

December 12, 1956

STATEMENT OF TRACY S. VOONHIES TO BE GIVEN TO THE INTERPRETERS
FOR TRANSLATION FOR THE ARRIVING HUNGARIANS

Acting on behalf of President Eisenhower: - Welcome to the United States of America!

You have come among friends. You are the vanguard, and as such the representatives of the many thousands of brave Hungarians to whom President Eisenhower has offered asylum under an emergency provision of our immigration laws. The President has pledged that "immediately after Congress convenes" next month he "will seek the necessary legislation to permit" you "to remain permanently in the United States" if you desire to do so.

The American people are stirred by your courage and by your sufferings and those of your fellow countrymen. Our people everywhere in America earnestly desire to do all in their power to help you start your new life in our country. I repeat: You are among friends!

10-20-56
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Interpreter intro-
duced 15

Merry Christmas
I have to say Merry
Christmas ^{to everyone} because ~~my~~
~~Hungary~~ ^{report that} I cannot speak
~~Hungarian~~

~~that I am~~ I am NOT going to
spoil your Christmas
with a speech.

It is my privilege
~~I pleasure~~ to be here
as Pres Eis ~~personal~~
representative to pre-
sent to each you a
personal ~~unlabeled~~ ^{dispar-}
~~greet~~ ^{greet} from the
President. ^{for} Will Capt
Ketchum

The President
extends his best
wishes ^{to all of you} on this
your first Christ-
mas in America
for a Happy Holi-
day Season

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

My friends from Hungary,

In behalf of my fellow Americans, I welcome you to the United States.

The circumstances that have separated you from your homeland and your loved ones fill American hearts with deep emotion and with compassion for what you are enduring. We feel a solemn and responsible pride that in your time of need you have come to our shores.

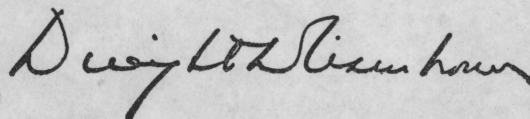
Through the centuries the Hungarian people have bravely resisted oppression. Their courageous spirit continues today to inspire free people everywhere.

It has been our American heritage to assert our individual freedom and to offer to other peoples, struggling for their own liberty as we once did, such assistance and asylum as we can.

Many of our private citizens and fine volunteer organizations in the United States have joined with our Government agencies to help you in the establishment of your new life in America.

At first our land and our laws may seem strange to you. Some necessary processes through which you join our way of living may cause you minor inconvenience but I ask you to think always of what, beneath these forms, dwells in our American hearts—an earnest desire to clasp your hands, to reach mutual understanding and to become firm friends and neighbors.

Thus, we welcome you to American soil. We realize that you ardently hope for a time when all Hungarians can enjoy the blessings of individual freedom in their Hungarian mother-country. We join in that hope. And we give you this present assurance—if, when that day dawns once more, you should choose to go back to your native homes in Hungary, America will do its best in helping you to return.



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

EISENHOWER ELNÖK LEVELE MAGYAR FORDÍTÁSBAN

Magyarországról érkezett barátaim:

Amerikai honfitársaim nevében üdvözlöm Önöket az Egyesült Államokban.

A körülmények, amelyek között elhagyták hazájukat és szeretteiket és mindaz, amit elviselnek, mély megindultsággal és együttérzéssel tölti el az amerikai szíveket. Mélységes és felelősségteljes büszkeség tölt el bennünket, hogy a szükség idején hozzánk jöttek.

A magyar nép századokon át bátran ellenállt az elnyomásnak. Bátor szelleme ma továbbra is mindenütt megihleti a szabad népeket.

Amerikai örökségünk, hogy egyéni szabadságunkat érvényesítsük és más népeknek, amelyek szabadságukért küzdenek, mintahogy mi küzdöttünk egykor, olyan támogatást és menedéket nyujtsunk, amelyet csak tudunk.

Magánpolgáraink közül sokan és az Egyesült Államokban működő önkéntes szervezetek csatlakoztak kormány-hivatalinkhoz, hogy Önök segítségére lehessünk, hogy Amerikában új életet teremthessenek.

Hazánk és törvényeink eleinte talán idegenszerűek lesznek az Önök számára. Lehetséges, hogy néhány szükséges eljárás, amelynek útján életünkbe bekapcsolodnak, kisebb kényelmetlenségekkel jár. De arra kérem Önöket, mindig gondoljanak arra, hogy a formálítások mögött mi lakozik amerikai szíveinkben—őszinte óhaj, hogy megszorítsuk a kezüket, hogy kölcsönösen megértsük egymást és hogy igaz barátok és szomszédok legyünk.

Igy üdvözljük Önöket Amerika földjén. Tudjuk, hogy bensőségesen reménykednek annak az időnek az eljövételében, amikor minden magyar magyarországi szülőhazájában élvezheti az egyéni szabadság áldásait. Mi is együtt reménykedünk Önökkel. És biztosítjuk most Önöket arról, hogy ha ez a nap ismét felvirrad és vissza akarnak térni szülőhazájukba, Amerika mindent el fog követni, hogy segítse Önöket visszatérésükben.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Dec. 25, 1956

Mr. Voorhees' talk at McGuire Air Base

Acting on behalf of President Eisenhower:- Welcome to the United States of America!

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The President has pledged that "immediately after Congress convenes" next month, he "will seek the necessary legislation to permit" you "to remain permanently in the United States" if you desire to do so.

The American people are stirred by your courage and by your suffering and those of your fellow countrymen. Our people everywhere in America earnestly desire to do all in their power to help you start your new life in our country.

I repeat: You are among friends!

Address of Tracy S. Voorhees, Chairman, The President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief, on NBC Television Network on New Year's Eve Program at Midnight January 1, 1957.

On behalf of the people of the United States, I extend to you, our Hungarian friends, now also our new-found neighbors - a warm welcome to our shores, and our wishes for a Happy New Year in a free land.

And, my fellow Americans, I also wish for all of you health and happiness in the New Year. Notable among the tasks you have already begun for the year to come is the welcome of these homeless people to our country.

Our nation was created by refugees from many lands who sought a new home where they might worship in their own way, speak their convictions and pursue a way of life of their own choosing.

Today these Hungarian refugees bring to us the culture and traditions of the Old World plus an eager desire for opportunity in the New World.

But what about these refugees who are here tonight and who are daily arriving at the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center? That is the question I am most frequently asked. I can answer that, once you have met them as I have, you will feel, as I do, that they are good people; that they are strong and self-reliant people. You will know, as I do, that they have come to our land - as many of our own ancestors did - to escape tyranny and to make a new start in life in freedom.

In the next few days we hope to release a list of the specific job skills of these refugees. We know that included among them are doctors, scientists, engineers, skilled technicians and promising students. I am sure that the number of job offers will greatly increase when this list is available. But job offers alone are of little immediate use unless accompanied by offers of at least temporary homes.

Here in the center of our traditional New Year's Eve festivities in Times Square, we pause to share our own celebration with this group of our new Hungarian neighbors, as they welcome the New Year in their own traditional way.

And let us now renew our resolve in these the first moments of this the first day of 1957 to accept these homeless folks into our homes and hearts as an example, which will be reflected throughout the world, of the spirit of democracy in action, of the spirit of America in action! (PAUSE).

Let us recognize that the tragedy which has happened to them in recent weeks creates both a great moral obligation upon us, as a humanitarian people, to give help, and beyond that an unparalleled opportunity to prove by action what America has always - and will always - stand for in the world.

APR 1 1957

This morning I am a little bit confused. Confusion, however, is as you all know a rare thing for those who work in Washington to experience. However I am an exception to the rule, so it is hard for me to tell whether I am greeting you as Chairman of The President's Com for H. R. or as a Vice Ch. of the Bd of Trustees of Rutgers, The State Univer- sity, which is so happy to be your host in its new dormitories. Since you are ^{overnight} guests of Rutgers, let me relieve your minds on one matter which might otherwise seriously worry you. You have all, I am sure, heard of that Rutgers legendary hero of many, many years ago whose leg was broken in a football game and who is said to have uttered — as he lay on the field and saw his crumpled two-point leg — "I'd die for dear old Rutgers!" — apophygeia though it may be camp speech. This legend has become a piece of Americana. Yet the hero — if there was one — has successfully denied being identified — although he could, ^{had he had} with less modesty, easily have won a Nobel Prize. But, in mentioning this, I merely want to reassure you that, as guests of Rutgers, you are not required to die for dear old Rutgers, but only to sleep ^{peacefully} in dear old Rutgers new dormitories.

Now — having passed from the sublime — let me assume, as best I can, my role as Chair of The President's Com for H. R. As such, let me welcome you to this conference and express ^{for the Committee} our appreciation of your sacrifice of time and convenience.

accepting our invitation to be here. We hope
to avoid subjecting you to too much of freedom,
and at most to infect you with the same enthusiasm
and admiration for these H, who are now the guests
of our country, as we feel

It is a little hard for me not to become emotional about these Hungarians please for we are ^{about them} But
as an American citizen I do feel deeply that
are the facts, as far as I know them.

In a spectacular exhibition of ^{resistance} courage
and independence — comparable to the American
Revolution, though less successful — these people
have fallen arose to fight ^{their undying spirit as expressed by the} intolerable tyranny
will address you tomorrow. ^{Insert their} Mayor of Bay, who
Hungary refugees.

Up to midnight last night 30,673 have re-

ceived asylum in America. ^{JK Report of these} 29545

have left K, under the sponsorship of res-
ponsible and dedicated religious or other
voluntary agencies for resettlement. As I
read last week ^{in Paris in} ~~the Paris in~~ ^{while} ~~in~~ ^{in Paris in}

The Int. Ed. of the N.Y. Times Page 1: - Hungarian
Refugees Blend Easily into U.S. Way of Life. I am
sure you have read that illuminating article. ~~These~~

confirmed by the fact that over 96% of those welcomed
to our hospitable shores, ^{who} know how to greet the brave

— have been absorbed into America. As of mid-
night last night only 1/28 — most of recent arrivals
remain at Kilmier.

Why then have we, of the Free Comm for H to

Insert P 3

America has never had such
an experience before
We must not leave to chance
Work on Nat level nearly done
Success due to (1) American people
(2) Voluntary agencies - mostly with religious affiliations (3) The glad-
ity of the refugees themselves (4) The team-
work of all agencies Gov't + voluntary
to which the Pres Comm has contributed
22 Agencies all reporting to separate
boards

Now we must look to the State +
Local phase. US E S, H E W, Red
Cross - coordinate

- Education

Security

U.S. work for those not coming to U.S.
Importance abroad of military air &
& sea lift

Peak passed - plans to proceed
in Austria - target late to
Rose Kilmer

old live on. And good that either (9)
he, or the convictions for which he
gave his life, do live on ^{as} in the
following lines ~~for this~~ ^{from his last} poem of
~~Joyce Kilmer~~, ^{I believe} that ^{it} overpowers his ~~I~~ would
James' earlier poem "Trees" which I am
sure you all know. In it ~~he~~ ^{he} seemed almost to be
~~Joyce's~~ ^{speaking with} prophetic vision ^{about the Hungarian freedom fighter}
and lasting words ~~given~~ ^{as} accurately as
I could ~~never~~ recollect them last
night, in his final poem ~~entitled~~ "The
Resurrection"

Upon his will he binds a radiant chain,
For Freedom's sake he is no longer free.
It is his task, the slave of liberty,
With his own blood to wipe away a stain.
That pain may cease, he yields his flesh to pain.
That wars may cease, he must a warrior be.
He lives in night, eternal dawn to see
And gladly dies, abundant life to gain.

What matters death if freedom be not dead.
Whose flag is fair if freedom's flag be furled.
Who fights for Freedom, walks with glorious tread
To meet the fires of hell against him hurled,
And has for Captain him whose Thorn-wreathed head
Shines from the Cross upon a conquered world

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to attend the meeting of the ^{President's Committee with the Chairmen of 50 many Governors' Committees} P.C. I regard it ^{as} my first duty to express to you the regards and appreciation of the people of Budapest and Hungary.

A special note of thanks is due to Mr. Tracy Voorhees and to ^{Leo} Mr. Bebe who have proved great friends of the People of Hungary. ^{President's Committee} The ~~P.C.~~ achieved a great result and the thanks and gratitude of many many thousands of Hungarian refugees acclaim this. The people of Hungary were moved by the fact that President Eisenhower himself organized this committee at the peak of the crisis. We feel that this expressed his personal interest ⁱⁿ of the refugees from unfortunate Hungary. I, therefore, ask Mr. Voorhees to be good enough ^{To} and convey the thanks and deep appreciation of the people of Hungary to President Eisenhower.

And on this occasion I should like to greet all the representatives of the ^S states who are here. I should like to convey the salute of my little nation to the freedom loving ^{PEOPLE} people of America. I dare ^{to} tell you that my numerically small, but spiritually great, nation did its utmost for the cause of humanity and freedom.

Please permit me to give you a brief account ^{of} on the problem of Hungarian refugees in the United States. Naturally all I know is what I saw and believe to be true.

By and large, I can say that the young people from Hungary, the flower of the nation, found homes, jobs and hospitality in your country soon after arriving from the Austrian camps. In Hungary they were fighting for freedom and democracy. Here they endeavor to be useful and happy citizens of the United States.

Most of them have, materially, rather satisfactory positions. The efficiency of organizations which placed these refugees into jobs here deeply impressed me. Good will, helpfulness, and resourcefulness were shown by the people of America. This accounts for the good results.

It would be hard to tell whether these refugees, generally speaking, are happy or unhappy. Happiness depends on more than material factors. The two elements of happiness, material security and the good will of the American people and their leaders is assured to them. ^{yet} The memories of a glorious freedom fight are still deep in the hearts of these people.

They all broke away suddenly and unexpectedly from their homes. One day they still had arms in their hands, and the feeling of glory in their hearts. The next day they were refugees looking for a new shelter from the Soviets. Many of them had families ^{and} friends at home, and losing them ^{was} ~~in~~ painful indeed. Many of them had the dream, and still do, to return as soon as possible to a liberated Hungary. Only hard work and time will heal these wounds. No organization can help.

Many young men ^{found it hard to} ~~could not~~ learn the institutions of the free world because of the Communist suppression. They ~~are~~ ^{were} amazed when ^{they saw} ~~seeing~~ the United States, its institutions and way of living. ^{The} ~~Many~~ new impressions confuse them. ^{were so many as to} ~~They~~ start to learn democracy, surrounding them here, with joy, and are delighted to breathe the air of freedom.

By and large, it is the power of the Hungarian nation that arrived here, ^{good} and I have all the hopes to say that the United States gains valuable new citizens in them. They will prove by

their work that they can do even more for liberty than fight for it. They can also contribute to the growth of the United States.

My duty ^{requires me} ~~is~~ to mention those Hungarians who are ^{still} in Austria and Yugoslavia who look upon the United States with dreams, and hope to have a chance to enter. All I wish to say ^{is} that there are many fine people among them who only left at the very last minute when it became obvious that the fight cannot continue.

I request the ^{President's Committee} ~~P. C.~~ to use its influence to get as many of these valuable people here as possible. ¶ To conclude, may I say a few words about myself? I learned to love this country, I love ~~to feel the~~ freedom everywhere in people and institutions. Every day ^{This} ~~the~~ country is becoming stronger. I hope to settle here with my family and enjoy freedom, which I dreamt about in Nazi and Communist prisons. ¶ At this occasion I should like to mention that, with my friends, we have organized the Friends of Budapest to foster Hungarian culture. I would like to draw your attention to, and ask your support of, this new organization which invites everyone who feels sympathy for Budapest. The Friends of Budapest wants to keep the memory of the heroic struggle of Budapest and Yugoslavia alive in the short memory of mankind. It hopes to rally the help of individuals, as well as organizations, to ~~be~~ ^{be} able to help Budapest once it is liberated. A spirit from the West will contribute to replace ^{my} the battle-scarred streets with new buildings. In addition, the Friends of Budapest will help the refugees with their personal problems ^{and} to become good and happy citizens.

These unfortunate people will work with us and find ^{new} a content in their lives. ^{Also} ¶ The Friends of Budapest will work with us and find ^{new} a content in their lives. The Friends of Budapest believe that

these people, by working for free Budapest, will forget their
homesickness and find ~~themselves~~ ^{their true place} here in America

I bring to the ~~P. C.~~ ^{President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief} the greetings of the Friends of

Budapest as a former Mayor of Budapest, and hope that the ~~P. C.~~

^{President's Committee} will continue ~~the~~ focus of the Hungarian problems.

¹ In conclusion I would like to thank you on behalf of the
people of Budapest and Hungary for the great work you did, and ^{to}
wish you the Lord's blessing ^{for} to you all for your future work.

9 May 1957

NOTES OF TALK GIVEN BY TSV AT CLOSING OF KILMER ON MAY 9, 1957

You are the last group of almost exactly 32,000 Hungarians who have received the hospitality of the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center. As we say goodbye to you today, the Center's mission of humanity will be completed. But this is not the end of U.S. assistance to Hungarian refugees. It merely marks the end of the emergency phase and the substitution of normal procedures. As you depart today, of the 32,000 who have come here, over 99-9/10% have left for settlement in America in the care of responsible sponsors. You have all been fine guests at Kilmer. You are assured of a warm welcome in the U.S. We wish all the best for you in your new life.

I have a little souvenir of your stay at Kilmer to give to each of you as you leave.