

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

Statement by the President

The United States considers the development in Hungary as being a renewed expression of the intense desire for freedom long held by the Hungarian people. The demands reportedly made by the students and the working people clearly fall within the framework of those human rights to which all are entitled, which are affirmed in the Charter of the United Nations and which are specifically guaranteed to the Hungarian people by the Treaty of Peace to which the Governments of Hungary and of the allied and associated powers, including the Soviet Union and the United States, are parties.

The United States deplores the intervention of Soviet military forces which under the Treaty of Peace should have been withdrawn and the presence of which in Hungary as is now demonstrated, is not to protect Hungary against armed aggression from without, but rather to continue an occupation of Hungary by the forces of an alien government for its own purposes.

The heart of America goes out to the people of Hungary.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

Statement by the President

All America pays tribute in these troubled days to the courage and sacrifices of the Hungarian people in their determination to secure freedom. In struggling to obtain this goal for their country, the Hungarians are undergoing grave physical hardships and privations.

In order to help the Hungarian people in this hour of need, I am authorizing immediately an initial allocation of \$20 million from the funds appropriated by the Congress for emergency use, to be employed for food and other urgent relief necessary for the alleviation of their sufferings.

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November 3, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

FOLLOWING IS A LETTER FROM
E. ROLAND HARRIMAN, CHAIRMAN OF
THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS:

My dear Mr. President:

I thought you might like to have a summary of the day and night efforts in which the American Red Cross has been engaged since last Saturday in providing urgently needed medical and food supplies for the people of strife-torn Hungary.

Working through the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva, we have been buying medical supplies and food in Europe and at the same time, with the assistance of the U. S. Air Force and commercial airlines, have been sending emergency cargoes of drugs and foods from this country.

It is interesting to note that we are not acting alone in this venture. Thirty of the 75 Red Cross Societies throughout the world, coordinated by the League and the International Red Cross Committee, are pouring literally thousands of tons of relief supplies into this beleaguered nation. Five representatives of the International Red Cross are now in Budapest coordinating the speedy and impartial distribution of supplies.

Since last Saturday, when we first learned through Geneva of the urgent need in Hungary, the American Red Cross has spent or allocated approximately \$130,000 for relief, \$100,000 of which is being expended by the League in Europe. Six air shipments have been sent from here, the latest of which was an Air Force Globemaster carrying 15 tons of medicines and food which left Andrews Field Wednesday night for Vienna, the point from which all Red Cross supplies are being trucked or flown into Budapest.

First supplies were carried by TWA planes and included ten thousand vials of penicillin -- enough for 100,000 injections; five thousand yards of gauze and six thousand vials of gas gangrene anti-tetanus serum.

The U. S. Air Force Globemaster's relief cargo on Wednesday included 2,400 vials of tetanus anti-toxin; 1,300 yards of gauze; 500,000 2x2 dressings; 407,000 vitamin capsules and 400 pounds of absorbent cotton. There also were 11,300 pounds of evaporated milk, 5,000 pounds of baby food; 1,470 pounds of vegetable oil; 1,500 pounds of shortening; 1,000 pounds of dehydrated soups; 2,630 pounds of canned meats and 1,000 pounds of sugar.

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The League of Red Cross Societies also is preparing to distribute in Hungary, 2,000 tons of American food stockpiled in Europe which was made available by the U. S. International Cooperation Administration. The food has been accepted by the League as a gift from the American people for relief to Hungary, and we are paying the shipping charges to transport it to that country.

American Red Cross activities in Geneva are being coordinated by James T. Nicholson, our Executive Vice President who was attending an International Red Cross meeting when the revolt broke out. He has been in constant touch with us here and, through the League, with the Hungarian Red Cross. The first word from Hungary reached Geneva by telephone late Saturday night after the League had made efforts throughout the day to contact the Red Cross in Budapest.

All in all, the response in our country and in most Red Cross Societies throughout the world has been magnificent.

I'll be happy to keep you advised of later developments.

Faithfully,

/s/ E. Roland Harriman

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I feel that world opinion which was so uplifted only a few days ago by the news that the Soviet Union intended to withdraw its forces from Hungary has now suffered corresponding shock and dismay at the Soviet attack on the peoples and Government of Hungary.

I met today with the Secretary of State at Walter Reed Hospital and later with the Acting Secretary of State, some of his staff, the Director of Central Intelligence Agency, and some of my staff to discuss the ways and means available to the United States which would result in:

1. Withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary
2. Achieve for Hungary its own right of self-determination in the choice of its own government.

I have sent an urgent message to Premier Bulganin on these points.

There was likewise a thorough review of the Middle East situation and the measures now under way in the United Nations to restore peace in that area and to lay the groundwork for constructive solutions of its problems.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Few events of recent times have so stirred the American people as the tragic effort of Hungarian men and women to gain freedom for themselves and for their children. The brutal purge of liberty which followed their heroic struggle will be long and sorrowfully remembered, not only by those directly suffering from that brutality, but also by all humans who believe in the dignity of man.

Our immediate concern must be for those whose suffering we, the members of the free world, can effectively alleviate. These are the thousands of escapees who have successfully made their way out of Hungary during the past week. They are older people; they are women; they are children -- and many of them are suffering wounds inflicted by the guns of Imperialist Communism.

It is heartening to witness the speed with which free nations have opened their doors to these most recent refugees from tyranny. In this humanitarian effort our own nation must play its part. I have therefore directed the Administrator of the Refugee Relief Act to process as many as 5,000 Hungarian refugees as expeditiously as possible. This effort requires the most active help of the great voluntary agencies and other humanitarian organizations, of State and local governments, and of individuals everywhere. I know that the American people will rally wholeheartedly to this great cause.

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November 20, 1956

JAMES C. HAGERTY, PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

The American people have responded spontaneously to the relief needs of the people of Hungary.

There has been a similar warm and forthright response from other friendly countries.

This help has assisted in providing for the most pressing wants of the Hungarian people for food, clothing, medical and other relief supplies.

The contributions from the United States and other countries have also helped to provide for the care and feeding of the very large numbers of refugees who are fleeing over the border into Austria, while they await processing and transportation to the United States and to other friendly countries which have offered to receive them. As for the situation within Hungary itself, it is recognized that emergency relief supplies in very large quantities will undoubtedly have to be provided for some time to come.

To date, the American people and the United States Government have made available more than \$5 million worth of food, blankets, medical and other relief supplies and services, in furtherance of President Eisenhower's offer of assistance to alleviate the sufferings of the Hungarian people.

Private American charitable organizations and United States officials (in cooperation with representatives of the Austrian Government and the Austrian Red Cross and representatives of the Red Cross Societies and other voluntary agencies from other friendly countries) are using all possible means at hand to cope with the situation presented by the influx of refugees into Austria. Food, blankets and medical supplies are being shipped by the fastest means possible from the United States and from other countries to meet the mounting demands for the basic needs of the refugees.

Following delays due to the difficulties of negotiating with the Hungarian and Soviet authorities, the International Committee of the Red Cross has again begun to move relief supplies in to Hungary by truck convoys. So long as conditions within Hungary continue as they are at present, distribution of relief supplies within Hungary will be carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and it has reached an agreement to this effect with United Nations authorities.

All help from the United States to the people within Hungary, both through private contributions and from Government supplies, will continue to be distributed in Hungary through this channel.

As quickly as information is received from those on the scene in Hungary as to the types and amounts of supplies which are needed, assistance is and will continue to be forthcoming promptly from the United States, both from the resources of private charitable organizations and from United States Government expenditures. Aid and support for the relief of Hungarians will be rendered through the use, as necessary, of the \$20 million made available in the President's announcement on November 2, and, as may be required, through the expenditure of other funds.

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TO THE PRESS: ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON ASSISTANCE TO THE
HUNGARIAN PEOPLE, COMPILED FOR THE WHITE
HOUSE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

The first emergency relief which was made available to the Hungarian people by the United States was through the diversion two weeks ago of 2,000 tons of food obtained from stocks of United States voluntary relief agencies in Austria, or in transit to them from the United States. The closing of the border by the Soviet forces prevented the shipment of all but a very small amount of this food to Hungary.

The urgent immediate problem then was to assist Austria in caring for the great numbers of refugees from Hungary. The balance of the 2,000 tons of food remaining is being used for this purpose, and to meet other immediate needs the United States military forces in Europe are continuing to rush blankets and mess kits from their stocks to refugee centers in Austria. To help meet the cost of emergency food, care and resettlement of these refugees, the United States Escapee Program has been authorized one and one-half million dollars. Additional supplies, personnel and funds have been rushed to Austria from other United States escapee program operations in Europe. The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration has appealed for \$300,000 for the movement of Hungarian refugees. It has now received from other Governments a total of \$100,000. In addition, the United States has pledged up to a total of \$130,000 for this movement.

In addition to the 2,000 ton supply of food noted above, the American Red Cross and the United States voluntary relief agencies have provided food, medical supplies, clothing and other relief supplies to the value of about \$2,100,000. Other shipments and contributions are being made in substantial quantity as each day goes by.

In response to a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly which called on United Nations member nations to assist the Hungarian people, the United States presented \$1 million to the United Nations Secretary General on November 13. Five hundred thousand dollars of this has been turned over to the Austrian Government for use in caring for refugees in Austria and the balance will be used by the United Nations at its discretion for refugee relief or resettlement.

(There is attached as of possible further use by the press a survey as of November 16 of the assistance furnished for relief of the Hungarian people from private American sources.)

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SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE FURNISHED FROM AMERICAN PRIVATE SOURCES
FOR RELIEF OF HUNGARIAN PEOPLE
AS OF NOVEMBER 16, 1956

.. Commodity breakdown and estimated value of assistance given or on hand in Austria

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Value</u>
Cash (for supplies and services)	\$ 353,000
*Food	2,404,000
Medicines, Hospital and Medical Supplies	269,000
Clothing	217,000
Blankets and Bedding	42,700
Miscellaneous	<u>60,500</u>
Total Value	\$ 3,346,200

II. Additional supplies offered or enroute to area:

Food	\$ 12,000
Clothing	75,000
Medicines, Hospital and Medical Supplies	<u>200,000</u>
Total Value	\$ 287,000
Grand Total	<u>\$ 3,633,000</u>

III. Names of agencies reporting donations:

American National Red Cross
American Friends Service Committee
American Friends of Austrian Children
American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Brethren Service Committee
Catholic Relief Services - N.C.W.C.
CARE, Inc.
Church World Service
Foster Parents' Plan, Inc.
International Rescue Committee
Lutheran World Relief
Save the Children Federation

IV. Sources of information:

American National Red Cross, American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, Inc. and individual donor agencies.

*-Includes 2,000 tons USDA surplus foods donated to U.S. voluntary agencies (estimated cost \$1,500,000)

Compiled by: Voluntary Foreign Aid Staff, International Cooperation Administration.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 26, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO A
GROUP OF HUNGARIAN REFUGEES
IN HIS OFFICE AT 9 A. M.,
NOVEMBER 26, 1956.

I want to tell you that our country feels privileged in inviting you to the United States. We hope you have found nothing but courtesy and hospitality since you arrived.

The sufferings your people have gone through recently have served, from our standpoint at least, one good purpose -- to make stronger the friendship we have always felt for your country and to bring us closer together in our hearts.

Recently, of course, the news from your country was particularly disturbing and shocking. Many thousands of your people have been taken from their homes by force and sent into exile at bayonet point.

This is the ultimate tyranny can do to a people. I want to tell you that this country not only resents it deeply but we will never agree that this is the kind of thing one country may do in justice to another.

We shall continue our efforts to try to help those who are coming out and, as you know, we have offered to send in supplies of food and medicine and other assistance to help those still in the country. We will continue to do that and we will be very, very glad to do so. And so, finally for your courtesy in coming down from Camp Kilmer to see me and to give me a chance to talk to you directly, my very grateful thanks.

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IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

J.C. HAGERTY NOVEMBER 28, 1956 WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m., est

H. The President -- this is for overnights -- the President today designated Tracy S. Voorhees of New York City as his representative in connection with the Hungarian refugee relief and resettlement activities when they are in this country. He has named Mr. Voorhees to assure full coordination of this work with the various voluntary and government agencies, and he has asked Mr. Voorhees to see that effective machinery is promptly set up to accomplish this purpose.

In designating Mr. Voorhees, the President wants to make sure that the U.S. Government and the voluntary agencies are doing everything possible to help these refugees in obtaining employment and housing in this country.

One of the things -- one of the reasons for this appointment, for example, is that very many of the agencies of the government are getting many offers of assistance for these refugees from individuals -- from companies -- and they are coming in -- these offers are coming in of assistance not only to the White House but to the Dept. of State and many of the other government departments in Washington, as well as many of the government offices throughout the country.

In turn, the voluntary agencies are also getting a great deal of offers of assistance and it was thought best that we have one man as the President's representative that can work both with the government people and with the voluntary agencies in coordinating this whole work.

Mr. Voorhees at present is a consultant to the Dept. of Defense. He was a colonel in the Army during World War Two. In 1946 and 1947 he was special assistant to the Secretary of War (Patterson at that time). In 1947 and 1948 he was Food Administrator for the War Dept. -- put it another way -- he was War Dept. Food Administrator for occupied areas ----

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November 29, 1956

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

(Augusta, Georgia)

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I urge all Americans generously to support the special Red Cross Disaster Appeal for \$5 million to aid in emergency relief both in Hungary and to Hungarian refugees in Austria.

The conditions of disaster and privation which require this emergency relief have been accurately described from day to day publicly by our news-reporting media. Amidst all their trials, the courage of the Hungarian people has been an inspiration to all freedom-loving peoples the world over.

By contributing to the Red Cross emergency campaign, each of us individually can express our sympathy and admiration for the brave Hungarian people.

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THE PRESIDENT THIS MORNING
RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING
TELEGRAM FROM E. ROLAND
HARRIMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS

The overwhelming demands for emergency relief both in Hungary and to Hungarian refugees in Austria in the form of food, clothing, medicines and other essential supplies make imperative a special Red Cross disaster appeal to the American public for five million dollars.

Today we are informed that over eighty-five thousand refugees have crossed into Austria and thousands still arriving daily.

Red Cross has been asked by the Austrian Government to assume responsibility for these refugees and the International Red Cross has completed agreements with Hungarian Government and established headquarters in Budapest. Red Cross regularly moving convoys into Hungary containing hundreds of tons of supplies and have started feeding program for approximately one hundred fifty thousand daily.

In addition, have enlarged our program of assistance to refugees arriving in this country at Camp Kilmer where we have been providing welfare services, clothing and communications. So far we have done everything possible with limited resources available.

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But now, following a poll of the Board of Governors of Red Cross, feel that we have no alternative under our traditional role of responsibility stemming from our Charter but to take every possible means of providing additional relief in whatever degree is necessary.

Our Chapters have been requested to immediately launch a campaign for funds which will provide an opportunity for every American to have a part in this assistance program to the freedom-loving Hungarians. This provides chance for all who desire to do so to channel their relief efforts through Red Cross.

E. Roland Harriman

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6 Jun 29
The President today designated Tracy S. Voorhees as his representative in connection with Hungarian refugee relief and resettlement activities to assure full coordination of the work of the various voluntary and Government agencies with each other and with other volunteer efforts in this field. To this end he asked Mr. Voorhees to see that effective machinery is promptly set up to accomplish these purposes.

The President said:- "I want to be sure that the United States is doing everything possible to lend help to these homeless refugees.

"The courage and suffering of the Hungarians under the intolerable cruelties of the recent Russian re-invasion have evoked the deepest sympathy on the part of the American people. This has inspired our people to translate this feeling into action which is already vigorously under way and is giving tangible help on an increasingly large scale. A number of voluntary organizations have spontaneously joined in this task. These efforts have my whole-hearted encouragement. I recognize the important role of the private charitable organizations to whose prompt action we and the refugees already owe so much.

"Countless offers of jobs and of financial assistance for Hungarian refugees have flowed into Government offices. Such offers need coordination with the work of voluntary and Government agencies.

"I am particularly gratified by the speed with which the Government agencies concerned have acted in giving assistance.

"While doing this work which lies immediately before us, I am fully mindful of the need for relief for the much larger numbers who are still in Hungary in urgent need. For them the United States in cooperation with the United Nations and other countries is assisting in every possible way."

29 Nov 56

ON NEWS TICKER AT NOON

President Eisenhower selected a former Government official, Tracy S. Voorhees, of New York to head the new American refugee and rehabilitation program for Hungarians. Press Secretary Hagerty said one of the reasons for selecting Mr. Voorhees was the fact that the President wanted to be sure that the Hungarian refugees are taken care of in housing, food and employment.