

400.6 AUSTRIA: Publicity (D.P.)

Mr. Pierce Williams
 Acting Director
 Division of Refugees and Displaced Persons
 United Nations
 Lake Success, New York

Dear Pierce:

Dick is in Europe attending the IRO meetings so I will give you the information you ask for in your letter of 5 February.

We also saw that article in the New York Times and, technically speaking, there are over 400,000 displaced persons in Austria. I am listing below a breakdown of that total as of 30 November from figures we received from our UNRRA Mission and from the Military:

"DISPLACED PERSONS" in AUSTRIA

	<u>ALL ZONES</u>	<u>U.S. ZONE</u>	<u>BRITISH ZONE</u>	<u>FRENCH ZONE</u>
<u>Totals</u>	<u>411,741</u>	<u>210,445</u>	<u>131,138</u>	<u>70,158</u>
Outside Camps	297,350	144,111	93,012	60,227
Military Camp	56,972	25,644	25,033	6,295
UNRRA Camps	35,963	19,234	13,093	3,636
Civil Camps	21,456	21,456	-----	-----

You will note that the UNRRA figure you quoted includes 308 persons who receive assistance outside of camps. In addition to those in UNRRA camps, a rough breakdown of the 354,300 in military centers and outside of camps is as follows:

Ex-enemy	245,500
United Nations	62,000
Jewish	28,600
Italians and Baltics	5,100
Stateless and Undetermined	12,300
Others	800

I have omitted a breakdown of 21,456 in civil camps since most of these are bad boys.

We are not inclined to use the term "displaced persons" as freely as the New York Times or the general public. You know our Council Resolutions and they define our conception of a displaced person. Since the majority of that 411,000 persons are actually ex-enemy or ex-prisoners of war or discharged soldiers, it would be hard for us to come to any definite conclusion as to the numbers which would be eligible for UNRRA assistance, but my guess is that it is not very great.

My own private opinion about the story in the New York Times is there are undoubtedly some very nasty types floating around Austria. As you know, my sympathies for genuine displaced persons is unlimited and we will always exert ourselves to arrive at a satisfactory solution to their problems. I cannot help feeling a large amount of emotion is misdirected when we discuss the refugee problem as a whole. Personally, I would like to see a real screening job of all displaced persons so that the bad actors could be separated from the deserving.

Sincerely yours,

S. K. Jacobs
Reports Officer
Bureau of Services

SKJ/hcs
8 February 1947

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK • FIELDSTONE 7-1100

REFERENCE:

5 February 1947

Mr. Richard Youdin
U. N. Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
1344 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, 25, D. C.

My dear Dick:

Have you any information that might clear up the question raised by the statement appearing in the New York Times this morning under the heading "U. S.-Soviet Clash on Austrian D. Ps.". It is as follows:

"The United States delegation contends that although among the 400,000 displaced persons in Austria, etc."

The statement was made in connection with a dispute between General Clark and the Soviet and Yugoslav representatives, the latter demanding that the many war criminals among the dps be handed over for punishment.

UNRRA reports (28-1-47) show 36,271 United Nations displaced persons in UNRRA care as of 30 November 1946. The report of the U. S. Commissioner, Austria for September 1946 shows 215,444 displaced persons in the U. S. Zone (and Vienna) of whom 46,716 are United Nations dps. Do you think the British and French Zones in Austria could together account for another 185,000?

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pierce Williams".

Pierce Williams
Acting Director
Division of Refugees and Displaced Persons

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318

Mr. Richard Youdin
U. N. Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
1344 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, 25, D. C.

UNRRA

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Conditions of DPs -
Dec 15 '45

NUMBER: 19
FROM: Vienna to Washington
REPEATED: London Saving 135
DATED: 15/12/45
RECEIVED: 17/12/45 - 1:00 a.m.

Press for Information Division.

Subject: ERO Public Information Policy cable number 4 paragraph 5.

1. This cable just received.
2. Situation and requirements of officer covered by SCHAAF supply working party reports.
3. Allied Displaced Persons in Austria total 149,000 (repeat 149,000) representing hard core of not easily repatriables. 77,500 (repeat 77,500) are in camp, the remainder living outside. Approximately 50,000 (repeat 50,000) live in UNRRA camps operated by 33 teams under military administrative control in American, British and French zones. No allied Displaced Persons in Russian zone and UNRRA not operating there. Administrative control of UNRRA camps expected to pass to UNRRA shortly but military will retain full supply responsibility as now.
4. Camps have been winterized but still serious overcrowding in many camps. Calory scale ranges from 1,400 in certain camps in British zone to 2,300 in American zone, plus supplements for invalids, pregnant and nursing women and workers. Provision of sufficient vitamins and

varied diet is main difficulty. Clothing situation among certain classes is critical, particularly footwear. This is military responsibility but UNRRA supplementary supplies are on way, namely 1,000,000 pounds clothing, 100,000 blankets, 75,000 pairs shoes. General health good, although some children still showing vitamin deficiency. Infectious disease rate relatively low. UNRRA run hospital for DP's being started in Salzburg in conjunction American army.

5. UNRRA in cooperation with military makes great efforts to provide employment inside and outside camps. Difficulties experienced through

- A. Austrian dislike of excess. Population.
- B. DP dislike of working for former slavemasters
- C. Lack of tools, materials, work clothing and footwear
- D. Persons living and working outside camps draw lower Austrian ration scale
- E. Laziness following provision of board and lodging in camps without obligation to work. Position improved by arrival 50 tons UNRRA amenity supplies which included tools but more required.

6. Schools operating at universities Graz and Innsbruck for Displaced Persons who have had their education interrupted.

7. Displaced persons outside camps are important problem, particularly since they include many ex concentration camp inmates who will starve rather than reenter any camp. These are making most praiseworthy attempt to help themselves but winter conditions will be great strain. Undesirable every viewpoint they should enter camps unless absolutely necessary. We hope to extend medical, welfare and information services to these people during the winter.

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Austria

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UNRRA's displaced persons activities, although on a smaller scale, follows the same general pattern in Austria as in Germany. The military authorities currently retain responsibility for providing basic supplies with UNRRA

- 6 -

furnishing personnel to operate assembly centers and certain items of amenity supplies. Under Council Resolution No. 74, UNRRA would assume financial responsibility for basic supplies following the conclusion of appropriate agreements between UNRRA and either the recognized Austrian Government or the military authorities of the various zones.

As of 1 November 1945, approximately 300,000 displaced persons, including some 155,000 German nationals remained in Austria. There are an estimated 80,000 displaced persons in the U. S. Zone, 40,000 in the British Zone and 25,000 in the French Zone, all of United Nations nationality.

The Central Headquarters for UNRRA is now located in Vienna. The Chief of the Mission is Brigadier Parmenter. The U. S. Zone Headquarters with Vernon Kennedy as Director is also located in Vienna. The British Zone Headquarters, under Major Chapman, is located at Klagenfurt and the French Zone Headquarters, under Colonel Latham is at Innsbruck. There are approximately 450 UNRRA personnel now engaged in displaced persons operations in Austria. Included in this number are 35 teams operating 21 centers in the U. S. Zone, 10 in the British Zone, and 4 in the French Zone.

UNRRA

Austria. Pulling
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
Flying Squads

INCOMING TELEGRAM

NUMBER: 4187
FROM: London
DATED: 25 September 1945
RECEIVED: 25 September 1945 - 4:20 p.m.
Clear

Salisbury from Bryan.

Following released to AP last night. The first flying squad of 30 UNRRA medical and feeding trucks for displaced persons in Austria left from the London port of Tilbury today en route to Salzburg, Austria, according to Lt. General Sir Humphrey Gale, Personal Representative of Director General Lehman, and in charge of UNRRA's European operations.

The shipment includes five mobile clinics, and an equal number of canteen feeding vans, kitchen vans, food storage trucks, water carriers and army lorries. They will be divided into squads which will carry UNRRA service to displaced persons not yet brought into the 24 assembly centres now operating in that country on behalf of Nazi victims driven from their homes by the course of the war. Each squad will be accompanied by a physician, two first aid officers, a quartermaster and five canteen officers, all of them especially trained for the purpose. Crossing the channel with the convoy were 36 drivers and UNRRA specialists. "All the clinic and feeding vans in this shipment were used during the German air attacks on Britain to speed relief to blitzed areas," said General Gale. "Fittingly enough, now that the war is over, they are going on to Europe for the next stage in their job of alleviating the suffering created by war."

From Brussels the convoy will be routed across Belgium and through the British and American occupation zones to Salzburg, on the Austrian border. There will be turned over to UNRRA's displaced persons operation in Austria for distribution throughout the country. General Gale emphasized that the assistance carried by these trucks was solely for displaced persons, not for Austrian Nationals, because UNRRA has as yet received no request from the occupying armies for general assistance to the Austrians. "Similar flying squads of relief trucks have been used for emergency work in carrying UNRRA service to displaced persons in many parts of Germany since last May," General Gale added. "They were especially effective in feeding and giving medical care at train stops where they cared for whole train-loads of war victims in a single operation. The allied armies have been efficient in getting such people into assembly centres or back to their native countries far beyond anything we had imagined possible. There are still many people scattered about the country, however, who need just such attention as these squads can take to them."

The UNRRA specialists accompanying the convoy are travelling under the guidance of Arthur Larson, a discharged war veteran from Lakewood, Ohio.

Please advise if you want cable copies of other stories released here.

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Dist. 4:25 p.m.

brt 5:20 p.m.

UNRRA

INCOMING CABLEGRAM

*Austria
Pollak
400.6*

NUMBER: 332
FROM: Vienna
DATED: 10/4/46
RECEIVED: 11/4/46 - 2:10 a.m.

For Salisbury from Noddinott.

8 Milrod stories sent today include ample material May "Wake" issue. Story titles are Vienna today, Displaced Persons in Vienna, Viennas sole surviving Synagogue, repatriated Jews of Vienna, Alma Pollak tells her own story, Luigi must now go home, UNRRA in Austria, a budding atom scientist among the DP's. Pictures Luigi story and DP children included.

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