

# NATIONS UNIES

NO. DU DOSSIER

535/1

ICRC

PARTIE

ENDS May 1958

TERMINE LE

DATE	REFERRED TO TRANSMIS A	ROOM BUREAU NO.	P. A. B. F.	DATE	INIT.	DATE	REFERRED TO TRANSMIS A	ROOM BUREAU NO.	P. A. B. F.	DATE	INIT.
8/1	1957 Hawick										
23/1	Taylor	2925									
	1958										
1/IV	Taylor	2925	BF	17/IV/58	(R)						
12/IV	Taylor	2925	PA	21/IV	KW						
24/IV	Taylor	2925	BF	6/V	dy						
3/V	Taylor	2925	PA	5/V	dy						
11/VI	Taylor	2925	PA	1/VI	dy						

CR. 37 (5-55)

FOR CONNECTED FILES SEE INSIDE COVER  
POUR LES DOSSIERS CONNEXES VOIR AU VERSO

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORDS CONTROL

Reg.  
INFO. COPY

So 5.35/1 ICRC

25 JUN 1957

Confid a

Action To

File No.

Taylor

21 GENEVA 45 11 1056

UNATIONS NY

UNGVA 1236. TAYLOR FROM OBEZ YOUR 1155 IN VIEW ABSENCE  
UNTIL TODAY PART STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR HUNGARIAN RELIEF  
PROGRAMME ICRC HAS NOT YET COMPLETED REPORT EYE REQUESTED BASED  
ON YOUR OUTLINE STOP HOPE HOWEVER RECEIVE DATA END THIS  
WEEK STOP WILL CONFIRM SHORTLY

CFM 1236 1155

TELETYPE

UN  
NY  
JUN 27 1957



INTERNATIONAL

NEWS

RELEASE

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

GENEVA SWITZERLAND

Telephone: 364458

Cable: LICROSS-GENEVA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Communiqué No. 1957-12  
12th of February, 1957RED CROSS AND UNHCR EXPERTS TO MAKE SURVEY OF HUNGARIAN REFUGEERELIEF PROBLEM IN YUGOSLAVIA

The League of Red Cross Societies and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees announce that their organisations are sending to Belgrade today two experts to make complementary surveys of the Hungarian refugee relief problem in Yugoslavia. The League delegate is its Medico-Social Director, Dr. Z.S. Hantchev, and the UNHCR representative, Wilhelm S. Bõe.

The League's delegate will examine with the Yugoslav Red Cross the immediate needs of the refugees now coming from Hungary at the rate of several hundred a day, and who now number over 17,000. The League during the past fortnight has despatched to Belgrade from stocks at Vienna and its emergency depot at Marseilles, 76 tons of critically needed blankets and articles of clothing for adults and children.

The UNHCR delegate will examine with the Yugoslav authorities steps to be taken with respect to the future of these refugees, i.e. obtaining offers of temporary or permanent asylum in other countries, their re-settlement in Yugoslavia, etc. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has already placed \$50,000 at the disposal of the Yugoslav Red Cross for emergency relief purposes.

The delegates of the two organisations, which have been collaborating closely in relief measures on behalf of Hungarian refugees in Austria, are to return to Geneva about the 25th of February. Their reports will be utilised to assist the two organisations in determining ways and means to assist Yugoslavia with the Hungarian refugee relief problem now facing her.

The League of Red Cross Societies affiliates the world's 75 National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, comprising collectively a membership of over 100 millions. Its object is to encourage and facilitate at all times the action of the National Societies for the prevention and alleviation of suffering.





# NOUVELLES *PRESSE* INTERNATIONALES

LIGUE DES SOCIÉTÉS DE LA CROIX-ROUGE  
GENÈVE SUISSE

Téléphone: 364458

Télégramme: LICROSS GENÈVE

PRIERE D'INSERER

Communiqué de presse N° 1957-12  
12 février 1957

DES EXPERTS DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES REFUGIES VONT EXAMINER SUR PLACE LES PROBLEMES POSES PAR LES SECOURS AUX REFUGIES HONGROIS EN YUGOSLAVIE

La Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et l'Office du Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés annoncent qu'ils envoient aujourd'hui à Belgrade deux experts chargés d'examiner sur place les problèmes posés par les secours aux réfugiés hongrois en Yougoslavie. La Ligue a délégué son directeur médico-social le Dr Z.S. Mantchef, tandis que le représentant du Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés est M. W.S. Bœe.

Le délégué de la Ligue examinera avec la Croix-Rouge yougoslave quels sont les besoins immédiats des réfugiés qui affluent actuellement de Hongrie au rythme de plusieurs centaines par jour et dont le nombre dépasse déjà 17.000. Au cours des deux dernières semaines, la Ligue a expédié à Belgrade, prélevés sur ses stocks de Vienne et ceux de son entrepôt de Marseille 76 tonnes de couvertures et d'articles vestimentaires pour adultes et enfants dont les réfugiés ont un urgent besoin.

Le délégué du Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés examinera avec les autorités yougoslaves quelles sont les mesures à prendre pour assurer l'avenir de ces réfugiés, comme par exemple obtenir des offres d'asile temporaire ou permanent dans d'autres pays, organiser leur établissement en Yougoslavie, etc.

L'Office du Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés a déjà mis 50.000 dollars à la disposition de la Croix-Rouge yougoslave pour son oeuvre de secours d'urgence.

Les délégués des deux organisations qui ont collaboré étroitement dans les opérations de secours entreprises en faveur des réfugiés hongrois en Autriche, rentreront à Genève vers le 25 février. Leurs rapports permettront aux deux organisations de déterminer quels sont les meilleurs moyens d'aider la Yougoslavie à résoudre le problème des réfugiés qui se pose actuellement à elle.

P.6917/glc

Fédération universelle, la Ligue comprend les Sociétés nationales de la Croix-Rouge, du Croissant-Rouge et du Lion et Soleil Rouges, qui existent dans 75 pays et qui groupent plus de 100 millions de membres. Elle a pour principal objet de faciliter en tout temps l'action humanitaire des Sociétés nationales.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE  
FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION

TELEPHONE 328110  
Cable Address : Promigrant Geneva

# SAVINGRAM

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

TO: Mr. C.O. Wendling	PROMIGRANT BUENOS AIRES
Mr. A. Clabon	PROMIGRANT CANBERRA
Mr. G.E. Borst	PROMIGRANT VIENNA
Mr. W.G. Fuller	PROMIGRANT RIO DE JANEIRO
Mr. E. Groebner	PROMIGRANT SANTIAGO
Mr. R. Rodié	PROMIGRANT BOGOTA
Mr. B. Aarøe	PROMIGRANT BAD GODESBERG
Mr. P. Gibson	PROMIGRANT ATHENS
Mr. K.H. Summers	PROMIGRANT HONG KONG
Mr. H.K. Travers	PROMIGRANT ROME
Mr. W.K. Leadbeatter	PROMIGRANT SALISBURY
Mr. J.J. van Loon	PROMIGRANT WASHINGTON
Mr. E.B. Marks	PROMIGRANT NEW YORK
Mr. G.M. Lasocki	PROMIGRANT MONTEVIDEO
Mr. J. Wiazemsky	PROMIGRANT CARACAS
Mr. E. Storich	PROMIGRANT MADRID
Mr. Grierson-Rickford	PROMIGRANT PRETORIA
Mr. Wilhelm S. Boe	PROMIGRANT OSLO
Mr. R. Plas	PARIS
Mr. G. Bartorelli	PROMIGRANT SAN JOSE

4 February 1957

## HUNGARIAN REFUGEE PROGRAMME

### Report No. 14

#### Finance

1. As indicated in Report Nos. 12 and 13, finance has become the deciding factor in the Migration Committee's ability to move Hungarian refugees in 1957.
2. On 1 February the Government of the United States announced, in response to the urgent appeal sent by the Executive Committee to all Member Governments, contribution pledges which included a maximum of approximately \$5.2 million to be spent in resettling overseas, in countries other than the U.S.A., an estimated 35,450 Hungarian refugees from Europe. The \$5.2 million will be made up by a \$74.90 per capita contribution for all of the above-mentioned 35,450 refugees and \$125 per capita in respect of a maximum of 20,450 (out of the 35,450) to be nominated by USEP for movement to overseas countries other than the U.S.A. and Canada. The cost of moving the Hungarian refugees admitted to the U.S.A. in 1957 will be borne directly by the Government of the United States; the cost of movement to Canada will be covered by a Canadian Government per capita contribution approximately equal to the cost of transport.



3. In addition to the above-mentioned contributions to overseas movement effected by ICEM under its Hungarian Refugee Programme for 1957, the following member countries have already announced contributions to this programme as shown:

Chile .....	\$10,000
Norway .....	\$21,000
Spain .....	\$10,000
Switzerland .....	\$23,364

Furthermore, the Holy See has offered a special contribution of \$2,000 and the Government of Honduras has promised \$10,000.

#### United States Escapee Program

4. Under the general agreement between USEP and the Migration Committee, escapees from Communist countries are transported overseas at a flat charge of \$125 per capita to USEP.

5. The Hungarian influx created a new situation and, with insufficient funds available, USEP could not give a blanket assurance to provide \$125 for all Hungarian overseas migrants. By the end of December the Committee was eventually given notice that for such movements after 15 January 1957, USEP would be unable to contribute the usual \$125. This would have brought all overseas Hungarian refugee movements to a standstill but, as a result of urgent negotiations, USEP made available some additional very limited funds which would cover movements until the end of January 1957 plus a few in February.

6. Now, by virtue of the Government of the United States' recent announcement, referred to in paragraph 2 above, the \$125 per capita contribution is once more available to the Committee.

#### Refugees leaving Hungary

7. Since 23 January the number of refugees crossing the Austro-Hungarian border has averaged 76 a day, whereas the number entering Yugoslavia has been about 400 daily. The Austrian authorities are of the opinion that the numbers entering Austria are likely to increase considerably in the Spring.

#### Movement out of Austria - January 1957

8. Attached as an Annex to this report is a table which indicates, for January 1957, the daily outward movements from Austria by countries of destination, totalling 16,101 for the month. A similar table for December 1956 (total 56,378) was attached to Report No. 11 and for November 1956 (adjusted total 32,279) to Report No. 5.

#### Movement out of Austria - future

9. United Kingdom The British authorities have announced that the United Kingdom, grateful to ICEM for its part in bringing over 16,000 Hungarian refugees to the United Kingdom, has decided to take over the transport of the balance of the British asylum quota - about 4,500 refugees - in order to relieve the pressure on ICEM, which will thus be enabled to devote a corresponding amount of its resources to moving refugees from Austria to other countries of asylum.

10. Germany The German Federal Government has notified the Austrian Government that no more Hungarian refugees can be received in Germany due to the overcrowding of refugee camps which has been caused by the continued influx of refugees from the Eastern Zone and the repatriation of Germans from Poland.
11. Australia The Government of Australia has announced its decision to increase its offer of asylum to Hungarian refugees from 5,000 to 10,000. All the 10,000 refugees will be accepted prior to 30 June 1957 provided transport to Australia can be arranged.

UNREF Executive Committee (Fourth Session)

12. The Austrian Minister of the Interior, Mr. O. Helmer, in his address to the UNREF Executive Committee, expressed the conviction that the problem of the Hungarian refugees was best solved by emigration.
13. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Tittmann made a speech in which he congratulated UNREF on the appointment of Mr. Lindt as the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and pledged that the resources of the Migration Committee would be utilized to the utmost in assisting him to solve the problem of refugees. The Director of ICEM stated that, in 1957, the Migration Committee expects to move from Austria, exclusive of movement to the U.S.A., 54,000 Hungarian refugees; 24,000 overseas and 30,000 to other European countries. It was hoped that the major part of these movements would take place before 30 June 1957.
14. In the course of discussions the opinion was expressed that still further efforts should be made to co-ordinate the effective application of funds subscribed or provided for aid to Hungarian refugees. One delegate intimated that more funds should be devoted to movement because, recently, there had been lack of means of transportation and this lack now appeared to be the basic difficulty in the solution of the problem of Hungarian refugees.
15. Some delegates expressed doubts regarding the validity of the figure of 70,000 as the probable number of refugees who would require care and maintenance in Austria during the first six months of 1957 and who would still be remaining at the end of this period. These doubts were based on the fact that the ICEM estimated movement figures excluded movements to the U.S.A., which would certainly take place, that additional offers of asylum were being received, that the daily influx into Austria was now very much reduced, and that about 4,000 refugees have found employment in Austria, thus making themselves self-supporting. However, it was agreed that there were insufficient grounds for accepting any other figure at the present time.
16. The Yugoslav Delegate indicated that the following were the approximate number of Hungarian refugees who had entered Yugoslavia by the dates given:

15 November 1956	.....	300
15 December 1956	.....	800
15 January 1957	.....	5,400
30 January 1957	.....	14,100

The Delegate added that, of the above-mentioned 14,100 refugees, 7,976 had already expressed a desire to emigrate to specific European or overseas countries; a further number undoubtedly desired to emigrate but have not yet been able to make up their minds to which country they wish to be moved. France and Belgium had agreed to accept all who desire permanent settlement in those countries. The Delegate concluded by appealing for international assistance in the emigration of the refugees and for financial assistance towards the cost of their care and maintenance in Yugoslavia until such time as they can be moved elsewhere.

17. As the closing meeting of the UNREF Executive Committee was held on 1 February, the 5th anniversary of the founding of ICEM, the High Commissioner took the opportunity to make some gracious remarks concerning the occasion. He renewed his appeal to governments to furnish ICEM with the funds needed for the movement of refugees.

Situation as of 0700 hrs. 4 February 1957

18. The total influx of Hungarian refugees into Austria, 28 October 1956 through 3 February 1957, has been 169,891. Of this number about 1,500 have voluntarily returned to Hungary, approximately 4,000 have been integrated into the Austrian economy and 107,372 have been moved out of Austria to countries of second asylum under the auspices of ICEM.

Init./Auth.: D. Stansby



	Argentina	Australia	Belgium	Brazil	Canada	Chile	Denmark	France	Germany	Iceland	Ireland	Israel	Italy	Luxemburg	Netherlands	New Zealand	Norway	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Union of S. Africa	United Kingdom	United States	Venezuela	Others	Daily Totals	Cumulative Totals
Jan. 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	-	-	82	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	175	88,832
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	145	-	-	220	89,052	
3	-	735	-	-	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109	79	-	-	991	90,043
4	-	-	-	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	166	463	-	-	674	90,717
5	-	95	-	-	233	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	150	182	-	-	735	91,452
6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	141	173	-	3	317	91,769
7	-	-	-	-	69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	148	157	30	3	407	92,176
8	-	505	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	145	-	-	-	657	92,833
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	136	210	-	-	437	93,270
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	311	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74	-	-	-	-	145	-	-	-	530	93,800
11	231	77	-	-	-	-	-	282	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82	-	-	-	-	136	143	248	-	-	1,199	94,999
12	-	-	6	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	58	-	1	-	78	-	-	-	-	-	144	13	-	-	304	95,303
13	-	-	1	-	69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	511	-	80	-	-	-	-	144	120	-	-	925	96,228
14	-	-	-	-	244	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	3	4	-	138	-	32	-	431	96,659
15	-	550	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	6	-	-	81	1	-	3	-	147	-	-	-	825	97,484
16	-	-	-	-	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	122	-	-	-	233	97,717
17	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	60	81	-	-	-	-	156	644	-	-	951	98,668
18	-	-	3	-	221	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	156	1130	-	-	1,585	100,253
19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	55	2	-	2	-	86	-	-	-	-	137	-	-	-	285	100,538
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,538
21	-	-	3	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	205	100,743
22	-	-	4	299	777	100	-	-	-	-	-	78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	356	146	-	-	1,763	102,506
23	-	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	116	102,622
24	-	-	6	-	23	-	2	-	310	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	248	-	-	-	633	103,255
25	-	-	41	2	155	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	203	103,458
26	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	169	-	-	-	69	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	76	-	-	-	-	317	103,775
27	-	-	-	-	201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	537	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	740	104,515
28	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	10	-	-	14	104,529
29	151	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	154	104,683
30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	40	104,723
31	-	-	6	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	7	-	-	35	104,758
Totals	382	2051	87	344	2350	106	4	451	621	-	5	581	94	24	1050*	302	402	6	33	17	362	3033	3728	62	6	16,101	
1956	22	1119	3019	10	7635	47	1011	8395	10934	52	530	858	3451	171	2920	234	528	1	3991	10300	148	13039	20242	-	-	88,657	
TOTALS	4 04	3170	3106	354	9985	153	1015	8846	11555	52	535	1439	3545	195	3970	536	930	7	4024	10317	510	16072	23970	62	6	104,758	

\*Includes 1,025 processed for Canada and awaiting overseas movement in the Netherlands.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE  
FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION

TELEPHONE 328110  
Cable Address : Promigrant Geneva

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

# SAVINGRAM

TO : Mr. C.O. Wendling PROMIGRANT BUENOS AIRES  
Mr. A. Clabon PROMIGRANT CANBERRA  
Mr. G.E. Borst PROMIGRANT VIENNA  
Mr. W.G. Fuller PROMIGRANT RIO DE JANEIRO  
Mr. E. Groebner PROMIGRANT SANTIAGO DE CHILE  
Mr. R. Rodié PROMIGRANT BOGOTA  
Mr. B. Aarøe PROMIGRANT BAD GODESBERG  
Mr. P. Gibson PROMIGRANT ATHENS  
Mr. K.H. Summers PROMIGRANT HONG KONG  
Mr. H.K. Travers PROMIGRANT ROME  
Mr. W.K. Leadbeatter PROMIGRANT SALISBURY  
Mr. J.J. van Loon PROMIGRANT WASHINGTON  
Mr. E.B. Marks PROMIGRANT NEW YORK  
Mr. G.M. Lasocki PROMIGRANT MONTEVIDEO  
Mr. J. Wiazemsky PROMIGRANT CARACAS  
Mr. E. Storich PROMIGRANT MADRID  
Mr. Grierson Rickford PROMIGRANT PRETORIA  
Mr. Wilhelm S. Bøe PROMIGRANT OSLO  
Mr. R. Plas PARIS  
Mr. G. Bartorelli PROMIGRANT SAN JOSÉ

11 February 1957

## HUNGARIAN REFUGEE PROGRAMME

### Report No. 15

#### Finance

1. In response to the appeal for funds made to Member Governments, the following contributions to the Hungarian Special Programme have been pledged :

Brazil	\$	10,000	
Chile	\$	10,000	
Italy	\$	25,000	
Netherlands	\$	25,000	
Norway	\$	49,000	-To cover cost of movements
Spain	\$	10,000	to Norway; of this sum
Switzerland	\$	23,364	\$28,000 is subject to
Holy See	\$	2,000	parliamentary approval.

Amount pledged to date	\$	154,364
Amount still required	\$	1,204,756

TOTAL REQUIRED	\$	1,359,120
----------------	----	-----------

=====



Refugees' Individual Problems as Affecting Movements

2. Previous reports have attempted to give some idea of the Hungarian Refugee Programme by means of figures summarizing the influx and the movements out of Austria. To some extent, they are a measure of the problems encountered and resolved. However, statistics alone cannot sufficiently do justice to the human aspects of the work, best known by those who have been in close contact with the refugees in Austria. An attempt will be made in the following paragraphs to give some indication of the movement problems that evolve from the fact that, in the field, we are dealing with human beings rather than with statistics. This will be done by tracing the progress of typical refugees from the time they set out for the Hungarian border until they have left Austria for resettlement.

Miklos Horvath

3. Miklos Horvath, an unmarried factory worker aged twenty-six, decided in early December 1956 to leave Hungary. He hitched a ride on a truck to a point close to the northern frontier region where he passed the time inconspicuously until nightfall. Then he set off, through unfrequented tracks, for the border, carrying his possessions in a bundle under his arm. Through friends he learned that there were no land mines nor barbed wire in the area he was proposing to cross, only a trip-wire which, if touched, would set off flares and alert the frontier guards. In darkness and bitter cold, Horvath advanced cautiously cross-country and eventually he crossed the demarcation line, a ploughed strip, into Austria. After walking a further four kilometres he reached the small town of Nickelsdorf. Here he found a trailer of the German Red Cross, which had come from Bremen. He was welcomed, given a hot meal and, later, he was shown into a large room nearby which had been fitted with bunks. He was given time to rest until a bus came to take him, and other refugees who had also recently arrived, to the large preliminary inspection and transit camp set up at Eisenstadt by the Austrian authorities for refugees who had crossed the northern part of the Austro-Hungarian frontier. Horvath remained in Eisenstadt for two days.

4. During this period Horvath was interrogated by the Austrian police and issued a grey card with his name, date of entry into Austria, date of examination by the police, and other particulars. Then he was given a USEP kit, including a towel, soap, shaving kit, toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush and comb, handkerchief, and a pair of socks, in a collapsible zipper-bag bearing the words "United States Escapee Program". After his two days' stay, buses came to take the refugees to the Traiskirchen transit centre or directly to camps throughout Austria. At this time there were 220 such camps in Austria, varying in size from those sheltering several thousands to 'pensions' accommodating perhaps a dozen persons. Miklos Horvath was taken to Traiskirchen, a huge former Soviet Occupation Army complex of stone barracks now administered by the Swedish Red Cross with the assistance of the League of Red Cross Societies. Here, Horvath could decide in which country he wished to be resettled. Although many of his camp acquaintances were leaving with little delay for the United States or Canada, Horvath asked to go to Brazil\* where an uncle of his was residing.

---

\* In the State of São Paulo, alone, there are 40,000 first or second-generation Brazilians of Hungarian origin.



5. Under arrangements made by ICEM, Horvath was taken by bus to the ICEM Offices in Vienna where the Brazilian consular and selection team interviewed him and completed the necessary formalities. Being of Protestant faith, Horvath was referred to the World Council of Churches which agreed to sponsor his move. This processing took the better part of a day but Horvath was able to obtain a hot meal from the free kitchen, staffed by volunteers, which USEP had set up next to the ICEM Office. Afterwards, he was taken back to Traiskirchen to await a call-forward for movement. In the meantime, his completed documents were forwarded by the Brazilian Consulate to the ICEM Office in Vienna and, these being in order, his name was included in individual movement requests made by ICEM to USEP. His name was also added to the list of those who would probably be ready for movement to Brazil in two or three weeks, and shipping space was provisionally booked by ICEM Headquarters in Geneva.

6. On receipt of USEP approval, Miklos Horvath was advised of the time and date on which he should be ready to leave. But, on the day set for his departure when a bus arrived to collect him, Horvath could not be found anywhere in the camp. At the last minute, it was necessary to find replacements for him and several others who had similarly disappeared, in order to fill the shipping space which had been booked. Horvath, however, reappeared at the camp a few weeks later, explaining that he had decided just before departure time to return to Hungary to bring out his eighteen-year old cousin, Istvan, whom he had been taking care of since the death of his parents in the October 1956 uprising. It was then arranged for Istvan also to be given a visa for Brazil and, in due course, the two cousins were taken to Vienna where they boarded a special train for Genoa. The 300 refugees travelling on this train were accompanied by an escort officer in charge, a doctor and two nurses. Food, water, and milk (for infants) had been put on board for the journey. The arrival at Genoa was so timed that embarkation on the Messageries Maritimes' ship "PROVENCE", destined for Brazil, could be begun immediately after dinner to avoid the necessity of providing overnight lodging for the refugees. When all were aboard, the "PROVENCE" sailed with Miklos Horvath and his young cousin and 297 other refugees from Hungary. The only one of the group from Vienna who did not embark was a refugee who had discovered that her parents were in Italy and was given permission by the Italian authorities to remain temporarily.

7. While Horvath was being transported in the "PROVENCE", copies of the nominal roll of the 299 refugees bound for Brazil, including, of course, particulars of Horvath himself, were being flown to the Rio de Janeiro Office of ICEM, which would notify the Brazilian authorities and the relatives or sponsors of the refugees of their impending arrival. When Miklos Horvath and his cousin disembarked at Santos, their uncle was on the quay to greet them and help them to make a fresh start in their new homeland.

\* \* \*

8. There are, of course, countless variations of the progress of Hungarian refugees through Austria to countries of permanent resettlement. The following are brief descriptions of some other typical cases.

#### Imre Biro

9. When Imre Biro reached Eisenstadt towards the end of November the camp was overcrowded as several thousand refugees had crossed into

Austria during the preceding twenty-four hours. About an hour after his arrival he heard a loudspeaker announcement that a train would be leaving Eisenstadt for Switzerland at 2.00 p.m. that day and that any refugees who wished to go should register immediately. As he intended to apply for emigration to the U.S.A., Biro decided not to register for Switzerland. However, a few hours later he heard that his fiancée, Magda, was with her parents somewhere in the camp. When he found her and learned that she and her family intended going to Switzerland, he decided that he too would go to Switzerland -- perhaps in a short time he and Magda could be married and obtain visas for the U.S.A. Accordingly, they all left by the four p.m. train and, in consequence, Biro found himself the following day in Switzerland where he was housed in army barracks prepared to receive him and the five hundred refugees who had come with him.

Anton Nagy

10. Anton Nagy, on arrival in Austria with his wife and two children aged nine and six, expressed a wish to go to the United States. Shortly afterwards he was informed by the NCWC, the Voluntary Agency with which he, as a Catholic, had registered, that he would be taken to Salzburg for processing by the United States' authorities. There, he and his family were accommodated in a well-equipped hut at Röder Camp, a former U.S. army camp which had been made available by the Austrian authorities. He was processed and accepted for movement to the United States as an EMAD (Emergency Admission) case. The following week, he and his family were taken to Munich under arrangements made by ICEM and, twenty-four hours later, they departed in a United States Air Force plane for New York.

Zoltan Lovasz

11. Instead of finding himself in a camp such as Traiskirchen, close to Vienna, Lovasz was lodged in a 'pension' in Western Austria not far from Innsbruck, where he was able to register at the ICEM Office for movement to Australia. Two weeks later, one of the travelling Australian selection teams visited Innsbruck and Lovasz, after having been interviewed, processed and given a thorough medical examination, returned to his 'pension' to await the final decision of the Australian Selection Mission.

12. A favourable decision was communicated to ICEM, Vienna, which notified Lovasz. He then received the necessary inoculations and, ten days later, was taken by bus to Linz to board a plane for Australia. However, on arrival at Linz the airport was found to be closed owing to bad weather. Accommodation for Lovasz and his 74 travelling companions presented great difficulties as transit camp facilities in the Linz area were very limited; so the party was taken by bus to Munich and transported by plane the following day. During the stop-over at Darwin, Lovasz asked that his brother-in-law living in Canberra be notified of his impending arrival. This was done and Zoltan Lovasz was therefore one of the majority of his travelling companions to see a friendly face at the airport in Sydney.

Laszlo Ferencz

13. Laszlo Ferencz, a surgeon, was working in a hospital in Budapest when he heard that the police, after visiting his home, were now looking for him in the hospital. He asked a colleague to inform his

wife that he was escaping to Austria and that she should rejoin him there. He was able to evade the police and eventually found his way to Vienna. During the course of the next few weeks he did everything possible to ascertain if his wife had arrived in Austria. In the meantime, unknown to her husband, Eva Ferencz had, in fact, left Hungary in the company of a colleague of her husband. Owing to a misunderstanding, she was informed in Vienna by the Voluntary Agency dealing with her case that her husband had left for the United States and, knowing that she herself was disqualified from admission to the U.S.A., decided to accept, with her husband's colleague, resettlement in Israel. A few days later, Dr. Ferencz was told that his wife had just left Austria, and was, at the moment, about to embark in Naples for Israel. An urgent telephone call to Naples was in time to stop Mrs. Ferencz. An American student friend of Dr. Ferencz then volunteered to go to Naples, and he returned to Vienna a few days later with Mrs. Ferencz. The doctor and his wife then applied for admission to Canada. They were processed at the Canadian Consulate in Vienna and registered for movement by the ICEM staff attached thereto and were then taken by bus to the Canadian Red Cross transit camp at Wiener Neustadt. Some days later Dr. and Mrs. Ferencz were taken by bus from the camp to Schwechat (Vienna) Airport where, after passing the last-minute medical examination necessary before flying, they boarded a plane to Canada.

Situation as of 0700 hours 11 February 1957

14. The total influx of Hungarian refugees into Austria, 28 October 1956 through 10 February 1957, has been 170,217. Of this number, 109,514 have been moved out of Austria to countries of second asylum.

Init./Auth. : D. Stansby



*Klossae Bill*

# LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

40, RUE DU XXXI-DÉCEMBRE - GENEVA

RECORDS CONTROL  
So 535/1 ICRC  
29 MAY 1957

RELIEF ACTION IN AID  
OF  
HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN YUGOSLAVIA

(The present statement is not so much a report on the situation of Hungarian refugees in Yugoslavia, and the operations of the Yugoslav Red Cross in aid of them, as a few notes hastily jotted down by the League Liaison Officer with a view to stressing or completing certain points in the report submitted to the Executive Committee by the Yugoslav Red Cross, which is responsible for the operations in question).

1. MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES

On 4 April, 18,799 persons had crossed the Hungarian frontier to take refuge in Yugoslavia. Of this number :

- 2,124 decided to return to Hungary
- 430 have asked permission to remain in Yugoslavia permanently
- 894 have emigrated to countries of asylum
- 15,355 are in camps waiting to be able to emigrate

During March, the Yugoslav Government agreed to grant the request of the Hungarian authorities, which had asked to visit the camps with a view to the repatriation of refugees desiring to return to Hungary. Representatives of the Hungarian Government, accompanied by representatives of the Yugoslav Government and a special representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the capacity of observer, visited all the refugee camps. At the end of March, on the expiry of the amnesty decreed by the Hungarian Government in favour of Hungarians who might decide to return to their country, 2,124 refugees had been repatriated.

The migration movement has been fairly slow up to date. Refugees have however left Yugoslavia for Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, etc. A table is annexed showing the position as regards emigration on 5 April 1957.

According to the estimates of the High Commissioner's Office for Refugees and the Inter-Governmental Committee for European

Migrations (ICEM), emigration possibilities at the present time vary between 5,300 to 7,600 persons. A list of the countries and quotas, together with a list of the High Commissioner's Office and ICEM, are annexed to the present Report.

It is not yet possible to give any precise details as regards dates in the spacing out of emigration.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YUGOSLAV RED CROSS AND THE LEAGUE

The Yugoslav Government, which is responsible for the maintenance of Hungarian refugees in Yugoslavia, requested the Yugoslav Red Cross more especially to cover the refugees' food, clothing, and medical needs. The Yugoslav Red Cross accepted this duty, and asked the League of Red Cross Societies to help it. The latter gave its consent, insofar as it might receive gifts from sister Societies or other sources.

Following the mission to Yugoslavia in February for purposes of documentation of the Director of the League Medico-Social Bureau, Dr. Hantcheff, it was agreed that the League would in particular supply the Yugoslav Red Cross with the necessary basic foodstuffs for the period 1 March to 30 June 1957.

The League was not asked to assign special teams to Yugoslavia, as for Austria, but it was arranged that it would send liaison officers to Belgrade to coordinate operations, in agreement with the Yugoslav Red Cross.

## 3. LEAGUE REPRESENTATION IN YUGOSLAVIA

The League has been represented in Yugoslavia since 8 March 1957 first by Mr. L. Willmann, and then by Mr. J.-P. Robert-Tissot, Assistant Director of the League Relief Bureau.

The Yugoslav Red Cross has kindly placed an office at the League's disposal at the Society's Headquarters in Belgrade (Simina ulica broj. 19, Tel. : 24,494).

## 4. VISITS TO CAMPS

The League has free access to all the refugee camps. The following centres were visited between 20 March and 4 April:

- Indija (number on day visited)	494	inmates
- Slaukmann "	133	"
- Bogatic "	232	"
- Bajina Basta "	676	"
- Mataruska Banja "	873	"
- Subotica "	185	"
- Kaniza "	131	"
- Sokolac "	311	"

Members of the Yugoslav Red Cross (Central Committee or Serbian Committee) generally accompanied the League representative on his visits. A few visits were made with members of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, which has emigration experts - the main problem of refugees.

The League representative's observations as regards the situation and needs of the refugees are communicated to the Yugoslav Red Cross, with suggestions for possible improvements, if necessary.

#### 5. SITUATION AND HOUSING OF REFUGEES

At the end of March, the refugees were sheltered in 37 camps, a list of which is annexed hereto. A great many of the hotels however (about 90) which had also been placed at their disposal, with particularly comfortable living conditions, will have to be evacuated for the tourist season. This operation is now in process. Movements, changes in members, the disappearance of centres, and opening of new camps, are therefore incessant, and it is consequently impossible to supply up-t-date lists of camps and the number of their inmates.

The premises placed at the refugees' disposal are generally schools, Homes, holiday or rest Homes, disused barracks, military camps, etc. Most of the camps are overcrowded, especially since the transfer of refugees previously sheltered in hotels, but the Government and the Yugoslav Red Cross have done whatever they can to add to the refugees' comfort, which is still often precarious. Generally speaking, each refugee has two blankets, sheets, and pillows.

So far as sanitation is concerned, the number of lavatories, washbasins, and showers, often leaves to be desired. In some of the camps, the water supply problem is acute.

In most of the centres, an active Yugoslav Red Cross worker seconds the Commander. Committees of Hungarians have been constituted with more or less extensive responsibilities as regards camp organisation, administration life.

#### 6. WAREHOUSING OF RELIEF SUPPLIES

The relief supplies received by the Yugoslav Red Cross were first of all warehoused in Belgrade. Their quantity rapidly necessitated the establishment and organisation of new warehouses. These have been set up in Zagreb. All consignments for the Yugoslav Red Cross relief action in aid of Hungarian refugees should now be sent to this address (glavni Odbor Crvenog Kriza Hrvatske, Derencinova 38).

Secondary warehouses have been set up in certain localities according to needs, principally at Rijeka where all the consignments sent by sea arrive before being forwarded to Zagreb.



## 7. TRANSPORT

The fact that the camps are scattered peculiarly complicates the delivery of relief supplies from the central warehouses to the place of consumption. The Yugoslav Red Cross, which is charged with furnishing and transporting relief supplies has a few trucks for this purpose (nine of which have been made available by National Societies), but not enough. Each camp should at least have its own light truck (three tons), and the central warehouses should have a larger number of heavy trucks for transport along the main roads to the secondary distribution warehouses.

As there are not enough of these vehicles, the Yugoslav Red Cross has to hire trucks by the hour at a high cost dinars (1,100 per hour).

Some supplies are transported by rail. The consignments despatched by the Yugoslav Red Cross to supply the refugee camps enjoy free transport. Consignments from abroad enjoy the same privilege from the Yugoslav frontier so long as they are addressed to the Yugoslav Red Cross or to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, whether the sender is a Red Cross Society or a recognised charitable agency, and provided the bill of lading bears a Red Cross stamp or the stamp of the Agency in question.

## 8. FOOD

Calculation of requirements. The basic food requirements of the refugees, estimated to average 17,000, have been calculated so as to ensure a daily minimum of 2,658 calories (the same as the basic minimum for refugees in Austria).

For the period 1 March to 30 June, these requirements have been estimated as follows :

- flour	917	tons
- fats, butter	82	"
- meat	204	"
- starches	102	"
- sugar	58	"
- rice	142	"
- cheese	61	"
- milk	112	"

As a large quantity of rice was supplied by the World Council of Churches, the League was freed from its responsibility to furnish this foodstuff.

In addition to basic foodstuffs, additional and supplementary supplies were acquired by the Yugoslav Red Cross, the quantities of which, also calculated for a period of four months, are as follows :

(a) additional foodstuffs for children, pregnant women, and young mothers

- milk	19 tons
- sugar	9,5 "

(b) supplementary foodstuffs, on the basis of 3 distributions per week

- fish	50 tons
- marmelade	33 "
- coffee	15 "
- cocoa	15 "
- tea	8,5 "

Finally, the cost of purchasing fresh vegetables, fruit, condiments, and in general everything necessary to ensure and complete the basic nutrition of the refugees, was estimated for the same period of 1 March to 30 June, at approximately dinars, 42,000,000 i.e. approximately \$70,000. (The funds for direct relief to refugees enjoy a privileged exchange rate of dinars 600 per US \$1.-).

Stores

On 8 April, following the consignments forwarded by the National Societies and the League Delegation in Austria, the situation was as follows as regards basic foodstuffs :

Received :

Flour	545,5	tons	
fats	130	"	(+ 5 tons en route)
meat	123,1	"	
starches	42,6	"	(+ 40 " " " )
sugar	57	"	
cheese	40	"	(+ 8 " " " )
milk	75	"	

In addition, funds have been made available by the League to enable the Yugoslav Red Cross to purchase fresh meat on the spot.

The following consignments of supplementary foodstuffs have been forwarded :

fish	33	tons (+ 45 tons en route)
marmalade	10	"
cocoa	8	"

Finally, funds have been placed at the League's disposal to enable the Yugoslav Red Cross to purchase fresh vegetables, fruit, etc. on the spot.

It should also be noted that negotiations are in process with the International Cooperation Administration of the Government of the United States (ICA) for the supply of flour, fats, starches, cheese, and milk.

9. CLOTHING

The refugees' clothing is generally pitiful, most of them only having what was on their backs at the time of flight.

Worn clothing, of which the Yugoslav Red Cross has received a fair amount, has been distributed to them. It should be noted that with the exception of a few consignments, most of this clothing is of pretty poor quality. The warehousing, and above all sorting, involves considerable work and expense, and it may be questioned whether these are in proportion to the real value of the goods. Generally speaking, the stocks of worn clothing appear to be sufficient at the present time, and National Societies should be recommended to suspend consignments for the moment.

The articles which are still lacking are mainly light summer clothing, new underclothing, shirts, and above all, new shoes.

10. MEDICAL AND NURSING CARE

The refugees' health is satisfactory on the whole. No epidemics have been reported.

All the camps have a dispensary and a minimum of basic medicines (analgesics, sedatives, disinfectants, sulfonamides). In some places it has been possible to set up proper infirmaries with isolation wards.

The National Societies have been notified of the medical supplies required. Tonics should be added to these, mainly multi-vitamins.

Yugoslav doctors are engaged in the camps for a part of the day. Visits are regular. These doctors are generally seconded by refugee colleagues and by Yugoslav Red Cross nurses. All patients requiring hospital care are evacuated to the nearest town, as are also women about to be confined.

11. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, EDUCATIONAL, DIVERSIONAL

Increased attention should be given in the coming months to this problem if the refugees, for whom emigration is the only hope, are not to become very depressed. Happy innovations have already been made in some of the camps according to their location, possibilities, and organisation.

In some of the large camps, workrooms (tailors' and cobblers') have been established. It looks necessary to increase the number of workrooms and the supply of equipment to this end by the National Societies would be useful. Wherever there are hair-dressers they are kept busy.

As regards educational facilities, there appears to be an urgent need for educational equipment (dictionaries, grammars, text books, exercise books, school supplies etc.). These would encourage



the refugees to organise courses amongst themselves, mainly foreign language courses. So far as students are concerned, a scheme for the establishment of a University camp is being studied at the present time. Children's classes could also be organised.

There are a great many professional or amateur artists amongst the refugees. Helping them to practise their art, enables them - and through them their comrades - to escape from their present problems. Drawing and painting material, and musical instruments would be greatly appreciated.

Games (chess, draughts, ping-pong etc.), athletic equipment, books and illustrated papers are also needed. Some of the camps have a radio, and for those in towns the cinema (where they generally have to pay for their seats), to which the refugees can go in groups, is a pleasant pastime.

### CONCLUSIONS

The month of March was chiefly a period of organisation for the Yugoslav Red Cross, which has accepted the very heavy burden of providing for the refugees' needs. Every day, in every connection there are new problems arise, and additional difficulties to be overcome.

The constant movement amongst the refugees (repatriation, emigration, reuniting of families etc.) the breaking up of some camps and the establishment of others have singularly hampered rational and organised action hitherto. It can now be hoped that a period of greater stability is in sight which should facilitate Red Cross operations.

The assistance of the National Societies, particularly in the supply of foodstuffs, has been decisive in the progress achieved during the past month. The refugees' situation and the uncertainty that persists as to how long they will remain in the camps, unfortunately make it impossible to set a term to this assistance. It would be very desirable for it not only to be continued in the spheres in which it has already been provided during this initial phase, but to be extended to others which by circumstances, have had to be left aside until now and which are equally important for the moral and physical welfare of those whom it is the duty of the Red Cross to aid.

STATISTICS ON REFUGEES FROM HUNGARY IN YUGOSLAVIA

4. IV. 1957

18.799	TOTAL NUMBER OF ARRIVALS	
180	NEW ARRIVALS FROM 18.III TO 4.IV.1957	
2.124	Repatriated	
890	Emigrated	
430	Integrated	
15.785	Total number of refugees now in Yugoslavia	
377	for integration	Declaration of refugees
12	for repatriation	
14.966	for emigration	
14.609	Hungarians	Ethnic origin
401	Germans	
163	Jews	
182	Others	

STATISTICS ON REFUGEES FROM HUNGARY IN YUGOSLAVIA

4. IV. 1957

15,355	Number of refugees in reception centers		
2,229	Number of complete families		
865	Number of non complete families with children		
5,296	Male bachelors		
1,192	Female bachelors		
2,698	Up to 14	with parents	C h i l d r e n
422	14 to 18		
68	Up to 14	without parents	
819	14 to 18		
4,007	TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN		
4,653	18 to 25 years old	O T H E R S	
4,163	25 to 35		
1,717	35 to 45		
765	45 to 55		
50	O t h e r s		



STATISTICS ON REFUGEES FROM HUNGARY IN YUGOSLAVIA

4. IV. 1957

1,914	Unqualified workers	S O C I A L  S T A T I S T I C S
4,422	Qualified workers	
900	Highly qualified workers	
764	Farm workers	
154	Educational workers (teachers, professors, etc)	
388	Highly qualified specialists with University degrees	
984	Civil servants	
85	Public workers (journalists, artists, etc)	
381	Free professions Liberal "	
82	Military persons Members of the Armed Forces	
2,122	High-school and University students	
3,159	Others	

HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN YUGOSLAVIA

Emigration as of 5 April 1957

Austria . . . . .	77
Belgium . . . . .	14
Canada . . . . .	2
Chile . . . . .	1
Cuba . . . . .	4
Finland . . . . .	1
France . . . . .	178
Germany . . . . .	28
Great-Britain . . . . .	5
Italy . . . . .	125
Israel . . . . .	120
The Netherlands . . . . .	6
Norway . . . . .	298
Sweden . . . . .	4
Switzerland . . . . .	29
United States of America . . .	2

---

894

---

ANNEX IIIHUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN YUGOSLAVIAEMIGRATION POSSIBILITIES AS OF 5 APRIL 1957

	<u>O f f e r s</u>	<u>Estimates</u>	
		<u>ICEM</u>	<u>UNHCR</u>
Australia	2,000	2,000	2,000
Austria	Reuniting of families	50	250
Belgium	1,500	1,500	1,500
Brazil	No number specified	500	(*)
Canada	1,000	1,000	-
Chili	No number specified	100	100
Colombia	No guarantee	25	25
Costa Rica	15	15	15
Denmark	100 and reuniting of families	110	-
France	No limit for those who desire to work permanently	400	-
Germany (Fed.Rep.)	Volksdeutsche	200	400
Israel	No limit for Jews	200	25
Italy	-	-	200
Mexico	500	500	500
Norway	300	300	300
Sweden	500	500	-
Switzerland	100 and reuniting of families	125	-
Uruguay	200 in addition to quota	100	-
		<u>7,625</u>	<u>5,315</u>

(\*) 10,000 for the whole of Europe; the Yugoslav quota is not yet known.



ANNEX IVLIST OF REFUGEE CAMPS ON 18 MARCH 1957

1	-	Smarje . . . . .	136
2	-	Borl . . . . .	296
3	-	Radenci . . . . .	28
4	-	Statenberg . . . . .	189
5	-	Rog. Slatina . . . . .	336
6	-	Rab . . . . .	591
7	-	Selce . . . . .	574
8	-	Crikvenica . . . . .	449
9	-	Kraljevica . . . . .	136
10	-	Lovran . . . . .	604
11	-	Opatija . . . . .	715
12	-	Vidikovac . . . . .	166
13	-	Osijek . . . . .	1.107
14	-	Virovitica . . . . .	95
15	-	Koprivnica . . . . .	253
16	-	Cakovec . . . . .	619
17	-	Tuheljeske Toplice . . . . .	232
18	-	Kanjiza . . . . .	211
19	-	Mat. Banja . . . . .	1.085
20	-	Sombor . . . . .	159
21	-	Subotica . . . . .	185
22	-	Misar . . . . .	136
23	-	Srbobran . . . . .	463
24	-	Slankamen . . . . .	139
25	-	Lovcenac . . . . .	130
26	-	Sokolac . . . . .	287
27	-	Indjija . . . . .	546
28	-	Niska Banja . . . . .	714
29	-	Bela Crkva . . . . .	165
30	-	Bogatic . . . . .	233
31	-	Vranjska Banja . . . . .	404
32	-	Neresnica . . . . .	366
33	-	Bajina Basta . . . . .	623
34	-	Tucepi . . . . .	469
35	-	G-erovo . . . . .	1.735
36	-	Otesevo . . . . .	1.059
37	-	Krusevo . . . . .	635

---

U k u p n o : 16.293

---

*Please file*

# LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

40, RUE DU XXXI-DÉCEMBRE — GENEVA

RECORDS CONTROL

S0535/1 ICRC

28 MAY 1957

## R E P O R T

ON THE LEAGUE OPERATION  
ON BEHALF OF  
HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA  
DURING MARCH 1957

-----

1. THE HUNGARIAN REFUGEE SITUATION IN AUSTRIA
  2. THE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LEAGUE
  3. ADMINISTRATION
  4. FINANCE
  5. SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORT
  6. FEEDING, CLOTHING AND MEDICAL CARE
  7. PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT
  8. PUBLIC RELATIONS
  9. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS
-

## 1. THE HUNGARIAN REFUGEE SITUATION IN AUSTRIA

During the whole of March less than 300 new Hungarian refugees crossed into Austria, a number which is not much greater than the average monthly influx from Hungary before this present crisis began. But the rate of migration has been maintained. During the month over 10,000 were moved abroad, chiefly to North America, Austria, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Revised figures from the Ministry of Interior show that so far 174,000 refugees have crossed into Austria and that 128,000 of these have migrated abroad (see Appendix A.). Allowing for the 4,300 who have been repatriated, there were still 42,000 in the country on March 31. Present plans allow for the movement abroad of at least another 6,000 during April to Canada and the United States, Australia and New Zealand. The Latin American countries are continuing to process refugees, but it is unlikely that many of the 17,000 Hungarians still to be taken by them will be transported during April.

Of those new refugees remaining behind in Austria on March 31, the Ministry of Interior has estimated that 10,000 are accommodated privately, 4,000 are looked after by voluntary relief organizations, 3,000 are in shelters still run entirely by the government, and that 25,000 are in the League camps. The total figure of 42,000 is probably exaggerated by a few thousands, particularly with regard to those refugees living privately, since records are frequently duplicated as the Hungarians move from place to place. What is more certain is that three out of every five new refugees are now living within a twenty-five mile radius of Vienna. Here the refugees are in a better position for being processed by the consular missions, and here the chances of finding work are greater. Of the 3,000 in regular employ at the end of March, one in every two was working in Vienna itself. Many of the refugees who have obtained permanent work in Austria have been found private accommodation by their employers, although those doing temporary work, in construction and agriculture, still live in camps.

## 2. THE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LEAGUE

During March the League operation in Austria reached its peak. National Red Cross teams took over two more camps in Lower Austria and five in Styria, while the camp Albrechtshaus in Vienna, originally scheduled to be opened in April, was actually taken over by a German Red Cross team in the third week of March. At that time there were teams from twelve National Societies running forty camps and three annexes in eight of the nine Austrian provinces.

There is still one more camp to be opened, the Kagraner Kaserne in Vienna, and this will be taken over by a Swiss Red Cross team in late April, again ahead of schedule. But before the end of that month several of the present camps, particularly those with poor facilities, will be closed down, while others will be returned to their former owners or handed over to the new Austrian Army. According to preliminary plans, seven camps will be closed during April and another eight by the end of June.

Apart from caring for the refugees in camps, the League has continued its escort and feeding services to Hungarians in transit through Europe. During March, over 6,000 refugees carried in 35 trains and buses benefited from this programme. At the same time, significant assistance was given to



another group of refugees by Dr. Bengt Nirje of the Swedish Red Cross team at Traiskirchen. At the end of February the Federal Government declared definitely that no unaccompanied refugee minor would be allowed to leave Austria. After Dr. Nirje's efforts, the UN High Commissioner agreed to sponsor requests for emigration from minors between 14 and 18 years of age who had their parents or guardians' written permission. Only when so sponsored and properly documented can these cases receive the approval of the Austrian authorities. A rough survey during the month showed that the number of such minors in League camps was about 1,200. In March about 400 were cleared for emigration by the High Commissioner's representatives, and much of the necessary interviewing was done at Traiskirchen camp itself.

### 3. ADMINISTRATION

a) Staff Changes. - Mr. J. Buntzen, the Supervisor of Field Operations, returned to Denmark at the end of March, handing over to his deputy, Mr. J. Nörredam. Mr. D.H. Young from the Canadian Red Cross team at Brigittaspital is now the Assistant Supervisor. One of the Field Agents, Mrs W. Lamann of the Federal German Red Cross, has also left Austria, his place being taken by Mr. W. Sprengers of the Dutch National Society. Mr. C. Austin, leader of the American Red Cross team at Feffernitz, has been made Assistant to Mr. Jaeg, the Supply and Transport Officer, with direct supervision of warehouse operations. Dr. E.A. Vischer from the Swiss Red Cross has now taken over the responsibilities of the League Chief Medical Officer from his countryman, Dr. J. Hasler, while Mr. R. Jones of the American National Red Cross has taken over those of Press Officer from his countryman, Mr. C. Fligg. A revised chart of the basic administrative structure for the League operation in Austria, showing the changes in personnel during the past two months, is attached as Appendix B.

b) Teamleaders' Conferences - Since the beginning of the year regular meetings of all teamleaders have been held each month in Vienna. The meeting at the end of March was also attended by the National Red Cross Society delegates in Austria and by Mr. Bonabes de Rougé Secretary-General of the League, who in the previous evening had received the Grand Silver Decoration for Services to the Republic of Austria in recognition of the League's work there. After hearing teamleaders outline the activities in their camps, Mr. de Rougé gave a short account of the history of the League, and the conference closed with the showing of the new League film (see section 8).

### 4. FINANCE

Budgetary control, which was established in January with an aim to standardize the kind of care given in League camps, has already had its effect upon the average daily cost per refugee. Whereas expenses per person per day in January amounted to 6.21 Austrian schillings with great variations among the different camps, the February daily cost per refugee amounted to 5.96 schillings with considerably less variation. A breakdown of these figures shows that for January there was an operational cost of 5.77 schillings per person per day and an administrative cost of 0.44 schillings, while the corresponding expenditures in February were 5.57 and 0.39.

Commitment records are kept in all League camps to enable team-leaders to carefully plan all their purchases and to remain within the budgetary provisions.

Statements of income received and expenditure incurred during March are attached as Appendix C.

#### 5. SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORT

The League is now in complete control of its supply system, from the time that goods arrive in Vienna to the time they are received in the camps. Fortnightly food deliveries to all camps are now completed within five days, and as much as half of all League supplies are carried by its own road transport fleet, now supplemented by five more lorries from the Federal German Red Cross. With regard to rail freight, the Austrian Government has reconfirmed its readiness, to transport all League supplies free, not only inside Austria, but also, as may be required, from European ports normally serving the country. In doing this, the government has made it clear that all such supplies must be addressed to the League for use in its refugee relief action in Austria.

Although the League operation is scheduled to end on June 30, preparations have nevertheless been made to have supplies on hand for the Hungarian refugees still remaining in the country on that date. According to these plans, food will be available to provide the present daily ration of over 3,000 calories to 20,000 refugees for a further period.

During March, on instructions from Geneva HQ, the League office in Vienna sent nearly 550 tons of food, clothing and medical supplies in 37 railway wagons to the Yugoslav Red Cross for the 15,000 Hungarian refugees in their country.

#### 6. FEEDING, CLOTHING AND MEDICAL CARE

a) Feeding - During March this improved both in quantity and in quality. Fresh meat is now served three times a week, in portions of 150 grams per person. Maccaroni has always been made from League stocks of flour, and now enough chocolate is being produced from League stocks of powdered milk to be able to distribute 50 gram bars twice weekly to all refugees. Much of the extra fat ration, now doubled from 40 to 80 grams daily, is being used as dripping spread on bread, a practice very much to the Hungarian's taste. Foods supplementary to the basic ration, such as beverages, fruits and seasonings, can now be delivered regularly owing to the building-up of sufficient stocks in the League warehouse. One difficulty connected with the feeding in many camps has at last been overcome. This arose from the large supply of mixed tinned goods and other assorted small packages which were not designed for mass feeding but which camp kitchens have finally used up. Apart from bread, central purchasing of perishable fresh produce has now been discontinued in favour of local purchases by the teams, since no great economy resulted.

Machinery has now been set up in every camp whereby the Hungarians can themselves constructively criticize the preparation of the food served

to them. This machinery may exist either in the form of a paid Hungarian cook or taster, of an advisory feeding committee, or of regular invitations to random refugees to write their comments on the meal. For March 15, the anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848, special meals were served in all camps. A typical dinner comprised beef noodle soup, the famous Viennese veal cutlet, and walnut roll.

b) Clothing - Except for one or two particular items, there are plentiful stocks of clothing in the League camps, in addition to the hundreds of tons of used clothing still to be sorted at the Liesing warehouse. But as all donated supplies have contained very few men's trousers, these are being bought centrally and sent out to the camps. However, in order to keep down to a minimum the general distributions which follow on central purchasing, teamleaders have been authorized to buy certain other necessary articles, such as men's shoes, on an individual basis. As a result of the establishment of tailoring and sewing workshops in the camps, the proportion of completely unusable clothing has diminished: that which remains has been sent to a paper mill and the proceeds used to obtain those badly-needed new articles.

By the end of the month, 4,000 square metres of pressed paper board had been distributed to camps, so that refugees could divide off their big dormitories into more private sections.

c) Medical and Nursing - During March, the League Chief Medical Officer, Dr. J. Hasler, visited 33 of the 39 camps in operation then. Everywhere he noticed that the health of the refugees was still excellent. The few cases of infectious diseases so far have presented no difficulties. Sickwards with adjoining diet-kitchens had been established in most camps, dispensaries were operating in all. There was no lack of medical stores and no difficulty in obtaining fresh or emergency supplies from the League pharmacy in Vienna.

The required hygiene standards were observed in all camp kitchens, where a continual watch is kept over the health of the staff. But there still remains the difficulty of getting the refugees to eat in the available diningrooms rather than take food into bedrooms where waste gathers. Shower-baths have recently been opened in several camps and are in process of construction in others, while the tightness of toilet facilities in a few places has been made good by the use of transportable water-closets supplied by the League.

During March also, Dr. Hasler called together two conferences of team medical officers, in Vienna and in Upper Austria, and himself attended meetings of the provincial health authorities in Styria and Carinthia, where the work of the Red Cross doctors was highly praised.

## 7. PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

The development of programme projects received another stimulus this month owing to the keen personal interest shown by the Austrian Minister for the Interior, Oskar Helmer. One result of this has been the turning over of former living-quarters, now emptied by the outflow of the refugees, to recreation rooms and workshops. It cannot be emphasized enough that so many talents and so many useful ideas have gone to waste simply because there has



up to now been a lack of space in which to develop them. Even so, Red Cross welfare officers have not been idle. An extreme example can be taken from Rothschildspital, a condemned Vienna hospital whose life was extended a few more months in order to serve as an emergency shelter for the new Hungarian refugees. The dining and toilet facilities were very poor, the recreation facilities non-existent. So the Swiss Red Cross team working there started taking the refugees out. Groups were taken to the Schönbrunn Palace and Spanish Riding School in Vienna. A visit was arranged to a shoe factory and a day's excursion to the Burgenland. And while the older Hungarians were taken to the Vienna Concert House, the younger children were taken to the local zoo.

a) Education - An example of what is being done for the children in a camp with better facilities can be taken from Karawankenhof where for over three months an Austrian team has been running a kindergarten for thirty young Hungarians. In addition to watching over their play and teaching them simple German songs, the Red Cross nurse has established a Cleanliness Corner where the children can put their own special coloured towels, tooth-brushes and soap-boxes. At the school in Karawankenhof, fortyfive older children are taught reading, drawing, and arithmetic. At Judenburg camp where a British team started working on March 1, a camp school has also been started, and drawings made by the children have been sent to schools in England on an exchange system. For the adults in this camp English lessons have been given two hours daily with additional evening classes for Hungarians working during the day. An example of what is being done for intellectuals in some camps can be taken from Ried, where the French team leader gathers them together for regular discussions on one evening every week. Early in March, some Hungarian classics were distributed to the camps, together with translations of a few popular or humorous books such as "The Ballads of François Villon" and George Mikes' "How to be an Alien".

b) Work Projects - Hungarians are now kept busy in the camps in three ways. In the first place, they help in the administration of the camp, in the kitchen, clothing store, dispensary, nursery, school and sportsfield. Secondly, certain craftsmen such as barbers, decorative artists, and watch-makers, are given the opportunity to practise their skill. Thirdly, a field on which most emphasis is now being placed, the refugees engage in group work projects.

These projects may take the form of groups being taught some skilled trade or hobby by a master-craftsman, or of groups working together to improve the appearance of camp buildings and their surroundings. In the American Red Cross camp at Feffernitz, four apprentices are working together under a master-shoemaker, at Ried regular classes are given in dress-making, at St. Martin the Canadian team has started lessons in engineering and electronics, and at Schloss Liechtenstein handicraft classes are held for the children. At Ried also, two Hungarian master-craftsmen run a hobby-room where 20 to 30 enthusiasts make model aeroplanes and carve up wood until late at night. In mid-March an exhibition of their work was held in the local community centre where it was visited by 3,000 of the town's inhabitants. It was only bad weather which called off the exhibition of model glider flying.

Great progress had already been made in February in improving the inside of camp buildings by painting and decorating. Now, with the early spring in Austria, much work is being done outside, particularly in clearing

up rubble, constructing new buildings and planting out gardens. In the Finnish camp at Wiener Neustadt, the refugees have helped erect the sauna and recreation room. In the new Danish camps at Kapfenberg, gardens are now being dug round the barracks, and this is the case with many other camps, such as Traiskirchen, Judenburg, Trofaiach, Altkettenhof and Ried. At this last place the Hungarians are now running their own farm which already has ten pigs and one hundred hens.

c) Recreation - In this sphere also, emphasis is now being placed on the need to get refugees out of their barrack rooms into the fresh air. Track events and cross country running are becoming more common, as are sight-seeing and hiking tours. At Ried a 35 member athletics group trains regularly in running, jumping, and putting the shot. At Feffernitz, the younger refugees are becoming quite enthusiastic base-ball players, while in another American camp, Wörgl, outdoor picnics are being arranged. The British team at Wöllersdorf has taken their youngsters on a rock climbing excursion, while the team from Schloss Liechtenstein has twice arranged sight-seeing trips for the children to Vienna.

It has even been possible to hold religious services out-of-doors as at Judenburg and Solbad Hall. The occasion of doing so at the second camp was the celebration of March 15. After the services in the morning, a two-hour entertainment programme was given in the afternoon by members of the camp and by Hungarian artists from Innsbruck. The recreation room was especially decorated for the occasion with flags made by the Hungarians. This is just one example of the way in which this anniversary was observed in the camps. The wreath-laying ceremony at Annabichl and the recital evening at Brigittaspital are two further examples.

## 8. PUBLIC RELATIONS

During March visitors to League camps and Relief HQ in Vienna included Dr. G.M. Morales, President of the Venezuelan Red Cross, Mr. John C. Wilson, Vice-President of the American National Red Cross, and Lieutenant General A. van der Kroon, First Vice-President of the Netherlands Red Cross.

The chief preoccupation of the League Press Office during the month has been that of finishing the documentary film of the Red Cross operation in Austria. This is now ready for distribution and each of the 13 National Societies with teams working in Austria will receive two prints with the appropriate English, German or French sound-tracks. Additional prints with sound-tracks in any one of these languages can be ordered through League HQ in Geneva at a cost of \$18.60 each. This 13½ minute film, entitled "Humanity's Crusade", outlines the whole League action from the Austrian Red Cross President's telephone call for League assistance to the detailed illustration of welfare programmes in each of the 13 camps filmed. This documentary was put together from 150-200 metres of film shot in each camp. The footage which was not used has now been sent direct to the National HQ of the Red Cross Society concerned.

During March too, a start was made on writing articles for the Hungarian language newspaper now circulating in all the camps twice every week. This paper, called "Bécsi Magyar Híradó" or "Vienna Hungarian News", is subsidized by the Austrian Government, the UN High Commissioner and the

League, and contains articles of interest to the refugees on emigration possibilities, the work of the Red Cross in Austria, and hints on how to live a healthy and interesting life, even in a camp.

#### 9. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

During March, the League operation in Austria passed through its most extensive phase. The next three months will witness the closing down of at least one-third of the present camps. But they will also witness the intensification of League services to the remaining refugees. This will result from the strengthening of Field Operations staff during April by the services of team members with many months of experience in the camps. Also, the knowledge of which camps are likely to remain open longest will enable welfare services to be planned on a more or less permanent basis, without any difficult transition period when the League relinquishes its responsibilities. With ICEM declaring that it will transport another 16,000 refugees before the end of June, it is unlikely that there will be many more than 20,000 left behind in Austria when the present contract with the Federal Government expires.

Even before it was informed of the Austrian authorities' preliminary plans for the closing of camps, the League had set up a special liquidation committee comprising the heads of the most important departments in Relief HQ. They will devise policies and recommend methods for the disposition of League supplies and fixed assets which are left in Austria at the end of the operation, and which remain in the camps that close down earlier.



HUNGARIAN REFUGEE SITUATION IN AUSTRIA

(adapted from ICEM status report for March 31, 1957)

---

1)	Total influx of new Hungarian refugees into Austria	173,955
2)	Estimated number still remaining in Austria	41,816
3)	Total repatriated from Austria	4,316
4)	Movements	

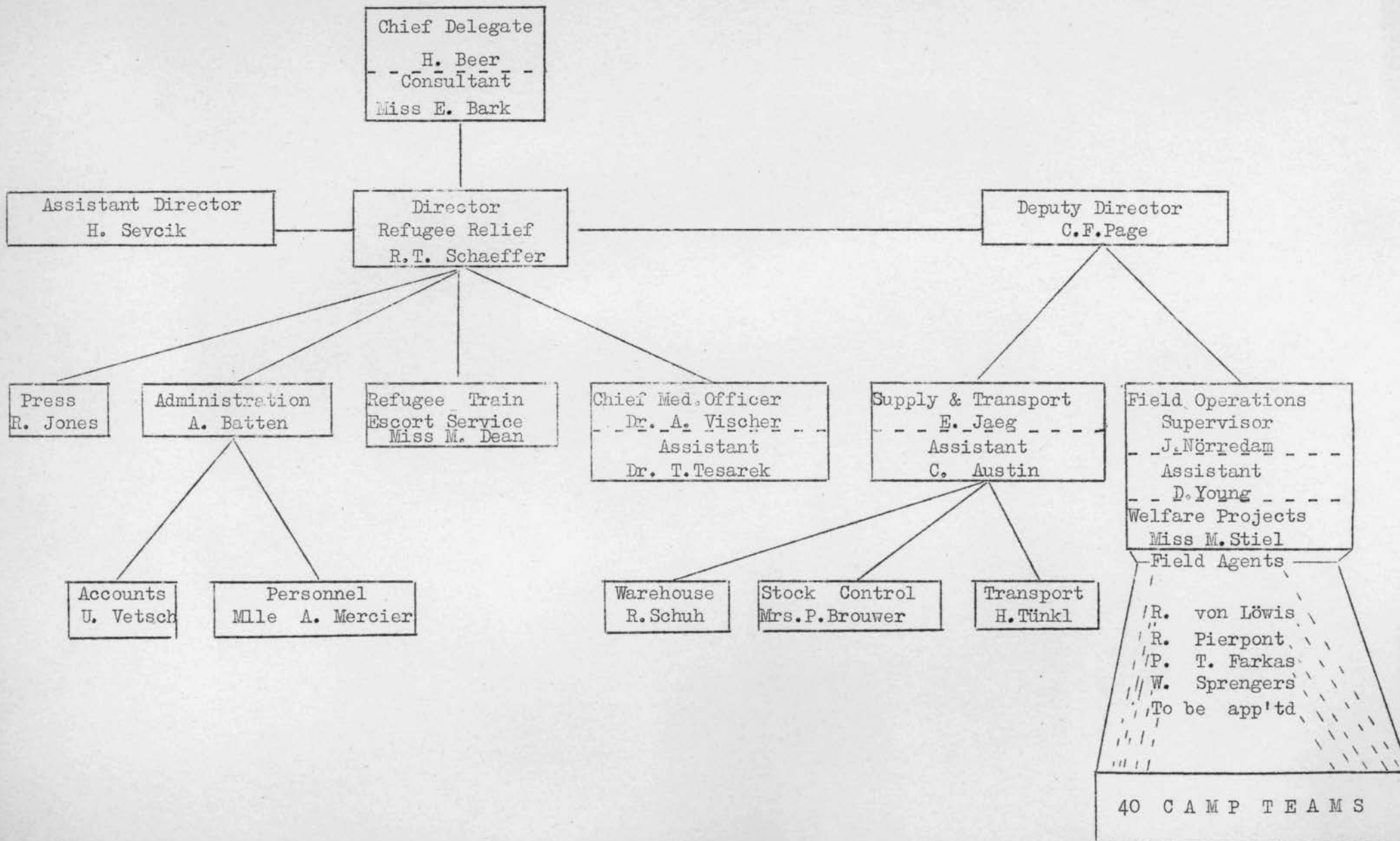
---

A)	Countries still taking refugees en masse	Quota	Total Moved
	Australia . . . . .	7,000	5,611
	Argentina . . . . .	2,000	463
	Brazil . . . . .	10,000	375
	Canada . . . . .	unlimited	15,923
	Chile . . . . .	1,000	162
	Colombia . . . . .	1,000	78
	France . . . . .	unlimited	9,033
	Ireland . . . . .	1,000	541
	Israel . . . . .	unlimited	1,706
	New Zealand . . . . .	1,000	617
	U.S.A. . . . .	21,500-	30,542
	Venezuela . . . . .	4,000	68
B)	Countries at present accepting refugees on individual basis only		
	Belgium . . . . .	3,300	3,185
	Costa Rica . . . . .	50	3
	Cuba . . . . .	-	2
	Denmark . . . . .	1,000	1,105
	Germany . . . . .	unlimited	11,584
	Holland (permanently) . . . .	3,000	2,971
	" (transit to Canada) . . . .	1,500	1,531
	Iceland . . . . .	50	52
	Italy . . . . .	4,000	3,810
	Luxembourg . . . . .	200	203
	Norway . . . . .	1,000	1,011
	South Africa . . . . .	1,100	1,163
	Spain . . . . .	-	14
	Switzerland . . . . .	10,000	10,333
	Turkey . . . . .	500	443
	United Kingdom . . . . .	unlimited	20,530
	Uruguay . . . . .	100	3
	Cumulative Total Moved		127,823

---

## BASIC ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FOR LEAGUE OPERATION IN AUSTRIA

April 1, 1957.



APPENDIX C

FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
OF LEAGUE OPERATION FOR RELIEF TO  
HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA

DOLLARS US

RECEIPTS

Balance brought forward from Feb. 28, 1957 1,594,946.07

Receipts during March 1957 :

by National Red Cross Societies :

German Red Cross . . . . \$ 1,153.84

Swedish " " . . . . \$ 19,221.13

British " " . . . . \$ 1,830.77

22,205.74

by Miscellaneous . . . . . 26,311.53

Total Receipts \$ 1,643,463.34



Total receipts . . . . . \$ 1,643,463.34

Operational expenses

Food . . . . .	\$ 153,625.92	
Clothing . . . . .	49,362.59	
Camp equipment . . .	63,859.40	
Camp Hygiene medical care . . . . .	8,156.54	
Transportation . . .	53,351.29	
Camp labour . . . . .	49,698.96	
Free reception of refugees mail and telegrams . . . . .	2,374.82	
Warehousing . . . . .	16,972.23	
Program Development	15,820.62	
Miscellaneous . . . .	<u>3,116.63</u>	416,339.00

Administration expenses

Personnel . . . . .	11,254.79		
Travelling . . . . .	2,182.31		
Postage, telephone, cables . . . . .	66.23		
Office supplies . .	4,440.01		
Miscellaneous . . . .	<u>2,634.88</u>	<u>20,578.22</u>	<u>436,917.22</u>

Balance at March 31, 1957 . . . \$ 1,206,546.12

Description of goods sent to Budapest up to March 31, 1957

<u>Foodstuffs</u>	<u>kg</u>	<u>Textiles and bedding</u>	<u>kg</u>
Bread	2,947	Clothing (various)	1,053,111
Butter	143,585	for men	277,363
Margarine	490,557	for women	282,218
Fats	443,455	for children	154,891
Edible oil	41,665		
Tinned fish	110,336	Blankets (161,000 items)	
Tinned meat	651,643		
Tinned fruit	34,254	Mattresses	44,695
Tinned vegetables	19,936	Beds	28,422
Tinned soup	41,282	Sheets	36,423
Sundry tinned goods	130,371	Women's underclothing	34,515
Jam	13,454	Men's underclothing	3,320
Fresh fruit	53,925	Children's underclothing	1,158
Dried fruit	38,908		
Rice	721,046	<u>Various</u>	
Flour	3,195,133	Footwear	164,105
Oat flakes	18,105	Window-glass	105,515
Semolina	14,400	Candles	22,948
Pulse foods	79,050	Coal	7,158,370
Potatoes	30,050	Kitchen utensils	27,598
Pasta	59,395	Soap	47,078
Cheese	342,323	Games	5,691
Condensed milk )		Cigarettes	3,560
Powdered milk )	2,760,707	News-print	3,208
Tonics for children	91,745		
Bakers products	72,092	<u>Medical supplies</u>	
Confectionery	1,172	Medicaments	67,051
Syrup	11,855	Insulin (71,000 ampoules)	
Sugar	541,126	Dressings	50,510
Coffee	11,297	Instruments	1,750
Tea	15,109	Films for X-ray tests	4,500
Cocoa	11,222		
Chocolate	115,424		
Salt	10,100		
Sundry foodstuffs	86,853		
Food-parcels	1,755,032		
(452,202 parcels)			