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1. Brussels: The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions reports that the Austrian Trade Union ~~and~~ Federation (OGB) has received a letter of thanks from workers in 31 Hungarian transport enterprises for food parcels and clothing. The gift packages were distributed among the Hungarian workers in behalf of the ICFTU and the International Transport Workers Federation.

2. The Hungarian labor relief program has been financed by the ICFTU's International Solidarity Fund, which has raised a total of 956,000 dollars from workers in the free world.

3. Among the latest donations to the fund reported by the ICFTU are 500,000 francs from the French trade union federation ~~Force~~ Ouvriere; 100,000 marks from the West German trade union federation DGB, and 370 Australian pounds from the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

4. ~~International~~ In ~~its~~ report on the economic causes of the Hungarian freedom revolt last autumn, the ICFTU made public comparison a ~~survey~~ by the Austrian Trade Union Federation of the real wages of Hungarian and Austrian workers.

5. The OGB survey shows that a Hungarian has to work three times longer than an Austrian to buy the same amount of sugar, eggs or soap; four times longer to buy potatoes or bacon; five times longer to buy ~~the~~ rice, and seven times longer to buy coffee. In addition, the survey notes that clothing and shoes are on the average ~~two~~ twice as expensive in Hungary as they are in a neighboring Austria.

///WITH MNF A 39 OF 3/13///

(H) 1. Brussels: The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions announced last night that a total of \$926,000 has now been subscribed for the ICFTU's International Solidarity Fund to aid Hungarian workers and refugees.

2. The sub-committee of the ICFTU executive board, which concluded a three-day meeting yesterday, said the latest donation -- \$60,000 from the Swedish Trade Union Federation -- was received during the Brussels session.

3. The sub-committee adopted a resolution praising the U.N. General Assembly for its aid to Hungarian refugees and for its having voiced the indignation of all free peoples at Soviet treatment of the Hungarian people.

PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

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ICFTU GIFT TO UNITED NATIONS FOR HUNGARIAN RELIEF

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The ICFTU General Secretary, J. H. Oldenbroek, yesterday handed a cheque for \$10,000 to Monsieur Pierre Janson, delegate for Belgium of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as a contribution from the ICFTU International Solidarity Fund for relief work among Hungarian refugees.

The ICFTU General Secretary said that this could only be regarded as a token gift in view of the tremendous commitments of the High Commissioner in connection with the Hungarian refugee problem. As the High Commissioner's organisation was unique among inter-governmental bodies in being able to accept gifts from non-governmental sources, he hoped that this gesture of the ICFTU would encourage other organisations to face up to their responsibilities in ensuring that the serious deficit in the High Commissioner's funds was made good so that he could continue adequately to discharge his great humanitarian duties.

In thanking the ICFTU General Secretary, Monsieur Janson spoke of the magnitude of the task confronting the High Commissioner not only in connection with the tremendous new problem of Hungarian refugees but also with that of the displaced persons which still remains to be solved. To help out in this work the High Commissioner was always grateful to receive donations from non-governmental bodies.

He also referred to the inspiring example set by the former High Commissioner, the late Dr. van Heuven Goedhart, who had been able to achieve remarkable progress in what many had regarded as an almost hopeless task.