

(W)

1. BRUSSELS: The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions reports that contributions to its solidarity fund for Hungarian workers continue to come in from all parts of the free world.

H 812.614
2. Among recent contributions is \$50,000 from the American Federation of Labor ~~Union~~ and Congress of ~~Manufacturers~~ Industrial Organizations. The United Automobile Workers of America sent another \$25,000, and the American Association of Machinists \$2,575. Elsewhere in the Americas, contributions to the solidarity fund have come from the Canadian labor congress and the chemical workers of Canada, as well as from the petroleum workers of Venezuela, and trade unions of Montserrat, British West Indies.

3. In Europe, the Danish trade union federation voted to give 250,000 Danish crowns for Hungarian relief, and the Milan affiliates of the Italian free trade unions sent three million lire to ICFTU. The British Trades Union Congress made a further contribution of 15,000 pounds, and Austrian workers collected another 1,049,000 shillings in December.

4. Other donations to aid Hungarian workers came from the Philippines, Japan and New Zealand.

5. The members of the Estonian Seamens' union in exile decided to contribute two hours wages to the international solidarity fund. The Estonian seamen also organized a public meeting in Stockholm which condemned soviet intervention in Hungary.

6. ICFTU noted that other similar demonstrations were organized by trade unions in the United States, Colombia, Cuba and the Caribbean area, as well as in the Philippines, Ceylon, France, Spain and the Netherlands.

(MORE)

netherlands 1/14/57

7. The Austrian trade union federation, ICFTU said, is continuing its efforts in two ⁵ ways -- by helping to care for Hungarian refugees and by sending aid to workers in Hungary.

A second convoy of 7,000 food gift parcels were distributed in Budapest factories by Austrian trade unionists several weeks ago, and a third convoy is to depart for Hungary soon.

icftu/bb

EP

1545

H 812.61

1. Vienna: The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration has reported that during the last week it arranged transportation to new countries for nearly 600 refugees from Communist Hungary.

2. Canada led the list of receiving countries by accepting 328 refugees. Other outgoing movements included two ship transports to South America. ~~Two~~ Early in the week 30 Hungarian refugees left Vienna for Genoa, Italy, to board a ship for Venezuela and Colombia. Another ship is taking 100 Hungarians--75 of them bound for Brazil, 18 for Chile and seven for Uruguay.

3. One other overseas country was a destination--the United States. Fifty-five Hungarian refugees traveled by ICEM bus to Munich, Germany, to board a U.S. Military plane.

~~4. The only European country to take in~~

5. In Europe itself, France received 68 refugees, who traveled from Vienna ~~by~~ to Strasbourg by rail.

6. The total number of Hungarian refugees who have left Austria for resettlement in nations all over the world since ^{last} October 28 now stands at 140,485, it was reported by ICEM.

(W)

1. Vienna: The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration announced yesterday that during the past week nearly 2,000 more Hungarian refugees left Austria for new and permanent homes in various parts of the world. All made the move with the aid of ICEM.

812-61

2. The announcement said the largest single group of Hungarians, 1,277, left Salzburg May 27 for Marseille to sail for Australia aboard a U.S. transport. With their scheduled arrival June ~~23~~²³ ICEM will have transported nearly 8,000 Hungarians to Australia since the first escapees from Soviet suppression in Hungary left Austria by air last November 29.

3. Since May 24, the ICEM announcement added, another 271 Hungarian refugees were flown to the United States aboard U.S. military transport planes, ~~while~~^{where} 284 flew to new homes in Canada and others ~~sent~~^{LEFT} for Sweden, Venezuela and South Africa.

4. Yesterday, two ICEM flights left Austria carrying a total of ~~144~~^{MORE} Hungarian refugees bound for the United States and Australia.

5. Meanwhile, ICEM said that during the past week seven more Hungarians reached freedom in Austria, bringing the total to 171,303 Hungarians who have registered with Austrian refugee authorities since last October 28th. Of this number, ~~138,869~~^{138,869} have been resettled in other countries in Europe and overseas.

TRANSLATION OF LETTER FROM
INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

ES/B/md

Brussels, January 7, 1957

Mr. Auguste Lindt,
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,
GENEVA.

Sir,

M
812.614

In reply to the letter addressed to us by Mr. James M. Read, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, and Mr. Phillippe de Seynes, Assistant Secretary of the United Nations, we wish to bring to your attention the action taken by the ICFTU and its organizations in favor of the Hungarian refugees.

At the very beginning of the Hungarian crisis, the ICFTU issued an appeal to the free workers, asking them to contribute generously to the program of aid both for the workers in Hungary and for those who have had to take refuge abroad. In particular, it invited its affiliated organizations and the International Trade Secretariats to give generously to the ICFTU International Solidarity Fund. The rapid and spontaneous response to this appeal was remarkable, and the amounts contributed to our International Solidarity Fund for the purpose of sending help to the Hungarians have so far reached the figure of 500,000 dollars.

We have asked the Austrian Trade Union Federation to undertake on our behalf action in favor of the refugees; some 1,000 of them have been accommodated in the rest homes of the Austrian trade unions. Our contribution towards their upkeep amounts to 900,000 Austrian schillings per month. 40,000 Christmas parcels, to the value of 650,000 schillings, have been distributed amongst the refugees, as well as clothing to the value of 500,000 schillings. Up to December 15, 1956, 4,000,000 schillings had been sent, through the intermediary of the Austrian Trade Union Federation, to alleviate the sufferings of the refugees. The free trade unions' aid program also includes the publication of a bulletin in Hungarian containing practical information, the organization of artistic programs executed by refugee Hungarian artists, as well as film shows in the refugee camps.

In order to facilitate the transfer of refugees from Austria to other democratic countries, we have asked our affiliated organizations to intervene with their respective governments to get them to increase their immigration quotas and to arrange for placing means of transport at the disposal of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration. We can state that the interventions by our affiliates have met with a favorable response.

Apart from our direct action, through the intermediary of the Austrian Trade Union Federation, we are also contributing to the action of International Labor Assistance, an organization with which we are associated.

Before the Soviet intervention, we had sent to Hungary 100 tons of medicine and food for the Hungarian workers. We have continued to send food parcels to the Hungarian workers; they are distributed by the representatives of the Austrian Trade Union Federation as the result of an agreement between that Federation and the Hungarian authorities. Although this does not actually come under the heading of action for the refugees, we wish to bring it to your notice. Two convoys, the first with 4,500 parcels and the second with 7,000 parcels, have already arrived in Hungary. Others will follow.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation of the considerable task accomplished by your Office, a task which from the very beginning has proved to be of the greatest utility. We fully appreciate its importance, and we reaffirm the support which we had from the very beginning

given to your predecessor, whose untimely death we deeply regret. We have been favorably impressed by the action of your Office, as described in the report to the United Nations, and we regret that the governmental contributions to the United Nations Refugee Fund for 1956 have not yet reached the figure which had been fixed. We very much hope that all the governments will fulfill their undertakings as soon as possible.

We wish to stress particularly on this occasion that the situation of the refugees, from the point of view of residence, nationality and employment opportunities, should be normalized as rapidly as possible. We consider that the refugees should benefit, after a short period of residence, from the same rights as the nationals of the country, that every facility should be given them to adopt the nationality of the host country if they so desire and that, in the meantime, they should be protected against any discrimination in the matter of employment and social security. As regards the transfer of those who are still living in the camps, in particular aged or partially disabled persons, we believe that a great upsurge of humanitarian action should permit their rehabilitation under normal living conditions.

This problem has once again become of immediate importance in view of the influx of Hungarian refugees into Austria. The splendid effort of the Austrian people and the warm welcome which the Hungarians have received in Austria should place an obligation on other democratic nations to ease Austria's burden. We appeal, through you, to all authorities to reduce the transfer formalities to a minimum, to refrain from carrying out a selection of candidates, and not to allow themselves to be guided by utilitarian motives in an action which should at all costs have no other than humanitarian aims.

We declare our readiness to cooperate with you and with the United Nations in general with a view to contributing towards the most rapid and complete integration possible, not only of the Hungarian refugees, but also of these of other origins, in the daily life of their adoptive countries.

We shall keep you informed of any further action we may take, and we should appreciate it if you would reciprocate.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd.) J.H. OLDENBROEK
General Secretary