

Poland

Refugees

642.6

POLAND REFUGEES

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UNRRA

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

Poland - 642.6

NUMBER: 406
TO: Rome
DATED: 7 June 1945
DISPATCHED: 8 June 1945 - 12.05 p.m.

Clear

Refit
Reur 392 repeated London 190 cable (1) who requested you assist Polish refugees; (2) Indicate approximate number of Poles under your care; (3) Are your activities in accordance with agreement between Italian and Polish Provisional Governments regarding help and assistance for Polish citizens on Italian territory and for Italian citizens on Polish territory signed in Moscow on 28 April 1945; (4) Are you in contact with the representatives of the Provisional Polish Government.

Paragraph. Intend discuss Polish displaced persons question with the Provisional Government Polish Republic, Warsaw.

Drafted by:
Weisl(GS)
6 June 1945

DISTRIBUTION

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Paland - 642.6

The attached was received June 23 from London
Regional Office bearing the transmittal date of June 10.

Despatch Section
Bureau of Areas

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POLISH REFUGEES

PERSIA

Poles arriving in Persia from the Soviet Union in 1942 numbered altogether about 39,000. Arrangements were made to move as many as possible to India and to the East African Colonies, and the maximum number in Persia at any one time was 25,700 in October 1942. 14,500 were evacuated during 1943 (including something under 2,000 with destination Mexico) and the total of Poles in Persia at the end of the year was 9,500, of whom 3,000 were employed in the country officially by the Poles themselves.

Expenditure

From May 1942 to March 1944 the expenditure on Polish civilian refugees in Persia was approximately £2,600,000 - to be covered in Persian currency. This sum includes £744,000 for the past six months, and unless there is a substantial reduction of the number of Polish civilians in Persia it is estimated that current expenditure in that country will be at the rate of £1,300,000 per annum.

EAST AFRICAN COLONIES

The movement of Polish refugees from Persia to East Africa was begun as soon as possible after their arrival in Persia so as to clear that country. By the beginning of May 1944 just over 17,000 had been received in those territories; space is at present available for 2,900 and also for 930 children. This accommodation is being filled up as transport is available from the Persian Gulf.

Expenditure

Complete figures of expenditure are not yet available, but according to preliminary estimates for Uganda, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia and Kenya it will not fall far short of £1,000,000, and £600,000 for 1944. In addition the Polish Government has incurred a not inconsiderable amount in indirect expenditure.

All the foregoing expenditure, except in regard to Poles going to Mexico, has been met by the Polish Government by funds supplied by his Majesty's Government in the Polish Civil Credit.

Foreign Office, S.W.1.
26th May, 1944.

COPY

FOREIGN OFFICE,
(Refugee Dept.)
3, Cleveland Row
St. James's, S.W.1

27th May, 1944.

Dear Ward,

With reference to Randall's letter of the 26th May enclosing data about expenditures on Poles in the Middle East, I now send you herewith a copy of a letter from the Colonial Office giving information of a similar kind regarding Uganda and Northern Rhodesia.

In order to save time, I am forwarding this statement to you as it is, without comments on the basis of earlier papers, as I know you are anxious to get the data with the least possible delay.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) ALAN WALKER

Dudley Ward, Esq.
UNRRA

COPY

46692/7/44

COLONIAL OFFICE
Downing Street

May, 1944

Dear Walker,

This is to follow up my letter of the 27th March about reimbursements to the Tanganyika Government in respect of expenditure on Polish refugees. We have now received information in respect of Uganda and Northern Rhodesia.

The position in regard to Polish refugees under the MEERRA scheme in Northern Rhodesia is that expenditure up to the 31st December 1943 is estimated at £240,000 and includes equipment purchased in 1942, at approximately £15,000, and the cost of camps, viz.

Lusaka	£37,000
Bwana Mkubwa	36,000
Abercorn	33,000
Fort Jameson	9,000

In the above connection I note that the Foreign Office recently paid £50,000 on account (see F.O. Establishment and Finance Department's letter W.16677/84/48 of 21st March to Lambert). This was in part payment of the account of expenditure for the year ended 31st December 1942, transmitted to you under cover of Lambert's letter No. 45349/43 of the 18th September. That account did not differentiate between the MEERRA Poles and those originally sent to Northern Rhodesia, but, as it is clear from the letter from your Establishment and Finance Department that the sum of £50,000 already paid is to be applied towards the costs of maintenance of the earlier arrivals for whom the Foreign Office are financially responsible, none of it will be available to offset the claim submitted with this letter.

Expenditure during the first six months of 1944 is £60,000 plus £7,000 being the cost of the Segregation Camp at Katambora.

In regard to Uganda expenditure up to the end of 1943 is estimated at £326,000 against which reimbursements of £300,000 have been received. Expenditure in 1944 is estimated at £50,000 per quarter, subject to revision in the third and fourth quarters of the year.

In regard to Tanganyika my letter of the 27th March referred to above explained that the Polish commitments up to the end of March this year was £108,000 and subsequently £50,000 per quarter. Against this a reimbursement of £100,000 has been received, leaving a balance of £8,000 for the first quarter still due.

For the sake of convenience I attach a schedule in respect of these three territories indicating what reimbursements are now requested and the quarterly estimates for the rest of this year.

SCHEDULE

Territory	Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.43	Estimated Expenditure 1st Quarter 1944	Total	Reimburse- ments Received	† Quarterly Estimated Expenditure 1944	Reimburse- ments Requested by end of June 1944
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Uganda	326,000	50,000	376,000	300,000	50,000	125,000
Tanganyika	270,000	50,000	320,000	312,000	50,000	50,000
Northern Rhodesia	240,000	37,000	277,000	Nil	30,000	300,000
Kenya	Details not yet available					

Note † Subject to revision in 3rd and 4th quarters.

COPY

Foreign Office (Refugee Dept.)
3 Cleveland Row
St. James's, S.W.1.

1st June, 1944

W.8582/18/48

Dear Dudley,

You told me the other day that the figures given in my letter to you W.8582/18/48 of 26th May and Walker's letter of the 27th for expenditure on Poles in East Africa did not tally.

Walker has now gone into the matter with the Colonial Office and the inconsistency seems to be more apparent than real. For instance, in my letter of the 26th May the total up to the end of 1943 was given as about £1,000,000. Adding the figures for the same period in the Colonial Office schedule enclosed in Walker's letter we get £826,000, leaving about £164,000 for Kenya which the Colonial Office think is about right. Similarly if we multiply the quarterly estimated expenditure for 1944 by four we get the figure of £520,000, leaving £80,000 for Kenya.

As regards Northern Rhodesia the expenditure up to the end of 1943 does not include the grant made by Parliament of £60,000 a year on the Poles who went there from Cyprus and who are the responsibility financially of the Foreign Office.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) A.W.G. RANDALL.

Dudley Ward, Esq.
UNRRA