UNRRA Central Headquarters and Colonel Welker, DP Division USFA.

This transport included a railway kitchen car as well as a first aid car and special coach for train commander and escort who were British army personnel. The military personnel included the train commander, who regularly accompanies such trains from the British Zone, and three British Army privates - one assuming the duties of an orderly, another that of a cook while the third acted as guard. Neither a doctor nor nurse accompanied the transport.

The train scheduled to leave Salzburg at 9 a.m. pulled out of Salzburg railway station at 3.15 p.m., arriving at the Austro-German border 15 minutes later. Upon reaching the border (Freilassing) the American border guards channelled the train to arrive at Peidling for delousing. Through much wrangling by UNRRA and train crew, this procedure was given up without delousing taking place. Meanwhile three hours were wasted, although if delousing had been carried out it would have meant a delay of eight hours.

2. Journey via repatriation transport

The journey took three days and four nights. One day was wasted due to the RTO channelling the transport to an incorrect border crossing in Czechoslovakia. This meant a useless journey of three hundred kilometers and considerable anxiety among the repatriants, because they feared crossing into the Russian zone prior to reaching the Czechoslovak border.

Hot coffee and bread were served by the Red Cross during the stop in Prague.

3. Reception:

- a) Zebrzedowice.

Eventually we reached Zebrzedowice, which is the first Polish customs town. Here the repatriation lists were checked and the accompanying personnel documents inspected prior to departure for Dziedzice, the Repatriation Reception Center. Our arrival at Zebrzedowice, at approximately 2400 hours, was announced by blaring loudspeakers welcoming the repatriants with speeches and Polish music.

b) Dziedzice

After all formalities of the border crossing were completed the transport proceeded to Dziedzice. At 5 a.m. the repatriants began to unload their possessions onto the platform and by 9 a.m. the train was free to proceed to the yard for cleaning and to be prepared for use on its return journey with Sudeten departees from Czechoslovakia to Germany.

The train was met by an American sergeant who advised us he was one of a unit of four who were responsible for the return of the rail transport to Austria. He refused to allow the children's coach to proceed to Kosle.

4. Analysis of transport conditions

- a) Space. The British unit was overcrowded, with a number of cars holding as many as 28 - 30 people with baggage in a coach, while the American section contained as few as six persons to a car, and in no instance more than 16.
- b) Food. The British unit had Austrian rations, while the American unit had their DP rations of 2,000 calories a day for a period of seven days. During the journey the American section received Polish Red Cross parcels, and additional supplies from this section's stocks were turned over to the British section during the trip. These included:

130 Polish Red Cross parcels
30 kilos fresh Austrian sausage
120 loaves of bread
3 cases of condensed milk
Candy

Coffee for adults and milk for children was prepared twice daily in the kitchen car.

- c) Comfort facilities. The train had no toilet facilities except in the coach for unaccompanied children.

The train made no regular stops, and sometimes the period between stops was 3 to 5 hours, therefore affording no opportunity for personal relief. However the train started slowly and usually the whistle was blown twice to give people warning the train was about to move.

Sleeping arrangements were unsatisfactory. Blankets were not sufficient. No blankets had been provided by Sick Bay. No beds and no straw mattresses were provided.

Water was difficult to obtain due to irregularity of stops, and stops made where it was difficult to get water.

5. Processing.

The Polish Repatriation Administration is responsible for this service and carried it out in an efficient manner.

Upon arrival at the repatriation centre at Dziedzice the repatriants are checked for documents, and temporary documents are issued. They receive one month's ration coupons and a travel warrant for two weeks which can be used free of charge on the national railways any place in Poland. They receive 100 zlotys in cash. The processing was completed within 24 hours. Excellent records are kept of the arrival, departure, and breakdowns of men, women and children repatriated. Caritas and the Red Cross maintain offices and services adjacent to the PUR. The employment service in Katowice assists the repatriant to find employment.

There was no inspection of baggage, but persons possessing bicycles, motor-cycles and radios were asked to report and have them registered, when proper permits for their use were issued them.

The processing was carried out in an orderly, effective manner. Upon completion of processing people were free to proceed to their desired destination. Instances where people had no destination and for those who were originally from the lands incorporated into Soviet Russia, special arrangements were made to billet and provide them with food in a PUR barracks at Dziedzice, during which period advice and arrangements are made for their re-location. This sometimes takes several weeks.

We had lunch at the reception center in the staff mess. It consisted of a thick soup and bread and coffee. The repatriants may eat in a central mess or take their food to the barracks.

The barracks are crowded and offer little privacy. Consideration is being given to enlarging them, as 200,000 DPs are expected to arrive from Germany during the month of September.

6. Recommendations.

a) Organisation of train.

i) Official Transport clearance: In order to avoid unnecessary delays and much misunderstanding with local RTO personnel along the routes, it would seem imperative that the transport commander be issued with authoritative statements providing route and clearance of transport along the whole journey. Such a certificate would prevent unjustifiable delays and minimize the anxiety of the repatriants.

Instructions to military personnel at border crossings should be issued along with the clearance certificate that the train is exempted from delousing.

ii) Sanitation: Steps should be taken to provide proper toilet facilities. It is a reflection on the organisation of the train when such provision is made for only 19 out of 250 children, and none at all for adults. Provision could be made either by providing facilities aboard transport or by frequent stops at suitable places, these stops to be identified by a recognised signal. A warning should be given all repatriants to desist from eating green apples or other unripe fruit to avoid diarrhoea.

iii) Medical: It is imperative that all repatriation transports have adequate medical facilities including a qualified doctor and nurse. Proper medical supplies to take care of all eventualities should be carried.

iv) Crowding: A definite policy should be maintained as to how many people should be placed in a car, taking into consideration the amount of their baggage.

v) Food: It would seem advisable that in addition to the dry rations being carried on the transport for the consumption of the repatriants there ought to be a fixed policy for the provision of at least one hot meal a day at a given time, this to be provided by mobile services, either UNRRA or other agencies. Such a service would maintain a better morale and prevent indispositions resulting from faulty feeding. It would also serve to equalize rations. Immediate steps should be taken to get this implemented through UNRRA Germany and Czechoslovakia. Proper water containers should be carried and regular stops made to refill them along the whole journey.

vi) As it is the policy of the Administration to repatriate all persons desiring repatriation whether they are well or not, proper provision must be made to take care of such people with at least a minimum of comfort. Similarly as it is the policy of the American Occupying authority to release prisoners who are serving light sentences and who desire repatriation, provision must be made to provide them with clothing and blankets for the journey as it is impossible for them to make these arrangements themselves.

vii) It would help the morale of the repatriants if an UNRRA representative were to meet all incoming repatriation trains at the border. Facilities are being set up by the UNRRA Polish Mission to provide warehouse facilities for the distribution of two months' food ration to all incoming repatriants from Germany. It is psychologically and economically imperative that the same service be given repatriants from Austria.

7. Behavior, and Morale of repatriants on train.

On the whole the morale of the transport was good; people cooperated with the UNRRA personnel and the train crew. From observation morale was higher where travelling conditions were less crowded.

The policy of withholding the Red Cross parcels until the termination of the journey is justifiable in that black market operations all along the route within the Czechošlovakian borders is so prevalent that these parcels would be sold for goods such as liquor and other such useless commodities.

Nell West.

NELL WEST
Chief Welfare Officer

29 August 1946
nw/nc

OK HQ/R/1

The DP problem.

In some quarters there has been a stiff attack on the continuous presence of large numbers of DP's in Austria. It is alleged that their presence is a terrible burden on the country, heavier than that of the troops of occupation. It should not be forgotten that since May 1945 nearly 150,000 DP's in military and UNRRA centres or out of camps have been repatriated. The total remaining in UNRRA assisted camps in July 1946 was 47,143 and other camps 33,257. Austrian circles which attack DP's should remember that their problem was largely created by the government of the Grossdeutsches Reich of which Austria was a part and she cannot dissociate herself completely from responsibility.

Moscow Radio in English on July 1st referred to the DP's as 300,000 foreign fascists, whose presence ran counter to the interests of the Austrian people. Really they contain large elements who were strongly anti-fascists, almost the largest group being cared for now in UNRRA camps is Jewish. The same radio talk stated there were 100,000 German fugitives from Yugoslavia in Styria, British zone. The right figure is more like 12,000, these are Volksdeutsche who have been expelled from Yugoslavia, subjects of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire and the process of moving Volksdeutsche to Germany continually goes on. There were allegations of the presence of a large number of "foreign fascists" in Weissenstein and other towns of Carinthia. The military camp of Weissenstein is for Austrian Nazis who may be "fascists" but are hardly "foreign". The speaker went on to say in the streets of Klagenfurt German Officers and troops uniformed and with all their insignia is no uncommon sight. There are no such uniforms, except a few dyed ones and no insignia are allowed.

The next allegation was that upwards of 5000 unbidden fascist guests are at Treffling in East Tyrol. The number of Volksdeutsche there is between 3 and 4000, 1200 of whom are about to be sent to Germany and there has been a high despatch rate in the past. It was said they were armed. They are not armed. There have been frequent and thorough searches and very few arms have been found. The big problem of extraneous elements is that of the Volksdeutsche and as stated, their movement to Germany is constantly in progress. While it is not suggested that all persons residing in UNRRA assisted camps are admirable people, every effort is made to eliminate ineligibles and to encourage those who can to return home. We are naturally getting down towards the hard core of irrepatriables and can therefore not expect mass movements but figures are not entirely discouraging.

Screening.

This has always been recognized by UNRRA as of primary importance to eliminate collaborators and thus having direct bearing on repatriation by removing elements hostile to it. On the other hand it is a function of the military but it was decided to set up advisory screening teams under Dr. Bedo to work under the aegis of the military. The aim was dual, first to screen out collaborators and any remaining Volksdeutsche second to exclude from UNRRA care post-hostility refugees, except in so far as these consist of persons or groups persecuted by the Nazis for racial or religious reasons ~~or~~ for activity on behalf of the U.N. Screening has just been completed in the British zone, the results are not being published in full at the moment, but generally the number of ineligibles was rather less than expected. Only in one camp was there a large majority of these which will entail handing the camp over to the military and dispersing the remaining eligibles among other UNRRA centres. The screening team has now begun work in US-zone.

Poles.

A convoy left for Poland on June 30th/July 1st accompanied by Mrs. MITCHELL, Chief Welfare Officer, US-zone, Area II and by Miss KAMIL, Welfare Officer, Villach. A detailed report on the trip and on conditions observed in Poland was drawn up by Mrs. Mitchell and is being widely circulated for discussion and information.

This convoy contained 250 Poles from Italy and ^{it} was an encouragement to repatriation to find this group coming through as rumours were to the contrary. 23 children with Miss Kamil and 60 adults from Villach went with the convoy and 250 persons from the US-zone.

A large convoy is leaving on August 6th, estimated members from the British zone are 500. It will be accompanied by Mrs. WEST, Chief Welfare Officer, Austrian Mission and Mr. GLASEK, Welfare Officer, Hellbrunn. An account will be given in the next report.

Information has always been regarded as of great importance and the Polish military have begun their promised weekly deliveries of newspapers to CHQ. These are being sent out in sacks for camps Hellbrunn, Ebensee, Linz 59, Villach and Kufstein.

Military Missions are always asked to supply as many small town newspapers as possible. Leading articles are regarded as propaganda but if DP's see small notions of births, weddings, trivial details that show normality in the country to which they should return, it may help to move the wavering the right way.

A Polish Mission is now in the French zone on screening to decide which persons are eligible to be given the opportunity to return.

Yugoslavs.

We still have about 11,000 Yugoslavs in UNRRA assisted camps, but there will be a considerable reduction once screening is completed, possibly a third. Among them are not many true Serbs, most of those ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~Serbs~~ who are nominally Serbs are really Russian emigrants, there was a large settlement of Russian emigrants in Belgrad after the 1917 revolution.

A considerable number of the Croats, the proportion of whom is perhaps a quarter of our Yugoslavs, are towns people and have not the call of the land to take them home, many of them seem strongly opposed to the present regime. The greatest number are Slovenes and perhaps five-sixths of them are country people with a strong feeling for the soil and it is among them that we have the greatest hopes of repatriation. At the same time they are strong Roman Catholics and many may be inclined to put church before country. The position is not hopeless. The figures of those who have returned from April 15th to end of June from Spittal camp were 293 and during July a further 53. About 200 have gone back from Linz during the same period. There was a small group which returned from Asten in the US-zone in July and from Kufstein, French zone, 7 on July 11th. There are only 63 left at Kufstein as 56 have been screened out as Volks-deutsche. The simplicity of the mechanism of movement from the British zone owing to geographical contiguity is a help. Almost every week small parties go by UNRRA lorry from Spittal direct to the frontier at Rosenbach.

Two conferences were held at CHQ between the Yugoslavs and Miss Barton and the Repatriation Officer on the implementation of resolution 92. The screening should do much to satisfy the feeling of the Yugoslavs that undesirable elements are being harboured in large numbers.

UNRRA proposed that a delegation of DP's with two UNRRA workers should be allowed to visit Yugoslavia - a matter that the Repatriation Officer has pressed unsuccessfully on both the Yugoslav and Polish Missions since his arrival in March. They made the counter proposal, first that a civilian delegation from Yugoslavia, containing persons who had previously been repatriated, should be allowed to visit Austria, secondly that they should appoint a clerk to live in each of the camps where there are Yugoslavs, to act as a counterweight to anti-repatriation propaganda. These proposals ~~of them~~ are being submitted to the military authorities. As usual they were asked for newspapers and promised them, so they may come at some time.

Turks.

The group of Turks we had previously at Landeck, French zone and Glasenbach, US-zone, were already moved to Mittenwald, Bavaria, where there is a concentration awaiting repatriation. During the month the Turkish Mission visited the British zone and was able to accept practically the whole of the 261 at Weidmannsdorf and 59 at Judenburg as Turkish nationals, these ^{one} also to go to Mittenwald. The head of the Turkish Mission during his short stay won great praise by his efficiency and the rapidity with which he established a good liaison with all persons interested, military, UNRRA, Red Cross, medical. At the finish he gave a monumental Turkish lunch at Weidmannsdorf, which the Repatriation Officer attended, a socially delightful but stomachically regrettable occasion.

Other changes.

Markt Pongau camp in the US zone, containing members of the Yugoslav Royalist army has now been handed back to the military, as it was composed of persons disbanded as a complete military unit. Woergl camp, under the French military, has been used to receive 312 Polish Ukrainians from Landeck, which had become most overcrowded owing to the military occupying part of the camp. The Jewish population has increased. On March 31st there were 7221 Jews in UNRRA camps, on June 30th 10,814 and there has been further increase. Wegscheid camp near Linz is now being used and houses over 5500. They are coming mostly from Poland. We were told by Mr. Maurice Rosen, who recently visited Poland, that the government have settled considerable members, he said 60,000, in Lower Silesia, in a block, but unfortunate incidents, like the recent pogrom at KIELCE get wide publicity and we may get a further influx of these refugees.

Emigration.

We have always made it clear that UNRRA is not a resettlement agency but the Repatriation Officer has constant applications, especially as rumors get in the press, especially about South American countries. At the same time we are bound to assist agencies which directly carry out resettlement. So far the only organized exodus is that to the USA. This is still confined to the US zones but now includes the US zone of Vienna and an office was opened for the purposes under the Vienna team with additional help from Miss Schneidau, Welfare Officer from Bad Gastein. The only voluntary agencies which have so far helped us, often by providing affidavits, are A. J. D. C. and HIYAS, both Jewish and the International Governmental Committee. We have now been visited by M. Miss Mayerson of the International Rescue and Relief Organisation, which is non-sectarian and primarily interested in political refugees. Further Miss Wilson of the American Christian Committee for Refugees has visited Vienna, they are primarily concerned with Protestants and can also cover members of the Orthodox church. Both are going to help us and both organisations are willing to extend their interest beyond the groups with which they are specially concerned. We have also expected a visit from a representative of Roman Catholic organisations. The members of persons ~~protected~~ by UNRRA and the US consular and military authorities in the US zone (not Vienna) for May and June was 175 and a further 27 left for Munich, the staging centre, in July. July was the first month during which applications have been received for the US zone of Vienna, our team and helpers interviewed 1141 persons of whom 309 were accepted and sent to the US consul for further processing.

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ACCOUNT OF REPATRIATION TRANSPORT

TO POLAND

June 29, 1946

The repatriation transport to Poland was composed of three sections, namely:

1. The group from Wels, including repatriates from Upper Austria and a small group from Salzburg comprised all from the American Zone
2. A section from Italy, accompanied by Mr. Rosen and Miss Wenger, UNRRA Nurse, of the Italian Mission
3. A section from the British Zone, including 23 unaccompanied children and family groups accompanied by Miss Kamil, Welfare Officer, Villach.

The complete train was made up at Salzburg, with a total of 46 freight cars and approximately 550 repatriates.

At Wels, I found the details of the transport had been, with few exceptions, very well arranged by the UNRRA Team. There were 116 persons including children in ten cars plus luggage, bicycles, two motor cycles and three cows. Persons with amputations were all grouped in one car with one of the DPs delegated to give any special assistance necessary. As per instruction all were loaded ready for departure at 11 A.M. on June 29th. Food for ten days which had been provided by the Army was all placed into one car in the middle of the section to be distributed each day during the journey as needed. Instead of the other sections of the train coming via Wels, plans were changed and the Wels unit was routed via Salzburg. An engine was not available and this meant that again, as in previous transports, there was a delay and the train left Wels at 2:15 P.M. All of the group appeared contented and happy until about 30 minutes before departure, when the Polish Repatriation Officer and the UNRRA Repatriation Officer arrived with the news that the groups in Salzburg were receiving Red Cross packages which were being distributed to them. Heated discussions arose as a result of this news, and the DPs insisted upon having all food distributed and in their personal possession. A compromise was reached and by the time the train had arrived at Salzburg, the entire amount of food had been distributed according to the number of people in each car and everyone was happy on that score.

The military escort for the train consisted of one 2nd Lieutenant and three enlisted American soldiers. They had not been selected for their experience in transport work and although their manner at all times was cooperative, they displayed little initiative or personal interest in the DPs.

The train arrived in Salzburg at 5:30 P.M. and joined the other sections. An unfortunate incident involving a repatriate from another section had occurred there during the day which is probably better described by Miss Kamil or Mr. Rosen. During the first night's travel the train was detained for delousing process, which the military authorities in Germany insisted as being necessary. After assurance from the military escort that such measures had been taken previous to departure, the train was allowed to proceed.

The train arrived at Regensburg at 9:30 A.M. Sunday, and remained on the siding until 2:30 P.M. By this time all members of the party felt in need of bathing facilities as well as toilet facilities and although there was no certainty as to how long the train would remain, practically everyone engaged in partial bathing from the water faucets stationed along the tracks.

After leaving Salzburg there were few stations where any adequate toilet facilities were available. One never knew when the train stopped whether it would be for one minute, one hour or one day, and people more or less adopted

the policy of taking chances in leaving the train whenever it halted "to see a man about a dog." Every effort was made to have a clear understanding with the train crew that at all stops a signal would be given two minutes before the train started again, giving everyone warning to return to their cars. It would seem that a satisfactory plan had been made when one was again confronted by the problem of the train starting without warning, leaving men, women and children long distances away, all running toward the moving cars. This problem was caused by frequent changes of train crews which were discovered only by accident by those of us who were trying to make some plan. It was only short of a miracle that the transport arrived in Poland with only 16 missing persons.

The train crossed the Czech border at 8 P.M. Sunday night and at the first stop was surrounded as if by a swarm of bees by persons with all kinds of wares (including Schnapps) for sale at black market prices or in exchange for food. Since the DPs had a 10 days' supply of food and had been given Red Cross packages in Salzburg, many of them traded food. Travel that night was much happier for most of them, after their spirits had been lifted by Czech spirits.

The train arrived at Prague 8:45 A.M. Monday, where it remained until 12:25. A repatriation representative and a nurse from the Polish Red Cross came to the train, making enquiries for any services which they might render and also to inform people that hot coffee and bread were available at the station.

Shortly after departure from Prague, one of the DPs had become intoxicated and engaged in a fight, and suffered severe head injury. The train was delayed for approximately 20 minutes while the UNRRA nurse dressed the wound.

Seven A.M. Tuesday hot coffee was served by Caritas at ~~Moravská-Ostava~~ *Moravská-Ostava!*. Approximately 10:30 the train arrived at Zetvaydowia, the first station at the Czech-Polish border. Here Caritas again served coffee, soup, and a can of meat to each individual. There was almost a festive atmosphere at this stop with music from loudspeakers to welcome the repatriates back to their native land. As the DPs left the train and walked up and down the station platform while all papers were being checked, one could not really detect from their expressions what their inner feelings were about returning home. It was discovered here that several persons whose home is in the disputed section of Poland had left the train before crossing the border to avoid some of the technical difficulties which they might have encountered.

The transport arrived at Ediedsice at 3:30 P.M., and the unloading process began immediately. This station presented a depressing sight. One was at first struck with the primitive surroundings and methods of work, but later surprised at the satisfactory manner in which work was completed. For transport of baggage, there were small carts pushed by barefoot, poorly clad women who looked old and broken beyond their years. The families all transferred and were assigned to barracks several blocks from the station for their overnight stay. Here they received hot food. The accommodations were not too comfortable, certainly not of the type which would have made them want to remain there. There were no bathing facilities. However, as compensation for this, the screening process is done quickly and in this instance by 10:30 the next morning, 50% of them were already gone to their homes. Extensive investigations are not made here. The DPs are registered, photographed, their place of destination discussed and decided, and they are given 100 slotys, food ration coupons for 2 - 3 months, and a railroad ticket to their destination. I observed that several were detained by the Polish civil authorities shortly after they detrained. Although I realized that the authority of the UNRRA and military personnel from Austria had ended at this point, and that there should be no intervention in the actions of the Polish authorities, as a matter of interest I enquired as to the cause of detention of one young lad from my section. I learned that he had committed a small theft and also had attempted to evade the regulations for registration and release.

Since the children were to be accompanied to the Special Reception Center the following day, they were housed for the night and fed in special rooms prepared by the Caritas Society. The following day Miss Kamil, Mr. Reeen, and I accompanied the children in two trucks to Kosle.

RECEPTION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

The Reception Center at Kosle consists of wooden barracks which are in good physical condition; since it had been operating only since June 5th there are many improvements yet to be made in organization and equipment. The reception of the children here is under the personal supervision of Madame Germanova, who is with the Polish Red Cross in Katowice.

Upon arrival, the children were accorded a friendly reception, fed in a central dining room and assigned to their rooms for the night. One noted that children who were already there appeared to be cheerful and well-adjusted and extended their welcome to new arrivals by helping them to get settled.

The day after arrival all children are registered, given physical examinations and photographed. If the whereabouts of the parents are known the parents are notified as soon as the above procedures are completed to come for their children. Since the agency has no funds for communication, notification is usually by mail, and therefore quite slow. However, most children having parents or relatives leave the home in not more than two or three weeks after arrival.

Equipment in the home is meagre, sanitary conditions are average. Recreational facilities and equipment are added as time and funds permit. There is a dearth of trained personnel to operate the center, but those in charge appear genuinely interested in the security and welfare of the children who pass through the center.

PROBLEMS AND POINTS TO BE OBSERVED FOR DP TRANSPORTS

1. Prior to departure of DPs, there are last minute demands for additional clothing. Unless this is anticipated well in advance, stocks of available clothing in assembly centers may be exhausted. Sufficient clothing should be provided (as nearly as possible) so that the repatriate will be clothed for the coming year especially if in his home land no assistance is available and he will not be able to purchase necessary items. Repatriates should be given first preference for clothing issue in all assembly camps even though it may mean postponement in meeting the clothing needs of others. A policy should be announced in the camp that all repatriates leaving on transport who need clothing must attend to this matter at least two days before departure in order to avoid the last minute confusion which occurs.
2. The many details including financial transactions, etc. should be attended to several days before departure since in each instance of transport, the UNRRA team has been over worked during the last 24 hours.
3. DPs should be advised to provide themselves with improvised buckets and receptacles for food and water.
4. Even though we were advised that hot food and drinks would be served at various points along the way, DPs should provide some means for heating coffee in something since in reality they must travel several days before coming to places where food is served. In the event provision is made for preparation of hot food in the central car this would not be necessary.
5. DPs should be instructed in the proper placement of luggage in the cars to avoid possible dangers from falling baggage and to provide the maximum comfort possible for themselves in the cars.
6. The food car and ambulatory car (where needed) should be located as nearly as possible in the center of the transport or of each section of the transport.

7. The plan for provision and distribution of food should be clearly understood and explained to the DPs by one authentically informed person on the eve before departure to avoid needless arguments. If there are to be difference in variety and quantity of food caused by several sections from different zones, this should be explained to and understood by the Dps.
8. Even though the Army personnel are cooperative, their interest is primarily in security of the transport and not in the personal welfare of the DPs. Such personnel are generally not selected because of their experience or knowledge of persons and often do not know how to meet some of the many emergencies. I should recommend that any transport carrying many people should always be accompanied by an UNRRA Welfare Officer and a qualified nurse or doctor with adequate first aid supplies. The greater part of the illnesses treated by the nurse on this trip were stomach and intestinal ailments; however, bandages, antiseptics, sanitary supplies, etc. are necessary.
9. In addition to the long tedious journey, the hardships have been increased by needless waiting for hours because of lack of planning or changes in plans on the part of the Army and Austrian train officials. UNRRA personnel should collaborate with the military escort regarding instructions to train crews. If basic instructions regarding stops and departures could be printed in the proper language and posted for benefit of train crews, some confusion might be eliminated.
10. The unannounced stopping and starting of the train causes needless discomfort for DPs. Since they must discover toilet facilities enroute, the way in which men, women and children must board a moving train is hazardous, and unpleasant. Some plan for this could be worked out as mentioned in the last item.
11. Most important of all should be the attention given in preparing the DP for repatriation. Effort should be made by UNRRA to know facts regarding the conditions in countries to which DPs return. Such information should be given to DPs to help them face realistically the situation to which they are going.

Observations on the Economic and Social Conditions in
Poland Today.

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Complete cooperation from sources contacted and unrestricted inquiries made it possible to secure in a short time considerable detailed information regarding the economic and social aspects of life in Poland today. Attempts were made to contact many and various sources which would include all classes of persons and also to get opinions both for and against the present government as they exist. Some of the contacts made are as follows:

- (1) Representatives of the Polish Red Cross
- (2) Personnel employed at the reception center for children
- (3) UNRRA personnel at Katowice
- (4) Lawyer, doctor, former regular Army person (persons with whom I talked while travelling)
- (5) UNRRA staff of the Polish Mission, Welfare & Agricultural Departments.
- (6) The Director of Operations, American Red Cross (Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota).
- (7) Bishop Garber (He is the European representative of the Methodist Church, Geneva, Switzerland, former Dean of Theological School at Duke University.)
- (8) Personnel of Caritas Society
- (9) Ministry of Education
- (10) Ministry of Agriculture

One can only partially understand and explain economic life as it is in Poland today. A dual economic system prevails: (1) The regular program planned to meet the present shortages and prices, and (2) The Black Market or as it is considered and classed in Poland as "free market." This market comprises the major part of the economy and at the present operates openly and apparently with full approval of authorities. These phases represent the extreme ends of the best and the worst living conditions. To best understand how the system operates, details of industrial and agricultural programs should be explained:

- (1) Industry. In the section of Upper Silesia, previously occupied by the Germans and now restored to Poland, coal and steel industries are operating full capacity. They have been little handicapped by removal of machinery in this section. The communities resemble very much ~~the~~ mining and industrial centers in Eastern United States. We were advised that a considerable amount of the coal produced is commandeered by and turned over to Russia for a price representing only a small fraction of the actual cost of production which must be paid by the Polish producers. This is highly criticized by lay persons who express their opinions and is one of the factors of discouragement most often mentioned. In this particular section observed, miners and industrial workers are paid from 4,000 to 6,000 zlotys per month.

Rents are relatively cheap averaging about 500 zlotys per month for one room. The principal complaint was on account of the high prices of food and clothing. For example, one shirt or a pair of shoes costs 5,000 zlotys.

Professional life. I was advised that the services of professional people such as doctors, teachers, etc. are drafted and assigned by the state authorities. Clerical people who work for the various ministries draw 4,000 to 5,000 zlotys per month with additional compensation in the form of lunches supplied at the places of employment. Teachers get from 7,000 to 10,000 zlotys per month. Engineers average from 12,000 to 15,000 zlotys and on exceptional jobs sometimes get up to 25,000 zlotys. Most professional people have additional activities, i.e., physicians are permitted to maintain private practice in addition to regular state service and people engage in free market activities as they desire. In all cases dual employment of some nature is found to be necessary to meet actual living costs.

COST OF LIVING

The following facts regarding food supplies and costs of living were gained from the UNRRA Mission, workers, and professionals. Food can be obtained from two sources, namely: (1) The basic minimum rations; (2) free market. Persons are divided into three categories as follows:

- A. Workers and students: This basic ration for this group, although it varies from month to month, is approximately as follows:

6 kilos of bread	-	1 kilo sugar
1 piece of toilet soap	-	1 piece of washing soap
1 kilo of meat conserve	-	1 kilo of cheese instead of fat
3 cans of tomato juice	-	3 cans of milk
1½ kilo of flour		

Heavy workers get a small addition to this ration.

- B. Children up to 12 years of age receive the above basis ration plus additional chocolate, juice, eggs, and milk.

- C. For family members of workers, they receive approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the workers rations.

An individual must live on the ration as allotted unless he has money to purchase food on the "free market." Money is the only factor which limits the extent of things purchased on the "free market." Prices for food while varying from time to time average as follows (monthly ration):

Items		Price Restricted Mkt.		Free Market
Soap (1 bar)	....	5 zlotys	....	40 zlotys
Bread	....	2 " per kilo	....	25 "
Sugar	....	5 " " "	....	180 "
Cheese	....	18-20 zlotys per kilo	....	200 "
Juice	....	35 " per can		
Milk	....	10 " " "		
Flour	....	2-3 " per kilo	....	60-70 Zlotys
Fresh Milk	....	30 " per litre	....	(It is possible for persons to purchase approximately 1 litre on the free market).

An average, but ordinary meal in a restaurant costs from 300 to 500 zlotys.

One can easily see that although supplies of food are not unlimited, what actually exists is that any person with enough money can enter a restaurant at any time and purchase a sumptuous meal where outside not just a few extremely poor people, but rather the rank and file of the population are on the meagre rations supply or are existing on even less than that. Foods produced in the local country side are supposed to be under state control for marketing and distribution, but it is understood by all that the producers are able to divert some of their supply as they see fit.

Clothing is almost non-existing and for the items available the price is so prohibitively high that there is no way the average man can obtain necessary clothing from his wages.

RENT - In outlying sections of available housing, rent is officially controlled. No person may occupy more than one room and in most instances it is necessary for even a single person family to share one room. To occupy a room alone requires official permission. For instance, in the industrial section rent averages 500 - 600 zlotys per month.

Housing in Warsaw is practically non-existent. The estimate that the city was 95% to 98% destroyed is conservative. It is estimated that 60,000 people are living in the destroyed areas even though there are practically no buildings left standing. As one goes through the sections of the city which are completely destroyed, one notices a piece of tin or boards on a cleared place and learns that people are living in holes in the ground underneath. It is necessary for them to carry even their drinking water for long distances. Sanitary facilities are non-existent in these areas. In some of the cities such as Katowice and Krakow, practically undamaged by war, although housing is scarce, it is obtainable at a reasonable price.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM - Agrarian System.

The agrarian system is state controlled. In most instances, the large tracts of land were taken from the owners and are being reallocated in small tracts to peasants. The Ministry of Agricultural gave the following details: The size of allotments to peasants now averages from 7 to 20 hectares, the determination of size depending on the quality of the soil, the size of the family to live on the unit, the location with respect to urban centers and transportation, etc. Payment is to be made in kind and over a period of 20 years, the price of one hectare being 1500 kilos of rye. Each year the price on the grain is established by the state at an amount considerably less than the price on the free market, oftentimes at a ratio approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ the free market price. Price varies from year to year but the amount of grain required to pay for the land remains the same. The tenant may have the choice of paying in kind or in money. Seeds, animals, and farm machinery may be purchased in meager quantities from the state through the Ministry of Supply. At the present the supply of these, including UNITA sources, is insufficient to enable each peasant to get even one item. The price for small implements is established at the pre-war Polish price with a coefficient of six. (In other words, present day price is approximately six times the pre-war price.) Payment may be made over a period of two years. Animals may be purchased over a period of three years. Up to the present time, the state controlled distribution of crops is as follows: 25% of total crop was allocated to the state at a fixed low price; 50% remained with the producer for living expenses of himself and any employees which he may have had. 25% could be sold by the producer

on the "free market." This allocation will be abolished as of August 1st 1946. Producers who were unable to meet their quota allocations to the state in previous years will be required to meet deficient allocations. Tax on the land will be paid by the peasant and it is based on land value. The rate is supposed to be average.

At the present time, the government is attempting to examine and to classify soil in all sections so that the tax rates can be fairly established. In some instances of larger estates, division has not been made at this time because of the impossibility of providing housing on each small unit. In such cases, a state director is appointed to supervise the numerous peasants engaged on the area and their activities and living are on a communal basis. The peasant who has a small tract of land allocated to him may resell the land only with the authorization of the state and communal authorities.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Information on program for child care in Poland was secured from officials and observations made while visiting reception centers and a permanent children's home at Lucinie near Gostinin. The child care program in Poland is under the administration of the Ministry of Education. In the past, a greater portion of the program has been under the auspices of the Catholic Church. In the district of Warsaw, 80% of the children's homes today are operated by the Church. The present government is giving considerable attention to this problem and already as many as 100 institutions are established under the supervision of the Ministry of Education.

For the reception of unaccompanied and orphaned children who are being repatriated to Poland, there are two receiving centers; one at Koscielec for children coming from Western Europe and another one near the Southeastern border to receive children from Russia. As the children enter the home, they are examined, weighed, photographed, and their parents are notified to come for them if relatives are known. As children are released to relatives, the relatives sign papers setting forth the conditions under which they are receiving the children. If relatives are not known, all necessary tracing activity is done by the Red Cross. Children are not kept long in the reception centers. If they are orphans, they are sent to children's institutions until foster homes can be found for them. The policy in the child care program gives preference to foster home care rather than institutional care. Out of 240,000 orphan children, 80,000 are expected to be cared for in institutions. Food averages 2,000 to 2,500 calories per day although the basic standard is set at 3,000. Trained personnel for institutions has not been available except in a few instances. The Ministry of Education has charge of all child placements between the ages of 3 and 18. Teachers and priests do the investigation for those under three years old.

Supplies and equipment for the operation of the children's institutions must be allocated by the Ministry of Supply. It is most inadequate but one could not help but have tremendous admiration for the job which is being done in spite of the lack of supplies and equipment which are usually considered essential rather than desirable. The utmost ingenuity is used in the use of existing facilities. The attitude of all contacts regarding the children's program pointed to the fact that although the children may not actually have as much food and clothing in Poland as they might receive elsewhere under the care of UNRRA, etc., Poland is making every possible effort to establish an adequate program for the care of unattached children and they are most anxious that all efforts be made to repatriate all children of Polish parentage.

PROVISION FOR THE AGED

Up to two months ago, there was no provision for assistance to the aged except as they might visit a soup line wherever possible. They frankly admitted that the only recourse for elderly people who were unable to work and who could not be maintained by relatives on their meager ration was that they died from starvation. There is now a provision for 1,000 zlotys per month for such persons.

REPATRIATION

The delay in securing authentic facts to give Polish DPs is most regrettable and has undoubtedly retarded the program. One of the first observations regarding Polish repatriates was that there is an increasing coolness on the part of Polish people for DPs returning to Poland. They feel that the war has been over for one year and that those who remained and suffered during the war and since its close, have maintained their struggle in the face of difficulties for the sake of their loyalty in rebuilding Poland. They feel that all loyal Poles who are interested in rehabilitation of Poland should return and share the privation now while their energies and services are most needed. Many people even though expressing their personal disagreement with many of the policies of the present government, reiterated their conviction that they and the DPs outside of Poland should cooperate with the existing authorities in establishing industry, agricultural, and professional life. UNRRA Welfare Officials have promised to contact repatriates from time to time, and send information to other Missions for repatriation material. x x

In discussing the program of repatriation with UNRRA authorities, (particularly with regard to children, aged and ill people), welfare personnel suggested that it might be advisable and desirable to retard repatriation of TB patients and aged as long as they can be cared for in occupied zones giving Poland as much time as possible in which to make more necessary adequate provision to care for the physically incapacitated.

PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS IN POLAND AS THEY RELATE TO OUR PRESENT DP PROGRAM

OK Life in Poland is very difficult now and will continue to be so for years to come. Existing social and economic conditions are complex, contradictory, and confusing to those living inside and outside of Poland for every existing force and story, there is an equal and opposite one. The outlook of most individuals is determined by personal strong feelings for or against the "Warsaw Government."

There is no doubt but that Russia exerts strong influence and actual control in numerous places in Polish Government and economy today. One does not see a large Russian gestapo at every turn as has been rumored. ~~It was rumored by a reliable agency official that members of his staff had been interviewed and threatened by the secret police if they disclosed their interrogation. They were then offered jobs in the Ministry in trade for acting as under-cover agents.~~ The usual excitement and propaganda existed recently at the Referendum, but to us such activity is normal. Instances where ballots were altered and fixed ballot boxes substituted for real ones did occur, but it appears that the anti-government people had exaggerated the extent of this.

One can observe many good points in the present political institutions and programs whether or not the influence is Russian. Russia is undoubtedly trying to gain certain benefits for herself in Polish industry today (such as removal of Polish coal for a price much less than the actual cost of production which is paid by Poland), on the other hand, it appears that many of the desirable progressive plans are for the rehabilitation of Poland for Poland's sake. Russia is importing wheat, etc. (opponents say this is being done for propaganda purposes).

Wages and prices received by industrial and agricultural producers are completely out of line with the cost of living at "free market" prices. For the mass of people, living at even subsistence level will be a difficult and discouraging struggle for a long time. However, state plans for agricultural point toward a rural economy for the benefit of the mass of peasants. State plans for social programs indicate increasing consciousness and responsibility for the welfare of the masses.

When one observes the primitive conditions existing in a land rich in natural resources, one realizes that a progressive program must be initiated if Poland ever is to be rehabilitated and to progress toward acceptable standards of living.

Yes, there are bandits. Scores of them live in the wooded areas where

come into the settled communities to kill and to plunder. Former members of Anders Forces, Fascists, anti-semitic Poles, and criminals have joined in this way to intimidate, discredit, and oppose the present government.

Poland is generally anti-semitic. Education, government edicts, and punishments may eliminate the prejudices over a long period of time. There are instances now where groups of Polish Jews are being trained in industry, but these facts get little publicity. The tendency of the anti-semitic Polish and Jewish organizations is to magnify unfortunate incidents and forget the encouraging signs. Meanwhile, in the midst of this struggle Jewish groups who have suffered persecution and personal losses feel nothing but fear for the future and see nothing other than to get out of Poland as fast as possible. Organized Jewish transports are leaving Poland.

I was informed by a number of persons that -

- (1) Persons are not forced to join the Communist Party in order to pursue their work (outside of government jobs);
- (2) That the average person goes about his daily life with little or no interference;
- (3) People need not fear the present government unless they actively engage in anti-government propaganda or activities;
- (4) The longer DPs remain away from Poland, the less welcome they will be when and if they return;
- (5) There is need and opportunity for work for all in Poland;
- (6) The Church is one of the strongest anti-government forces existing. They have formally protested through the Ministry against the tolerance of any form of religion other than the Catholic Church;
- (7) The courage of Poles in Poland today deserves the highest admiration and encouragement. I personally feel that UNRRA should seriously review our policies relative to Polish DPs. Are we correct in maintaining Polish DP camps where able-bodied persons get better food, clothing, and shelter without any effort on their part than they would get if they returned to their own country and world?

Are we not thus encouraging them to remain here where life is much easier and pleasanter? Who will rebuild Poland if its own nationals shout their patriotism from DP camps in Austria and Germany, but yet will not join hands at home with their country men in a program of work. Are the factors mentioned above, rather than actual fear, the real reason in many cases for not returning home?

If DP rations in occupied countries were reduced to the level of the local population and the added assistance extended to repatriates and other Poles in Poland, would this not encourage repatriation?

MILDRED M. MITCHELL, AREA WELFARE OFFICER
US ZONE II - Lins.

Hq/R/1

To: Mr. Andreassen

Subject: Repatriation Report for June, 1946.

One of our UNRRA workers who accompanied a returning group of DPs to Poland in April pointed out how easily many of them are influenced in their decision to go home or stay abroad. Their minds would change from day to day, the trend of a letter received from home would sway them instantly. Many have a deep-rooted desire to get back to their own earth, mingled with fear of the hardships they may have to endure, and of the things worse than hardships which are alleged by anti-repatriation propaganda, all complicated by an uncertain state of mind, largely due to their experiences in the last few years.

1. Information.

We have been striving to get this all along, and at last the Polish Repatriation Committee have been able to supply some newspapers from Poland, and it is hoped the supply will continue. We have a promise of papers from Yugoslavia.

Our Italian Mission sent us some copies of a valuable report of a team director who went to Yugoslavia, with translations into Serbo-Croat, which we have circulated.

We are still pressing on the Polish and Yugoslav representatives that it would be most valuable if they would allow a delegation of DPs accompanied by UNRRA workers to visit the respective countries and report back to their fellow nationals in our DP camps.

2. Segregation.

The difficulty of removing elements hostile to repatriation is very great, as so much hostile propaganda is underground, but we can aim at getting those who have decided to go home segregated at a point where they will not be subjected to hostile influences.

The use of Wells camp in the U.S. Zone seemed to serve this purpose admirably, but as it has been decided that the camp shall be given up, it is hoped that a similar staging centre can be found at Linz. The question of finding a similar staging centre in the British Zone is being gone into.

3. Improving the mechanism of movements., by giving as long notice as possible to DPs of convoys and by trying to carry out the other recommendations on this subject embodied in the May report.

4. Screening.

It has been the policy of the Administration to urge the military to intensify screening in all three zones, but this has been hampered by the shortage of qualified personnel.

Teams of UNRRA personnel under the presidency of Dr. Bedo in the British Zone, Dr. Weinfeld in the

U.S. Zone, have been appointed to work under the military in an advisory capacity, and assist and advise on this work.

5. Technically ineligible DPs.

The considerable work of sorting out the DPs who are technically ineligible for UNRRA care, especially because of their having crossed the frontiers of the countries subsequent to the cessation of hostilities, is being attacked. It is expected that this will lead to the exclusion of a large number of Yugoslavs in the British Zone.

The fact that military units which have been disbanded as such and not as individuals can not be in UNRRA care has necessitated the handing back to the military of the Yugoslav camp at Markt Pongau.

Western Europeans. The British and U.S. Military recently issued directives that these persons could no longer be kept in camps, and the number now left in all zones is very small indeed, confined to a few cases of hardship, or persons awaiting some permit from their home country, and one or two who are unacceptable by reason of their having married an ex-enemy national.

Poles. 23 Polish children left Villach for Salzburg on 25th June for repatriation, accompanied by the Chief Welfare Officer of the camp, who was to travel all the way. Convoys for Wels and Villach were due to leave for Poland on the last day of June with the Chief Welfare Officer No. 2 Area, U.S. Zone. Details will be included in the next report.

F.C.G. GOUGH,
Repatriation Officer.

1st July, 1946.

14th May, 1946.

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5/6 fileReport of Repatriation Officer on visit to French Zone

HQ/R/1

1. Colonel Thibaud agreed that he would inform Colonel Creusot in Vienna of any moves of Displaced Persons which may be taking place in the French Zone, in case there are groups from other Zones which could be sent at the same time. Ordinarily he co-ordinates his moves with the French Zone of Germany and allocation of trains is made by C.R.X., Berlin. It would be very useful from our point of view if we could have some direct connection or liaison with C.R.X. on this whole question of movements.
2. Concerning the complaints of discomfort of train accommodation, the Colonel said in the most recent movements that only one part of the train went to Kufstein. Another section was added later and that at least the women and children were accommodated in passenger cars. He agreed to review this matter further.
3. He underlined the practical impossibility of their security staff screening nationals of other countries with any degree of efficiency. When questioned specifically about Ukraine, he stated that a Ukrainian delegate had visited him and that he had gone through the names of alleged collaborators mentioned in the speech to UNO by Mr. Bajan, vice-premier of Soviet-Ukraine, but not one of the persons mentioned was in this Zone. I have taken the list of names and details and will try and get hold of the speech reported in "Pravda" on 3.2.46 which apparently stirred up all the trouble.
4. He will request the Yugoslav Liaison Officer to visit Kufstein at once for screening his nationals and arranging the repatriation of those few who have expressed their willingness to return home.
5. The Czech (Mr. Remeny) who "screened" at Kufstein on March 28th is at present only a self-styled liaison officer, as he has not yet been appointed as such by his own government. Final screening should be done by the Czech delegation from Prague which is expected shortly at Vienna.
6. He has informed Colonel Czernetzki of the Polish repatriation committee that he will be glad if he comes here for screening as soon as possible, beginning his work at Kufstein.
7. The Spaniards who wish to go to France from Kufstein must apply to Colonel Thibaud or to the French Consul for passports and documents.
8. I discussed at length the question of representatives of exiled governments and the Colonel could supply no direct evidence of anti-repatriation propaganda by the Polish Red Cross. He praised their Welfare work and said that they supplied parcels to their compatriots who are being repatriated.
9. Out-of-Camp Displaced Persons. Each move of Displaced Persons is well publicized through the press, the radio and the Burgemeister in the French Zone so that he feels that such persons cannot be said to be left without adequate information on the question of repatriation. This is borne out by the fact that larger numbers of out-of-camp Displaced Persons than inmates of camps take part in moves.
10. The Turkish liaison officer has not yet appeared and the Repatriation Officer will take this up at Salzburg and, if necessary, at Frankfurt.

(Signed) F. C. G. COUGH

To: Mr. Andreassen

19th June, 1946.

Subject: Repatriation Report for May, 1946.

Repatriation - positive and negative aspects.

At the May London conference the Austrian delegation expressed the view that they were specially interested in the positive side, encouraging repatriation:

- (a) by making the actual mechanism of movement easy.
- (b) by urging liaison officers to present their case effectively and
- (c) above all by giving as much factual information as possible about the countries of reception. It is not enough for prospective repatriates to know that they will not be persecuted and will have a chance of acquiring land. They want to know about reception centres at home, and what credits they can get for acquiring livestock seed and machines for working the land.

Improving Mechanism of Movements.

It is the intention that each considerable movement of DPs should be accompanied by at least one UNRRA worker. At the end of April one of our workers accompanied a movement of Polish DPs to Germany and the following among her recommendations are laid down as desirable for all future movements:

1. As long a notice as possible of the next transport should be given to DPs.
2. In a mixed transport, including children, an average of not more than 20 persons per car should be planned.
3. A lantern should be provided in each car. If this is absolutely impossible, the people should be told to take candles.
4. The DPs should be told to take water in bottles.
5. A special food car should be provided, with bins or boxes for bread and, if possible, one days' rations should be distributed before starting. This food car should be placed as near to the middle of the train as possible.
6. The Train Commander should, so far as possible, find out the duration of each halt (especially when a long halt is to be made) and that he should announce this. (This could be done by writing it on a board and sticking this out of his car.)
7. A good dispensary car should be provided, with at least two beds, and with a toilet and a supply of water, and this should be located near the middle of the train.
8. The financial regulations should be made clear, to every team concerned, beforehand, and the Train Commander should know them and make sure that each contingent has the necessary documents before starting.
9. An UNRRA Team member from each camp that is moved should accompany the transport to its destination and remain there for a day or two.
10. A Leader of each car should be appointed and provided with materials for making a list, as soon as the transport is ready to start, of the persons in his car, of the ages of the children, and of his own name. Leaders should hand these lists at the first opportunity to the UNRRA member in charge, to facilitate food distribution.

Segregation and Screening.

- (a) The use of Wels, or a camp at Linz, as a transit centre in the U.S. Zone, should enable those who have decided to return to be collected at a point where they will be abstracted from possible adverse propaganda and Dr. Bedo, who has joined us under a special assignment on repatriation, will see if some similar arrangement can be made in the British Zone, thus fulfilling in some degree the policy of segregation.
- (b) Screening has always been a difficulty. It is of course a function of the military, but in all zones there is a shortage of personnel qualified for this task, and it is hoped to make greater use of UNRRA personnel in an advisory capacity, as several of them have the right background and knowledge. It is intended that Miss Weinfeld shall head this advisory work in the U.S. Zone, and Dr. Bedo in the British and French Zones.

Western Europeans:

The U.S. and British military authorities have declared that these should no longer be in camps, and it is hoped that the few remaining ones will either return or be excluded during the month of June. It should not come to a question of forcible removal of any of these persons, to which UNRRA cannot be a party. If the military consider it necessary to remove any who yet remain at the end of June, this will be done by them.

There are still a few self-styled Czechoslovaks at Ried in the U.S. Zone Area I, whom the Czech Liaison Officer at Linz is being asked to screen. The Liaison Officer at Salzburg has promised to screen the few remaining at Kufstein (French Zone) during the coming month.

There are about 50 Czechs and over 100 children to be screened in the British Zone, and a signal has been sent to Prague to urge that the long-promised Commission come down to do this.

Jugoslavs:

The Yugoslav Repatriation Committee is about to visit the British Zone to urge repatriation there, after a visit to Slovenia to see to the reception end.

Poles:

A convoy of nearly 400 from D.P. camps, plus another 100 from outside camps, left from Wels (U.S. Zone) and arrived safely at a point 100 km inside Poland. They were accompanied by a representative of the London Polish Red Cross, who returned and was able to counteract any foolish rumours.

Another convoy, which it is hoped may be about 400, is expected to leave Wels about the middle of June.

In addition, a small number of Poles (36) and Czechs were safely sent back by the French authorities from Kufstein.

During the month, a further convoy, possibly 600, is expected to leave for Poland from Villach (British Zone).

Immigration to U.S.A.

90 persons on the May quota have been sent to the U.S. Consulate at Munich for emigration, after passing through the triple process in Austria of filling up their forms with UNRRA help and checking of them by Miss Weinfeld at Salzburg, of acceptance by the U.S. Consular agency set up there, and screening by the American C.I.C. 200 persons are now being processed for the month of June, and the U.S. authorities have not yet stated that the quota for that month is exhausted.

F.C.G. GOUGH,
Repatriation Officer.

To: Director, Relief Services

Barton
Ref: RE.21 for

From: Repatriation Officer.

17th May, 1946.

Tour in the U.S. and French zones
May 10th - 16th, 1946.

HA/R/1 report

1. Attached is a report of a conference with Col. Thibaud at Innsbruck, arising from my conversations with the Camp Director at Kufstein, whom I think I left in a happier frame of mind.
2. Landeck will shortly be composed of irrepatriables, if we can trace the wayward Turk Liaison officer and get him in to screen his alleged nationals.
3. I visited St. Johann in Pongau, the Yugoslav Camp about which there has been so much talk. From a repatriation point of view there is almost nothing to be done there. It is an urgent resettlement matter, as these people are possible a danger, or certainly a matter for controversy, as long as they are in proximity of their former country. They have had applications for emigration to U.S.A. rejected by the Welfare Officer at Salzburg on the grounds that no POWs could be accepted. This is a misunderstanding, as the persons concerned were POWs of the Germans.
4. Poles moved by U.S. Military to Germany.

I received a most unfavourable report on this. The 400 persons to be moved were told they were going to a new camp, but Flossenbug turned out to be an ex-concentration camp, complete with crematoriums, and the news had a most depressing effect.
5. Out of camp DPs.

The French authorities assured me that all moves are well-publicized and that more out of camp DPs have taken part in them, than DPs ex camps. The press and radio are used, and Burgomasters also informed.

The emigration to U.S.A. forms were distributed to the DP information centre in Linz and to national communities in the Salzburg area, and DPs contact otherwise nearest UNRRA camp. The AJDC have arranged for corporate affidavits in many cases, and I will ask Miss Andanalian to approach Mr. Thomas Fox (Catholic) and other organisations.

F.C.G. Gough
F.C.G. Gough,
Repatriation Officer.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
AUSTRIAN MISSION
FRENCH ZONE

INNSBRUCK, 14th May, 1946.....
ELISABETHSTR. 3 - TELEPHONE 2663

Report of Repatriation Officer on visit to French Zone.

1. Colonel Thibaud agreed that he would inform Colonel ^{Crozier} in Vienna of any moves of Displaced Persons which may be taking place in the French Zone, in case there are groups from other Zones which could be sent at the same time. Ordinarily he co-ordinates his moves with the French Zone of Germany and allocation of trains is made by C.R.X., Berlin. It would be very useful from our point of view if we could have some direct connection or liaison with C.R.X. on this whole question of movements.
2. Concerning the complaints of discomfort of train accommodation, the colonel said in the most recent movements that only one part of the train went to Kufstein. Another section was added later and that at least the women and children were accommodated in passenger cars. He agreed to review this matter further.
3. He underlined the practical impossibility of their security staff screening nationals of other countries with any degree of efficiency. When questioned specifically about Ukraine, he stated that a Ukrainian delegate had visited him and that he had gone through the names of alleged collaborators mentioned in the speech to UNO by Mr. Bajan, vice-premier of Soviet-Ukraine, but not one of the persons mentioned was in this Zone. I have taken the list of names and details and will try and get hold of the speech reported in "Pravda" on 3:2:46 which apparently stirred up all the trouble.
4. He will request the Yugo-Slav liaison officer to visit Kufstein at once for screening his nationals and arranging the repatriation of those few who have expressed their willingness to return home.
5. The Czech (Mr. Remeny), who "screened" at Kufstein on March 28th, is at present only a self-styled liaison officer, as he has not yet been appointed as such by his own government. Final screening should be done by the Czech delegation from Prague which is expected shortly at Vienna.
6. He has informed Colonel Czernetzki of the Polish repatriation committee that he will be glad if he comes here for screening as soon as possible, beginning his work at Kufstein.
7. The Spaniards who wish to go to France from Kufstein must apply to Colonel Thibaud or to the French Consul for passports and documents.
8. I discussed at length the question of representatives of exiled governments and the Colonel could supply no direct evidence of anti-repatriation propaganda by the Polish Red Cross. He praised their Welfare work and said that they supplied parcels to their compatriots who are being repatriated.
9. Out-of-Camp Displaced Persons. Each move of Displaced Persons is well publicized through the press, the radio and the Burgomeister in the French Zone, so that he feels that such persons cannot be said to be left without adequate information on the question of repatriation. This is borne out by the fact that larger numbers of out-of-camp Displaced Persons than inmates of camps take part in moves.
10. The Turkish liaison officer has not yet appeared, and the Repatriation Officer will take this up at Salzburg and, if necessary, at Frankfurt.

F. O. Rough

H. Anderson

(HQ/R)

REPATRIATION REPORT FOR APRIL, 1946.

As previously set out, the DPs in our camps may be thought of under the three headings o.f. -

- a) Volksdeutsche and similar categories
- b) Repatriable persons
- c) Non-repatriable persons.

Class a) has been much diminished by past action in the three zones and some of the military personnel are apt to state that it is complete, others more honestly say it is never really complete. The French authorities frankly pointed out that they had no personnel who had sufficient experience to tell who were "collaborators", even if the term were exactly defined, and the other two military authorities also suffer from lack of skilled personnel. One can say that the removal of straightforward ex-enemy categories is now within sight of completion, though the detection of collaborators may never be entirely complete.

b) Repatriable persons.

Czechs: there are more than 100 children at Leoben in the British Zone of debatable Czechoslovak nationality. The names of the parents have been sent to Prag, and a check is being made there and a list prepared under three headings - Czechoslovaks, Sudeten Germans who have been deported to Germany, Sudeten Germans who are to be deported. It is promised that a delegation will come down from Prag during May to deal with them under the three headings.

In addition it is hoped that a delegation will come during the month to deal with the remaining Czechs in the three zones, numbering 300, apart from Jews. It is hoped that very many will return.

Turks:

A Turkish liaison officer is due at Salzburg, and it is hoped he will arrange for repatriation of his nationals, roughly 90 in the U.S. Zone, 240 in the British Zone and 270 in the French Zone.

Greeks:

A convoy is expected to leave for Greece soon and it is being arranged with the military that the Jesuit barracks at Klagenfurt shall be used as a collecting centre for as many as can be persuaded to go. This convoy should leave during May.

Netherlands:

During March most of the scattered few Dutch citizens were sent back or are about to leave, but there are still 30 at camps in the British Zone. The Dutch liaison officer hopes to arrange for their screening during May. Efforts are being made to dispose of the other small numbers from a variety of countries where no political objection to return exists.

The names of Latin Americans are being passed to the U.S. Consulate for consultation with the respective governments via Washington.

Poles:

52 Poles at Kufstein, French zone, have expressed their willingness to be repatriated, and a drive is being made elsewhere - every effort is being made to get information and newspapers from home to Polish nationals. The Repatriation Committee will try to send a car weekly to Gleiwitz from Vienna to collect newspapers and post from home - this latter is very important. Any authentic information received by Headquarters is passed on. Unfortunately we have received none from E.R.O., and only a small amount from our Mission in Poland.

The Polish Repatriation Committee has just been through the British Zone, and their efforts will continue to be encouraged.

The implementation of the obligations under the revised resolution 71 "to bring about the removal of conditions which may interfere with repatriation" is being well supported by the British and French military authorities in their freely expressed wish to diminish the influence of representatives of the exiled Government on Polish nationals.

Very shortly a decision should be reached on the proposal to send a delegation of about 7 DPs on a visit to Poland with Mrs. Fitzrandolph, Welfare Officer at Ebensee. The fact that their Repatriation Committee is in favour of it is shown by the fact that they have proposed a second UNRRA official should also accompany this party. This visit should take place during May.

Yugoslavs:

As always these form the hardest problem, and the military in both the British and French zones regard it as an almost hopeless one. The Yugoslav Repatriation Committee state that their Government have issued a decree depriving expatriates in Germany, Hungary and Switzerland of their nationality, but have promised to try and delay the extension of this decree to Austria. The Repatriation Committee is ready to visit the British Zone and it is hoped that arrangements may be made for them to do so almost at once to make a strong last-minute attempt. They will naturally receive every support from the Zone Director.

c) Non-Repatriables.

As to Jews, no definite statement can be made until there is an official one on the findings of the Anglo-American Commission.

The most important recent development is the establishment of a temporary U.S. Consular Office at Salzburg to deal with applications for emigration to the U.S.A. UNRRA has been asked to help with the initial processing, with the distribution and filling up the forms issued by the American authorities, and with arranging for a cursory medical examination. Miss Gisella Weinfeld is dealing with this from the UNRRA side.

Applications are only being received at present from persons resident in the U.S. Zone (not including Vienna) previous to 22nd December, 1945.

The Repatriation Branch has suffered a great loss in the resignation for health reasons of Miss Margaret Bond, the Chief Repatriation Officer, whose energy, knowledge and good humour made her such an admirable chief of this section.

F.C.G. Gough
F.C.G. GOUGH,
Repatriation Officer,

30th April, 1946.

HQ/R/1

REPATRIATION REPORT FOR MARCH, 1946.

To: Director, Relief Services.

3rd April, 1946.

1. In her report for February, the Chief Repatriation Officer defined clearly the three groups of DPs in our camps:

- a) Volksdeutsch, Sudetens, collaborators etc.
- b) Non-repatriable persons
- c) Repatriable persons.

2. As regards the first group above, the screening is naturally in the hands of the military authorities and the position is stated to be as follows:

U.S. Zone - Col. Patrick at Salzburg described the process, rightly I think, as a continuous one, even if Volksdeutsch and similar persons are removed, there is always the possibility of finding collaborators. The military seem to be working actively on it, and I will try to get some actual figures from them when I visit Salzburg to-morrow.

British Zone. There has been some very active screening in the zone, and the process was stated to be complete. The Chief Repatriation Officer who is there at the moment is under the impression that it was rather superficial, and she will no doubt have details on return.

French Zone. Screening is taking place during the handing over of two of our four camps to the military. I have contacted the French military several times, and they assure me that Col. Thibault in Innsbruck has it well in hand. The Chief Repatriation Officer is inquiring into this there.

3. Non-repatriable persons: I have been in close contact with the I.G.C. representative, Mr. Lillard, and in connection with this question I would like to quote the following on a memorandum I wrote on 2nd April, which shows what arrangements have been made concerning applicants for emigration:

"Subject: Repatriation and Resettlement"

I am anxious that the distinction between the above separate things should be clear-cut, as this seems in accordance with policy.

We have become vaguely involved in the resettlement question, as was inevitable. As you know, the Chief Repatriation Officer was getting many individual enquiries on this subject, and had a form drawn up for applicants to fill in.

It is now clear that we can only act as a channel of communication for emigration, but there still seems to be an impression in various quarters that UNRRA has at the moment a definite responsibility. A relevant case is shown on the attached copy of a letter from the American Consulate, which was sent to me by the U.S. Zone Director, and which I regard as rather misleading. Although we are in close touch with the American Consulate, the I.G.C. and our German operation

the addresses of the agencies and relevant information have not yet been supplied to us.

The file of applications which we held has now been passed on in the following manner:

1. Applications for emigration to the U.K. and British controlled countries, including Palestine, have been passed to Mr. Berry, Controller, Visa Branch, Political Division, ACA. Further applicants will be referred direct to him.
2. Mr. Lillard, the I.G.C. representative at the American Consulate, 16, Boltzmanngasse, Wien IX, has taken over all applications for emigration to countries such as Argentine and Iran, which have no full diplomatic representation here or in Germany.
3. It has been agreed to-day with Mr. Lillard that the forms we hold for application for emigration to the U.S.A. will be taken over by him, and that he will send to the individuals through the zone directors, if they are in camps, the new type of form which has apparently already been issued in Germany by USFET. He is contacting the American military authorities to try to obtain a supply of these.
4. Repatriable Persons: Endeavours are being made to collect evidence of any propaganda hostile to repatriation made by representatives of exiled governments.

Polish. A useful memorandum has been received from our Polish Mission in Warsaw covering an extensive discussion with the Polish Chief of Repatriation, Mr. Wolski. The Chief of the Polish Repatriation Committee in Austria, Major Czernetski, is at present in Warsaw, and further details can only be worked out when he returns. A provisional plan has been made with his subordinate for getting as much information as possible to the Polish persons in our camps about conditions in their country, and arrangements for repatriation. We have a promise of a large number of Polish newspapers for distribution weekly, and are trying to get these routed here via Frankfurt. There is also a plan to send a delegation to Poland of three Polish people from the large Polish camp at Ebensee elected by themselves, and accompanied by Mrs. Fitzrandolph, Chief Welfare Officer of the camp. They are to report back to their compatriots in the camp. Arrangements have been made in the U.S. Zone that any letters received from Poland which are considered of general interest shall be distributed in the camps, through the Zone Repatriation Officer. The Polish Government have promised to send us an official statement of arrangements made for reception of repatriates, and we shall be able to have this matter printed in Polish in Vienna for display or distribution.

Czechoslovaks. A registration card is being given to each of these (and also the few Western Europeans in the camps) - i.e. persons who are not likely to have any political reasons to prevent their return. The Czechoslovak liaison officer here is expecting a woman from Prague in the middle of April, who will have full files in connection with repatriation, and it is hoped that with her help we shall repatriate the majority of these.

Turks. There are 255 of these in the French zone who are, it is understood, anxious to return. A request has been made to USFA that they ask Col. Smith at USFET HQ to get the Turkish Liaison Officer, who is attached there, to go to Innsbruck as soon as possible to deal with the repatriation of these persons.

Jugoslavs. This is the most difficult question of all. I have contacted their Repatriation Committee on the question of supply of useful material to their nationals, and we have had a long general discussion. I have to work out plans in more detail after the visit I am just going to pay to the camps in the U.S. Zone, where there are large numbers of them. I have arranged to have a conference with Major Pirkovic on my return. I have also arranged with their representative in the French Zone, Major Lientic, that he should be brought into contact with the Zone Director, as Mr. Aspler was anxious to establish relations with him.

REF

for F.C.G. Gough,
Assistant Repatriation Officer.

HQ/R/1

Subject: REPATRIATION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 1946.

To: Mr. Andreassen

3rd March, 1946.

1. In my report to the Director in Chief, Austrian Operation, dated 10th January, 1946, and entitled "Transfer and Repatriation of DPs in UNRRA camps in Austria" I defined the DPs in our camps as consisting of three main groups:

- a) Volksdeutsche, Sudeten Germans, collaborators etc.
- b) Non-repatriable persons
- c) Repatriable persons.

I analysed these three groups of DPs with particular emphasis on our responsibilities towards them, and made various suggestions regarding our policy towards these groups of persons, and what action was required by UNRRA in Austria in respect of their transfer, re-settlement and repatriation respectively.

2. The following are some comments on the position to-day, so far as the above-mentioned matters are concerned:

- a) Volksdeutsche, Sudeten Germans, collaborators etc.

Letters were addressed by Brigadier Parminter to the British and French military authorities in Vienna at the highest level, requesting a thorough investigation into, and screening of the DPs in our camps in their respective zones, with a view to removing those DPs with whom we are not authorised to deal.

In the British zone, as a result, the military have moved a large number of Volksdeutsche out of our camps, and a certain number of United Nations Nationals have been substituted instead. The British military authorities have informed me that they are prepared to provide personnel to screen for political refugees and collaborators, but that they rely on UNRRA team personnel to investigate the nationality status of DPs in our camps, since they cannot themselves provide adequate personnel. In view of the urgent necessity of determining this nationality status of DPs, and since the British military authorities are not able to undertake the job themselves, I think the responsibility for making this determination must fall on UNRRA personnel.

In the U.S. Zone, the military security police have been conducting a thorough screening of Volksdeutsche and of Russians. This is still in progress. As a consequence a large number of Volksdeutsche have been moved from our camps, and this is continuing.

I have no recent information of the position in the French Zone.

Since my report of 10th January, it has been laid down

that Yugoslav Volksdeutsche and Sudeten Germans, although declared stateless by their respective Governments, are ineligible for UNRRA assistance as DPs.

b) Non-repatriable Persons

The situation regarding this group of DPs has not changed in the last few weeks, and the matter of their eventual settlement is still one which requires urgent consideration by the responsible authorities.

I have had several conversations with Mr. Weihs, Austrian representative of the International Migration Service, concerning the part this organisation can play in assisting DPs who have relatives overseas, and wish to emigrate to join their relatives. Mr. Weihs has this week returned to Geneva to consult his Headquarters, and will bring back his plans to Vienna in about three weeks' time.

c) Repatriable Persons

The question of the official recognition of representatives of exiled governments and their access to DPs in our camps has been under discussion. Recommendations have been made to E.R.O. for these officials to be withdrawn, since their presence is in general not conducive to increasing the desire of DPs to return to their homes.

Names of all Allied Liaison and Repatriation Officers have been sent to E.R.O. at the latter's request, together with an assessment of their value in the DP Operation, as far as repatriation is concerned.

+ The French Military and the Czechoslovak Repatriation authorities have been provided with statistics and asked to undertake the screening of the West Europeans and Czechoslovaks respectively in all our camps in Austria, with a view to determining which of these persons can now be repatriated, and which can not be repatriated, and in the latter case, why not. It is hoped that this will assist in clearing such persons from our camps in the near future.

The British Military authorities have been requested to inform us how soon they can provide transport facilities for the repatriation of Turks, Egyptians and other Middle East nationals in our camps who wish to return home. The French Military authorities have been asked to secure the services of a Turkish Liaison Officer, in order to screen the Turkish DPs who have applied to be repatriated from the French Zone.

+ It is hoped that information will soon be made available by our Polish and Yugoslav Missions through E.R.O. of the conditions existing in Poland and Yugoslavia for repatriates, so far as their reception and welfare, food, clothing, housing, work etc. are concerned. When such information is available, an educational campaign will be prepared to give this information to the DPs concerned, with a view to encouraging their return home, and removing the rumours which are at present one of the chief factors in preventing their repatriation. Signed - Margaret Bond

SUBJECT: Transfer and Repatriation of DPs in UNRRA Camps in Austria.

To: Director-in-Chief, Austrian Operation.

1. When I set out to investigate the repatriation possibilities of the DPs in our camps in Austria, I had been given to understand by various "informed" persons, military officials and some of our Team Directors, that no further repatriation was possible and that all the DPs who wished to return to their countries had done so already.

On the surface, this is true. Those DPs who have expressed a desire to be repatriated have been returned to their countries, with a few exceptions who are awaiting transport. The DPs who remain in our camp are there because so far they have not asked to be repatriated. This, however, does not mean that all these DPs are not repatriable.

2. At the present time, there are in UNRRA camps in Austria three (3) main groups of DPs:

- a) Persons who are German or who have pro-German sympathies; i.e., Volksdeutsche, Sudeten Germans, collaborators, etc.
- b) Non-repatriable persons; i.e., Stateless persons, "King Peter" Yugoslavs, "London" Poles, etc.
- c) Repatriable persons.

3. UNRRA was set up as a short-term organization and, so far as the Displaced Persons Operations are concerned, to take care temporarily of Displaced Persons pending their repatriation. It is presumed that in the next year or so, UNRRA will cease to function and that the DPs remaining in our camps will be handed over to I.G.C. or whatever organization is responsible for their eventual settlement. These should consist only of genuinely non-repatriable DPs and we must take whatever action we can to clear our camps of persons in groups 2(a) and 2(c) above as soon as possible.

4. With regard to Group 2 (a), the Volksdeutsche, etc., I suggest that it is urgent to press the Military at the highest level to remove this class of persons from our camps as soon as possible. There are some thousands of such people sheltering in our camps and they range from those who were collaborating directly with the Nazis to those whose anti-Soviet feelings are such that, although they may not necessarily have pro-Nazi sympathies, they are prepared to ally themselves with any other anti-Soviet group and carry on anti-Soviet activities. Apart from the fact that UNRRA was not set up to take care of such persons, their presence in our camps is highly undesirable because of the political pressure they exert to influence repatriable persons against returning to their countries.

In most cases, our Team Directors know or can easily discover, who these persons are. In my memorandum of 10th Dec., 1945 on repatriability, Team Directors were asked to submit a report by 31st December, 1945, stating among other things, numbers of such persons in their camps. So far, I have only received a few of these reports.

4. (con'd) In some extreme cases, Team Directors have called in the Security Police and the DPs concerned have been removed. In one or two other cases, Team Directors, who either are not unsympathetic to the views held by this class of DPs or who have sympathy with them personally, are deliberately sheltering them. I would like to discuss this latter problem with you sometime.

In the US Zone, it is the policy of the military authorities to transfer Volksdeutsche and Sudeten Germans to Germany as soon as possible and a screening of Yugoslavs is proceeding at present. When this is complete, I understand that the Volksdeutsche will be forcibly transferred to Germany with the exception of those who appeal before special military boards set up for this purpose and who can prove that they were innocent of any pro-German sympathies or collaborationist activities. I asked Col. Stephens, DP Division, U.S.A.C.A., about a month ago how soon it would be possible to clear our camps of Volksdeutsche and Sudeten Germans and he informed me that they would be moved as soon as the screening was completed. This screening work should, in my opinion, be extended and greatly speeded up. One of our Team Directors, who asked for C.I.C. assistance, was told that not enough personnel were available and that he would have to wait.

In the British Zone, a screening of the DPs in our camps has been carried out by the military authorities and the Germans and Volksdeutsche determined. But they nevertheless remain in our camps. I discussed this with Mrs. Lubbock, DP Division, ACA Brit. about a month ago and she expressed surprise that our camps contained such persons and said she would look into the matter. I suggest that the military be asked to take action to remove these persons from our camps as soon as possible.

In the French Zone, I am informed that one French official alone is carrying out screening in our camps and the process is therefore proceeding very slowly. I suggest that the French military also be asked to accelerate their screening of our DPs and to remove the Germans and Volksdeutsche.

When I was in Frankfurt on 16th December, 1945, I discussed the question of Volksdeutsche and Sudeten Germans with Dr. Simon, Legal Advisor to Gen. Morgan. Both these groups of persons have been declared by their respective countries to have lost their citizenship in those countries, and they therefore, presumably, become stateless. It was not then clear whether or not UNRRA was required to assume responsibility for looking after them as stateless persons and Dr. Simon was referring the matter to ERO for decision. Do we have any ruling on this matter yet?

5. With regard to Group 2(b), the non-repatriables, these consist of stateless persons and persons who for political or racial reasons do not desire to return to their countries.

These persons will have to be resettled in countries other than those of their previous residence and this resettlement is not an UNRRA function. In this connection, I would like to make the following observations:

a) White Russians, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians, together with "King Peter" Yugoslavs and "London" Poles, form a group of DPs whom, perhaps with a few exceptions, we shall not be able to repatriate. These persons are stolidly and fanatically determined to resist returning to their former countries of domicile as they are hostile to the governments of the countries concerned. From conversation with some of these people, I have formed the opinion that the great majority of them wish to emigrate to the United States, British Dominions or South America. I understand that the I.G.C. will be negotiating arrangements for resettlement of non-repatriables but so far I have not been able to meet any of their representatives so I do not know what stage their negotiations have reached. I have received several requests from

/Over.

Team Directors and one petition from a group of White Russians asking whether any information on this matter can be made available to the DPs concerned in order to give them some hope for their future.

b) I have had various enquiries from DPs who have relations or friends in foreign countries, mostly in the United States and South America, as to whether they can apply to join their relations in those countries. As a result I have got out a form which such persons can fill up and return to me through channels and which I can then forward to the consul concerned for action if possible. Since there is a great deal of this enquiry and since it does not constitute mass resettlement, I would like to give this service to our DPs if you agree. (See form attached).

c) The French and Belgian Governments have offered to take a number of DPs for certain categories of work in their countries. The matter has been hanging fire some time and some of our DPs who were circularised about this offer and wished to accept it are now losing interest because the matter has not been taken any further. Team Directors have approached me to take this up on behalf of DPs in their camps. Am I authorized to approach the French and Belgian representatives in Vienna to discover where the matter stands.

d) I understand that there exists some intention to try to settle as many of our DPs as possible on the Austrian economy by finding them work for which they will receive payment, food, shelter, clothing, etc. from the Austrian authorities. This may be a good temporary solution for so long as there is a labour shortage in Austria, but from the long-term point of view it is, in my opinion, no solution and sooner or later will create a recrudescence of the DP problem in Austria. The hatred which exists between most of the DPs and the Austrians would make this, at best, a make-shift arrangement and I think it is probable that as soon as the control of the occupying powers and UNRRA was withdrawn from Austria, difficulties and friction would occur, resulting in the DPs losing their jobs and finding themselves homeless again. Two or three DPs with technical qualifications have told me that on application to the Austrian Labour authorities they have been informed that the Austrians do not want "foreigners" working for them.

e) Mr. Martin Weihs, the Austrian representative of the International Migration Service, called to see me. The International Migration Service has its headquarters at Geneva, was founded in and is chiefly financed from the United States. The International Migration Service has as one of its main objections, assistance to persons wishing to emigrate. This assistance is, I gathered, not financial but consists in making the necessary contacts for the person concerned through the International Migration Service representatives in other parts of the world. The International Migration Service will assist persons of any nationality. Mr. Weihs, stated that his Austrian office would not begin to function for at least two months, and he would then call and see me again to discuss in what way we might assist each other's work.

6. With regard to Group 2(c), the repatriable DPs in our camps, these are persons who can establish claim to citizenship in some country and who have no political or racial reasons for not returning to that country. These persons include:

a) Western Europeans, Italians, Greeks, Turks and other nationalities not having political complications in respect of their return home.

6. (b) Poles, Yugoslavs, Czechs, and other Western Europeans, who do not fall within Group 2(a) and who do not hold determined political connections preventing their return to their countries.

It is these DPs that we must attempt to repatriate by removing so far as possible the reasons which prevent them from applying for repatriation. These reasons are various and I have enumerated them in my memorandum of 10th December, 1945, asking Team Directors to report on the repatriability of DPs in their camps.

The DPs listed under 6(a) above are not numerous and their presence in our camps is in most cases explainable; e.g., marriage to a non-repatriable in the camp, ill health, lack of transport, etc. These DPs do not constitute a problem and by the spring I think the majority of them will have already returned or will be returning home.

The DPs listed under 6(b) above constitute our big problem. They are our largest group numerically and their failure to apply for repatriation is mostly psychological.

There is no doubt that the factor which influences these DPs most against returning home is fear and uncertainty regarding the conditions existing in their respective countries from the point of view of their reception, settlement and welfare; i.e., housing, food, clothing, work, etc. This fear is caused by:

(a) Adverse political influences within the camp deliberately working on them with a view to persuading them not to return home. These influences have already been discussed in para.4 and I have suggested that we endeavour to remove the persons concerned from our camps where possible. Where not possible, we might endeavour to concentrate them all together in camps apart from the others.

(b) Political pressures external to the camp influencing DPs against returning home. Certain of the voluntary welfare agencies, e.g., Polish Red Cross representatives and certain Allied Liaison Officials, e.g., National Committee - Kingdom of Yugoslavia ("King Peter" Yugoslavs) have been reported to me by Team Directors and other UNRRA field personnel as working to influence DPs politically against the governments in their respective countries. This is understandable, having regard to the political situation of the persons concerned, and if the military authorities decide to recognise these groups officially we must presumably accept their decision on this matter. I attach a list of Liaison and Welfare Personnel in the US Zone officially approved by the military for visiting DP camps. The last four groups mentioned and the National Committee Kingdom of Yugoslavia may be beneficial from the welfare point of view, but as regards repatriation activities, their official recognition is not desirable.

(5) Lack of accurate information about conditions in the countries concerned. So much rumour and exaggerated talk floats about the camps concerning conditions in Poland and Yugoslavia that it is natural that the DPs of these countries are reluctant to apply for repatriation. On 12th November, 1945, we asked ERO to contact our Missions in Poland and Yugoslavia to see if we could get any accurate information about conditions there from the point of view of the reception and resettlement of repatriates, but no doubt the answer will take a long time to get here. I hope to be able to arrange a short visit to Belgrade and Warsaw to contact our Missions personally on this subject and to see if it is possible to arrange with the authorities concerned some means whereby it is possible to assure DPs that if they return to these countries they will receive a square deal and be treated as ordinary citizens. Meanwhile I will endeavour to get whatever other evidence I can from the Liaison Officers concerned, press, etc. on this subject.

The process thus required in order to get these
DPs to apply for repatriation has two stages:

- (1) To remove the political influences referred to
under (a) and (b) above.
- (2) To make accurate information available in place
of rumour.

Sgd) Margaret Bond,
Chief Repatriation Officer.

January 10, 1946.

UNRRA CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS
(UNRRA Zentral-Hauptquartier)
AUSTRIAN OPERATION
(Oesterreichische Mission)

APPLICATION FOR: a) Emigration to:
GESUCH FÜR: Auswanderung nach:

b) Transfer to:
Versetzung nach:

NATIONALITY: .

1. NAME IN FULL (Block letters - family name first)
NAME (Blockbuchstaben - Familiennamen zuerst)

2. NATIONALITY: a) Present:
zur Zeit:
b) How & when acquired:
wie & wann erworben:
c) At birth:
bei der Geburt:

3. Where was your permanent home before the War? State country and full address.
Wo war ihr ständiger Wohnsitz vor dem Krieg? Staat und volle Adresse.

4. Date of birth:
Geburtsdatum:

5. Place of birth:
Geburtsort:

6. Religion:
Religion:

7. Education & qualifications. (School, University, professional or technical qualifications, languages spoken, writings, etc.)
Ausbildung und erworbene Kenntnisse. (Schulbildung, Universität, Profession oder technische Ausbildung, Sprachkenntnisse, Orthographie, u.s.w.)

8. Occupation and where carried out: (Aufenthaltort während der Besetzung und weiterer Verbleib):
- a) Before the War:
Vor dem Krieg:
 - b) During the War:
Während des Krieges:
 - c) At present:
Zur Zeit:
9. Are you in possession of Passport or other documents of identity? If so, give particulars, stating date and place of issue and by whom
Sind Sie im Besitz eines Passes oder sonstiger Ausweis papiere? Geben sie genaue Angaben ueber den Ausstellungsort-Datum und von wem ausgestellt.
10. Names, nationality & address of both parents:
Name, Nationalitaet und Adresse beider Eltern:
11. Married or single:
Verheiratet oder ledig:
12. Wife's or Husband's (a) Full Name:
Ehefrau oder Gatte Name:
- (b) Nationality at present:
Gegenwaertige Nationalitaet:
 - (c) Nationality at birth:
Nationalitaet bei der Geburt:
13. Names, places of birth & nationality of children and present addresses:
Name, Geburtsort und Nationalitaet sowie gegenwaertige Adresse der Kinder:

14. When did you come to Austria and why?
Wann sind Sie nach Oesterreich gekommen und warum?

State place of residence & address:
Angabe des Wohnungsortes mit voller Adresse:

15. What property or investments do you have in Austria or country of origin?
Haben Sie Besitz oder Einlagen in Oesterreich oder in Ihrem Heimatsort?

16. Which country do you wish to go to? State reasons.
In welches Land wuenschen Sie auszuwandern? Gehen Sie die Gruende dafun an.

17. Have you any relatives or friends in the country to which you wish to go?
Give names, addresses and full particulars:
Haben Sie Verwandte oder Freunde in dem Lande, nach welchem Sie auswandern wollen?
Geben Sie Name und volle Adressen und sonstige Einzelheiten an:

18. What property or investments do you have in the country to which you wish to go?
Haben Sie Besitzteuer oder sonstige Einlagen in dem Land nach welchem Sie
auswandern wollen?

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19. Remarks: (Sonstige Einzelheiten und Angaben)

Date:
Datum:

Present Address:
Gegenwaertige Adresse:

Signature:
Unterschrift:

LIAISON AND WELFARE PERSONNEL IN US ZONE, AUSTRIA.
OFFICE OF THE A.C. OF S., G-5.

18 December, 1945.

The following Liaison and Welfare personnel are operating in the United States Zone of Austria with the approval of Headquarters, USFA:

<u>NATIONALITY</u>	<u>NO. OF PERSONNEL</u>	<u>MISSION.</u>
Czechoslovakian	11	1. Repatriation & Welfare of Czechs. 2. Recovery of property of Czechs.
Dutch		Repatriation & Welfare of Dutch.
British	4	1. Liaison with USFA 2. Repatriation & Welfare of British
French	4	1. Liaison with USFA 2. Repatriation & Welfare of French
Greek		Repatriation & Welfare of Greeks
Russian	22	Repatriation & Welfare of Soviet Russians.
Yugoslavian (Tito)	4	Repatriation & Welfare of Yugoslavs.
* Yugoslavian (National Committee - Kingdom of Yugoslavia)	8	Resettlement & Welfare of K.P. Yugoslavs.
Hungarian	3	Repatriation & Welfare of Hungarians.
Rumanian	7	Repatriation & Welfare of Rumanians
Polish (Warsaw Committee)	9	Repatriation of Poles
★ Polish (London)	20	Repatriation & Welfare of Poles
★ Polish Red Cross	14	Repatriation & Welfare of Poles
★ Central Committee of White Russians	8	Resettlement & Welfare of White Russians
★ Latvian Red Cross	5	Resettlement & Welfare of Latvians

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Appendix "A".

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Salzburg, 12th November, 1945.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of DPs in UNRRA Camps in Austria.
TO: Director of Department of Relief Services, E.R.O.

1. I am forwarding you herewith a copy of a report on repatriation of DPs in Austria by my Repatriation Officer.
2. I have discussed the matter with her and I agree that there are probably large numbers of Poles and Yugoslavs, our most numerous clients, who, if they could be reassured about conditions of reception and work in their countries, would be anxious to return to their own countries in the Spring. As these two nationalities number approximately 22,000 of the number under our care, or nearly 45 percent, and probably the numbers in Germany are about the same, I feel that it is well worth while to attempt any action that may lead to returning them to their own countries.
3. I should be glad to know whether you can take any steps on the lines of the suggestions in paragraphs 5 (a), (b) and (c) and 6 (a) while I will continue my investigations here.

(Sgd) R.H.R. Parminter
Brigadier R.H.R. Parminter,
Director-in-Chief,
UNRRA Operation in Austria.

Copies to:

- General Sir Frederick Morgan, K.C.B.
Director-in-Chief, UNRRA Operations in Germany.
- Head of Austrian Section, ERO (Mr. Mathieson)
- Repatriation Officer, Austrian Operation (Miss Bond)

RHRP/JB

COPY

U.N.R.R.A.
AUSTRIAN OPERATION

9 November 1945.

TO: Director in Chief, Austrian Operation.
FROM: Repatriation Officer
SUBJECT: Repatriation of displaced persons in UNRRA camps in Austria.

1. At the present time, displaced persons in UNRRA camps can be divided into the following categories from the point of view of their repatriation:

- (a) Stateless persons, i.e. persons having Nansen passports, Armenians, etc.
- (b) Non-repatriable persons who for political or racial reasons do not desire to return to their countries.
- (c) Persons of disputed or undetermined citizenship.
- (d) Repatriable persons who desire to be repatriated.
- (e) Repatriable persons who are not applying for repatriation.

2. The persons under:

- 1(a) can never be repatriated and their eventual settlement must be the subject of decision at the highest international level.
- 1(b) cannot be repatriated at present, and their future depends on political settlements which will determine them either as stateless or as repatriable.
- 1(c) may subsequently turn out to be stateless or repatriable but at present are not repatriable.
- 1(d) apply for repatriation and are repatriated as transport is available.
- 1(e) are not requesting repatriation for reasons set forth below.

3. I am of the opinion that a large majority of the persons in category 1(e) probably do not hold very determined political convictions and that their failure to apply for repatriation is due to one or more of the following reasons:

- (a) Fear or uncertainty regarding conditions obtaining in their respective home countries from the point of view of their settlement and welfare, i.e. Housing, food, clothing, work, etc.
- (b) Reluctance to uproot themselves from the relative security and comfort of their camp lives or to relinquish some gainful occupation.
- (c) Refusal to leave another person who cannot or does not desire to be repatriated.
- (d) Unwillingness to work. Displaced Persons in camps are not obliged to work.

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Repatriation of displaced persons in UNRRA camps in Austria (contd).

3.(e) Desire to maintain some illegal activity, such as Black Market Operations, which is lucrative.

(f) Pressure by some political group, external to or internal in the camp, which influences persons otherwise willing to return to their countries from doing so.

4. Allied displaced persons cannot be forced to return to their countries (except for those persons whose countries require their return on account of War Crimes). I suggest however that strenuous efforts should be made to enable persons who are repatriable to return to their countries by removing so far as possible the obstacles listed in paragraph 3 which prevent them applying for repatriation. I suggest particularly that an immediate investigation should be made into the position of displaced persons who are Western Europeans, Czechs, Italians or other nationalities not having political complications, in respect of their return home with a view to hastening their repatriation.

5. The following are some concrete proposals for dealing with the difficulties listed in paragraph 3 :

(a) Endeavour to find out accurately what arrangements exist for the reception and settlement of repatriates in their respective countries. This applies particularly to Poland and Yugoslavia.

(b) Request through E.R.O. our missions in Poland and Yugoslavia to make formal application for this information and to send us any additional information they may be able to obtain from any other source on this subject.

(c) Obtain permission from military authorities and governments concerned to attach two or three displaced persons and if possible an UNRRA representative with a group of repatriates to observe and report back to camps housing the displaced persons of the country concerned, on conditions and treatment met by the repatriates on their return.

6(a) If the reports obtained on the above ways are satisfactory, request the services of the Public Relations Branch to obtain photographs and press material covering a repatriation operation to be distributed in the relative camps and used in conjunction with a talk by the returned group of displaced persons.

(b) Contact Team Directors and/or Welfare Officers to determine what persons in their camps are repatriable, and if it is found that conditions in the country of such persons makes their return desirable, to discuss the best means for interesting them in returning home, particularly persons falling within categories 3b, 3d and 3e.

(c) Investigate what political groups are exerting influences on displaced persons and determine if possible their 'lines' with a view to eliminating these influences if they are adverse to the return home of persons otherwise willing to do so.