

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Mr. Tracy Voorhees

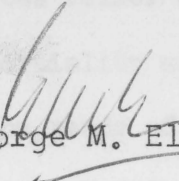
Date: December 1, 1956

From: George M. Elsey
Executive Assistant
to the President

Subject:

At our luncheon meeting yesterday, you will recall that I said I would send you the text of the agreement reached between the Hungarian Government, the Hungarian Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The agreement is quoted in full in the attached press statement which we released late yesterday evening, together with a brief summary of the Red Cross Program.


George M. Elsey

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 30, 1956

REpublic 7-8300, Ext. 710

RED CROSS SUPPLIES
IN HUNGARY GIVEN
STRICT DISTRIBUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 30--Red Cross relief supplies being convoyed into Hungary are distributed with strict impartiality and without any discrimination whatsoever other than on the basis of the needs of the persons to be assisted, Ellsworth Bunker, president of the American Red Cross declared here today.

Impartial distribution is assured by a team of observers from the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Bunker stated. This committee has sole control of the distribution in Hungary of all relief supplies, under terms of an agreement between it, the Hungarian Government, and the Hungarian Red Cross, he explained.

The agreement with the Hungarian Government calls for assistance to be given first to the sick, the wounded of all kinds, infants, expectant mothers, the aged and the infirm, Mr. Bunker said.

The International Committee has set up a headquarters office in Budapest with a staff of 20 supervisors. It is in almost hourly contact with its main headquarters in Geneva, reporting on the distribution of supplies.

The committee reported on November 26 that "rumors of blackmarket operations in food sent to Budapest by Red Cross convoys are entirely unfounded," Mr. Bunker stated.

He emphasized that there is no basis to reports that Red Cross aid is being withheld from strikers in Hungary.

Mr. Bunker quoted terms of the agreement between the International Committee, the Hungarian Government and the Hungarian Red Cross as follows:

"1. The International Committee of the Red Cross assumes the control of the distribution in Hungary of relief supplies for the Hungarian population which have been or which will be entrusted to it by national Red Cross Societies, either directly or through the intermediary of the League of Red Cross Societies.

"2. The International Committee of the Red Cross will also assume the control of the distribution of donations made on behalf of the Hungarian population which have been or which will be entrusted to it either directly or through the intermediary of the Secretary General of the United Nations organization acting in agreement with the Hungarian Government.

"3. The distribution of these supplies through the neutral intermediary of the International Committee of the Red Cross shall be carried out in accord with the fundamental principles governing its action, that is to say; strict impartiality and without any discrimination whatsoever other than that of the needs of the persons to be assisted.

"4. Towards this end the International Committee of the Red Cross shall, in agreement with the Hungarian Red Cross, draw up various programs for assistance which shall be carried out progressively according to the urgency of the needs to be met and function of the available supplies. As an example, it has already been foreseen that assistance should in the first place be given to the sick, the wounded of all kinds, infants, expectant mothers, the aged and the infirm.

"5. All facilities shall be given to the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to enable it to set up a delegation in Hungary immediately, which shall include the following personnel required in order to:

- a. draw up, in agreement with the Hungarian Red Cross, the programs for assistance mentioned above,
- b. assure the protection and the management of the warehouses which the International Committee of the Red Cross will set up in the principal distribution centres,
- c. assure the transportation of supplies to or from these warehouses,
- d. assist in the actual distribution of supplies and in reporting back to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva on these distributions for the information of donors.

"This personnel, mainly consisting of Swiss citizens, shall be placed under the orders of a Delegates - in - Chief, with Headquarters in Budapest, who will be acting in close liaison with the representatives designated by the Hungarian Red Cross for this purpose.

"6. In order to allow for the efficient execution of the strictly humanitarian action of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Hungarian Red Cross and the Hungarian Government shall see that in the exercise of its functions, the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Hungary receives all aid and protection from all authorities civil or military.

"7. The general dispositions of the present agreement shall be completed by a technical plan of operations drawn up in agreement between the representatives of the Hungarian Red Cross and the Delegate-in-Chief of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Budapest.

"8. The sole object of the present agreement being the distribution of relief supplies to the Hungarian population it cannot be interpreted as restricting the other humanitarian activities which the International Committee of the Red Cross may be called upon to exercise in Hungary in conformity with the statutes of the International Red Cross or the provisions of the Geneva Conventions."

Mr. Bunker said the agreement was signed by Roger Gallopin, executive director, for the International Committee of the Red Cross, and by the following persons for the Hungarian Red Cross; Dr. Georges Killener, surgeon, executive director of this national society; Prof. Tibor Nonay and Prof. Boldizsa Horvat, both on the medical faculty and member of the executive committee of the Hungarian Red Cross; Mr. Michel Guedeny, doctor-of-laws, head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Hungarian Red Cross. The agreement was immediately ratified by the Minister of the Hungarian government in Vienna, on authorization given directly by the Hungarian government from Budapest.

The American Red Cross has been in the Hungarian relief program from the very beginning on October 27. Since that time it has allocated more than \$300,000 for immediate emergency help such as food, medicine, clothing and housing, Mr. Bunker said.

It announced on November 27 a special fund appeal for \$5,000,000 which provides every American an opportunity to take part in the vast Hungarian relief program through the channels of the ARC, the nation's officially - delegated international relief agency.

It is helping through channels of the International Committee of the Red Cross to put persons in this country in contact with relatives in Hungary, and has issued to local chapters approximately 10,000 mailgram forms for this purpose. In addition, the Red Cross is providing controlled cable service for refugees in Austria to relatives in the United States.

The League of Red Cross Societies, of which the American Red Cross is a member, has been named by the Austrian government to supervise and coordinate all relief activities for refugees who have escaped to that country. Raymond T. Schaeffer, an ARC staff member, is now the League's chief delegate in Austria on the refugee relief program.

The ARC is providing services for refugees at Camp Kilmer, N.J. These include welfare services, communications, clothing and toilet articles. A Red Cross relief team moved into Camp Kilmer several days before the first Hungarian refugees arrived.

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THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Mr. Tracy Voorhees

Date: December 1, 1956

From: Ramone S. Eaton
Vice President

Subject:

In reference to press statements made on the radio last night, thought you would like to know that by cable we have cleared the question of any confiscation or misuse of Red Cross supplies in Hungary and have just received the following cable:

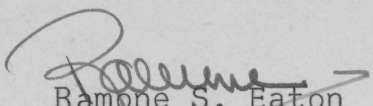
"At Press Conference in Budapest November 30 ICRC delegate denied categorically that any relief supplies furnished Hungary through Red Cross had been confiscated or misused either by Hungarians or Russians.

After restating that mission of the ICRC is to coordinate relief dispatched to Hungary and to help Hungarian Red Cross in its task of distribution, the delegate explained that all relief from Western countries is first of all forwarded to Vienna from whence it is sent on to Budapest under escort. The relief supplies are then centralized in a central warehouse on the southern outskirts of Budapest, supervised by the ICRC.

Up to date, some 4,000 tons of various commodities have reached Budapest. From now on it is estimated that 100 tons will arrive daily by road, plus 1,500 tons by boat, and 400 tons by trains, of which there will be two or three each week.

The delegate further reported that a first distribution of blankets had been made Thursday and that the distribution of foodstuffs and meals for the children of Budapest will begin on Monday."

I shall continue to keep you informed. Please know that Mr. Elsey and I are both available for any immediate discussions.


Ramone S. Eaton
Vice President

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

File

To: Mr. Tracy Voorhees

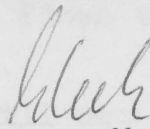
Date: December 4, 1956

From: George M. Elsey
Executive Assistant
to the President

Subject:

As you requested, I am attaching 3 copies of our discussion
this morning in Mr. Bunker's office. 2 only 1/29 B

Sincerely yours,


George M. Elsey

Memorandum of Conversation

Tuesday, December 4, 1956 ---11:00 a.m.

Mr. Bunker's Office

Present: Mr. Tracy Voorhees, Mr. Ellsworth Bunker, Mr. Ramone S. Eaton, Mr. George M. Elsey.

Subject: Role of American Red Cross with regard to additional 16,500 Hungarian refugees.

1. Mr. Voorhees outlined plans for the bringing of 16,500 Hungarian refugees to the United States, in addition to the 5,000 who are to be flown to McGuire Air Force Base by I.C.E.M.
 - a) 3 naval transports will each carry about 300 women and children cabin class and about 2,000 men. The first transport will load at Bremerhaven on December 18; the others will follow at one-week intervals.
 - b) About 9,000 individuals predominantly women and children, will be flown by M.A.T.S. from ~~Rhein-Main~~ ^{Munich-Reim} to McGuire at rates of 200 to 500 per day. Air Force, Navy and contract planes will probably be used.
 - c) I.C.E.M. will be responsible for transporting refugees from Austria to Rhein-Main and/or Bremerhaven.
2. Mr. Voorhees requested that the American Red Cross:
 - a) augment its staff at ~~Rhein-Main~~ ^{Munich-Reim} and Bremerhaven to provide appropriate services to refugees who would transfer from I.C.E.M. transportation to M.A.T.S. at that point.
 - b) provide one qualified Red Cross staff member for each M.A.T.S. plane from ~~Rhein-Main~~ ^{Munich-Reim} to McGuire.
 - c) provide a Red Cross team for each ship from Bremerhaven.
 - d) provide such personal and recreational supplies, including Junior Red Cross supplies, for the ships and planes as are appropriate.

Mr. Voorhees said that, if the Red Cross could accept this responsibility, arrangements could be made whereby the staff members could be flown by M.A.T.S. to Europe.

Mr. Bunker stated that the Red Cross would be very glad to provide the staff requested and that arrangements would begin immediately.

Mr. Voorhees said that he expected the White House would make announcement of plans for the stepped-up movement of refugees to the United States and that the Red Cross should deal directly with the White House on the announcement of the Red Cross role.

In response to a question about the desirability of the Red Cross^t providing comparable service to the balance of the 5,000 refugees being flown to this country by I.C.E.M., Mr. Voorhees said he felt that was a matter that should be handled by the Red Cross with I.C.E.M.

3. Mr. Voorhees described plans for organizing a Presidential Committee on Hungarian Refugee Aid. It would involve, among other things, an office in Washington, one at Camp Kilmer and a liaison office at The Embassy in Vienna.

Mr. Bunker offered the full cooperation and support of The American Red Cross to the Committee.

Mr. Voorhees asked that an American Red Cross representative serve on the Committee. Subsequent to the meeting, General Gruenther agreed to serve.

4. Mr. Voorhees foresaw considerable difficulties on the part of sponsoring agencies in continuing to absorb Hungarian refugees within American communities. He expressed the hope that the Red Cross would take steps to build up community interest and otherwise aid sponsoring agencies in finding housing and jobs for the refugees.

Mr. Bunker said that the Red Cross would communicate with chapters throughout the country on this question.

5. With regard to public information activities, Mr. Voorhees requested that the Red Cross keep the U.S. Information Agency fully informed of its current and planned efforts on behalf of Hungarian refugees.

6. Mr. Voorhees discussed the possibility of stock-piling army clothing, medicine and foods in Austria, to be placed at the disposal of the U.S. Ambassador for allocation as needed.

Col Humeatt

I gave the substance of
this by phone to Mr Coates;

he asked for it in
memorandum form.

Heath

Ja Chap

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Mr. Tracy Voorhees

Date: December 5, 1956

From: George M. Elsey

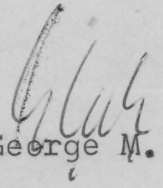
Subject:

Mr. Bunker reached Ambassador Thompson in Vienna at 4:00 p.m. yesterday, Tuesday, December 4 and discussed with him your proposal to stock-pile quantities of army clothing, bedding, medical supplies and foodstuffs in Austria. He pointed out the significance that control of such a stock-pile would have for the Ambassador.

Mr. Bunker asked me to report Thompson's reactions to this proposal as follows:

1. There is ample clothing now on hand to supply refugees to their destination.
2. Army clothing, even though altered and dyed, would have a bad psychological implication to the refugees and would be quite out of place in the new environments for refugees when they reached their country of re-settlement.
3. Under present plans, the Ambassador is hoping refugees can be moved so promptly that a stock-pile such as Mr. Voorhees outlined would not be necessary.

The Ambassador did say there was an immediate need for blankets and he would ask John C. Wilson (The American Red Cross Vice President who arrives in Vienna today) if the Red Cross will purchase blankets immediately.


George M. Elsey

File

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Mr. Tracy S. Voorhees

Date: December 5, 1956

From: Ramone S. Eaton

Subject:

This is a preliminary report on our plans in response to your request that the American Red Cross represent the American people by staffing ships and planes which will be bringing the additional 16,500 refugees to this country.

Within the past 24 hours we have completed our staff arrangements and will have a team of four persons including social workers, and recreational workers, on each of the three Navy transports with a full list of supplies covering every possible emergency need and recreational need of the refugees. We were working against a deadline of December 6 for movement of the first transport, but in spite of this have been able to arrange to place all necessary supplies on board the first ship by tomorrow afternoon.

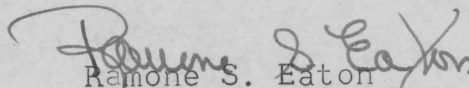
We have also completed staffing arrangements with headquarters at debarkation headquarters in Europe, and will staff each air flight out of that base and supply necessary comfort and recreational articles for the trip.

In addition to the welfare and comfort services our staff will be authorized to expend such funds as are necessary to provide emergency clothing.

We have also completed a plan of action for Camp Kilmer related to the larger number of refugees to be housed there and are taking immediate steps to increase our staff to a minimum of sixty trained persons assisted by around 300 volunteers working on a 24 hour basis.

We have been accorded the utmost cooperation by the Air Force and the Navy at the Pentagon in making these preparations.

Mr. Ellsworth Bunker wanted me to assure you that this project along with all else being done by the Red Cross will be carried through in every detail and that you can continue to count on our maximum support in the great effort you are making to provide the necessary assistance to the Hungarian refugees.


Ramone S. Eaton

Show to Gen Collins +

File under
Am Red Cross
C

American Red Cross Services at Camp Kilmer

1. Red Cross Staff and Hungarian speaking volunteers meet refugees in lounge on arrival at Kilmer.
 - a. light refreshments served.
 - b. light ditty bags (toilet articles, cigarettes etc)
 - c. Junior Red Cross gift boxes given to children
2. Red Cross provides underclothing and hosiery for women and socks for men and children immediately following clearance by U.S. Public Health.
3. Red Cross provides sleeping garments to women and children.
4. Through nation-wide telecommunications network, Red Cross assists refugees to make contact with relatives and friends anywhere in the country. Communications services are in behalf of or in cooperation with the sponsoring agencies.
5. Interpreter service throughout entire stay at Kilmer is available from Red Cross volunteers.
6. Red Cross receives used clothing which has been sent to Kilmer from a wide variety of sources; volunteers sort and distribute to the refugees. Although the Red Cross itself does not collect used clothing, it assumed this task at the request of the Commanding General.
7. Red Cross assists Army Special Services in recreation and entertainment.
8. Red Cross counseling service by social workers is available to refugees; this is supplemental to the work of sponsoring organizations.
9. Red Cross provides transportation from Kilmer on behalf of sponsoring agencies to train, bus, or airport on departure from Kilmer.

The Red Cross has 22 staff members assigned to Kilmer, working on a 24 hour schedule. About 250 volunteers serve in one capacity or another.

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Colonel Robert Huneycutt

Date: December 6, 1956

From: George M. Elsey

Subject:

I am attaching a copy of a memorandum which Mr. Ramone Eaton sent last evening to Mr. Voorhees' office at the White House. Unless you suggest otherwise, we shall send mail to Mr. Voorhees at his White House office with copies to you at the Pentagon.

Elsey
George M. Elsey
Executive Assistant
to the President

Mr. Tracy S. Voorhees

December 5, 1956

Ramone S. Eaton

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Ramone S. Eaton

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Mr. Tracy S. Voorhees

Date: December 7, 1956

From: Ramone S. Eaton

Subject:

This will supplement my preliminary report to you of December 5th on our plans in response to your request that the American Red Cross take on an additional responsibility related to the transportation of refugees to this country.

We now have completed all arrangements for a team composed of Red Cross trained staff and volunteers to be headquartered in Munich. They have been given complete authorization to meet all necessary welfare and comfort needs of the refugees coming into that point in preparation for debarkation by plane. We are sending over to be with this team Hungarian speaking Red Cross volunteers who have been active at Camp Kilmer and who will be prepared to speak to the refugees, advising them about Camp Kilmer and the reception which will await them at that point.

Plans have also been completed for a team of staff and volunteers at Bremerhaven to carry on the same activities at this embarkation point. The staff at Munich are having conferences with the proper officials to make available to the crews of the planes providing transportation such supplementary comfort or recreational equipment that can be properly used by the refugees enroute.

Despite the speed with which we have had to move because of the early date that the first naval vessel is to leave Brooklyn, we were able to place on that ship as of noon today all of the supplies necessary to meet the comfort and recreational needs of the refugees on their return trip. We were also able to recruit and place on board that ship the Red Cross team which includes both national staff members and volunteers. Similar plans are under way to accomplish this for subsequent sailings, and staff arrangements have been completed for both ships.

We have also completed arrangements for the restaffing of the operations at Camp Kilmer. By next week we will have a staff of more than 50 trained personnel who have had experience in disaster operations or in other activities similar to what they will experience at Camp Kilmer. In addition, there will be on duty some 250 - 300 volunteers daily. Both staff and volunteers are being organized on a 24-hour basis.

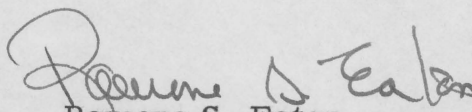
In addition to the services which we are presently giving at Camp Kilmer, concerning which you have already been advised, we have conferred with General Myers and Colonel Ruling at the Pentagon, and will confer today with General Wooten at Camp Kilmer to determine if there are any further services that the Army feels the Red Cross can properly handle.

In addition to the services we are providing to assist the Army in its operations, we will continue to strengthen the services we are providing to the sponsoring and resettlement voluntary agencies in an effort to aid them in their program. At present these consist of providing communication anywhere within the United States for any sponsoring agency or refugee, and the providing of transport from Camp Kilmer to transportation points from which the refugees with their sponsoring agencies will be leaving for their resettlement places.

The Camp Kilmer operation is being placed under the direction of Mr. Jack Henry, one of our ablest administrators and disaster specialists.

We want to express our appreciation for the fine cooperation that has been extended to us by the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy at the Pentagon in working out these arrangements.

Once more Mr. Ellsworth Bunker wants me to assure you that this project will continue to have our maximum support and that you can count on the Red Cross for the full cooperation with your plans.


Ramone S. Eaton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD (FILE):

Letter from Ellsworth Bunker of
The American National Red Cross, with
inclosure (cy of ltr sent to all Chapter
Chairman - dtd Dec 17, 1956 - attached to
this note) -- both sent January 7, 1956 to
Mr. Leo Beebe. Direction of Mr. Voorhees.

(2 cys of inclosure - one sent, and one
retained for files).



THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

*File under
Red Cross*

ECS-1324 - A 635

TO: Chapter Chairmen

DATE: December 17, 1956

FROM: Ellsworth Bunker

At this crucial and dramatic moment of history the Red Cross has been called upon once again to play a vital role. Were it not for the Red Cross, national and international, the free world would be forced to stand by while the brave Hungarian people, who have shown once again that liberty is more precious than life, endure untold hardship. It is because of the Red Cross that men and women the world over are able to show their concern for these unfortunate and suffering people through acts of concrete effective assistance. You are all familiar with what the international Red Cross and the American Red Cross are doing in providing medicine, food and clothing inside Hungary, in assuming responsibility for the care of many thousands of refugees in Austria, for providing assistance to refugees in transit and on arrival in the United States. This operation has assumed a magnitude far greater than early estimates and again the Red Cross is responding magnificently.

Tracy Voorhees, who has been appointed by President Eisenhower to coordinate relief for Hungarian refugees, has requested the Red Cross to assume still one more function. He feels that a vitally important factor in the resettlement of refugees here will be the part done by the communities in which they will find homes and jobs, and that the Red Cross, with a chapter in every community in the country, is in a position to play an important role. It can, for example, offer its services to the sponsoring agencies that have arranged for placing the refugees. These agencies may wish to use Red Cross offers of transportation, the sending of essential messages or some other form of helpful assistance. In instances where there are mass movements by train or plane, chapters can assist with canteen service, emergency essentials and in other ways. Mr. Voorhees feels that in other instances the Red Cross might well act to coordinate the work of a number of sponsoring agencies should these desire it to do so.

I am sure you will wish to communicate with the local office of the volunteer agencies which have been approved by the Department of State to assume responsibility for the resettlement of these persons, to learn from them if Hungarian refugees are expected in your community and, if so, what kind of help you can offer the sponsoring agency in carrying out their responsibilities. These organizations, listed alphabetically are:

1. American-Hungarian Federation
2. Baptist World Alliance
3. Catholic Relief Services

Enclosure

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4. Church World Service
5. Hungarian League of America, Inc.
6. International Rescue Committee, Inc.
7. Lutheran Refugee Service
8. Tolstoy Foundation, Inc.
9. United HIAS Service

Wherever the opportunity offers, chapters, I know, will want to have a part in this great humanitarian undertaking which has everywhere touched so deeply the hearts of those who cherish liberty and the dignity of human life.

Ellsworth Bunker

Ellsworth Bunker

*To be filed under
S. H. Thompson*

December 21, 1956

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

You are aware that I have been in Vienna to acquaint myself with the relief operation for Hungarian refugees in Austria which has been undertaken by the League of Red Cross Societies. In this connection, I have had occasion to speak with the responsible staff of the League in Geneva and to the staff attached to its Vienna office. Inspections have been made of the camps in the field where Red Cross nationality teams are operating.

I have had prepared a summary report on the relief operations of the national Red Cross societies having delegations here from the beginning of the refugee problem. This report, of which I am pleased to attach several copies for your use, briefly reflects early Red Cross participation in the refugee relief action under broad coordination of a League delegate, the transition of this relief action into an operating program under direct League auspices, and the present and future scope of the responsibility of the League.

I am grateful to you for the assistance you have rendered me during my visit to Vienna. I may say also, that the staff of the League assigned to this operation appreciate greatly your counsel and interest in its work and the material help you and your staff have extended.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ John C. Wilson
Vice President
American Red Cross

The Honorable
Llewellyn E. Thompson
American Ambassador
U. S. Embassy
No. 16 Boltzmanngasse
Vienna 9, Austria

Attachments

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE REFUGEE RELIEF OPERATION OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES IN AUSTRIA

Almost coincident with the tragic developments in Hungary in late October, the national Red Cross societies in the European area and overseas began to send sizable shipments of relief supplies of many kinds, as well as personnel, into Austria with the intention of onward shipment into Budapest. Some of these actually reached the distressed Hungarian capitol, but the majority reached Vienna after the border had been closed and were deployed for use in caring for the escaping Hungarian people who were coming into Austria as refugees. These first relief actions by Red Cross societies took the form of assistance to the Austrian Red Cross Society. Because of their size, however, and the clear evidence that they would continue to grow, the League of Red Cross Societies, as the federating international body assumed responsibility for coordinating the relief activities of the several Red Cross delegations in Austria and for advising the sending national societies in what way they could most constructively continue their assistance to the refugee relief work.

Mr. Henrik Beer, secretary general of the Swedish Red Cross, arrived in Vienna in early November to serve as the League's coordinator of Red Cross relief efforts in Austria. The aggravated circumstances within Hungary, the heroism of its people, and the increasing number of refugees fleeing into Austria brought an outpouring of contributions by national Red Cross societies exceeding 3,000 tons of food, clothing, and medical supplies which were contributed between November 1 and December 15 in Austria alone. Additional large tonnages from these same sources were also sent to the International Red Cross Committee for transporting to Budapest as soon as highways were reopened and safe conduct guaranteed. A modest estimate of the value of the supplies (coming from Red Cross sources) distributed to refugee camps in Austria during this period is \$10,000,000.

The complexity of the many and varied relief actions provided by national Red Cross societies in support of the Austrian Red Cross dictated the necessity of converting the role of the League of Red Cross Societies from a coordinating to an operating agency. In the latter half of November steps were taken to formalize with national Red Cross societies this operating role of the League. At the same time it was necessary to circumscribe the earlier broad relief program of the Red Cross societies, which had been directed toward shipping its supplies into all refugee camps and shelters at the request of the Austrian authorities by selecting a definite number of camps on which the aid coming from Red Cross societies would be concentrated. Before the end of November the League undertook conversations with the Austrian government to obtain a definite refugee relief load as its assignment. These conversations resulted in allocating to the League of Red Cross Societies 25,000 refugees in 14 camps. This bilateral arrangement was later formalized and reduced to writing as a tripartite agreement with the addition of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees as the third member. Formal signing of this contract took place on December 5th.

The broad terms of this contract make the League of Red Cross Societies responsible for providing welfare and health services, specifically food, clothing, and limited medical care to 25,000 refugees in the 14 designated camps for the period ending February 28, 1957 and, in addition thereto and because of a financial subsidy from the High Commission for Refugees, these same services are to be provided for an additional 10,000 refugees in ten more camps for the period January 1 through February 28. This means that a total of 35,000 refugees in 24 camps are the responsibility of the League of Red Cross Societies beginning January 1st. Financial responsibility for the first 25,000 rests entirely on the League of Red Cross Societies from December 15

to February 28. The financial assistance from the High Commissioner's office, amounting to \$413,000 will help defray the cost for these same services to the additional 10,000 refugees for the two months of January and February.

The organization of the League's refugee relief operation follows the simple plan of establishing a minimum administrative and supervisory structure at its headquarters in the Wandl Hotel and having operating personnel in the form of Red Cross teams in the camps. For interpretation and assistance to the teams, there is a minimum staff of field representatives. An interesting aspect of the operation is that the staff is international in character composed of representatives from 13 different national Red Cross societies. The teams represent nationality groups and are contributed by their national Red Cross organizations. For your information, I am attaching (Attachment A) a list of the 24 camps showing their location, refugee population, and the nationality of the Red Cross team assigned to each. I need not mention that there is considerable interest in the home countries contributing these different Red Cross teams and this interest undoubtedly extends to support, both financial and in the form of relief supplies. To date, 14 teams are in the field and have been in full charge of welfare and medical care of 25,000 refugees since December 15.

As has already been mentioned, approximately 3,000 tons of supplies were contributed by national Red Cross societies and distributed in Austria since the beginning of this operation. These supplies, consisting of food, clothing, bedding, camp equipment, medicaments and personal comfort articles were sent to all refugee camps and shelters upon request from governmental authorities. By admission of these same authorities, the Red Cross supply service, acting as the supply arm for the government, furnished from its central depots approximately 80% of all basic food delivered to refugee camps from November 1 to December 15. These supplies represented contributions from a total of 30 Red Cross societies. Effective December 15, the League began concentrating its remaining supplies and those arriving in the future on its contractual obligations in 24 camps. The government of Austria has been advised accordingly. Camps now under League care and those coming under League care on January 1st have already received a two-weeks' supply of basic foods. We have been materially helped in making these allocations by United States' surplus goods, as well as purchases undertaken for us through your Embassy.

All food rations have been based on a minimum calorie count of 2,650 per person per day for refugees in League camps. This calorie provision is somewhat higher than the contractual obligation of 2,400 calories daily assumed by the League. There is attached (Attachment B) a statement of our present supply position and of our needs for the period ending February 28. It will be apparent that this statement of supply requirements has been calculated on the basis of food values in relation to calorie content.

While donations of supplies from national Red Cross societies have been generous in the past, it is anticipated that the amount of such donations will diminish during January and perhaps substantially disappear by the end of February. This will necessitate increasing amounts of basic food items to be obtained from U.S. surplus stocks and by outright purchase. It is hoped that we can sustain the interest in national Red Cross organizations to contribute at least supplementary foods, but we cannot plan on material help from this source for our basic food needs.

For the period beyond February 28, the League has indicated its willingness to consider an extension of its refugee relief operation to more camps encompassing yet another 10,000 refugees. This further expansion is predicated upon satisfactory financial arrangements being completed with the High Commission for Refugees, and for securing a concentration of the additional 10,000 refugees in a relatively limited

number of camps. Preliminary conversations to this end have already begun with the Austrian government and with the High Commission for Refugees in Vienna. On its part, the League of Red Cross Societies is querying the national Red Cross organizations to determine their ability and readiness to contribute the additional number of teams that will be required as well as to extend the time of those teams now in the field for the period through June 30. There is some question whether national Red Cross societies can continue the existing teams and send the additional ones required at their own expense for the extended period involved in such an enlargement of the League's relief operation. These negotiations involving the government and the High Commissioner's office as well as those involving national Red Cross societies are now in progress and will be completed before January 15, on which date it is planned that the League's relief load may be expanded to 45,000 refugees.

The responsibilities for refugee relief assumed by the League involve, of course, heavy financial obligations. The commitments undertaken through February 28 will need, entirely aside from contributions of relief supplies, a monetary expenditure in excess of \$1 million. This amount must come from national Red Cross societies and it is confidently expected that the money will be made available. This further financial outlay by the Red Cross societies does not include the costs of the teams and other personnel which these societies are now defraying and have agreed to continue carrying through February 28. A conservative estimate of the total contributions of the Red Cross national societies, acting through the League, to the refugee relief program in Austria from November 1 through February 28 is as follows:

Material relief supplies already shipped.....	\$10,000,000.
Relief supplies still expected.....	5,000,000.
Cost of staff assigned.....	700,000.
Contributions of funds for operating budget.....	1,100,000.
	<u>\$16,800,000.</u>

R. T. S./cs

December 21, 1956

Liste A

über die von den Rotkreuzgesellschaften
zu versorgenden Lager.

Red Cross Camps

(25.000 Flüchtlinge) refugees					Teams
<u>Burgenland:</u>					
Kaisersteinbruch	Fassungsraum	4.000	Personen	4.000	German
<u>Kärnten:</u>					
Karawankenhof (Ferlach)	"	700	"		Austrian
Annabichl (Kaserne)	"	500	"	1.200	"
<u>Niederösterreich:</u>					
Judenau	"	1.000	"		Holland
Spratzern b.St.Pölten	"	3.000	"		Denmark
Traiskirchen	"	3.500	"		Swedish
Wr.Neustadt I (Luftwaffenlazarett)	"	1.000	"		Finnish
Wr.Neustadt II (Artilleriekaserne)	"	1.000	"		Canadian
Wöllersdorf	"	1.000	"		British I
Schloss Liechtenstein bei Mödling	"	500	"	11.000	British II
<u>Oberösterreich:</u>					
Bad Kreutzen	"	1.000	"		Norwegian
Ried im Innkreis	"	2.500	"	3.500	French
<u>Salzburg:</u>					
Siezenheim	"	4.500	"	4.500	American
<u>Tirol:</u>					
Wörgl A u.B	"	800	"	800	Austrian
				25.000	

Übertrag

25.000 Personen

Liste B

(Ausdehnung um 10.000 auf 35.000 Flüchtlinge) refugees

Niederösterreich:

Teams

Korneuburg	Fassungsraum	500	Personen		Swedish
Hyrtil'sches Waisenhaus bei Mödling	"	1.500	"		German
Klosterneuburg	"	1.000	"		Danish
Stockerau	"	1.000	"	4.000	Monaco

Oberösterreich:

Wels (Fliegerhorst)	"	1.000	"	1.000	Austria
---------------------	---	-------	---	-------	---------

Wien:

Kaiser Ebersdorf Kaserne	"	1.500	"		France
Rothschildspital	"	1.000	"		Swiss
Brigittaspital	"	500	"	3.000	Canadian

Tirol:

Speckbacherkaserne bei Hall	"	1.000	"		American 2
Jägerkaserne bei Imst	"	1.000	"	<u>2.000</u>	American 3

35.000

=====

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

FOOD REQUIREMENTS TO FEBRUARY 1957

REFUGEE DIET -- BASIC FOODS 2,658.5
CALORIES

ITEM	CALORIES PER 100 GRAMS	CALORIES PER PERSON PER DAY	GRAMS PER PERSON PER DAY	KILOS PER 100 PERSONS PER DAY	KILOS PER 100 PERSONS PER 12 WKS.	TONS NEEDED FOR 35,000 FOR 12 WKS.	INVENTORY JAN 1, 1957 (as of Dec. 20, 1956)	TONS NEEDED JAN. 1 -- FEB. 28	TONS DONATED NOT YET RECEIVED	ADDITIONAL NEEDS NOT PROVIDED FOR
FLOUR	330	1114	450	45	3780 666) 1323)	1989	27.000	1326	550.000	749
MEAT	200	200	100	10	840	294	24.802	196	55.000	117
FAT	881	352	40	4	336	118	115.860	79	39.000	-
LENTILS	305	174	57	5.1	478.8	168	28.542	112	20.000	64
SUGAR	400	114	28.5	2.85	239.4	100	12.309	67	50.000	34*
RICE	350	374.5	107	10.7	898.8	315	115.549	210	103.000	-
CHEESE	200	64	32	3.2	268.8	105	74.867	70	-	-
MILK DRY	480	266	55	6.5	460	162	21.000 163	108)*	168.000	-
TOTAL:	3146	2658.5	869.5	87.35	7301.8	3251	419.929	2223	985.000	964
MILK POWDER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM TO AGE 13	480	133	27	2.7	230	82		55)*		
<u>SUPPLEMENTAL FOODS:</u>										
FISH							8	50	4	38
MARMALADE							0	30	0	30
COFFEE							0	15	0	15
COCOA							8	15	0	7
TEA							0	15	0	15
EGG POWDER							0	10	0	10
							16	135	4	115



THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

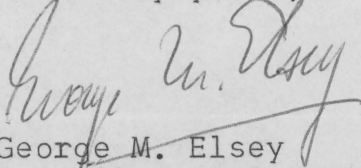
January 2, 1957

Dear Mr. Voorhees:

The Minneapolis-Hennepin County Chapter of the American Red Cross has informed our national headquarters that \$1,000 has been contributed to the American Red Cross Hungarian Relief Fund by the Winston Lumber Company of Minneapolis, and that a check for this amount has been sent to you by Mr. David Winston of that Company. The Chapter understands that Mr. Winston has received an acknowledgment from your office of the check.

Inasmuch as we have no record of receiving this remittance from your office, we shall appreciate it if you can have a check made to ascertain its whereabouts. Until we have credited the contribution on our books, we are unable to give proper credit to the Minneapolis-Hennepin County Chapter for this contribution against its campaign quota and the Minneapolis Chapter people are understandably anxious about receiving proper credit.

Sincerely yours,


George M. Elsey
Executive Assistant
to the President

Mr. Tracy Voorhees
The White House
Washington, D. C.

JAN 4 1957

*Taken care of by TSV
in meeting today of Mr. Elsey*

W. D. Brown
+
Elsey Ann

Jan 4/57 File: Amer. Red Cross
Red Cross

35,000 in 24 camps
is League of Red Cross present
quota — Ray Schaeffer
(an American) is director of
League effort.

Amer Red Cross 4 camps
with about 9,000 refugees

League would agree to take
on 55,000 including all
organized (excludes small camps
of 200 or less) if funds available.

Red Cross could handle 35,000
till Feb 28; also " " some of
costs (like staff ~~costs~~) after
Feb-28 for 55,000 but would need
funds for supplies, food, & ware-
housing & misc. expenses.

League estimate of cost
for 35,000 for 3 months (Dec-Feb) except

(2)

Team
food + staff is \$ 1,600,000.

(Am Red Cross trainer for 6 mos
is 340,000)

Original
Referred
to Bess

January 4, 1957

Dear Mr. Voorhees:

The International Committee of the Red Cross is establishing at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland a central card index for Hungarian refugees. The Committee states that it is undertaking this in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The card index will consist of uniform descriptive cards to be filled in by the refugees themselves. A sample card is attached.

The Committee proposes to establish its central index with the assistance of Red Cross Societies of the several countries to which refugees have gone, the governments concerned, and any other authorities or organizations that might possess information about the present location of refugees.

The Committee has informed us that it will not communicate any refugee's address to an inquiring party without first consulting the refugee and obtaining his permission.

The American Red Cross believes that it is in the American interest to cooperate with the International Committee in this project. We have consulted the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service and have been informed that there is no objection on the part of those agencies to the American Red Cross' providing information requested by the Committee.

It is our intention, therefore, to undertake to have the refugees now at the Kilmer reception center and those still to arrive fill out the International Committee form and we shall endeavor to work out arrangements with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and other interested agencies so that the required data on refugees who have already left Kilmer can be obtained.

Any assistance which the members of your office and the staff of the President's Committee on Hungarian Refugee Relief could give to this project will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Wilson
Vice President

Mr. Tracy Voorhees
The White House
Washington, D. C.

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE



Név
Name
Nom
Name

Keresztnév
Vorname
Prénom
Christian name

Születés kelte
Geburtsdatum
Date de naissance
Date of birth

Foglalkozás
Beruf
Profession
Profession

Legutóbbi lakhey Magyarországon
Letzter Wohnorlin Ungarn
Dernier domicile en Hongrie
Last home address in Hungary

Atya keresztnéve
Vorname des Vaters
Prénom du père
Father's christian name

Születés helye
Geburtsort
Lieu de naissance
Place of birth

Állampolgársága
Staatsangehörigkeit
Nationalité
Nationality

Tessék olvashashatóan, nyomtatott betűkkel írni. * Prière d'écrire en lettres capitales.
Deutlich schreiben - Druckschrift erwünscht. * Write clearly and in printed letters.

Menekültiek számontartására szolgáló lap, kizárólag a GENÉVI NEMZETKÖZI VÖRÖSKERESZT KOMITÉ használatára.
Minden, egyes nagykoru személyre és minden gyermekre vonatkozólag külön lap tölendő ki.
Meldekarte für Flüchtlinge, ausschließlich für den Gebrauch des INTERNATIONALEN KOMITEES VOM ROTEN KREUZ, GENÈVE, bestimmt.
Für jede volljährige Person und für jedes Kind eine Karte ausfüllen.
Carte signalétique de réfugiés destinée à l'usage exclusif du COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE, GENÈVE.
Remplir une carte pour chaque personne majeure et pour chaque enfant.
Refugee personal particulars card, for the exclusive use of the INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, GENEVA.
Fill in a separate card for each adult and each child.

Jelenlegi cím (ideiglenes) }
Gegenwärtige Anschrift (provisorisch) }
Adresse-actuelle (provisoire) }
Present address (temporary) }

Rendeltetési ország

Bestimmungsland

Pays de destination

Country you intend to enter

Legközelebbi hozzátartozó címe (feltételes)

Anschrift des nächsten Angehörigen (fakultativ)

Adresse du plus proche parent (facultatif)

Address of nearest relative (optional)

Kik a legközelebbi hozzátartozói, akiknek kíséretében van:

Welches sind Ihre Sie begleitenden nächsten Familienangehörigen:

Quels sont les membres directs de votre famille qui vous accompagnent:

By which members of your family are you accompanied:

Férj keresztnéve

Vorname des Ehemannes

Prénom de l'époux

Christian name of husband

Feleség keresztnéve

Vorname der Ehefrau

Prénom de l'épouse

Christian name of wife

Gyermekek keresztnéve

Vorname der Kinder

Prénom des enfants

Christian name of children

Ha kiskorúakról van szó, szíveskedjék jelezni,

vajjon szüleiknél tartózkodnak-e:

Igen — Nem

Handelt es sich um Minderjährige,

bitte um Angabe ob sie bei ihren Eltern sind:

Ja — Nein

S'il s'agit d'enfants mineurs, indiquer s'ils sont avec leurs parents:

Oui — Non

In the case of minors, state whether living with their parents:

Yes — No

Kelet

Datum

Date

Date

Aláírás

Unterschrift

Signature

Signature

January 31, 1957

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MEMORANDUM FOR: O - Mr. Henderson

SUBJECT: Red Cross Activities in Austria

Mr. George M. Elsey and Vice President John C. Wilson of the American Red Cross discussed with me yesterday the future of the LICROSS (League of Red Cross Societies) operations in Austria. As you know, LICROSS has now accepted responsibility for care and maintenance for 35,000 Hungarian refugees in Austria now in camps, will soon accept responsibility for 45,000, and is being asked to take over a caseload of at least 55,000. Messrs. Voorhees, Tuck, Hollister and Ambassador Thompson are all agreed on the necessity for assuring that LICROSS assumes as much of the care and maintenance operation as possible. The Department has concurred and has been pressing for such a solution.

Messrs. Elsey and Wilson indicate that the American Red Cross and the other National Red Cross Societies which comprise the League are anxious to pull out of the Hungarian refugee operation in Austria by June 30, 1957. The Red Cross Societies feel that they are committed to a potentially long-range problem in Austria, and they feel that this is foreign to their basic operating mission, i.e., disaster or emergency relief. They, therefore, understandably wish to free themselves from the refugee activity which they say by June 30 could no longer be classed as an emergency.

I understand that General Gruenther personally has indicated his unwillingness to commit the American Red Cross to the LICROSS Austrian operations beyond the end of June. He is, of course, prepared to discuss this with an open mind if the Government feels that we would like to extend the date for withdrawal of LICROSS. He would, I am informed, be sympathetic to a gradual phase-out starting June 30 rather than a wholesale withdrawal.

I am sending copies of this to Messrs. Hollister and Voorhees and am requesting their reactions. I would recommend that the Department's view be that we try to keep LICROSS and the American Red Cross in operation in Austria as long as possible, but that we must recognize the validity of their arguments leading towards withdrawal. Perhaps a compromise date of December 31 could be negotiated. This is recommended

strongly

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-2-

strongly by Mr. Tuck in his report and is backed by Mr. Voorhees. I am sure there will be resistance both on the part of the American Red Cross and the other National Red Cross Societies to an extension of this duration. But, if we had the LICROSS in business during this period, it would assure: (1) that they would be able to take over camp care and maintenance for 55,000 refugees or even more; (2) that the camps would be operating efficiently and would make the ultimate take-over by the Austrian Government less difficult; and (3) that the Austrian Government would have more time to train personnel and prepare itself for administration of the camps.

Mr. Voorhees has informed me that he is discussing this in the White House and hopes to secure approval by the President so that General Gruenther can speak directly to the President on this matter.

Dwight J. Porter

Copies to:

The Honorable John B. Hollister
The Honorable Tracy S. Voorhees ✓


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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY
FOR ADMINISTRATION

2-4-57

Mr. Voorhees:

The attached is sent for your
information.


Dwight J. Porter

File: Red Cross

C O P Y — TELETYPE

FM AMCONGEN GENEVA
TO AMCONGEN MUNICH

PRITY UNN FIRST

GENEVA: THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT STARTING TOMORROW ITS FACILITIES FOR HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA WILL BE ENLARGED TO CARE FOR A TOTAL OF FORTYTHREE THOUSAND REFUGEES—EIGHT THOUSAND MORE THAN PREVIOUSLY.

THE LEAGUE SAID THAT AS OF FEBRUARY SECOND IT WILL TAKE OVER SEVEN CAMPS THAT HAVE BEEN OPERATED BY THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. THIS WILL BRING TO THIRTYONE THE NUMBER OF CAMPS OPERATED BY LEAGUE MEMBERS.

THE RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION ALSO SAID THAT IT EXPECTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN ITS CAMPS DURING THIS MONTH. IT SAID A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF REFUGEES NOW BEING CARED BY THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT IN SMALLER CAMPS AND OTHER FACILITIES WILL BE MOVED INTO RED CROSS CAMPS.

THE CAMPS TO BE TRANSFERRED TOMORROW AND THE TEAMS OPERATING THEM ARE:
CAMP FEFFERNITZ—AMERICAN RED CROSS; CAMP EISENSTADT—AUSTRIAN RED CROSS;
CAMP ST MARTIN—CANADIAN; CAMP STEYR—DANISH; CAMP STADL-PAURA—MONACAN;
CAMP ENNS—SWEDISH; AND CAMP HAID—SWISS.

SCHEDULED TO BE TAKEN OVER IN MID-FEBRUARY BY A NETHERLANDS RED CROSS TEAM IS CAMP ALTETTENHOF, WITH A CAPACITY OF ONE THOUSAND. WIENER

2-1-57

Red Cross Rec'd
2/26/57
1130-8

February 15, 1957

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Financial Support of LICROSS

Dr. Lindt, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, indicated in discussions this week with myself and others in the Department that he was extremely anxious to continue the LICROSS care and maintenance operation in Austria throughout 1957. I pointed out that the United States Government was in complete agreement with this policy, but I indicated that we felt that the present case-load trend in Austria was such that there would be no justification for asking LICROSS to stay beyond September 30. Dr. Lindt indicated that he would be satisfied to negotiate for an extension only until September 30 although he would hope that should the emergency exist beyond that date he would have the opportunity to press LICROSS to stay for an additional period.

Lindt indicated that the estimated need for governmental support of LICROSS from July 1 through December 31 was about \$2 million. He asked for a United States pledge of financial support in that amount. I indicated that I would undertake to get him an answer urgently, but that the United States support would not be given in the form of a cash grant to the UNHCR but would be given directly to LICROSS after consultation with the UNHCR. I explained that this was necessary since we expected much of our grant to be in Austrian currency, the release of which would have to be handled bilaterally rather than through the United Nations. Dr. Lindt understood this and indicated that he only wished a pledge for assurance of financial support.

His negotiations with LICROSS start in Geneva in early April, and our answer is therefore required if possible. I pointed out to him that any substantial contributions which might be made by other governments to him should also be considered for use in support of LICROSS and he agreed that the United States pledge would be reduced to the extent he could secure other funds for this purpose.

Dwight J. Porter

Copies to: Mr. Voorhees (White House) ✓
Mr. Sage (ICA)
IO
ORM - Mr. McCollum
O - Mr. Kendrick

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Copy of ltr written by hand to General Alfred M. Gruenther

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 19/57

*File under
Red Cross*

*(cc crossed
under
Gruenther)*

Dear Al,

Thank you for sending me the copy of your letter to Foster Dulles. I agree with you:-

- (1) that this matter must be settled very promptly
- (2) that if the U.S. is not going to make an all-out effort to resettle these people permanently as soon as possible in other countries - additional to our taking part of them into the US - the LICROSS would become a mere custodian and should not be asked to go on with the job. However if - as I believe we will - the U.S. does adopt a vigorous policy of such resettlement, then we would need at least until September 30th to have the Red Cross complete the job of emergency temporary care which it undertook and is doing so well. I am working with State on these matters and we shall be in touch with you soon.

Yours

/s/ Tracy

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Feb 15, 1957

Dear Tracy -

I know you
are very much
interested in this
subject - and I
suspect that your
views are not the
same as mine.

The important thing
however is to get a
decision soon, because
whatever it is, much
preliminary work is
required.
All my best
EJ

agency is to take over the operation, plans should be made for that shift very, very soon. If the League of Red Cross Societies is to continue, early action must be taken to convince the League of the necessity of continuing its work beyond June 30, 1957. Our information here is that the officials of the League feel that the question should be decided on or about June 30, 1957.

February 15, 1957

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I feel that the responsibility of the League of Red Cross Societies for the operation of the Hungarian refugee camps in Austria should terminate on or about June 30, 1957.

You are aware, I am sure, that the League accepted the responsibility from the Austrian government for the care and maintenance of 43,000 refugees through June 30, 1957. When the League undertook this obligation, it was understood to be on an emergency basis pending inter-governmental action.

I am giving you my own personal point of view on this subject before it becomes an official American Red Cross position. I realize that there is a contrary point of view and that there are officials in your Department and elsewhere who hold the opinion that the League should continue its work well beyond that date. I am, of course, most eager that no action of mine will adversely affect the U. S. Government.

It is my conviction that the great value of the Red Cross is its ability to act swiftly in emergencies. This ability is diminished, if not destroyed, if a large part of its resources become involved in long-term operations of a relief nature. I regard the care of the thousands of refugees who will surely be in Austria beyond June 30th as a long-term proposition that can scarcely be justified as the kind of emergency situation in which Red Cross should be involved.

Furthermore, the very nature of this type of operation is one that rapidly reaches the point of diminishing returns. To continue it too long may well bring discredit on the League of Red Cross Societies and specifically upon the American Red Cross and the United States Government.

As far as I can ascertain, the United States Government has not yet taken an official position as to how the refugee camps are to be operated after June 30th. If another

agency is to take over the operation, plans should be made for that shift very, very soon. If the League of Red Cross Societies is to continue, early action must be taken to convince the League of the wisdom of this move (and also I must be convinced!). Our information here is that the officials of the League feel that the operation should terminate on or about June 30, 1957.

There is one school of thought which feels that this is merely a question of providing funds, and that if the United States Government makes money available for continued Red Cross operation, that will solve all problems. I do not agree with that premise. Financial assistance would, of course, be required, but I consider that the Red Cross should terminate the operation of the refugee camps at an early date regardless of the availability of funds.

I strongly recommend that this problem be considered by you at your earliest convenience. I am fearful that further delay may cause the U. S. Government considerable embarrassment.

Because I know of their concern in this problem, I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to Mr. John Hollister and Mr. Tracy Voorhees.

Respectfully,

SIGNED: ALFRED M. GRUENTHER

Alfred M. Gruenther

The Honorable
John Foster Dulles
Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY
FOR ADMINISTRATION

To - Mr. Voorhes

In accordance with our
telephone conversation I am
attached a copy of our
memo to Mr. Henderson
regarding LICROSS operations
in Austria —

Jos T. Kendrick

Rec'd 2/28

February 15, 1957

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENDERSON

SUBJECT: League of Red Cross Societies Operations in Austria

The League of Red Cross Societies (LICROSS) is now or will shortly be operating 33 camps in Austria with a population of 43,000 Hungarian refugees. By all reports the League operation, which is the combined effort of many of the various national Red Cross Societies, has been the most effective contributing factor in bringing order out of chaos in refugee administration in Austria. Many advantages are gained out of the LICROSS participation:

1. The League provides trained staff and know-how not available within either the Austrian bureaucracy or its private relief organizations.
2. The League, through contributions of the respective national Red Cross Societies, has paid for much of its operation without resort to government funds. The Red Cross contributions have been in cash, commodities and personnel, with a total value estimated up to \$10 million. \$1,273,000 of our United States Government contribution to the UN has been allocated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for LICROSS operations to June 30.
3. The League provides a uniform standard of adequate care, an objective impossible of achievement without a coordinated relief organization.

Mr. Hollister, Mr. Voorhees, Mr. Tuck and the Department, as well as the UN and Austrian authorities, strongly recommend the continuation of LICROSS refugee camp administration in Austria for as long as it is needed and can be secured. The need is obviously directly related to the size of the refugee population now estimated at 60,000. If the figure falls below 30,000 there would seem to be no overriding necessity for the League to continue in business.

The Red Cross Societies, including the American Red Cross, are understandably anxious to have a terminal date placed on their Austrian commitment. They do not wish to tie down staff and resources which may be needed elsewhere. They have been operating on a proposed withdrawal date of June 30, 1957. They would probably be prepared to consider a reasonable compromise to extend a few months beyond that date, if they have governmental financial backing.

Our

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-2-

Our original position was to negotiate with them to stay on through December 31, 1957. However, it now appears, as reported by Ambassador Thompson, that the refugee population should be down to a level of less than 30,000 by September 30, 1957, which would make the League operation no longer essential. This forecast is, of course, based on a tight border control, as well as continued resettlement out of Austria. Ambassador Thompson indicates that the Austrian Ministry of the Interior has privately indicated that, even though the Austrians are extremely anxious to keep the League operation as long as possible, there would appear to be no justification for extension beyond September 30 unless a new emergency develops.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr. Lindt, has the responsibility for negotiations with LICROSS. The negotiations to amend the present agreement will take place in early April in Geneva. Lindt has high praise for the LICROSS operation and has been hoping to negotiate an extension through 1957. He has asked the United States Government to pledge up to \$2 million (some portion of which could be in Austrian currency) so that he could be in a position to assure LICROSS that their dwindling private resources would be adequately supplemented for use during the proposed additional six months of operation. We have told Dr. Lindt we would provide him with an answer as soon as possible. We have also informed him that our support, if forthcoming, would not be given in the form of a cash grant to the UNHCR but would be given directly to LICROSS after consultation with the UNHCR, since we wanted to be sure that all other potential private and governmental contributions would be utilized.

While Lindt is anxious that LICROSS remain in Austria until December 31, he is prepared to accept a compromise date of September 30, on the understanding that a new emergency would allow us to reopen the matter. We feel that we cannot, in all fairness, ask the Red Cross Societies to commit themselves beyond September 30, based on our present projection of the refugee level in Austria at that time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that, since the American Red Cross Society plays the dominant role in the League's operations and since General Gruenther has indicated the desire that the League withdraw from its Austrian operation by June 30, you, Governor Herter, Mr. Voorhees, and an ICA representative meet with General Gruenther as soon as possible to discuss the situation and secure his agreement to an extension of the operation until September 30. You might wish to ask the Secretary to participate as well.

2. It is

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2. It is recommended that the Department advocate a policy of agreeing to pledge sufficient financial support to assure that the LICROSS operation has sufficient resources to carry on until September 30. The exact amount of the pledge cannot yet accurately be determined, but it should not exceed \$1.5 million, a portion of which would be in Austrian currency. This, of course, would be done in coordination with Mr. Hollister.

3. It is recommended that Ambassador Thompson be authorized concurrently to work with the Austrian Government to stimulate their planning for taking over relief administration on October 1, and that he be authorized to assure Austrian authorities that the United States will continue to do its share to support the Austrian Government in this task. His negotiations should be carried out after consultation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Special funds for this purpose are being included in the FY 1958 Mutual Security appropriation. The Department is also supporting legislation which has been submitted to Congress as a draft bill which would amend P.L. 480 so that portions of currency generated under Title I could be used for refugee relief. Surplus commodity negotiations are under way which it is hoped will develop substantial amounts of Austrian currency for refugee use, although these monies may have to be used for purposes other than LICROSS expenses. Finally, as in the past, still other assistance can be given in the form of donations of surplus commodities under Title II.

Dwight J. Porter

CONCURRENCES:	IO	EUR	WE	E	ICA
	(Phillips)	(Jones)	(Tyler Torbert Compton)	(Macone)	(Sage)

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*File under Red Cross
Mr. Zoschke
for 4:00 mtg*

March 1, 1957

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENDERSON

SUBJECT: Meeting with General Gruenther on League of
Red Cross Societies Operations in Austria

Several new factors in the Hungarian refugee situation in Austria lead me to believe that the United States Government should adopt a less rigid position concerning the continuation of the operations of the League of Red Cross Societies (LICROSS) in Austria after June 30, 1957 than advocated in my memorandum to you of February 15, 1957. At that time, I recommended that we attempt to persuade General Gruenther that LICROSS operations should be continued through September 30, 1957 and elicit his support for such a policy in discussions with LICROSS.

The new factors are:

1. Refugee Influx. New arrivals have averaged less than 40 a day in recent weeks and are currently around 20. Tighter border controls and bad weather are believed primarily responsible. Although an increase may come with milder weather, Ambassador Thompson and his staff have estimated a progressive decline in the refugee population in Austria.
2. Movement from Austria. Movement to Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and even European countries has exceeded expectations. If the United States continues to accept a considerable number of refugees, the total monthly emigration will be 5 to 10 times the influx, and possibly more.
3. Total in Austria. As a result of the above factors, the Hungarian refugee population in Austria declined from 72,770 on December 22, to 64,930 on January 29 and to 54,199 on February 27. Ambassador Thompson has indicated the total might decline to 35,000 by June 30, 1957. Austria has stated it could absorb 20,000 refugees.
4. Camp Population. On February 2, LICROSS agreed to take over new camps, bringing its total responsibility to 43,000 refugees. On February 20, LICROSS agreed to care for a total of 47,000 refugees and by May 1 to assume responsibility for 50,000 refugees. LICROSS camps have, however, never contained more than 33,662 refugees (the maximum number being on February 12) and now contain 32,000. Simultaneously, the number of Hungarians in Austrian Government refugee camps has been progressively reduced from 42,000 on December 17, 1956 (shortly after LICROSS began operations) to under 8,000.

The other Hungarians in Austria are 12,000 refugees under care of private agencies and several thousand estimated to be supporting themselves

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or

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or to be assisted by friends and relatives. Until February 15, the Austrian Government paid a subsidy of twenty schillings a day to welfare agencies supporting refugees and in some cases directly to "free-living" refugees. Such subsidies have virtually ceased.

The completion of the rehabilitation of old camps, the reduction of population in existing camps by continuing emigration, and the termination of the Austrian Government subsidies should all lead to an accelerated movement into LICROSS camps of the remaining Hungarian refugees who can not support themselves.

5. U.S. Objectives for LICROSS. Throughout, the main United States objectives in advocating an increasing role for LICROSS in the administration of refugee camps in Austria have been: a) the provision of trained personnel to administer them; b) the establishment of acceptable and uniform standards of nutrition, sanitation and clothing; c) the economies entailed in operation of relatively few, large camps (only LICROSS camps have been able to use U.S. surplus agricultural commodities for refugee feeding); and d) the greater ease in processing refugees for emigration at a few locations.

The factors discussed in paragraphs 1 through 4 should result in the accomplishment of the United States objectives for LICROSS operations at an earlier date than had been anticipated. Nevertheless, the Austrian Government must have time to train camp administrators to take over the LICROSS camps without permitting a deterioration of its established standards. This is all the more important as the refugee population is becoming increasingly restive and minor riots more frequent. Serious outbreaks of violence would have extremely harmful political and propaganda effects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That you note with pleasure the recent decision of LICROSS to take over additional camps bringing the total capacity on March 1 in the camps to 47,000 refugees and to assume responsibility for 50,000 by May 1.

2. That you note that the total refugee population on February 27 was 54,000.

3. That in view of the declining influx and the increasing emigration the United States objective for LICROSS (establishment of refugee camps with adequate and uniform standards) is being achieved at an earlier date than anticipated.

4. That you therefore make the following suggestions, in order to permit the Austrian Government adequate time to train competent personnel

and

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and to prevent a decline in the high standards established in the LICROSS camps:

- (a) A phased reduction of LICROSS operations, with the Austrian Government obligated to take over ten or twelve camps on June 30 and a like number on July 30 and August 30, the exact details to be worked out between LICROSS and the Austrian Government. Such a procedure would thereby permit an orderly phase-out between June 30 and September 30. August
- (b) Assurances should also be sought that if unforeseen circumstances should result in the presence of more than 50,000 refugees in Austria, LICROSS would remain beyond the agreed dates.
- (c) The United States pledges sufficient financial support to assure that the LICROSS operation has sufficient resources to carry on under the conditions enumerated above. (It is assumed that the costs will be less than one million dollars and should not exceed \$1.5 million, depending on the refugee caseload. A portion of these monies would be in Austrian currency.) To the extent dollars are required from Section 401 of the Mutual Security Act, their availability would be subject to Presidential determination.

Dwight J. Porter

Copies to: Mr. Sage (ICA)
SCA - Mr. McLeod
WE - Mr. Torbert
O - Mr. Kendrick

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EUR:WE:PC Chapin:ds



THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 9, 1957

Dear Tracy:

John Wilson, as you know, is now in Vienna after having reviewed the refugee situation with League officials in Geneva.

I am attaching a copy of his latest cablegram report to me which reflects an opinion which seems to be prevalent throughout Red Cross circles that the League operation can be closed out on June 30. As you know, I am very hopeful that will be the case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al", which is the signature of Alfred M. Gruenther.

Alfred M. Gruenther

Mr. Tracy Voorhees
Department of Defense
Room 3 D 800
Washington 25, D. C.

COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

sloan

VIA TELEX T-275

Date sent: MARCH 6, 1957
Date received:

LICROSS AMCROSS T-275 6.3.57 6.30PM

Cablegram received from:

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM JOHN C WILSON VIENNA

QUOTE FOR GENERAL BRUENTHER AMCROSS

AFTER CAREFULLY REVIEWING SITUATION CONVINCED LEAGUE OPERATION CAN BE COMPLETED JUNE 30 BARRING ADDITIONAL MASS MOVEMENT INTO AUSTRIA WHICH NO ONE EXPECTS. BASED ON PRESENT CAMP POPULATION AND EMIGRATION PLANS, NUMBER REFUGEES REMAINING IN CAMPS JUNE 30 WILL BE REDUCED TO THE POINT AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE. LEAGUE SHOULD PROVIDE FOOD FOR 30 DAYS BEYOND JUNE 30 & SO PERSONNEL SHOULD REMAIN FOR ADEQUATE PERIOD TO COMPLETE SMOOTH TRANSITION OF CAMP OPERATION. AMBASSADOR THOMPSON AGREES ABOVE PLAN SOUND. I SHALL DISCUSS DETAILS WITH LEAGUE UPON RETURN GENEVA. AMBASSADOR WOULD LIKE ME TO VISIT HUNGARY BUT HAVING DIFFICULTY SECURING VISA. JOHN C WILSON

DUNNING LICROSS

CC
THE PRESIDENT
MR NICHOLSON
MR ELSEY
INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANTS
MR RAMONE EATON
MR EDSON
MR JOHN WILSON
MR ROBERT LEWIS
MR BLAIR
MR MARTIN
MR STARR
MISS YOUNGBERG

MR GEORGE SMITH
MR BRUGGE

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE FOR HUNGARIAN REFUGEE RELIEF

March 12, 1957

Dear Al:

Speaking as a lawyer who has seen many witnesses cross-examined, I want to tell you what a perfectly superb performance you put on on Sunday in Meet the Press. I liked especially the simplicity and candor of your answer as to why you went with the Red Cross instead of going into business. This frank though modest statement of your placing humanitarian and spiritual considerations above business considerations was something which I am sure did the American people a lot of good to hear from you because they believe you. Anyway it did me good.

I just have your letter enclosing the cable from John Wilson. It does look to me as though we were going to be able to reduce this Austrian situation to a point at which the Red Cross could get out earlier than seemed possible even a couple of weeks ago. Surely the plan outlined in the cable for the gradual phasing out after June 30, on the basis that the refugee population has been reduced by that time to essentially the number that Austria can keep permanently, would seem to meet the situation. A good deal I think still depends, however, upon two factors:-

Are we going to have the courage, even though Congressman Walter may growl, to continue to bring into the United States a reasonable number -- 3,000 or 4,000 -- of these refugees a month as long as the need exists; second, are we going to have a really effective organization to carry out the policy which I mentioned to you and which has now been finally approved by the big boss? State is now organized to do this -- a conclusion with which Chris Herter agrees. Yet we have no organization adequate to handle it outside State. Mr. Hoover, Sr. proposed such an organization on December 27. I have done all I could to get something effective accomplished, and I enclose copy of my memorandum to Bob Macy of February 26 on this subject, which I sent to him because Mr. Brundage was then absent. Beyond a note to Percy Brundage when he got back, I have not felt it appropriate to press the matter further

since it was not part of my official job, and I have no status as to this other than that of an interested citizen.

Please do not trouble to acknowledge this note.

Yours faithfully,

SIGNED

Tracy S. Voorhees

Encl:

Cy Memo Feb 26
to Bob Macy

General Alfred M. Gruenther *crossed*
President, The American National Red Cross ✓
Washington 13, D. C.

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

*File under
Gruenther*

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

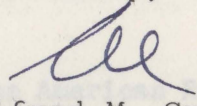
April 25, 1957

Dear Tracy:

I am enclosing a very brief summary of the Red Cross action in the Hungarian matter which I thought you might like to review.

I am sure you know by now that the League of Red Cross Societies has decided to close out its operational responsibility for camps in Austria on June 30 at which time the Austrian Red Cross will assume control. The League and the several national societies who have been engaged in the project will assist the Austrian Red Cross after June 30 with supplies and personnel, and we anticipate that the transition will be a smooth one.

Sincerely,


Alfred M. Gruenther

The Honorable
Tracy Voorhees
Department of Defense
Room 3 D 800
Washington, D. C.

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

George M Elsey ABDFJIMPT
Office of the President
Main Bldg

NEWS SERVICE

FOR RELEASE - SUNDAY
APRIL 21, 1957

Hungarian Relief

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 20 -- By the end of June, the American Red Cross will have spent or committed \$5,250,000 for what General Alfred M. Gruenther hailed today as "one of the greatest humanitarian efforts of our time" -- the Hungarian relief program.

In making the announcement, the American Red Cross president said the League of Red Cross Societies, which at one time was operating 40 refugee camps in Austria sheltering 50,000 persons, will transfer its operations to the Austrian Red Cross by June 30. At that time, it is estimated there will be some 25,000 refugees left in the country.

Some of the 36 American Red Cross workers who have been in Austria since December operating five of the camps for the League may be asked to stay on for a short time after June 30 to assist the Austrian Red Cross in the administration of refugee camps, the General stated.

The \$5,250,000 will have been spent by the American Red Cross by June 30 as its share in the aid-to-Hungarians program carried on by the world's Red Cross organizations under the League of Red Cross Societies.

General Gruenther said this amount, contributed by the American people during an emergency campaign last December, was used by the American Red Cross to help Hungarians in Hungary itself; in Austrian and Yugoslav refugee camps; aboard ships and planes bringing them to the U.S.; and at the Camp Kilmer, N.J., reception center.

In addition, members of the American Junior Red Cross have furnished supplies valued at \$143,280 to the young people among the refugees.

At the request of the Austrian government, the League of Red Cross Societies began operating camps in Austria on December 15. The actual running of the camps was delegated to teams from 13 national Red Cross societies loaned to the League.

The American teams, made up of Red Cross workers and volunteers from the U.S., are in charge of refugee centers at Salzburg, Worgel, Imst, Hall and Feffernitz. In addition, the League operation in Austria is directed by an American Red Cross staff member, Raymond T. Schaeffer, assistant to General Gruenther and former director of Red Cross Disaster Services.

The cost of running the League camps in Austria comes to over \$900,000 a month. The camps' supplies are either goods donated to the League by national societies or bought with funds contributed to the League by the societies.

Under an agreement with the Hungarian government, the all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross has been the only outside international organization allowed into Hungary to distribute relief supplies.

General Gruenther noted that the ICRC feels the more urgent food needs of the country now have been met and in the period between April and June the relief program will shift its emphasis to medical and social assistance, such as rebuilding and equipping hospitals and clinics.

Between late October and November, when the crisis flared, until the end of March, the ICRC transported to Budapest by rail, road and barge a total of 22,536 tons of relief supplies that included food, medicines, clothing and coal. About 530,000 persons in Budapest received the Red Cross aid.

During the five-month period, the ICRC:

Made available 2,000,000 nine-pound food parcels, 100,000 of which came from the American Red Cross and 500,000 from food made available by the U.S. International Cooperation Administration;

Issued a daily milk ration to 173,000 Budapest mothers and children;

Distributed 450 tons of food monthly to 66,000 youngsters in schools, kindergartens and nurseries;

Gave 63,000 woolen blankets to homeless families, the needy and to Budapest hospitals;

Supplied 500 tons of shoes and clothing and 3,000 tons of coal for hospitals and children's homes.

Under the shift-in-emphasis plan, certain portions of the relief program will be terminated between now and June 30. Food distribution to children and schools will terminate by the end of April and the issuing of food parcels will stop in June.

In the way of medical relief, the Red Cross has provided enough insulin to meet the needs of the whole country until production returns to normal. Shipments of antibiotics, ambulances, a fully equipped hospital and costs for running sanitariums also have been made.

Most of the supplies sent into Hungary by the ICRC came from national Red Cross societies. Besides the American Red Cross, contributions came from societies in 40 other nations.

One of the major problems in the refugee program has been the fact that no record has been kept on where the Hungarians who fled their homeland migrated to. The ICRC has asked each country to list the names and if possible the present addresses of the refugees they accepted. The American Red Cross has already furnished the Committee with information on about 30,000 of the refugees.

This information is being compiled by the Committee into a central locator file which will make it possible for persons to find where missing friends or relatives among the refugees now are living.

Besides caring for the Hungarians in refugee camps in Austria, the Red Cross also has been assisting the Yugoslav Red Cross, which is sheltering some 17,000 Hungarian refugees. The American society has provided \$200,000 to purchase supplies for these people.