

TSV Copy

Metropolitan Club  
Washington 6, D.C.

June 17, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR

- Mr. Lewis M. Hoskins, Executive Secretary, American Friends Service Committee, Inc.
- Mr. Moses A. Leavitt, Executive Vice President, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.
- Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, Executive Director, Catholic Relief Services - NCWC
- Dr. R. Norris Wilson, Church World Service

Mr. Hallam Tuck, who was as you know a Vice Chairman of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief and a man with very broad experience in refugee relief problems, is seriously concerned about unemployment hardships being suffered by many of the Hungarian refugees brought over under the President's program a year ago last winter. His feeling is based largely on a report from Mr. Bela C. Maday, Executive Secretary of Co-ordinated Hungarian Relief. Annexed is a copy of a memorandum which Mr. Maday has furnished to the State Department summarizing the problem as he sees it.

As you know, I have no further official or other responsibility in connection with the Hungarian refugees. However, I am of course interested in any serious problems which they face, and I know you are also.

It was recognized throughout that the Federal Government owed some special moral obligation to these people on a temporary basis to assist in their assimilation. Since the last persons employed are likely to be the first to be laid off, and since most of these people could not comply with residence requirements for public relief, it is natural that the set-back in business would cause considerable hardship. Apparently this has been dealt with in part on a local level. You will note Mr. Maday's recommendation that there is need for the Federal Government again to assist temporarily.

I have no clear idea as to whether such a recommendation should be supported on the basis that a real emergency confronts a substantial number of these people. It would be quite a radical step to use moneys from the President's Special Fund for this purpose, but perhaps not impossible to do so if the need is real.

I should greatly appreciate it if you would each be willing to give me your thoughts as to the situation and any recommendation you may have as to what if anything I should do.

TRACY S. VOORHEES

Encl. as stated

9/16/58  
M/R: Before sending the above memorandum, I discussed the matter with Mr. Robert S. McCollum at State Dept., and he agreed that it was desirable for me to send such a memorandum as this. TSV

TRACY S. VOORHEES

Metropolitan Club  
Washington 6, D.C.

July 19, 1958

NOTES ON PRESENT HUNGARIAN REFUGEE RELIEF PROBLEM

Last month Mr. Hallam Tuck urged me to look into this situation. He was basing his action on the report of Mr. Maday, Executive Secretary of Co-ordinated Hungarian Relief, which was furnished to the State Department last month. I wrote to the principal religious agencies which had sponsored most of the refugees for resettlement. The Catholic, Protestant (Church World Service) and Jewish agencies all responded that they felt that no government assistance was needed. This was apparently an expression of head office views.

Then Mr. Harrison Salisbury phoned me and told me of his pending story for the New York Times and of the extent of his investigation. He was convinced that the religious agencies were wrong and that they had not made any real study of the local situations but had merely expressed off-the-cuff the head offices' views. He also felt that Mr. Maday's report had not overstated but had in fact very considerably understated the extent of the problem. I telephoned Mr. McCollum and Mr. Gray to give them advance word that such an article was in the works. I got from Mr. Salisbury a galley proof of the article but this did not reach me until just before publication.

Since that time I have talked again with Mr. Maday, and with Mr. Leo Cherne, Chairman of the International Rescue Committee which sponsored quite a number of the refugees, aided in the scholarship program for them, and did a very large job of relief in Austria for the Hungarian refugees. Mr. Cherne believes that the religious agencies are disinclined to do anything more for these refugees because they feel that they have already done more for them than for other refugees and are somewhat tired of the problem. Mr. Cherne adds that the agencies do not want to have anything appear which might indicate indirectly that they have not done a good job in resettlement.

I also learned that the American Council of Voluntary Agencies held a meeting on this subject last week. The Council's Executive Director, Miss Charlotte Owen, gave ample evidence by her work a year and a half ago of her capability and objective viewpoint. I have not been able to reach her but Mr. Maday tells me that she feels that something more should be done.

Mr. Salisbury, as his article indicates, feels very strongly that something needs to be done, but that a relatively small amount of money could deal adequately with the situation and make a great difference in the public record of the United States in meeting the refugee crisis.

The Government does, I believe, have a special responsibility toward these people because it brought them in as a matter of government policy. It was not their fault that the recession occurred a few months after they got jobs so that as the last hired they were naturally the first to be laid off. Also, they present a special case because they had not been here long enough to comply with the residential requirements for welfare assistance in most areas.

I know of no way that funds to meet this special situation could be obtained from private sources. I do know that my capacity to raise funds for the Hungarians from charitable sources was completely exhausted by my efforts at the time of the crisis and later in connection with the scholarships for university students.

Aside from the humanitarian aspect and the special responsibility which our Government through the President's action assumed toward these people when we brought them here, there is a real danger of the Russians utilizing the situation, especially through the increased number of refugees recently seeking repatriation in Hungary, for propaganda purposes. Mr. Tuck who has the broadest experience in such matters and who does not exaggerate, feels very strongly that this is a source of real danger to us. Just as a matter of reducing the propaganda material on which the Russians and the puppet Hungarian government would undoubtedly capitalize, some modest expenditure would seem to be justified since each returnee could be made a source of very bad publicity for the U.S.

Based on the above factors, I suggest for consideration the allocation of a sum not to exceed \$500,000 from the President's Special Fund to be utilized by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, through the instrumentality of its regional offices and through them the State and local welfare agencies in the centers of greatest need. The principal areas of trouble appear to be Detroit, Cleveland, Youngstown, Chicago, and certain sections of New England and New Jersey.

My thought is that the offer of assistance should be only to those hardship cases among the Hungarian refugees brought over under the President's program of a year ago last winter who would be entitled to local welfare assistance except for their inability to comply with the residential requirement. (Such assistance is not necessary in New York City as apparently there is no residential requirement there for welfare assistance.)

The above method would be an answer to any criticism that we were giving preferential treatment to the Hungarian refugees over other refugees or other Americans in economic trouble due to the recession. It would merely tend to equalize the situation of these refugees by eliminating the handicap due to their relatively recent arrival. I think that the details of how such assistance would be carried out should be left to the discretion of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare within the total dollar figure allocated.

I would think that such assistance should be neither concealed nor publicized. Any effort to publicize it would undoubtedly increase the demands.

I would also think that this should be expressly stated to be temporary, one-shot, assistance to meet an unexpected emergency, and that it would in no way imply any continuing obligation or further assistance.

I will be in New Hampshire next week but expect to return to Washington on Monday, July 28, and shall of course be glad to do anything I can which might be of help.

I am sending copies of these rough notes for information to Mr. Gray at the White House, to Mr. McCollum in the State Department, and to Mr. Beasley in HESW.

TRACY S. VOORHEES

JUL 24 1958

Chairman  
HENRY J. CADBURY

Executive Secretary  
LEWIS M. HOSKINS

Executive Secretary Emeritus  
CLARENCE E. PICKETT

## American Friends Service Committee

INCORPORATED

Twenty South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia 7,  Pennsylvania

Telephone, RITTENHOUSE 6-9372

July 22, 1958

Tracy S. Voorhees  
Metropolitan Club  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Tracy Voorhees:

I was away on vacation when your recent letter arrived asking for our judgment as an agency as to the current critical needs of some Hungarian refugees undergoing resettlement in the United States. Upon my return I debated a reply but our agency had been represented in discussions with Roland Elliott preceding his letter to you, and this letter in general represented our judgment.

In the meantime, however, I have seen the article by Harrison Salisbury in the New York Times. This dramatically points up some human needs in certain critical areas, although it isn't clear just how balanced and how authoritative he is at every point. I am writing now because I know this article will raise the question again in the minds of some people in the government.

Our agency would still subscribe to Roland Elliott's letter. While there are some critical needs among Hungarian refugees in a few areas, this is not limited only to Hungarian refugees nor to new immigrants but to people of various walks of life and backgrounds in these areas. Where special problems exist in Hungarian cases we would feel that plans for meeting them should be worked out in cooperation with the national agencies which originally sponsored them and with the help of such local private and public resources as are available. The question of possible federal aid we feel is a broader one than that of the present emergency needs of the Hungarians and we are doubtful whether the Hungarian refugees as such should be singled out for special treatment. This may actually make more difficult their long-range integration.

We also subscribe to the comment in Roland Elliott's letter that concerned government officials might give careful consideration to the studies now underway in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, as to that department's possible role regarding immigrants, refugees, and new Americans generally. If they could help ameliorate some of the disabilities affecting such new immigrants in certain areas, this would be helpful, not only for the Hungarians but for other new arrivals in the recent past and in the future. I understand that a special task force has made a study for the department and that it contains considerable value. Perhaps you and others concerned from other parts of the government will want to give this serious consideration and it may very well be that the present critical needs in a few areas can thus be met in a long range way without singling out a special group for attention.

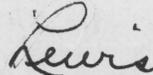
Needles to say, we will be in as close touch as we can with the situation and if it

deteriorates more, may want to review this judgment.

We are very grateful that you continue to be concerned and alert to the possible needs.

Best wishes.

Sincerely your friend,



Lewis M. Hoskins  
Executive Secretary

LMH:cb

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Personal and  
Confidential

July 23, 1958

Dear Tracy:

I have read with very great interest and appreciation your notes of the 19th regarding the present Hungarian refugee relief problem. It is helpful to have your thoughts on this matter; surely no one has lived closer to the problem than you.

We have had meetings about your previous call and the concern you expressed. Certainly we are well admonished to move cautiously so that we do not jeopardize the program which is such a monument to Tracy Voorhees.

Unfortunately, it seems that there is no general agreement on this problem. For example, R. Norris Wilson, Executive Director of Church World Services, has indicated that unemployment among the resettled Hungarians is no more acute percentage-wise than among recent arrivals of other immigrant nationalities or than among native American citizens in the areas of unemployment. He recommends against preferential treatment of Hungarian refugees on the grounds that it might encourage criticism of the basic program.

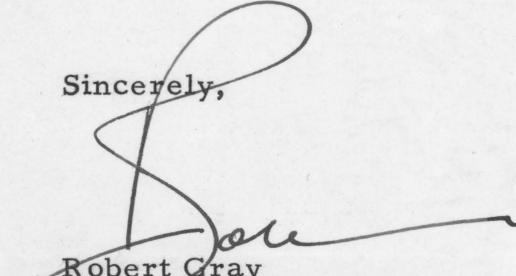
As you undoubtedly know, Congress has passed H. R. 11033, under which Hungarian refugees paroled into the U. S. may acquire the status of permanent residents, and, in all probability, the bill will receive Presidential approval. This should clear up one of the major problems confronted by the refugees.

As you may also know, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has undertaken a survey of unemployment among Hungarian refugees in the United States to determine whether any special coordinated government action is required. When the results of the survey are available, which it is expected will be within a few days, we will again give careful consideration to this problem.

In the meantime, if you have any further thoughts or suggestions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With kindest personal regard,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Gray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Gray  
Secretary to the Cabinet

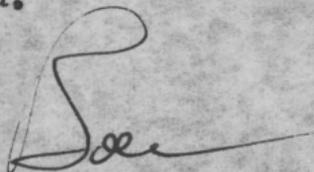
The Honorable Tracy S. Voorhees  
The Metropolitan Club  
Washington 6, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 1958

Mr. Voorhees,

I thought you might be interested in  
seeing the attached.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bob Gray', written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bob Gray



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
WASHINGTON

AUG 11 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE ROBERT GRAY

Attached for your consideration is an analysis prepared by the Bureau of Public Assistance, Social Security Administration, of this Department relative to the welfare needs of Hungarian refugees throughout the Country as a result of the recent recession. This summary report is based on materials received in response to our inquiry from representatives of State, local, and voluntary welfare agencies.

The results of the survey generally indicate a situation not as serious as depicted by Mr. Maday in the Coordinated Hungarian Relief, Inc. study or Mr. Salisbury in the New York Times article. On the other hand, it would undoubtedly be an over-simplification of the problem to assume that the situation is under control and no assistance by the Federal Government is needed. The true picture seems to fall somewhere between these two extremes. We recognize that a factor of paramount importance is the realization that a problem of even limited scope has significant implications.

It must be emphasized that the materials received in response to our inquiry in many instances are fragmentary and primarily expressions of opinion rather than valid statistical data. Accurate or complete information on the extent and severity of the problem is not procurable within the limits of our resources. Since there is a general knowledge, where they prevail, of residence and citizenship requirements for public aid, individual cases of distress not meeting these criteria often are not brought to the attention of the State and local public welfare directors.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is ready, as it has been in the past, to assist in a program by the Federal Government for the relief of the Hungarian refugees. We are concerned with the welfare of the general public and such concern is not limited only to citizens but extends as well to refugees and immigrants.

Honorable Robert Gray

In the event a decision is reached that assistance to meet the current needs of the Hungarian refugees is to be made available with financial support from the President's Emergency Fund as suggested by Mr. Tracy Voorhees, this Department will develop a special program of assistance and service within authorized limitations. Such a program would be implemented through the local public welfare agencies utilizing funds transferred to this Department from the President's Emergency Fund and would be administered by our Bureau of Public Assistance, Social Security Administration. The Bureau would, of course, consult with the voluntary agencies who have programs in this field to assure coordination of public and private agency activities.

Representatives of this Department will be glad to discuss the problem further, should you so desire. Mr. Robert A. Kevan, Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, is the focal point in my office for refugee and immigrant matters.

15/ Arthur S. Flemming  
Secretary

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
Social Security Administration

July 31, 1958

SUMMARY REPORT

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG HUNGARIAN REFUGEES--POSSIBLE NEED FOR SPECIAL  
FEDERAL AID

On July 3 regional public assistance representatives were requested informally to make quick telephone inquiries to selected State welfare agencies requesting that they secure and submit any procurable information from public and voluntary welfare and related agencies on the status of Hungarian refugees with particular reference to unmet need due to unemployment. Responses were secured from New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Colorado, Washington, and California. Specific information was included from 16 selected cities within these States.

Because public and voluntary income maintenance, and social welfare agencies generally do not maintain records identifying people served by nationality or citizenship, factual information available is fragmentary and most incomplete. The few items of factual data and general observations susceptible to summarization and pertinent to the inquiry are set forth below. 1/.

1. While no reliable data on the number and proportion of refugees unemployed can be secured in cities alleged to have serious unemployment problems, the reports from local public welfare agencies fail to confirm widespread need due to unemployment; rather they indicate the situation is not so serious but what available aid and service is adequately meeting need. These are illustrated by Detroit, Cleveland, Bridgeport, New Haven, and Hartford.
2. General assistance in relief of unemployment is available to those refugee Hungarians in need without restriction of residence or citizenship in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, California, and Michigan. It is available in Ohio subject to some limitations in geographic coverage and distinction as to movement after initial resettlement. Such assistance is not available in Florida and Washington but no serious problems were reported. For Illinois the situation was not clearly stated.

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1/ The source materials in the form of submittals from State and voluntary agencies include a considerable amount of collateral information on the status of the refugees and community measures provided in their interest.

3. It is impossible to secure valid data on the extent of eligibility for unemployment insurance. It may be broadly assumed that most of the Hungarians, having settled in the cities were employed in activities covered under unemployment insurance, and to a substantial extent secured insured status prior to their unemployment. Some doubtless are receiving extended unemployment insurance as a result of recent Federal legislation and increasing State implementation of such benefits.
4. Voluntary agencies and sponsoring groups are known to be actively serving refugees in the cities in which the refugees have settled, and no reports have been received indicating that the private agencies are unable to carry this responsibility with the possible exception of medical care in some instances. Reports to the Bureau of Public Assistance from State welfare directors stated these groups were providing some assistance and medical care in Pittsburgh, Denver, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Seattle, Spokane, and Los Angeles.
5. Problems faced by the Hungarians most frequently mentioned in the reports to the Bureau of Public Assistance are medical and hospital care needs <sup>2/</sup> (8 States or cities), the continuing language barrier, vocational training in the methods of this country for using skills and occupations of former employment in Hungary. Lack of tenure, and hence seniority, uncertain legal status, and the personality problems of some also contribute to the difficulty of keeping jobs or finding new jobs after a period of unemployment.
6. More specifically the returns from the Bureau of Public Assistance inquiry, do not generally reflect as serious a situation as implied by either the Coordinated Hungarian Relief study or the New York Times article. The latter reporter, for instance, cites estimates that in Detroit 70% to 80% of 1600 refugees are unemployed. The Wayne County Department of Social Welfare reports to the Bureau of Public Assistance that there are currently 26 recipients of financial aid which is available to those in need without regard to residence and citizenship. Other forms of public assistance have been available to any who may have acquired legal settlement in Detroit.

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<sup>2/</sup> New York State Department of Social Welfare reports that 177 of the 209 cases assisted during the period through May 1958 involved needs for hospital care.

In Cleveland, the reporter cites an estimate of 40% of 3,000 to 4,000 refugees as unemployed. The Cuyahoga County Department of Welfare reports, without citing figures, that the county welfare department is providing aid to needy refugees whose initial settlement in the United States was in that county, and such aid is given without any other restrictions. It reports that private agencies are meeting the needs of those who first settled elsewhere and then came to Cleveland.

In Connecticut, where the reporter states the situation is very serious, the State welfare department reports the general policy is to give assistance to Hungarian refugees in need without other restriction and the local welfare directors of Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport, report there is no serious problem. They know of no situation in which needed aid has been unavailable.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

AUG 15 1958

Dear Tracy:

Just a note to explain that we have not forgotten the problem of unemployed Hungarians and, in fact, I have just received this week the final report from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare on its survey of the problem. The results indicate some improvement in this area but I still anticipate an early meeting with HEW and the Administration on any possible future courses of action.

I would appreciate your keeping us advised on any additional information you receive as we are most anxious to keep on top of the problem.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob", written in dark ink.

Robert S. McCollum  
Deputy Administrator for Refugee Programs  
Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs

Mr. Tracy S. Voorhees,  
Metropolitan Club,  
H and 17th Streets, N. W.,  
Washington 6, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

August 20, 1958

Mr. Robert K. Gray  
The White House  
Washington

Dear Bob:

Thank you for sending me the HE&W memorandum about the situation of Hungarian refugees. I have read this together with the attached report with interest. I feel that there is nothing further that I should do as a private citizen about this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Tracy S. Voorhees

# *Co-ordinated Hungarian Relief*

INCORPORATED

1761 "R" STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

NORTH 7-8200



December 17, 1958

The Honorable  
Tracy S. Voorhees  
The Pentagon  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the President and the Board of Directors of Coordinated Hungarian Relief, it gives me great pleasure to present to you a Citation, mailed under separate cover, as a token recognition of the important and selfless assistance which you have rendered and stimulated for the relief of the Hungarian people.

Beyond the material assistance extended, you can take justifiable pride in having played such a significant part in sustaining the morale of those who remained in Hungary. In addition, through your good deeds, many of the refugees who fled to freedom have been aided in their efforts toward establishing new and fruitful lives.

Although the excitement and generous support which attended the drama of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 virtually evaporated, the desperate need of the Hungarian people continues, irrespective of public enthusiasm. Therefore, we fervently hope - as do these beleaguered people - that you will continue your demonstrated ability and dedication in serving this humanitarian purpose. Let us effectively keep open this remaining channel of direct assistance to the Hungarian people, who so forcefully have shown their true colors. Let them know that we still care!

Again, you have our profound admiration and the heartfelt gratitude of the Hungarians whom you have assisted.

Sincerely yours,

*Bela C. Maday*  
Bela C. Maday  
Secretary

BCM:mbd

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PROGRAMS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FILED WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VOLUNTARY FOREIGN AID, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Metropolitan Club  
Washington 6, D.C.

January 5, 1959

Mr. Bela C. Maday  
Secretary, Co-ordinated Hungarian Relief  
1761 R Street, N.W.  
Washington 9, D.C.

Dear Mr. Maday:

I greatly appreciated your very generous letter of December 17, and I want to express through you my thanks to the President and Board of Directors of Co-ordinated Hungarian Relief for their action in awarding to me the Citation for services rendered to the Hungarian Refugee Relief Program.

I had very real satisfaction in the work I did for the Hungarian refugees, and I shall always retain my interest in and desire to be of any assistance that I can be to them.

That was a fine story about the Hungarian family in the Christmas issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

Yours faithfully,

Tracy S. Voorhees