

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

APRIL 13, 1957

FOR THE PRESS

NO. 212

## UNITED STATES POLICY FOR ASSISTING REFUGEES FROM HUNGARY

The United States Government is continuing to assist the people of Hungary who fled from Communist oppression in their homeland, and under this policy will continue to bring limited numbers of refugees into the country within the next few months.

The number of refugees to be admitted to the United States will, of course, be on a diminishing basis in the future because of the lessening of the emergency.

Those to be brought to the United States both from Austria and countries of second asylum will be refugees selected on the basis of hardship cases such as those involving broken families, and special interest cases such as scientists, engineers, etc., whose skills will enable them to be integrated readily into the American economy.

The United States has already accepted more than 31,000 Hungarian refugees, which is nearly 20 percent of all who escaped the Communist oppression in their homeland. It has also assisted in resettling more than 100,000 of them in other countries, and intends to continue this assistance.

Austria has indicated it can integrate between 20,000 and 30,000 into its own economy, and the United States Government hopes that, with the acceptance of additional refugees by the other countries which have been assisting in the emergency, all of the refugees will have been provided for within the near future.

The program as a whole reflects the recognition by the American people of the plight and the heroism of these oppressed peoples, and their determination, along with the other peoples of the free world, to assist these refugees in finding new homes where they may live in freedom. The role of the United States in giving leadership to the compassionate acceptance and resettlement of these heroic people has been a gratifying one to every citizen.

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State—FD, Wash., D.C.

*Mr. Voorhees*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FOR THE PRESS

APRIL 16, 1957

NO. 214

HUNGARIAN EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CITED

Assistance to Hungarian escapees by the people of the United States and their government reaches beyond the welcoming to this country of more than 31,000 men, women and children since the October 1956 revolt against communist tyranny.

Commenting on the April 13 announcement that the United States will continue its welcome to escapees, Robert S. McCollum Deputy Administrator of the Department of State's Office of Refugee and Migration Affairs, today highlighted this country's dollars-and-cents aid to benefit escapees.

He said:

"In addition to receiving in this country more than 31,000 Hungarian escapees, this government expended large sums for emergency care of escapees in Austria during the mass exodus from Hungary, and has subsequently directly and indirectly helped to resettle thousands of these people in countries of the free world other than the United States.

"Involved in this gigantic undertaking has been the task of making available to escapees transportation, housing, jobs and educational opportunities, and reorientation guidance and counseling for life in the free world.

"Total sums so far allocated by the government for all type of assistance to Hungarian escapees have been approximately \$30,000,000. In addition to this the American people have generously contributed more than \$18,000,000 through voluntary welfare agencies and private charitable organizations.

"Some of the assistance given by the United States government has been in the form of grants to the several international organizations concerned with the Hungarian emergency, while other types of assistance have been carried out directly by governmental programs."

These assistance channels were cited:

...The United States Escapee Program, which expended several millions to finance emergency care and maintenance, and aid in preparing Hungarians to resettle in countries other than the United States.

...The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to whose office the United States provided \$5,000,000, much of which financed emergency assistance programs in Austria.

...The

...The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), to which the United States makes regular contributions-- and to which it also made emergency contributions -- to help in arrangements for escapees' transportation from Austria to countries other than the United States.

...Another program of assistance is the recent \$3,000,000 contribution of the United States to a plan for moving 10,000 Hungarian escapees now in Yugoslavia and 5,000 from countries of second asylum to overseas countries other than the United States. The project is being carried out by ICEM and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr. McCollum added that an objective of the United States, in its efforts to help relieve the congestion of escapees in Austria during early months after the revolt, was to help ensure the Austrian economy against the impact of thousands of unexpected, needy visitors. Commodity reserves from the United States played a prominent part in this effort to sustain the economy, at the same time providing useful foodstuffs.

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State--FD, Wash., D. C.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 1957

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

President Eisenhower this morning received the final report of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief.

The President approved the Committee's request, following a meeting with Committee members, that the Committee be discharged on the basis that it had completed the work for which it had been appointed. The President thanked the members for their work, and the people of the United States for "the wonderful spirit of America in accepting and caring for these refugees."

The President also expressed his admiration and deep appreciation for the dedicated work of the many religious and other voluntary agencies which conducted the job of resettlement at such an unprecedented rate and in so many other ways helped the refugees. He likewise praised the accomplishments of the Government departments and agencies which performed vital functions in the program.

The President emphasized his agreement with the Committee's statement that it was not dissolving because America's work for the Hungarians -- here and abroad -- is over. The policy of this country is to continue to meet its full share of the free world's responsibility and unique opportunity to help these people and to assist Austria, which with such great sacrifice cared for so many of them, the President pointed out.

The President approved and released the Committee's report, a copy of which is annexed.

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Report  
TO THE PRESIDENT BY  
The  
President's Committee  
for Hungarian  
Refugee Relief

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May 14, 1957

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# Report TO THE PRESIDENT BY

## The President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief

### I

ON December 12, 1956 you appointed this Committee to assure full coordination of the efforts of all the voluntary agencies engaged in Hungarian refugee relief with each other and with the Government agencies involved. This work has now been done. This is the final report of that work and subject to your approval the Committee will now be dissolved.

We are not proposing that your Committee dissolve because America's work for the Hungarian refugees—here or abroad—is over. The policy of this country is to continue to meet its full share of the free world's responsibility and unique opportunity to help these brave people who had revolted against the tyranny of Communism, as well as to assist Austria, which by making great sacrifices gave them asylum. This policy includes not only continuing to bring refugees to the United States, but also extending major assistance in other ways. Since, however, the requisite machinery is now in operation to provide this help on a normal, rather than an emergency, basis, the continuance of this Committee is not necessary. One striking evidence of this change is the termination on May 9th of the humanitarian mission of the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center with the departure of the last refugees. It was possible to close Kilmer, not because no more refugees are coming, but because we are now organized to absorb almost directly into our society the remaining refugees to be brought here.

## II

### The Transatlantic Lift

The magnitude of the exodus of Hungarians into Austria became clear by last December 1st, and your program to help meet the emergency there called for bringing 21,500 refugees to this country within a few weeks. On January 1st, you announced that this program would continue as the need continued. Up to May 1st a total of 32,075 reached our shores. Virtually all of these have been permanently resettled. So far as we know, no comparable mass movement into America has ever occurred in so short a time—of persons all penniless and few of whom could speak our language.

Substantially all of this movement was accomplished by a joint effort of the U. S. Military Air Transport Service (MATs), including both U. S. Air Force and Navy planes; of the U. S. Military Sea Transport Service (MSTS) with its ocean transports; and of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). With complete safety, MATs transported 13,120 on 214 flights; MSTS 8,945 on 5 ocean voyages; and ICEM 9,664 on 133 flights. While Russian tanks were firing on Hungarians, U. S. military planes and ships were carrying many thousands of them to the safe haven of our free land. Like the Berlin airlift, the meaning of this operation was not lost on the peoples of the world.

## III

### Reception and Resettlement

At the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center, ably operated by the U. S. Army, more than twenty voluntary and Government agencies served the refugees.

These agencies were completely independent of each other and

reported to their own individual headquarters. Therefore, a co-ordinating office of the President's Committee was established at Kilmer and all of the agencies there readily accepted its organizational plan. The Kilmer operation became a unique team formed of businessmen, soldiers, educators, Government civilian personnel and the representatives of many voluntary agencies and of organized labor.

Job skills of the refugees were ascertained, and an efficient system was set up to match skills with job offers. To standardize the operation of the Reception Center, and to assure that the experience gained at Kilmer would be readily available for any future contingency, the Committee prepared a comprehensive organization manual. By early January, the rate of resettlement had been increased several times over that prevailing only a month before.

The function of the Committee throughout was to assist these agencies, not to take over their work. It was the agencies themselves, Government and voluntary—many of the latter with religious affiliations—which did the job. Health and security investigations were pursued in detail by the Government departments responsible, relieving public concern on both of these grounds. Up to May 1st, only 5 out of more than 32,000 refugees have had to be deported as security risks.

Three major factors contributed to the success of this program of resettlement—first, the wonderful spirit of America in accepting and caring for these refugees; second, the dedicated work of the religious and other agencies which conducted the unprecedented job of resettlement; and, finally, the quality of the refugees themselves. More than half of the employable refugees were professional, skilled or semiskilled workers. Many were scientists and doctors; many more were university students. The average age of the refugees was less than 25 years.

## IV

### Assimilation

Supplementing the work of the initial resettlement, the Committee took a series of steps to assist in a satisfactory permanent assimilation of these refugees into our economy and society. This has proceeded well. Governors' committees to co-ordinate refugee relief exist in states which have received more than ninety percent of these refugees. Mayors' committees with similar responsibilities are active in various large cities. Resettlement work on the national level is now largely completed, and agencies exist in the states and localities to carry on from here.

## V

### Education

Over 1,000 university students were among the refugees. Among these, a large proportion were pursuing studies in areas of the sciences in which the United States has critical personnel shortages. With generous aid from several Foundations, the Committee helped in setting up courses in basic English and Americanization for these young people. We followed this with a program designed to provide scholarships and maintenance funds. Through action of the Committee an effective team to direct this work has been created, and will continue to serve during the coming months.

## VI

### Assistance Abroad

Last December and January the Committee also made an independent survey of the situation in Austria. This report proposed a policy and steps further to supplement United States action in giving refugees asylum in this country with increased efforts to assist on a

major scale in supplying better temporary care in Austria and transportation to other countries which could give permanent asylum. The continuing leadership of the United States in this significant program directed by the State Department has, we believe, attracted far less attention than its magnitude and importance in contributing to the solution of the refugee problem deserve.

## VII

### Appreciation

So many organizations and individuals have contributed to this program it is impossible to list them all here. To each of those of whose work we know, we are separately expressing our appreciation and that of free men everywhere.

It has been an honor to serve under your leadership.

Respectfully submitted.

LEWIS W. DOUGLAS, *Honorary Chairman*,  
TRACY S. VOORHEES, *Chairman*,  
J. LAWTON COLLINS, *Vice Chairman and Director*,  
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GEORGE MEANY,  
MSGR. EDWARD E. SWANSTROM,  
CHARLES P. TAFT,  
R. NORRIS WILSON,  
WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, *Counsel*.

May 14, 1957

June 12, 1957

SUMMARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REFUGEE STUDENT PROBLEM

Among the approximately 33,000 Hungarian refugees brought to the United States during the last seven months under the President's program, there are at least 870 promising undergraduate university students. These young people are in a real sense exiles. The revolt last fall which did so much to expose before the world the hollowness and the vices of communism was one in which many of these students played a prominent part.

In giving them asylum here, the United States surely owes them the chance to continue their higher education, and great progress toward this end has already been made. With the aid of three Foundations, courses in basic English and Americanization have been made available to all of these students who needed them. The problem is now one of scholarships for this fall. About 500 full scholarships have been provided; also another 100 partial -- tuition -- scholarships. Approximately another 270 of such tuition scholarships are urgently needed.

While these partial scholarships require supplementary maintenance funds, about two-thirds of the moneys necessary for this purpose are already in hand or promised, and very active efforts, which we anticipate will be successful, are under way to provide the balance of such maintenance funds. The problem, therefore, comes down to securing some 270 more partial or tuition scholarships. Because of the prior education of the students, most of these are needed in technical rather than liberal arts courses. Many private institutions and certain of the great state universities have led the way. For example, the University of Illinois is taking approximately 20; the University of Colorado, 26; the University of Michigan, 30; and the University of California, 50.

However, if the remaining scholarships are to be provided, a broader sharing in the program by many institutions will be necessary. Father Moriarity,

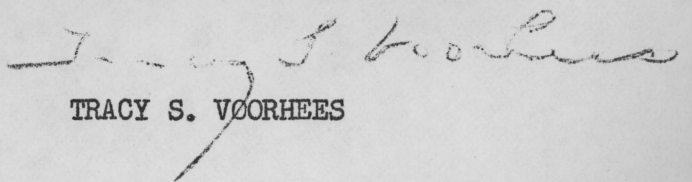
President of a college which had a large number of Hungarian students on its campus for a basic English course, has written:

"Having so fine a group of young men on our campus was one of the richest institutional experiences ever afforded Saint Michael's College. \*\*\*\*\* My confreres concur with me in the thought that the Freedom Fighters probably gave us more than we gave them in the long run."

These Hungarian students will definitely contribute to the life of our universities. They furnish examples of heroism to our own students. Surely our great institutions will, if they understand the problem, be willing to absorb the relatively small number of these extraordinary refugees necessary to give each such student his chance.

Universities exist for service. Here is a unique opportunity both for service and to demonstrate before the world that the ideals of America are not just words but realities.

A joint office of the Institute of International Education and the World University Service at 1 East 67th Street, New York City, with a highly competent full time staff under the direction of Mr. Richard C. Raymond, has been hard at work for weeks on this placement program. These scholarships represent the one remaining principal unfinished piece of business before the United States in discharging the obligation implicit in its acceptance of these refugees.

  
TRACY S. VOORHEES