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# H-Q- REFUGEES LEFT YUGO

what with world feeling over the revolution, the plight of the refugees and the tightrope the regime here tries to walk in relations with other Communist-ruled nations - Yugoslavia appealed to the United Nations.

Under the circumstances, it was the most level-headed decision to make. The Yugoslavs could not afford to keep refugees long and the vast majority didn't want to stay here anyway. There was only one solution - get the refugees resettled elsewhere.

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To this end the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Yugoslav authorities meshed their objectives speedily and well. They were assisted by half a dozen voluntary relief agencies, mostly American. About \$12,000,000 was spent on the Yugoslav resettlement and repatriation program, better than half of which came from the government here.

Refugees who decided they wanted for one reason or another to return home were processed first. A board including UN representatives interrogated the Hungarians demanding repatriation to determine whether any arm-twisting was behind the desire.

The method suited both UN and Yugoslav purposes. About 2,7000 refugees said they wanted to go home, making the ration of returnees only a wee bit higher than that among those who fled directly West. It stifled charges that refugees were being coerced into asking for repatriation quickly.

Thus the nine refugees who headed for Switzerland on the international sleeper symbolized the conclusion of a highly successful operation. Perhaps the tempo of pressing political considerations, the costs and the conscience of the Western world all combined to act with speed. Whatever the reasons, the refugee problem in Yugoslavia was solved in a year.

Those Hungarian refugees still remaining in camps in Austria roughly equal the number who came here. It is true that they are only 10% of the original exodus of panicked humanity that pounded its way into Austria.

The point is that they should be out of camps, too. So should the nearly-forgotten earlier refugees who have been bogged down in camp life for the last 5 to 10 years. For none of them, by the way, is the Dominican Republic a haven sought or desired. Word among refugees spreads swiftly. The miserable experiences of other Hungarians are implanted indelibly in minds of refugees still waiting and hoping to emigrate.

Speed like that generated by cooperation between the UN and the Yugoslav authorities, is imperative to finish off the last of the refugee camps elsewhere in Europe. Add a little humanity and interest and it can be done in the immediate, foreseeable future.

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