

(H) U.S. Escapee Program

MUNICH

Nov. 1957 4, 1957

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Frankfurt - In the first 36 hours after Soviet tanks and troops crushed the October revolution one year ago today in Hungary, nearly 10,000 Hungarian refugees crossed the border into Austria. During the next two months the exodus continued at the average rate of 5,000 daily bringing the total to 174,290 Hungarian refugees in Austria. After the Austro-Hungarian border was sealed by the Soviets in early January, 19,842 Hungarians made their way to Yugoslavia.

The immediate response of the Free World to cope with this refugee situation was a factor of far reaching significance. The United States Escapee Program, a unilateral agency of the U.S. Government with an office in Salzburg, was one of the first organizations on the scene to assist the Austrian Government in rendering assistance to these victims of Communism. Emergency shipments of blood plasma, drugs and other medical supplies, food, clothing and blankets were immediately dispatched to the border areas and reception centers.

When USEP storerooms and depots were depleted, emergency amenities were purchased wherever they could be found in Austria. Five refugee centers were established by USEP in Austria and equipped with beds, stoves and kitchen equipment obtained from the U.S. Army. In all a total expenditure of 6,434,329 dollars has been made by USEP on behalf of post-revolution Hungarian refugees for emergency supplies, transportation costs, care and maintenance and resettlement support.

Emigration of the thousands of refugees was the only solution to relieve the pressure on existing and converted living facilities in Austria. In reply to an appeal from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Free World to grant asylum to Hungarian refugees, Belgium was one of the first to offer asylum followed by Switzerland, Sweden and the Netherlands. Then all the remaining Western European countries, the U.K. and overseas countries quickly agreed to accept Hungarians.

President Eisenhower through the provisions of the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 transferred 5000 unused visas to Austria for issuance to Hungarians. The United States later instituted the parole procedure and a total of 34,536 Hungarians emigrated to the United States. Canada accepted 24,505, Germany 14,241, Switzerland 11,959, France 10,181 and lesser numbers were resettled in other Western European countries,

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Australia, South America and South Africa. A total of 152,965 have been resettled in 36 countries of the Free World. Nearly 22,000 Hungarian refugees still remain in Austria.

The problem of housing the 19,842 Hungarian refugees in Yugoslavia was not as critical since a large percentage were temporarily quartered in summer resorts and hotels. Movement of Hungarians from Yugoslavia did not begin until late spring when the resort areas were getting readied for the tourist season and the refugees were moved to refugee camps. To date over 13,000 have been resettled from Yugoslavia. Belgium and France have each accepted over 2,000. Germany, Austria, Canada and Sweden have accepted over 1,000 each and lesser numbers have gone to a total of 29 countries. More than 1,400 have emigrated to the United States from Yugoslavia and an Immigration Naturalization team is still in Yugoslavia issuing paroles to additional Hungarian refugees.

For the Hungarian refugees remaining in Austria and Yugoslavia who wish to emigrate, the U.S. Escapee Program in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee for European Migration and the voluntary agencies is making every effort to find resettlement opportunities in countries of their choice.

90 percent of hungarys refugees resettled in free world-

united nations, ny nov 5-

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dr auguste lindt, u n high commissioner of refugees, reports

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that 90 percent of those who fled hungary in the aftermath of the 1956 revolt have been resettled or repatriated in the free world. he expressed hope the remaining 10 percent could be found new homes in 1958.

(W/ F-67 db of Lindt)

in his report monday to the general assembly humanitarian, social and cultural committee, dr lindt voiced gratification that international cooperation has made it possible to reimburse the austrian government for all its expenditures on behalf of the 179,000 hungarians who sought refuge from soviet terror.

a total of 20 million was contributed by other governments, he said, from which the remaining indebtedness could be cancelled by the end of december.

dr lindt, however, voiced concern for the financial burden imposed on yugoslavia which gave asylum to 20,000 hungarians after the austrian border was sealed by soviet-controlled hungary. he estimated the yugoslav government by the end of this year will have spent 6 million in housing the refugees. only 1 million has been returned to yugoslavia from other governments through the high commissioner's office, he said.

the high commissioner also urged an intensification of the effort to close the 199 refugee camps remaining in west europe as an aftermath of world war two by the end of 1960.

situated in the german federal republic, austria, greece, italy and turkey, they still shelter 39,000 persons.

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X CURT - HUNGARIAN REFUGEE TOTAL

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VIENNA, OCTOBER 26--(UP)-- SINCE THE HUNGARIAN UPRISING BROKE OUT ONE YEAR AGO 171,378 HUNGARIANS HAVE FLED OVER THE BORDER INTO AUSTRIA, A SPOKESMAN OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION SAID TODAY.

SINCE THE UPRISING 146,312 HUNGARIANS HAVE LEFT AUSTRIA FOR NEW HOMES IN THE WEST THROUGH HIS ORGANISATION THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

I.C.E.M. TRANSPORTS ARE CONTINUOUSLY SHIPPING REFUGEES TO NEW HOMES OUT OF REFUGEE - OVERCROWDED AUSTRIA. THE LAST TRANSPORT CARRIED 166 HUNGARIANS TO AUSTRALIA, HE ADDED.

UPON THE ARRIVAL OF THIS SHIPMENT TO AUSTRALIA, 8,778 HUNGARIANS WILL HAVE FOUND NEW HOMES THERE.

RECENTLY SEVERAL GROUPS OF HUNGARIANS HAVE ALSO LEFT AUSTRIA FOR LATIN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, THE I.C.E.M. SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE DANISH MISSION HAS COMPLETED ITS SELECTION OF HUNGARIAN TB CASES, AND 52 FAMILIES WILL BE TRANSPORTED FROM AUSTRIA AND YUGOSLAVIA TO DENMARK.

FROM THE 1ST TILL THE 28 TH OCTOBER 893 YUGOSLAVES FLED COMMUNISM OVER THE BORDER INTO AUSTRIA.

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frankfurt, germany, nov 22-(up)-- in the crucial days following the outbreak of last years hungarian revolution, the u. s. escapee program made dollars 6,434,329 available for emergency purposes, figures released by the agency show.

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in the first two months after the uprising, 174,290 refugees fled to austria, the agency said.

after the closing of the austro-hungary border in early january, 1957, a further 19,842 hungarian escapees fled to yugoslavia, figures showed.

the problem of resettling these refugees was and still is immense.

in reply to a united nations appeal all western european nations, the u. s., canada, australia, south africa and south america have accepted hungarian emigrants.

the first country to grant asylum to the homeless hungarians was belgium, followed closely by switzerland, sweden and the netherlands.

the u. s. gave visas to 34,536 refugees living in austrian emergency camps. canada accepted 24,508, great britain 21,450, west germany 14,241, switzerland 11,959, france 10,181 and other countries lesser numbers.

SEE U.N. FIGURES DNB-19 Note

so far 13,000 refugees who escaped to yugoslavia have been resettled.

belgium and france have each accepted 2,000 with west germany, australia, canada and sweden each a 1,000.

more than 1,400 hungarians have emigrated to the u. s. from yugoslavia.

the u. s. escapee program has announced all efforts are being made to enable other hungarian refugees still in austria and yugoslavia to emigrate the countries of their choice.

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X (H) - UN REPORTS ON REFUGEES

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geneva, oct. 26--(up)-- its not quite a year since refugees began streaming out of hungary, but the office of the united nations high commissioner for refugees reported proudly today that the problem they posed +is more than 40 per cent solved.+ indeed, so far along is the hungarian problem that high commissioner auguste lindt has now rpt now turned nearly all his energy toward a drive to solve the much older problem of the still-unsettled +old+ refugees who watched helplessly as the unprecedented outpouring of sympathy, funds, and immigration relaxations took the hungarians away in record time.

just what the hungarian refugee aid cost will probably never be known, but the high commissioners office accounted today for 64.7 million dollars of it in known funds administered through the major international organizations, millions more flowed through the churches, charitable societies, and individual or governmental donations, but in the heat of the emergency nobody even tried to keep a central record on it.

from november 1, 1956 until the flow of hungarian refugees dwindled to its present trickle, a total of 194,104 were registered -- 174,290 entering austria and 19,814 yugoslavia.

refugee officials estimate that another 3,000 to 4,000 slipped through without registering in the confusion of the first days and managed to take care of themselves, either through friends and relatives or through unrecorded return to hungary.

out of this human flood, by the end of this year less than 10,000 will still be awaiting emigration -- 7,000-plus in austria, about 1,000 in yugoslavia, another 1,000 in italy, 300 in turkey, and a handful elsewhere -- and another 7,000-plus will be awaiting permanent settlement in austria. (funds for this group are already promised.)

of the others, about 10,000 went back home to hungary, more than 164,000 emigrated to 17 european and 21 overseas countries, as of early october.

(D) - C. on RIMS on RFS.

as of today there are something over 22,000 in austria and 4,700 in yugoslavia. but firm emigration arrangements have been made to take some 6,000 out of austria and nearly 4,000 out of yugoslavia by the end of this year, leaving unsettled only *2.5B-9* 14,000 in austria (of whom 7,000 will remain permanently) and about 1,000 in yugoslavia.

heres where the 14,000-plus emigres went: (figures still somewhat incomplete because minor movements are continuing, for example to reunite scattered families, and not all details have reached geneva as yet):

u.s. 36,103 (with 1,000 more to come before end of year).
 canada 33,332
 united kingdom 16,121
 germany (west) 14,665

australia	11,520	
switzerland	11,352	(biggest per capita load of all)
france	5,062	chile 263
sweden	4,449	luxemburg 227
belgium	5,585	colombia 215
netherlands	3,242	iceland 52
israel	2,049	uruguay 30
norway	1,464	rhodesia 29
south africa	1,313	spain 17
brazil	1,168	cuba 11
denmark	1,168	paraguay 7
italy	1,117	nicaragua 4
new zealand	52	portugal 4
argentina	51	costa rica 3
dominican republic	581	cyprus 2
ireland	541	ecuador 1
venezuela	409	iraq 1
turkey	37	finland 1

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other overseas (mostly latin america) 2320

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((note that these are not yet final figures for some countries,

as a few more will be moving out of europe to overseas

destinations.)

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