H-WASH. 7087 - REFUGEES IN YVGOSLAVIA

NEW YORK, October 30 - (CNR) - The October 25 issue of the WASHINGTON POST carries an article entitled REFUGEES FEAR OUSTER BY TITO.

Yugoslavia is becoming impatient with the West for dawdling in the resettlement of her Hungarian refugees, Kathleen Regan, chief welfare officer for the American Friends Service Committee in Yugoslavia, said here yesterday.

"The refugees live under the fear that they may be sent back because Yugoslavia is not prepared, economically or socially, to keep them," she declared.

Miss Regan left Yugoslavia two weeks ago. She was made immediately aware of Marshal Tito's growing reorientation toward Russia:
"There has been a request for curtailing the 50 or so Westerners working under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", she declared. "And our visas" have been shortened from 30 to 25 days and changed to single entry so that we can not travel back and forth across the border during this interval."

20,000 Went to Titoland

Of the 200,000 refugees who have fled Hungary since the unsuccessful revolt against the Russians, just one year ago, approximately 20,000 sought help from Yugoslavia. Of this total, 12,000 have been accepted for resettlement in the West (the United States has taken 1,000), 2,600 decided to return to Hungary, and 600 have chosen and been accepted for permanent residence in Yugoslavia.

Miss Regan said Yugoslavia originally agreed to give the refugees temporary shelter on the understanding that the West would have them all resettled by August.

"The pressure on Yugoslavia from the East has been enormous," she declared, indicating that Tito really stuck his neck out in helping Hungarians who had revolted against Russia.

A United States refugee selection mission has been in Yugoslavia since late July, as have teams from Australia and Brazil.

Need Called Twofold

That the United States take in some 1,500 of the more than 4,000 Hungarians still in Yugoslavian camps, and do so quickly enough to permit Australia and Brazil to know what is left for them.

And that the United States "add a little extra gesture" by accepting some of the "hard core" cases - the aged, sick, the youths

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under 18 who fled unaccompanied by parents, the widows with large families to support.

Miss Regan said Sweden has already taken in 85 to 90 TB cases, along with their families, and Denmark about 40.

"We cannot leave these 'hard core' people to rot in camps, nor could it be fair to saddle Yugoslavia with the residue nobody else wanted. They might even be sent back," she cautioned.

Not "Active Communists

Miss Regan termed it "misleading" to look upon the Hungarians in Yugoslavia as active Communists.

She pointed out that the last refugees to leave Hungary were actually part of the corps of Freedom Fighters who stayed behind to "sabotage" Russian influence from reasserting itself.

In another aspect of the refugee situation yesterday, the Immigration Service reported that 36,094 Hungarians had fled to the United States in the past years, 35,000 to Canada, 20,000 to the United Kingdom, and 12,000 to West Germany.

Of the United States group, 176 Hungarian adults and 30 children ren returned to Hungary voluntarily and 91 adults and 23 children were returned to camps in Austria for "misrepresenting" themselves in getting into the United States.

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