

15 - PLIGHT OF EUROPEAN REFUGEES.
Washington, January 10 -- (CNR/USIS) --

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the drama of 100-thousand Hungarians fleeing communist brutality has stirred world sympathy for their plight as refugees.

But, while the free nations mobilize to help, what about --

Another 70 to 75,000 still living in the refugee camps of World War II?

Some 1,000,000 others, though not in camps, who are able to maintain a bare existence only because of continuing international relief?

No accurate figures on the number of European refugees are available, but experts from both the State Department and the inter-governmental committee on European migration estimate that there are almost one-half million persons in Europe today who technically could be classified as refugees. 812,61

For the most part, these technical refugees have become integrated into the countries of Europe where they have found jobs.

But there still remains almost 175,000 displaced persons and escapees who have spent a hopeless decade as refugees, and who, in continuing hopelessness, may live out their lives as the unwanted of the world.

Officials working with the Hungarians have sensed a growing feeling of bitterness among these "other" refugees, especially the older ones.

One official wrote recently he has heard again and again the question:

"Why has the world worked so swiftly to settle the Hungarians and to bypass us?"

Another US official said with a sense of futility that there appears to be no solution to these 175,000 or so refugees who have been living off international aid since the close of World War II.

Most of them cannot migrate to the United States for four reasons: health, questionable political backgrounds, criminal records or advanced age.

At least 35,000 of them are the so-called "hard core" cases, persons who now, and probably for the rest of their lives, will need institutional care.

Many are simply unwanted. They have no work skills which would make them attractive to the nations which have opened their arms to Hungarians and to the majority of the little-heard-about thousands or so Yugoslavs who sneak to freedom in Italy or Austria every month.

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X Some will not accept resettlement because one member of a family often a parent, may have tuberculosis, the great health menace of the camps, and thus cannot migrate to any other land. Q.A.

There is some bitterness in American circles over the way certain nations have accepted refugees.

An official said the US has taken refugees, and continues to do so, "for humanitarian reasons."

But he charged that some countries have sent special teams scouring the camps and interviewing refugees solely to "recruit" those with high technical skills needed in their homelands.

Why are the Hungarian refugees generally so welcome, these others not?

The answer seems to lie in one or two simple facts: mostly the Hungarians are younger persons, often skilled, hopeful, ambitious. The World War II refugees have few if any of these prerequisites.

It is not, of course, that their plight is any less serious than that of the new refugees pouring daily across Hungary's borders.

It is just that no one wants them; their troubles; their lost youth; their unskilled hands; their sicknesses and their problems. No one, that is, but the quiet organizations of the world which struggle daily for the funds to keep them alive.

