

RED CROSS - ROUMANIA

Mr. James Brunot  
Executive Director  
President's War Relief Control Board  
Washington Building  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Brunot:

You will recall that the request for assistance in relief to Roumanian children as stated in the accompanying letter from the Roumanian Red Cross to our representative in Switzerland was discussed in your office on 26 November with Mr. Henninger and Mrs. Morris. At that time I believe you were engaged in negotiations with three groups interested in organizing for relief work in Roumania.

In accordance with the suggestion coming out of the above mentioned discussion, I am referring the matter to your office for attention. Obviously, UNRRA is not in a position to advise or help in matters involving Roumanian needs.

As this request comes to us from our European Regional Office we shall inform that Office of its disposition. They in turn will inform the Roumanian Red Cross delegate in Switzerland through our representative there.

Very sincerely yours,

Herbert H. Lehman  
Director General

Enc.

MMorris:jd

17 December 1945

10 December 1945

TO: Mr. Charles H. Alspach  
FROM: Alfred E. Davidson AED  
SUBJECT: Rumanian Red Cross Request for  
Assistance in Relief to Rumanian  
Children

---

You sent to this office for consideration the attached memorandum to you from Minerva C. Morris, of 27 November, reporting that the President's War Relief Control Board suggested that the Rumanian Red Cross request be referred to it for disposition. It appears from this memorandum that the Board is engaged in negotiations with three groups interested in organizing for relief work in Rumania.

The suggested transfer of this request appears to me to be a satisfactory disposition of the matter and I recommend that the necessary communication be prepared to the Board and a report on the matter be made to the various officials who have been concerned in this negotiation, including Mr. Connene, delegate of the Rumanian Red Cross, Mr. Tyler, UNRRA representative in Berne, and the European Regional Office. Please include this office in the clearance of this correspondence.

cc: Mr. Hawes



FORM AD-2

(15 MAR 4)

UNITED NATIONS  
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

## ROUTE SLIP

To:

Mr. Hawes

DATE

27 Nov.

ROOM NO.

514

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL         | <input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATE                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT          | <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY    | <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN  | <input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR INFORMATION       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE    | <input type="checkbox"/> PER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION |

REMARKS

For your consideration.

C. H. Alspach

From:

Welfare

ROOM NO.

320

UNITED NATIONS  
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

27 November 1945

*file to  
be sent to  
Alspach  
with memo*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Charles H. Alspach

FROM: Minerva C. Morris *MCM*

SUBJECT: Roumanian Red Cross Request for Assistance  
in Relief to Roumanian Children

In accordance with the established policy on relationships between UNRRA, volagencies and the PWRCB, before discussing the Roumanian Red Cross request for assistance with the two American agencies now in Roumania the matter was brought to the attention of the PWRCB.

At a conference in Mr. Ringland's office on 26 November, it was learned that the Board is at present engaged in negotiations with three groups interested in organizing for relief work in Roumania. The Board is awaiting a cable reply from a State Department representative in Roumania to its request for detailed information on the situation. They also expect to have a report of a survey made by an interested party recently returned from Roumania.

In view of the fact that the PWRCB is actively engaged in bringing about an agreement with the three groups whereby plans may be developed for relief work in Roumania, and the fact that UNRRA is obviously not in a position to help, it was suggested by the Board that the request be referred to them for disposition.

MCM:jd

COPY

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

European Regional Office

11, Portland Place

London, W.1.

M.A.20/11/X. (166)

30th October, 1945

Dear Governor Lehman,

I attach a copy of a letter of the 10th October from Mr. Royall Tyler in Berne, together with an enclosure from the delegate of the Roumanian Red Cross relating to conditions in Roumania, with particular regard to children. I also enclose a copy of our acknowledgement to Mr. Tyler.

In view of the previous history of negotiations for operations in Roumania, the European Regional Office feels that this is a matter which can only be dealt with in Washington.

Yours sincerely,

A. H. Robertson  
Legal Adviser

The Director General  
U.N.R.R.A.,  
1344, Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



COPY

M.A.20/11/X.

30th October, 1945

Dear Mr. Tyler,

This is to acknowledge your letter no. 48 of the 10th October and its enclosure relating to conditions in Roumania (the second enclosure dealing with Roumanian nationals displaced as the result of the war is, I understand, being dealt with by our Displaced Persons Division).

In view of the previous history of negotiations relating to preposed operations in Roumania, the European Regional Office has merely forwarded your letter with its enclosure to Washington.

Yours sincerely,

A. H. ROBERTSON

Mr. Royall Tyler,  
C/o American Legation  
BERNE,  
Switzerland

COPY

C/o American Legation  
Berne

10th October, 1945

No. 48.

To: U.N.R.R.A., Department of Relief Services,  
E.R.O., London

From: Royall Tyler, U.N.R.R.A. Representative, Berne.

I have received two letters, copies of which are enclosed, from Mr. M. P. Commene, Delegate of the Roumanian Red Cross and a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of his country.

One of these letters deals with Roumanian nationals displaced as a result of the war and now in various countries, chiefly in Western Austria. The other goes into the conditions prevailing in Roumania itself.

In my talk with Mr. Commene, I pointed out that U.N.R.R.A. is not at present in a position to undertake relief in Roumania. I also bear in mind the correspondence that took place between the Director General and myself on this subject at an earlier stage (ref. Director General's letter of 19th December, 1944, a.21/7, my reply of 29th December and my telegram no. 8 ENJOY, of 23rd January, 1945).

However, I was unwilling to refuse to submit Mr. Commene's letters for your consideration, and am therefore forwarding them to you.

(sgd.) R. TYLER



COPY

CROIX ROUGE ROUMAINE

No. 352

Geneve, Hotel des Bergues,

le 6 octobre, 1945

Monsieur,

Comme suite a notre conversation du 3 octobre dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer les informations alarmantes que je viens de recevoir de M. le Dr. Costinesco, le President de la Croix Rouge Roumaine, concernant la situation tragique des enfants de notre pays.

A la suite des pertes considerables de nos armees - environ six cent mille morts, invalides et prisonniers - a la suite des migrations successives des populations de Bessarabie, de Bucovine, de Transylvanie, ainsi qu'a la suite des operations de guerre qui se sont deroulees en territoire roumain, des centaines de milliers d'enfants (en Moldavie seule on en compte plus de deux cent mille) se trouvent sans famille, sans toit, sans nourriture, dans le plus affreux denueement.

Les moyens, aujourd'hui infiniment reduits dont dispose le pays - Gouvernement et initiative privee - redent la condition de ces enfants d'autant plus lamentable, qu'une secheresse sans precedent a detruit les recoltes de toute cette region et diminue, jusqu'a la limite extreme, le cheptel.

Cette situation est aggravee par les difficultes de tous ordres inherentes aux moments difficiles que nous traversons.

Le manque de nourriture substantielle - on n'arrive parfois pas meme a 800 calories par jour par tete d'enfant, vu le manque de lait, de graisses, de produits vitamines - a augmente la mortalite infantile d'une maniere particuliere-ment inquietante.

Malgre les difficultes de reunir en ce moment des statistiques precises, on peut d'ores et deja parler d'une augmentation de la mortalite infantile de 60%.

Avec l'approche de l'hiver, particulierement rigoureux en ces regions voisines de la Russie, ce chiffre effrayant risque d'augmenter en des proportions sans precedent.

Le danger d'epidemies graves semble imminent.

Aussi me permettrai-je, au nom de l'Institution que je represente, ainsi qu'au nom des plus elementaires sentiments humanitaires, de faire appel a vous, en vous priant d'entreprendre toute action, toute demarche que vous estimerez utile afin de faire parvenir avec la plus grande urgence - avant l'arrivee de l'hiver - a la Croix-Rouge Roumaine que quantites aussi importantes que possible:

- (a) de lait condense;
- (b) de produits vitamines;

- (c) de graisses;
- (d) de médicaments;
- (e) de matériel sanitaire;
- (f) de toile pour lingerie et draps pour les hopitaux.

Voila les besoins les plus urgents que je me permets de vous signaler.

Monsieur Leclerc, le précieux collaborateur de Comité International de la Croix-Rouge, qui vient à peine de rentrer de Roumanie, est à même de compléter les données mentionnées plus haut par ses constatations personnelles et le matériel documentaire qu'il a recueilli sur place.

En attendant l'opération d'envergure que, selon les informations, le C.I.C.R. se propose d'entreprendre en faveur de l'enfance en général, je me permets de signaler l'urgence du cas des enfants roumains qui, malheureusement, jusqu'à ce jour ont été privés de toute assistance internationale, que l'on a entrepris de toutes parts en faveur des enfants appartenant à d'autres nations plus privilégiées par leur situation géographique.

Envous remerciant d'avance de tout ce que vous voudrez bien entreprendre en faveur de ce pays, victime innocente du drame qui ensanglante le monde depuis six longues années, je vous prie, cher Monsieur, d'agréer l'expression de mes sentiments de haute considération.

(sgd.) N. P. COMMIENE



27 November 1945

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Charles H. Alsopach

FROM: Minerva C. Morris

SUBJECT: Roumanian Red Cross Request for Assistance  
in Relief to Roumanian Children

In accordance with the established policy on relationships between UNRRA, volagencies and the PWRCB, before discussing the Roumanian Red Cross request for assistance with the two American agencies now in Roumania the matter was brought to the attention of the PWRCB.

At a conference in Mr. Ringland's office on 26 November, it was learned that the Board is at present engaged in negotiations with three groups interested in organizing for relief work in Roumania. The Board is awaiting a cable reply from a State Department representative in Roumania to its request for detailed information on the situation. They also expect to have a report of a survey made by an interested party recently returned from Roumania.

In view of the fact that the PWRCB is actively engaged in bringing about an agreement with the three groups whereby plans may be developed for relief work in Roumania, and the fact that UNRRA is obviously not in a position to hdp, it was suggested by the Board that the request be referred to them for disposition.

MCM:jd



19 November 1945

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. A. B. Hawes  
Rm. No. 514

FROM: Charles H. Alspach  
Room 320

SUBJECT: Roumanian Red Cross Request for Assistance  
in Relief to Roumanian Children

As possibilities for referral of the above request, I find the following two agencies the only American organizations engaged in relief work in Roumania:

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
270 Madison Avenue  
New York 16, New York

HIAS Emigration Association  
386 Fourth Avenue  
New York 16, New York

Mr. Bertram Jacobson, of the Joint Distribution Committee, is in Bucharest as representative of both these organizations. JDC is engaged in straight relief work, whereas HIAS is primarily concerned with emigration and with individual remittances to Roumania.

MMORRIS:jd  
19 November 1945