

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
REFUGEES CO-ORDINATING FUNCTIONS
REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO HUNGARIAN REFUGEES

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POUR LES DOSSIERS CONNEXES VOIR AU VERSO

CONFIDENTIAL

SO 53412

RECORDS CONTROL

22 JAN 1957

Mr. O. Schachter, Director, General Legal
Division

22 January

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SO 533/2

Myer Cohen, Executive Director for Relief
to the Hungarian People

Hungarian ReliefAttention Mr. V. Fabry

Confirming our telephone conversation today, I would be grateful for your views as to whether the provision of items listed on page 20 of document A/3503, namely seeds, fertilisers, fodder, wheat etc., can be considered as falling within the purview of General Assembly Resolutions 1004 (ES-II) and 1007 (ES-II). 1004 refers to "food, medicine and other similar supplies". 1007 refers to "medical supplies, foodstuffs and clothes".

I should like to know whether in your view it would be necessary to secure further authorization from the General Assembly for the provision of the items listed in A/3503 referred to above.



76. *2/2/57*
 UNITED NATIONS



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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

*Thanks. Working on
 has a memo based on
 de Seynes text. We should
 wait for S.'s
 return before making
 any further move
 in W. H. 7.*

TO: Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General

Date: 4 January 1957

FROM: Myer Cohen, Executive Director for Relief
 to the Hungarian People

FILE NO.: SO 534/2

SENDER'S TELEPHONE EXTENSION: 2324

SUBJECT: Hungarian Relief

14 JAN 1957

1. As mentioned in Mr. de Seynes' memorandum to you of 29 December 1956, I visited Washington yesterday in order to hold discussions with officials of the Department of State concerning the possibility of a contribution to the United Nations from the United States Government for relief in Hungary. Before leaving for Washington, I checked with your Office and was advised that there had been no special developments in this connection in the course of your meeting with the Secretary of State on Monday, January 2.
2. In Washington, I discussed this question with Mr. Phillips, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Organizations, and with Mr. Beam, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, and at some length with members of their respective staffs.
3. It appears that no definitive policy decision has yet been made as to how the fifteen million dollars in surplus supplies which the United States Government is drawing on for aid to the Hungarian People will be channelled (these fifteen million dollars of surplus supplies are separate and distinct from the five million dollars in cash which the United States Government has contributed to the United Nations for Hungarian refugees). Nevertheless, the United States Government has been turning over surplus supplies under this programme to the International Committee of the Red Cross; it has also turned over a portion of these supplies to voluntary agencies in Austria and to the Austrian Government to replenish stocks that these sources made available in the early days of the emergency. Approximately three million dollars in surplus supplies have been made available by the Government of the United States for the above purposes.
4. I explained the reasons for channelling the United States' contribution for relief within Hungary through the United Nations. Some of these reasons are set forth in Mr. de Seynes' memorandum to you of 29 December. In the course of these conversations, I did not encounter any technical or legal reasons which would interfere with the adoption of such a policy by the Government of the United States. This was especially so after I explained that the existing logistical arrangements under which the actual supplies were turned

over by the Government of the United States to the International Committee of the Red Cross would not be affected by the contribution being made to the United Nations.

5. From a policy point of view, I believe there is reluctance in Washington to channel relief to Hungary through the United Nations because of the fear that the line between emergency relief and economic aid might easily become blurred. This may be a very real problem.

6. Clearly any decision by the Government of the United States to make substantial contributions for relief to Hungary through the United Nations will only be made on the basis of discussions at the highest level. In view of Mr. de Seynes' current visit to Budapest, you may wish to await his report to you before deciding on the next steps. In the meantime, I wish you to have this brief report.

7. I wish also to inform you that a letter addressed to you has been received from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross outlining a new programme of relief costing some thirty million dollars, and urging the United Nations to make a new appeal for contributions for relief in Hungary. I discussed this proposal with Mr. de Seynes before his departure and he, of course, has had conversations with Mr. Boissier in Geneva during the past few days. However, it was Mr. de Seynes' view before he left New York that it would be far better to consider direct negotiations in various capitals than to undertake any further general appeals for relief in Hungary.

Lucy Cohen

COPY

Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld,
Secretary-General

5 November 1956

Mr. A. Cordier, Executive Assistant
to the Secretary-General

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

REF
SO 534/2
19 DEC 1956

The situation in Hungary

Enclosed with this memorandum is a paper containing certain proposals on how paragraphs 7 and 8 of the resolution contained in A/3286 might be implemented. A copy has been sent to Mr. Protitch who, I understand, is responsible for preparing a note on the implementation of the rest of the resolution.

5 November 1956

THE SITUATION IN HUNGARY

Proposals to implement paragraphs 7 and 8 of the
resolution contained in A/3286

1. This paper has been written without prejudice as to whether the United Nations recognizes the Kadar Government of Hungary which, if it does, is one of the main sources of information concerning the relief needs of the Hungarian people in Hungary.

2. Paragraph 7 of the resolution reads as follows :

"Requests the Secretary-General in consultation with the heads of appropriate specialized agencies to inquire, on an urgent basis, into the needs of the Hungarian people for food, medicine, and other similar supplies, and to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible".

3. For the purposes of this resolution, the appropriate specialized agencies are WHO and FAO. Within the United Nations itself UNICEF and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees are also concerned. The Secretary-General should formally communicate the contents of the resolution to the executive heads of WHO and FAO and to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees informing them of the name of his representative designated to consult with them in regard to paragraph 7.

4. The representative of the Secretary-General (Mr. Pelt or any other person designated) should be instructed to consult immediately with the Director-General of WHO and the Acting Director-General of FAO on the needs of the Hungarian people for food, medicine and other similar supplies. He should also consult governmental and non-governmental organizations located in Geneva particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies and report to the Secretary-General

by noon, EST, on Wednesday, 7 November on whatever information he may have gathered on the needs of the Hungarian people. The Secretary-General should cable confidentially Mr. Leopold Boissier, President of ICBS, asking him to give whatever help he can to the Secretary-General's representative. The representative of the Secretary-General should be informed specifically whether or not he should consult with the local Hungarian representatives.

5. The resolution applies also to those Hungarians who have fled from their country as a result of recent events. At least 15,000 are now in Austria. The Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees has allocated a sum of \$25,000 for their immediate needs and in answer to a request from the Austrian Government, the Office has made an appeal to the UNREF Executive Committee and certain other Governments asking for financial aid to maintain refugees through the winter months and for Governments appealed to to give temporary asylum to the refugees. The High Commissioner's Office is also consulting representatives of international and national non-governmental organizations both in Geneva and in Washington on the possibility of their contributing to the relief of the refugees. Although information is shortly expected from Geneva on what the needs of the refugees will be, the Secretary-General's Representative should consult directly with the Office of the High Commissioner.

6. Presumably should the Austrian Government request assistance from UNICEF, aid would be given by UNICEF after members of the Executive Committee have been contacted to agree to a release of funds for this purpose. Similarly a request from the Hungarian Government itself for UNICEF assistance should receive immediate consideration.

7. Paragraph 8 of the resolution reads as follows :

"Requests all Members of the United Nations, and invites national and international humanitarian organizations to co-operate in making available such supplies as may be required by the Hungarian people."

8. Unless the General Assembly decides otherwise it is suggested that the services, supplies and money forthcoming from "national and international humanitarian organizations" should be handled by the International Red Cross if it is agreeable. A list of such organizations is already being drawn up in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in consultation with DPI. Governments may also wish to have their contributions channeled through the International Red Cross.

9. If the Secretary-General succeeds in getting the Hungarian Government to agree to a Mission under paragraph 4 of the resolution, this Mission could perhaps include experts in relief administration to take care of the necessary arrangements for bringing emergency relief to the Hungarian people. If he does not succeed the Secretary-General may wish to consult with the Hungarian Government on whether it would not be willing to receive, on purely humanitarian grounds, his representative to discuss with them relief measures in implementation of both paragraphs 7 and 8 of the resolution.

cc. Mr. Protitch
Mr. Cordier
Mr. de Seynes
Mr. Vakil
Mr. Townley