

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE FOR
HUNGARIAN REFUGEE RELIEF

PROSPECTUS FOR KILMER OPERATION

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE FOR HUNGARIAN REFUGEE RELIEF

Lewis W. Douglas, Honorary Chairman
Tracy S. Voorhees, Chairman
J. Lawton Collins, Vice Chairman and Director
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Responsibility and Functions of the President's Committee

On December 12, 1956, President Eisenhower announced the creation of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief.

The function of this committee is to support in every way possible the various government, religious, and other voluntary groups already engaged in work for these refugees and to coordinate the efforts of these groups.

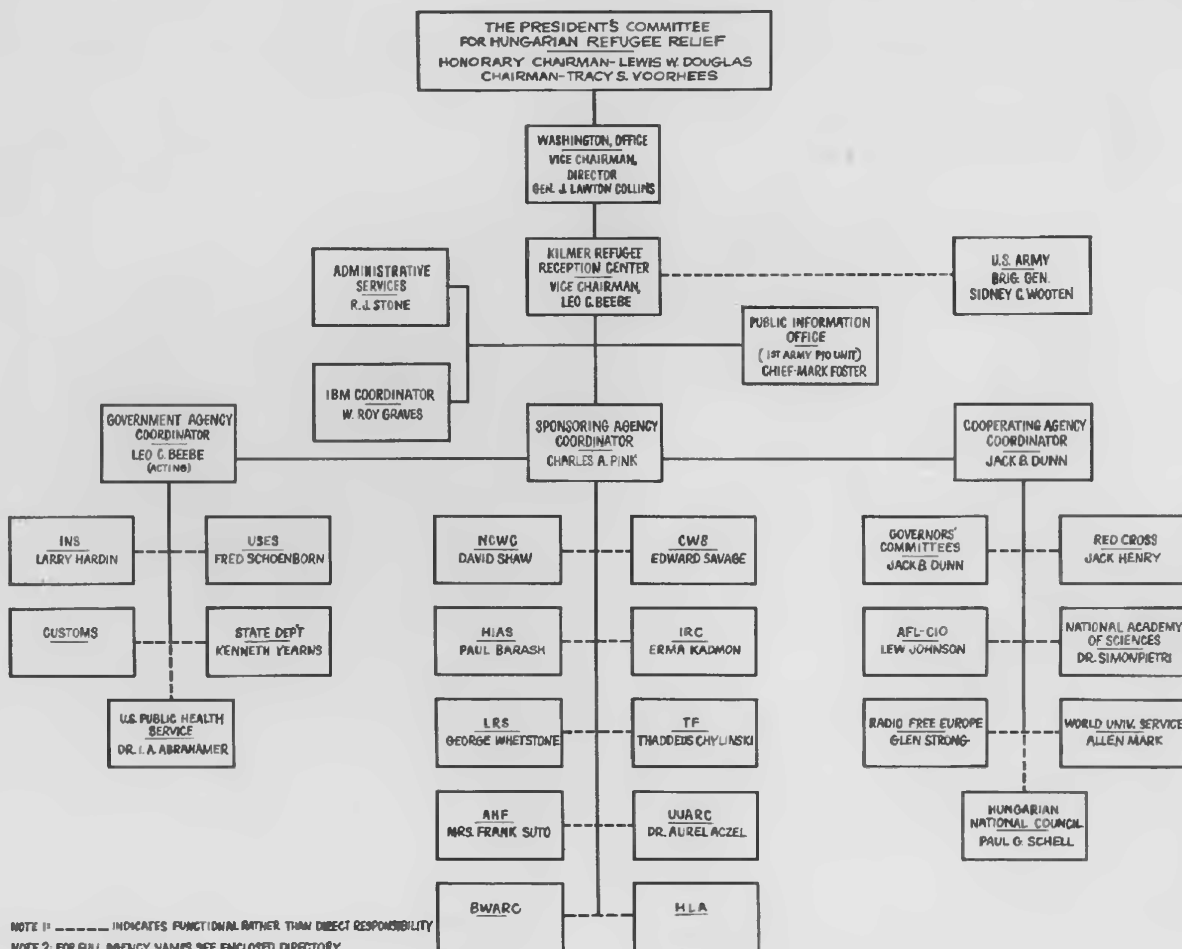
The committee determined that the large number of refugees coming to the United States should be brought to the Kilmer Reception Center where the Army can house, feed, and, if necessary, hospitalize them during the time between arrival and settlement. By the establishment of a branch office at Kilmer, under the direction of a committee vice chairman, closest liaison can be maintained with the various government and voluntary agencies.

It is not the function of the President's Committee to raise funds, rather it will serve as a focal point to which offers, such as jobs, homes, and educational opportunities can be directed and referred to the appropriate agencies.

Organization and Administration

In addition to the U. S. Army, which provides housing, feeding and related services, there are 22 government and voluntary agencies participating in the refugee reception and resettlement program at Kilmer. These agencies are independent of one another and are directly responsible only to their own individual headquarters located mostly in New York and Washington. In order to facilitate the activities of these agencies and to assist them so that their efforts may be channeled to produce the best results, an organizational plan has been put into effect at Kilmer.

The program is under the functional administration of Leo C. Beebe, Vice Chairman of the President's Committee, who reports directly to General J. Lawton Collins, Vice Chairman and Director at Washington, D. C. Reporting directly to him are three executives, each responsible for coordinating a group of agencies. One coordinates and assists government agencies directly concerned with the resettlement program. A second works with the sponsoring agencies, and the third with the cooperating agencies. In addition to these agency coordinators, Mr. Beebe is assisted by three principal staff departments--Public Information, Administrative Services, and IBM Consultants--which provide essential facilities and services for the operation of the center.



Reception and Resettlement Procedure at Kilmer

Refugees arriving in the United States by ship and airplane proceed immediately to the Kilmer Refugee Reception Center where they are assigned to quarters and given clothing. After receiving a medical examination, they pass through United States Customs and conventional processing by the Immigration Service. Hospitalization and medical care is provided for those requiring it. Then, they are interviewed by the United States Employment Service, at which time a record is made of their occupation, education and skills, and their housing requirements. During this interview, additional personal information of all types is recorded. For example, an individual may wish to continue an interrupted education, or a family may desire to locate in a certain part of the country, where they have friends or relatives. In many instances, United States Employment Service personnel conduct shipboard interviews so that these data are already recorded by the time the refugees arrive in this country.

Meanwhile, throughout the United States, interested individuals, corporations, churches, and other organizations are pinpointing available jobs and housing facilities. These offers are funneled to Kilmer through the President's Committee, through one of the accredited sponsoring agencies or through a governor's committee for refugee relief.

At Kilmer, the refugee's qualifications and needs are matched against an inventory of available jobs and housing. This matching operation is facilitated by IBM machines. All of the personal information about each refugee is recorded on an IBM punched card. Similarly, each job and housing offer is punched into cards. Representatives of the sponsoring agencies at Kilmer endeavor to make the best possible match between the individual and a job and a home. Machine-prepared reports, grouped by previous occupation, by age, by sex, by family requirements, and by other criteria are made available to the agencies so that every personal consideration may be taken into account.

After a match has been made, and upon acceptance of it by the refugee, a disposition report is prepared by IBM machines. This report acts as an identifying document and a means of introduction to employers and housing sponsors. Copies are made available to the participating private and government agencies. Refugees proceed to their destination by first available transportation.

**KILMER
RECEPTION
AND
RESETTLEMENT
PROCEDURE**



CAMP KILMER



EMPLOYMENT
INTERVIEW



IMMIGRATION

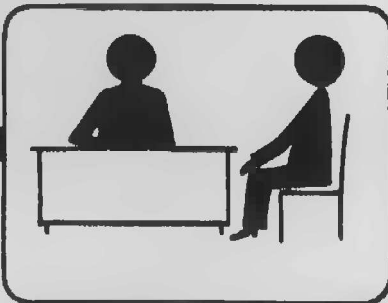


CUSTOMS



MEDICAL

SPONSORING
AGENCIES



COUNSELLING AND
DISPOSITION

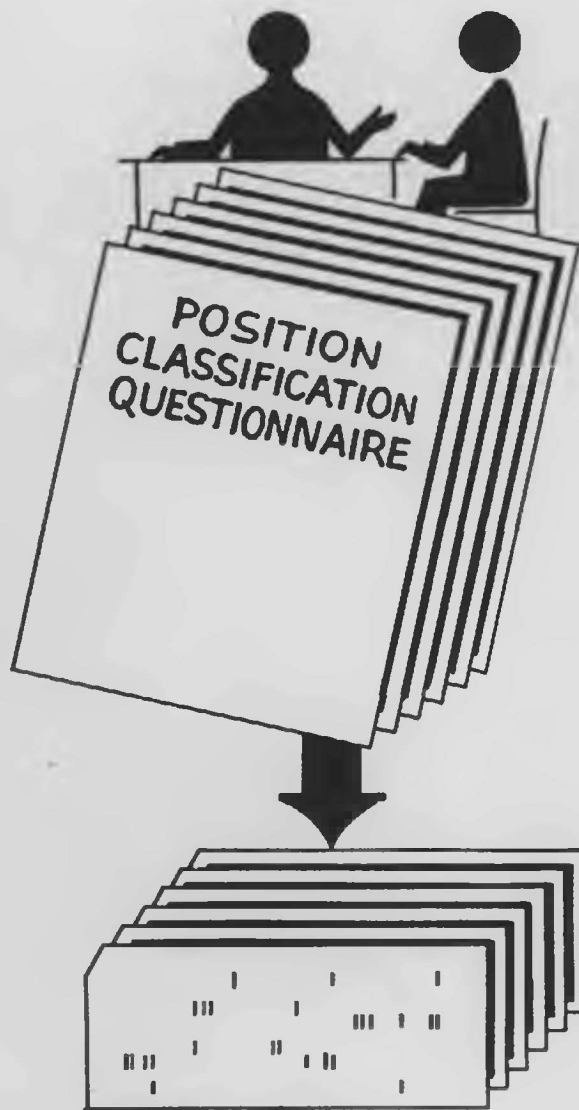


RESETTLEMENT

**PROCEDURE
TO ASSIST
SPONSORING
AGENCIES
IN REFUGEE
RESETTLEMENT**

- 1. DATA RECORDING**
- 2. DATA RELATING**
- 3. DATA EVALUATING**

RECORDING

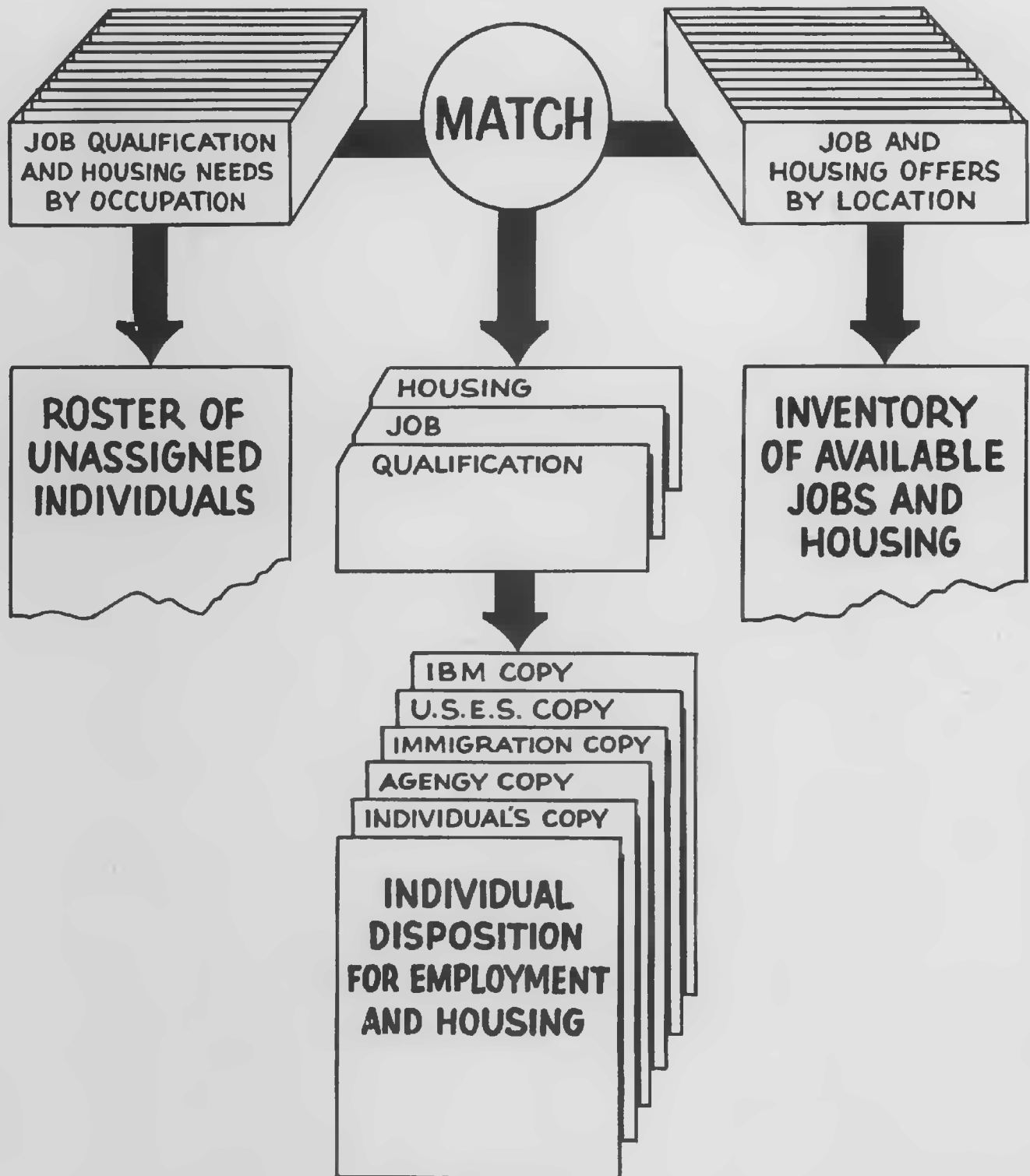


**REFUGEE'S JOB
QUALIFICATION
AND
HOUSING NEEDS**



**OFFERS OF
HOUSING
AND
EMPLOYMENT**

RELATING



EVALUATING

INDIVIDUAL'S
DISPOSITION

DISPOSITION CARD

ANALYSIS REPORTS FOR ALL
PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.

AGE GROUP

MALE FEMALE PLACEMENT

PLACED BY AGENCY

HOUSING PROVIDED

JOB CLASSIFICATION

PLACEMENT BY CITY
AND STATE

Directory of Agencies with Offices at the
Kilmer Reception Center

U. S. Army
President's Committee

- Brig. Gen. S. C. Wooten, Commanding
- Leo C. Beebe, Vice Chairman

Sponsoring Agencies

American-Hungarian Federation
Catholic Relief Services
Church World Service
International Rescue Committee
Lutheran Refugee Service
Tolstoy Foundation
United HIAS Service
United Ukranian American Relief
Commission

- Mrs. Frank Suto
- David Shaw
- Edward Savage
- Erma Kadman
- George Whetstone
- Thaddeus Chylinski
- Paul Barash

- Dr. Aurel Aczel

Government Agencies

Immigration and Naturalization
Service
United States Employment Service
United States Customs Service
United States State Department
United States Public Health Service

- Larry Hardin
- Fred Schoenborn
-
- Kenneth Yearn
- Dr. I. A. Abrahamer

Cooperating Agencies

N. J. Governor's Committee for
Refugee Relief
American Red Cross
AFL-CIO
Nat'l Academy of Sciences
World University Service
Hungarian National Council
Radio Free Europe

- Jack B. Dunn
- Jack Henry
- Lew Johnson
- Dr. Simonpietri
- Allen Mark
- Paul G. Schell
- Glen Strong

Position Classification Form

Date

Flight Number "Head of family" I.N.S. Number

Name of person being interviewed
last name first name initial

I.N.S. Number of person being interviewed Number of adult

dependents Number of dependent children Number in

family seeking employment Total number in family to be

located in United States. Date of birth Sex and

marital status Height in inches Weight lbs.

code

LANGUAGE ABILITIES

LANGUAGE	SPEAK			READ			LANGUAGE	SPEAK			READ		
	limited	fair	fluent	limited	fair	fluent		limited	fair	fluent	limited	fair	fluent
1 - ENGLISH							5 - RUMANIAN						
2 - GERMAN							6 - RUSSIAN						
3 - FRENCH							7 - OTHER						
4 - CZECH													

Degree or highest level educational institution attended

..... Degree or total
name of school or educational institution — major or area of technical training

years of formal education Desires to continue education — Yes No
check one

Agency Preferred occupation Describe
code U.S.E.S. code indicate experience

..... apprenticeship as well any personal limitations as to job performance

Other occupation Describe
U.S.E.S. code indicate experience, apprenticeship

..... as well as any personal limitations as to job performance

Relatives or friends in U.S.A.? Yes No Relationship
check one code

Address of relative
city state

Preferred area in U.S.A.
city state city - state code

Additional comments

interviewer no.

signature of interviewer

For explanation of codes see reverse side

Explanation of Codes

SEX AND MARITAL STATUS CODE

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Male, single | 6 - Female, single |
| 2 - Male, married | 7 - Female, married |
| 3 - Male, divorced | 8 - Female, divorced |
| 4 - Male, widowed | 9 - Female, widowed |

LANGUAGE CODE

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1 - English | 5 - Rumanian |
| 2 - German | 6 - Russian |
| 3 - French | 7 - Other |
| 4 - Czech | |

DEGREE OR INSTITUTION CODE

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0 - Illiterate | 4 - University (4 yr. course) |
| 1 - Elementary (4 yr. course) | 5 - Professional Engineering Degree |
| 2 - Technical School (4 yr. course) | 6 - Master's Degree |
| 3 - Gymnasium (8 yr. course) | 7 - Doctorate |

AGENCY CODE

(Recognized by the Administrator of the Refugee Relief Act of 1953)

- 1 - American-Hungarian Federation
- 2 - Baptist World Alliance Relief Committee
- 3 - Catholic Relief Services (National Catholic Welfare Conference)
- 4 - Church World Services, Inc.
- 5 - Hungarian League of America, Inc.
- 6 - International Rescue Committee, Inc.
- 7 - Lutheran Refugee Service
- 8 - Tolstoy Foundation, Inc.
- 9 - United HIAS Service
- 10 - United Ukranian American Relief Committee

OCCUPATION CODE

See Department of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles

RELATIONSHIP CODE

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Father | 8 - Aunt |
| 2 - Mother | 9 - Nephew |
| 3 - Brother | 10 - Niece |
| 4 - Sister | 11 - Cousin |
| 5 - Grandfather | 12 - Other Relative |
| 6 - Grandmother | 13 - Friend |
| 7 - Uncle | |

AREA PREFERRED CODE

See IBM Code Book for City, Counties and States in United States

OFFER OF HOUSING AND /OR EMPLOYMENT FOR HUNGARIAN REFUGEES

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

Date _____

(leave blank)
PROCESSING NUMBER

EMPLOYMENT OFFER

I _____
(Last name - Individual, Company, Agency or Organization) (First name) (Initial)

residing or located at _____
(Street number and name)

_____ (City or town) _____ (State)

(leave blank)
CITY - STATE CODE

will provide employment for _____ male workers, _____ female workers and/or _____ married

couples. The nature of the business is _____
(Please describe)

description of the occupation is _____
(Please describe)

(NOTE - If more than one occupation classification is involved in this offer please describe each classification on separate sheet indicating quantities of males, females or couples)

(leave blank)
OCCUPATION CODE

Knowledge of the English language is ☐ required, ☐ not required. The rate of pay for this occupation is _____
(Check one)

_____ per ☐ hour, ☐ day, ☐ week, ☐ month. This position is ☐ permanent, ☐ temporary.
(Dollars Cents) (Check one) (Check one)

Housing is ☐ provided, ☐ not provided. (If housing is offered please fill in Housing Section below.)
(Check one)

Additional Remarks _____

(leave blank)
AGENCY CODE

HOUSING OFFER

NOTE - ALL FORMS MUST BE SIGNED BELOW!

I _____
(Last name - Individual, Company, Agency or Organization) (First name) (Initial)

residing or located at _____
(Street number and name)

_____ (City or town) _____ (State)

(leave blank)
CITY - STATE CODE

will provide housing for _____ adult males, _____ adult females, _____ married
(Quantity) (Quantity) (Quantity)
couples and/or _____ families. Please indicate family size _____ adults _____ children.
(Quantity) (Quantity)

Type of housing being offered, ☐ room, ☐ apartment, ☐ share home, ☐ separate house. Number of
(Check one)

rooms available to refugees _____. Describe _____
(NOTE - If more than one type of housing is being offered

please describe and indicate type and number of rooms and bathrooms on a separate sheet)

Number of bathrooms available _____. Describe _____
(Number of toilets, baths and/or showers)

Additional Remarks _____

I understand that any of the persons to whom I have herein offered employment and /or housing are completely free to leave such employment or housing with no other obligation than to notify the District Director of the nearest Immigration and Naturalization Service office of their current address and occupation.

(Signature of person making offer)

INSTRUCTIONS

One copy of this form may be submitted direct to the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief at Kilmer Reception Center, New Brunswick, New Jersey. If you desire to have one of the organizations or voluntary social agencies listed below, which have been recognized by the Administrator of the Refugee Relief Act of 1953, act as your agent at the Kilmer Reception Center, you should submit this completely executed form to the representative of such agency in the area in which you reside:

- 1 - American-Hungarian Federation
- 2 - Baptist World Alliance Relief Committee
- 3 - Catholic Relief Services (National Catholic Welfare Conference)
- 4 - Church World Service, Inc.
- 5 - Hungarian League of America, Inc.
- 6 - International Rescue Committee, Inc
- 7 - Lutheran Refugee Service
- 8 - Tolstoy Foundation, Inc.
- 9 - United HIAS Service
- 10 - United Ukrainian American Relief Committee

A job order from a local office of the State Employment Service may be attached in lieu of the employment information and signature.

KRC REFUGEE STATUS SUMMARY

MONTH December DATE	# OF PLANES ARRIVED	# OF REFUGEES ARRIVED	# OF REFUGEES DEPARTED	TOTAL PLANES ARRIVED	TOTAL REFUGEES RECEIVED	REFUGEES DEPARTED	TOTAL REFUGEES ON HAND
1 Saturday	2	149	90	13	951	583	33
2 Sunday	0	0	90	13	951	613	315
3 Monday	2	143	57	15	1,058	730	329
4 Tuesday	3	211	108	18	1,269	838	431
5 Wednesday	3	218	156	21	1,487	994	493
6 Thursday	4	277	62	25	1,764	1,056	782
7 Friday	4	290	97	29	2,054	1,153	975
8 Saturday	3	207	223	32	2,261	1,376	885
9 Sunday	3	224	144	35	2,485	1,520	965
10 Monday	4	292	384	39	2,777	1,904	873
11 Tuesday	5	359	161	44	3,136	2,065	1,071
12 Wednesday	8	494	163	52	3,630	2,228	1,402
13 Thursday	7	417	239	59	4,047	2,467	1,580
14 Friday	15	1,025	55	74	5,072	2,522	2,550
15 Saturday	7	466	202	81	5,538	2,724	2,814
16 Sunday	12	694	117	93	6,232	2,841	3,391
17 Monday	5	330	256	98	6,562	3,097	3,465
18 Tuesday	17	1,101	365	115	7,663	3,462	4,201
19 Wednesday	2	124	400	117	7,787	3,862	3,925
20 Thursday	6	416	519	123	8,203	4,381	3,822
21 Friday	5	313	341	128	8,516	4,722	3,794
22 Saturday	11	709	229	139	9,225	4,951	4,274
23 Sunday	12	740	169	151	9,965	4,120	4,845
24 Monday	8	517	282	159	10482	5402	5080
25 Tuesday	22	1406	186	181	11888	5588	6300
26 Wednesday	9	597	316	190	12485	5904	6581

The President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief

HEAD OFFICE:

1413 K STREET NW., WASHINGTON 5, D. C. (ROOM 502)
EXECUTIVE 3-3111, EXT. 632

BRANCH OFFICE:

JOYCE KILMER RECEPTION CENTER, KILMER, N. J.
KILMER 5-7200, EXT. 321

LEWIS W. DOUGLAS, HONORARY CHAIRMAN
TRACY S. VOORHEES, CHAIRMAN
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AND DIRECTOR

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CHARLES P. TAFT
R. NORRIS WILSON

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
COUNSEL

February 11, 1957

Dear Editor:

At no other period in history has the United States granted haven to so many brave and homeless refugees in such a short time. It was accomplished only through a unique combination of the talents of voluntary and government agencies, the military, and the business-representative members of the President's Committee staff, working together as a team, that these Hungarians were brought into the American community in the record time of less than two months. But the greatest part of the resettlement work was done by the religious and other voluntary agencies.

The material enclosed tells you the story of the Hungarian refugee program. We have attempted to make it complete and objective, but how can we put into writing all of the details, all of the problems, and all of the solutions that have come up since November 21st when the first plane load arrived?

During the next few weeks many communities across the nation will honor their new Hungarian neighbors with appropriate ceremonies. We hope that your city will be among them.

Here are the facts behind Kilmer, from the day President Eisenhower announced that the United States would open this country's doors to accept Hungarian refugees, until the present.

Contact us if you want further information.

Public Information Section
President's Committee for Hungarian
Refugee Relief

sz/id

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COUNSEL

FEB 11 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of the United States
Senate and House of
Representatives

FROM: Tracy S. Voorhees

Supplementing my recent letter enclosing a brochure on the work of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief at the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center, I thought you might be interested in the following additional information.

As of midnight, February 5, 1957, the total number of Hungarian refugees who had arrived at the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center were 24,403. Of these, 22,275 had departed from Kilmer for resettlement under the sponsorship of various voluntary agencies. The number remaining at the Center was 2,128.

A sampling of these refugees made as to 5,721 employable refugees -- those 16 years of age and older except housewives and persons physically unable to work -- who arrived at Kilmer between December 25, 1956, and January 17, 1957, inclusive, discloses the following statistics:

	Number	Average Age
Males	4,260	28 yrs., 8 mos.
Females	1,461	30 yrs., 3 mos.
Total Number Speaking English		705
Total Having Relatives in U. S. A.		2,505
Average Family Size		3 (1 child)

Educational Attainment

Less than 4 years	8
Elementary 4 year course	2,106
Technical 4 year course	1,666
Gymnasium 8 year course	1,175
University 4 year course	607
Professional Eng. Degree	71
Master's Degree	19
Doctorate Degree	69
Average Length of Education	9 yrs., 10 mos.

Occupational Categories	Number	Per Cent
Students	278	4.8
Professional & Managerial	1,011	17.6
Clerical & Sales	616	10.8
Services	343	6.0
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, etc.	185	3.3
Skilled	1,751	30.6

Semi-skilled	972	17.0
Unskilled	<u>565</u>	<u>9.9</u>
	5, 721	100.0

Also, there is enclosed a more detailed statement prepared by the Immigration and Naturalization Service covering the 21, 778 refugees for whom statistics had been compiled as of January 29, 1957.

Tracy S. Voorhees

RECENT HUNGARIAN REFUGEES AND PAROLEES ADMITTED
BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP, MARITAL STATUS, SEX, AND AGE
(Through January 29, 1957 ^{1/})

	Total	Refugees	Parolees
TOTAL.....	21,778	5,836	15,942
<u>OCCUPATION GROUP:</u>			
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	2,448	775	1,673
Farmers and farm managers.....	268	78	190
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm..	378	88	290
Clerical and kindred workers.....	1,357	342	1,015
Sales workers.....	230	54	176
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers.....	4,535	1,202	3,333
Operatives and kindred workers.....	3,596	1,004	2,592
Private household workers.....	122	37	85
Service workers, except private household.....	563	169	394
Farm laborers.....	179	61	118
Laborers, except farm and mine.....	998	301	697
No occupation.....	7,104	1,725	5,379
Housewives.....	1,780	397	1,383
Retired.....	11	3	8
Students.....	1,622	381	1,241
Children under 14 years of age.....	3,599	906	2,693
Not reported.....	92	38	54
<u>MARITAL STATUS ^{2/}:</u>			
Single.....	11,439	3,415	8,024
Married.....	9,215	2,093	7,122
Widowed.....	349	91	258
Divorced.....	749	215	534
Unknown.....	26	22	4
<u>AGE:</u>			
Both sexes.....	21,778	5,836	15,942
Under 5 years.....	1,286	316	970
5 - 9 years.....	1,388	390	998
10 - 14 years.....	1,124	245	879
15 - 19 years.....	3,109	898	2,211
20 - 29 years.....	7,700	2,088	5,612
30 - 39 years.....	4,228	1,141	3,087
40 - 49 years.....	2,057	518	1,539
50 - 59 years.....	708	187	521
60 years and over.....	162	48	114
Not reported.....	16	5	11
Males.....	14,187	3,961	10,226
Under 5 years.....	686	173	513
5 - 9 years.....	718	209	509
10 - 14 years.....	604	131	473
15 - 19 years.....	2,275	702	1,573
20 - 29 years.....	5,492	1,509	3,983
30 - 39 years.....	2,584	742	1,842
40 - 49 years.....	1,326	346	980
50 - 59 years.....	428	123	305
60 years and over.....	66	22	44
Not reported.....	8	4	4
Females.....	7,591	1,875	5,716
Under 5 years.....	600	143	457
5 - 9 years.....	670	181	489
10 - 14 years.....	520	114	406
15 - 19 years.....	834	196	638
20 - 29 years.....	2,208	579	1,629
30 - 39 years.....	1,644	399	1,245
40 - 49 years.....	731	172	559
50 - 59 years.....	280	64	216
60 years and over.....	96	26	70
Not reported.....	8	1	7

^{1/} Punch cards received in Central Office, I&NS, through January 29, 1957.

^{2/} Marital status for parolees is preliminary.

Prepared by Statistics Branch
Administrative Division
Immigration and Naturalization Service
United States Department of Justice
January 29, 1957

Enclosure for memorandums of Feb. 11, 1957, and February 14, 1957]

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R. NORRIS WILSON**

**WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
COUNSEL**

February 14, 1957

**MEMORANDUM FOR: The Trustees of The Institute
of International Education,
Inc.**

FROM: Tracy S. Voorhees

As you know the Hungarian Refugee Relief problem was discussed at the recent meeting of the Trustees of the Institute. In line with the interest expressed at that meeting I thought you might like to receive the enclosed Outline of Organization and Work of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief. I also thought you might be interested in the following statistical information concerning certain of the Hungarian refugees who have passed through the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center.

As of midnight, February 13, 1957, the total number of Hungarian refugees who had arrived at the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center was 24,510. Of these, 23,473 had departed from Kilmer for resettlement under the sponsorship of various voluntary agencies. The number remaining at the Center was 1,037.

A sampling of these refugees made as to 5,721 employable refugees -- those 16 years of age and older except housewives and persons physically unable to work -- who arrived at Kilmer between December 25, 1956, and January 17, 1957, inclusive, discloses the following statistics:

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Also, there is enclosed a more detailed statement prepared by the Immigration and Naturalization Service covering the 21,778 refugees for whom statistics had been compiled as of January 29, 1957.

Tracy S. Voorhees

February 19, 1957

PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFECT OF THE
U. S. AIR-SEALIFT OF HUNGARIAN REFUGEES

The following excerpts from a recent dispatch from the Public Affairs Officer in Bonn to USIA/Washington concerning the U. S. air- and sealift of Hungarian refugees are of possible interest.

"Judging from the tremendous publicity accorded Operation 'Safe Haven' in West Germany, the U. S. air- and sealift of Hungarian refugees to the United States has been one of the most effective weapons for exposing Communism and countering anti-American propaganda that USIS Germany has experienced in the last few years.

"Thousands of newspaper column inches have been devoted in this country to the plight of the unfortunate Hungarians and many thousands more to the American rescue 'lift,' which appeared as a spectacular feat in American organizational ability as well as a great gesture of humanitarianism."

The dispatch also included quotations on this subject from two German newspapers:

"Berliner Morgenpost (circulation 190, 800): '... They (the refugees) were able to see with their own eyes how much effort the U. S. Air Force put into each flight and with what overwhelming friendliness the crew members tried to fulfill their every wish...' Abendzeitung, Munich (circulation 86, 000): 'What the American Army, Air Force and Navy are doing for the refugees may perhaps only be compared to the Berlin airlift. This giant, smoothly operating organization was set up within a few days... Red tape is unheard of...' "

Also enclosed is a somewhat longer excerpt from a front page article in the Journal de Geneve of December 19, 1956.

Excerpt from Article Written from Munich by Swiss Correspondent
Appearing in Journal de Geneve on December 19, 1957

"In a continuing operation where the efficiency, the very keen sense of flexibility and improvisation of the American is demonstrated, the future passengers of MATS are counted, photographed, examined by a doctor, vaccinated, X-rayed, questioned by the police and the American Immigration and Naturalization Service. This is an inhuman enough procedure under ordinary conditions. Here, smiles and kindness reassure the impatient and dissatisfied. This "keep smiling" of the Americans that one hears of, has its virtues. Tranquility and inexhaustible good will--that is what one always finds in these people (Americans) working with the refugees. One cannot imagine a cold approach from these people. The man is not hidden behind his work...they (the refugees) are afraid to reveal their identity for fear of reprisals to those near them in Hungary. They wish to remain only numbers for the time being, for prudence's sake as well as convenience. However, they are not numbers for Lt. Col. Burns, Head of the Leopold Barracks Camp at Munich who sleeps but two hours a night during a week. With a broad smile and good humor, he makes a short speech to ALL the groups as they arrive, day and night. An interpreter translates, faces brighten.

"They are not numbers for the women of the American Red Cross, all volunteers. For hours, they distribute toilet articles, cigarettes to the adults, toys and tidbits to the children.

"They do not wear a fixed smile for everyone. They express a sympathy, a sensitivity, which overcomes all barriers of language and engenders gestures of friendship and deep gratitude..."

Trends of Opinion

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER -- /Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, Executive
Director, National Catholic Welfare Conference to
Tracy S. Voorhees, February 16, 1957/

- - - - -

"I am writing to you not so much as a member of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief, but as the Director of one of the large voluntary resettlement agencies that has had the privilege of working with you in the resettlement of the Hungarian refugees who have come into the United States in recent weeks."

* * * * *

"This letter is primarily to reemphasize some of the remarks I made at the informal meeting we held yesterday to discuss Mr. William Hallam Tuck's very excellent report on the situation as he found it in Austria in regard to the care, integration and resettlement of Hungarian refugees. I am sure that everyone who read it was struck with the thoroughness of the report and the wisdom of his observations."

"Mr. Tuck's report and the reports that our agency has been receiving from Austria serve to emphasize again the inadequacy of governmental and intergovernmental effort toward a proper solution of this newest refugee problem."

* * * * *

"The President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief has done an excellent job in helping some twenty odd thousand people to find homes in the United States. This is only the barest segment of the problem. Hungarian refugees who have been located in France, Germany, Italy and other Western European countries are far from permanently resettled, and the coming months will witness many pressures upon all of us to more adequately meet their needs."

"Austria cannot possibly cope with the seventy to eighty thousand refugees still remaining in that country. Recent reports indicate that in many of the Austria refugee camps there has been little improvement in the deplorable conditions I personally witnessed there in December, 1956."

* * * * *

"I know that I can say with justification that many of the leaders in the field of refugee relief and resettlement feel that a new serious look should be taken at international effort and American effort in regard to refugees. How it should be done, of course, is something for our leaders in Washington and in the State Department to decide."

* * * * *

"These are just a few suggestions, and I place them before you as one of our leaders who has demonstrated a sincere sympathy, understanding and a willingness to cope with the problem."

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

February 22, 1957

TREND OF OPINION AS TO THE INADEQUACY OF
EXISTING MEASURES FOR HUNGARIAN REFUGEES
NOT COMING TO THE UNITED STATES

Convincing evidence of the immediate need for a more adequate and vigorous U. S. policy to deal with Hungarian refugees who are not coming to America lies in the cumulative build-up of criticism of the condition of these refugees in Austria and Yugoslavia. This trend appears both in private statements from representatives of the principal religious agencies engaged in this resettlement work, as well as in various public statements. Illustrative of this trend are the following:

(A) Public statements: Within the past three days there has been the following press and radio comment.

- (1) The NEW YORK TIMES on February 20 contained a public statement by the field director of the Catholic Relief Services in Austria, Father Flynn, issued immediately upon his return from Austria. This included his assertion that:

"...if 'immoral and obscene' conditions in overcrowded refugee camps were not relieved, 'hundreds of Hungarians' would elect to return to their homeland.

"'One thing that cries to heaven in Austria these days is the condition of the refugees. '

"The overcrowding was described as 'morally indecent and without privacy' by Father Flynn.

"Virtually no Hungarians have responded to efforts of a repatriation commission to have them return to Hungary, Father Flynn said. However, he added, 'if the Government does not correct these evils of camp life, I'm sure hundreds will go back. '"

- (2) The WASHINGTON POST of February 21 contained a statement by Edward H. Meyerding, Chief of the Quaker refugee mission in Austria who also had just returned from refugee work in Europe. He said: -

"At least 70,000 Hungarians are still in Austria and the Hungarian food crisis may well bring another 100,000 or 200,000 by spring or early summer. It is a tremendous expense with the main burden still on the Austrian government. And there are signs of rapid deterioration of morale among the refugees, particularly those in the camps."

- (3) Charles Collingwood on the Ed Murrow radio program at 7:45 p.m., February 19, made a major statement on this subject containing the following highlights:

"...the speed with which the fires of concern die down sometimes amazes even a reporter who has seen it happen so many times before. A case in point is the plight of the Hungarian refugees who fled their country to what they thought was a bright new life of freedom. Few things so mobilized the sympathies of the world as the gallant, hopeless struggle of the Hungarians against their Communist government. And when 200 thousand of them crossed the border and came out, they were met with a great wave of sympathy and a fervid and frequently stated resolve that a place would be found for them and that life indeed would be better than what they left.

"The exodus from Hungary began in November. It is now February. Of the 170 thousand who escaped to Austria 60 thousand are still there...in camps...trying to get out...an increasingly heavy burden on little Austria which is still harboring 114 thousand refugees left over from World War II. But the Hungarians who fled to Austria are the luckiest. Two thirds of them have been settled. The United States has taken 26 thousand, Britain has taken 16 thousand, and smaller countries smaller numbers. At least the 60 thousand remaining have hope that they will find a house.

"17 thousand Hungarians escaped to Yugoslavia and they don't even have hope. The only place any of them have got to from Yugoslavia is back to Hungary. They are going back across the border to the land they left at the rate of 700 a week. This is not because the Yugoslavs have changed their attitude, they are taking care of them as well as they can, but there is nowhere for them to go. No country has taken any of the refugees from Yugoslavia. There's only one camp in Yugoslavia that the refugees could be put in. (Emphasis supplied.)

"...the United Nations Refugee authorities say the Hungarians aren't being pressed to leave, it's just that after awhile they get the idea that no one wants them and so they start the dreary trek back home. It's not a pretty picture and it's a gloomy contrast not only to all the hopes they had, but to the great outpouring of world sympathy and support which greeted the Hungarians when they sought freedom.

(B) Private statements include:

Protests made to me by the heads of the principal religious agencies engaged in Hungarian refugee resettlement. These include all of such agencies represented on the President's Committee. While I ruled as Chairman of the Committee that such a discussion was out of order at a recent meeting of the Committee as not being a subject within the Committee's functions, I received afterwards their statements made both orally and in writing.

- (1) Monsignor Edward E. Swanstrom, Executive Director of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, in addition to even more emphatic oral statements, has written me a letter containing the following excerpts:

"I am writing to you not so much as a member of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief, but as the Director of one of the large voluntary resettlement agencies that has had the privilege of working with you in the resettlement of the Hungarian refugees who have come into the United States in recent weeks.

"... This letter is primarily to reemphasize some of the remarks I made at the informal meeting we held yesterday to discuss Mr. William Hallam Tuck's very excellent report on the situation as he found it in Austria in regard to the care, integration and resettlement of Hungarian refugees. I am sure that everyone who read it was struck with the thoroughness of the report and the wisdom of his observations.

"Mr. Tuck's report and the reports that our agency has been receiving from Austria serve to emphasize again the inadequacy of governmental and intergovernmental effort toward a proper solution of this newest refugee problem.

"... The President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief has done an excellent job in helping some twenty odd thousand people to find homes in the United States. This is only the barest segment of the problem. Hungarian refugees who have been located in France, Germany, Italy and other Western European countries are far from permanently resettled, and the coming months will witness many pressures upon all of us to more adequately meet their needs.

"Austria cannot possibly cope with the seventy to eighty thousand refugees still remaining in that country. Recent reports indicate that in many of the Austria refugee camps there has been little improvement in the deplorable conditions I personally witnessed there in December, 1956.

"... I know that I can say with justification that many of the leaders in the field of refugee relief and resettlement feel that a new serious look should be taken at international effort and American effort in regard to refugees. How it should be done, of course, is something for our leaders in Washington and in the State Department to decide.

"... These are just a few suggestions, and I place them before you as one of our leaders who has demonstrated a sincere sympathy, understanding and a willingness to cope with the problem. "

- (2) Mr. Moses Leavitt, Executive Vice-Chairman of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., says in a letter:

"I feel I should share with you some of the thoughts which I expressed at the informal meeting that we had last Friday. This is not an official letter from me to you as a member of the President's Committee, but represents the experience and the knowledge that I have of the Hungarian situation as reported to me by our field staff and from what I saw myself in Austria last month.

"... At best, the conditions in the camps are horrible beyond words, if one were to take one simple requirement of every human being, that is privacy. The massing together of men, women and children - 60, 70 and 80 in a room - breaks down normal inhibitions which human beings have absorbed in their upbringing and which we take for granted. Inaction, the lack of work, the rumors, true and false, that sweep the camps, all create a bad atmosphere which develops into what we know as the "DP psychology." The longer human beings stay in these camps the worse and the longer is their readjustment in a normal society.

"Despite the extraordinary results obtained by the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief in resettling 25,000 refugees in the United States in two months' time, and despite the generous reception given to Hungarian refugees by Germany, Switzerland, France, England, Canada and Australia, the fact remains that there are over 100,000 refugees still in need of permanent resettlement for whom coordinated and large scale planning should be done. I speak of the 60,000 to 65,000 refugees in Austria, 20,000 in Yugoslavia and 20,000 to 30,000 that have gone temporarily to countries like Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium and Holland.

"I have seen many refugee groups in the last 20 years and I must say that this group of Hungarian refugees represents the most promising from the viewpoint of resettlement in a new country. They are young, they are healthy, they are trained and they are enthusiastically aware of the benefits of freedom and liberty that they will find in the Western world.

".all of the refugees in Austria must be treated equally and given a minimal decent place in which to live pending their emigration out of Austria. Only the United States can be expected to meet this crying need. The break in the iron curtain signalized by the Hungarian revolt and the movement of 170,000 people out of the country, has been utilized, but there can be no diminution in effort until the problem of these 170,000 people has been solved. Otherwise we would undo all of the great work that has been done so far. "

- (3) Dr. R. Norris Wilson, head of the protestant Church World Services, who has just returned from a first hand study of the situation in Austria was almost violent in his oral comments to me criticising conditions in various of the camps in Austria.

It is my belief that the above comments fully confirm the report made by Mr. Tuck and General Hardigg a month ago about the inadequacy of a substantial part of the camps in Austria and of the need for effective U. S. action. (The Yugoslavia situation developed after Mr. Tuck and General Hardigg had departed and they, therefore, did not comment on it.)

Tracy S. Voorhees

FEB 25/1957

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR MR. HAGERTY:

Mr. Voorhees is terminating this week his White House assignment as the President's representative to assure coordination of Hungarian refugee relief efforts. His letter to the President, which is annexed, is self-explanatory. He feels that the emergency situation with which he was appointed to deal is now over.

The President, on Mr. Voorhees' recommendation appointed last December 12th the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief as the principal machinery for such coordination. (Copy of the press release creating the Committee is attached.) The Committee will continue active for a time to assure continuance of the team-work of the 22 voluntary and Government agencies concerned and to assist the voluntary agencies, the various Governors' Committees for refugees, the U. S. Employment Service and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in making certain of the permanent satisfactory resettlement of these refugees, as well as to follow-up on plans for continuing the higher education of some 500 to 800 promising university students among them.

Total Hungarian refugees received to date from Austria under the President's emergency action have been 27,074. Of these 25,480, or 94 %, have already left the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center for resettlement under the sponsorship of various voluntary agencies -- most of them ^{with} religious affiliations and representing the principal religious faiths.

The balance now at Kilmer is only 1594. Slightly under 4,000 have arrived or are arriving during this month. Arrivals during March will be on a flexible basis but will not be greater than in February.

The President may perhaps desire to express his appreciation of the work of the voluntary agencies and of the warmhearted reception given by the American people to these refugees from communist terror.

Washington, D. C.

February 28, 1957

EXCERPTS FROM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE FOR HUNGARIAN REFUGEE RELIEF:

Because the emergency phase of the Hungarian refugee problem is now passed, I am, with the President's approval, terminating this week my temporary assignment in the White House. I enclose a copy of my letter to the President.

It was the unanimous judgment of the members of the Committee present at the meetings which considered the subject of the Committee's remaining in existence and active for a reasonable further period, that this should be done; further that the principal functions should be as follows:

- (1) To continue the successful coordination of activities of the many different voluntary and governmental agencies at Kilmer.
- (2) To follow up as may prove necessary the subject of the successful resettlement of the refugees on a permanent basis, and to this end to coordinate the work of the various Governors' Committees and local coordinating committees, as well as the various other agencies concerned.
- (3) To continue the Committee's efforts concerning plans for the higher education of university grade students among the refugees, initially through basic courses in English, and then so far as possible through obtaining scholarships for promising students.
- (4) To furnish through the above work a continuing tangible proof of the interest of the President and of the American people in the Hungarian refugees.

While the work at Kilmer will be on a much smaller scale than heretofore and is thoroughly organized, the very fact that the job there has been done on such a successful basis to date makes it desirable for us to take every possible step to assure that there will be no let-down in the quality or the acceptability of the leadership and coordination of activities there. The above arrangements will, I believe, assure this.

The work of the Committee in providing for the needs of students for higher education will continue to be carried on under the direction of Dr. Krout, as our one man subcommittee for this purpose, with the able assistance of the Institute for International Education and the World University Service. Arrangements for courses in basic English for the refugees who are students of university grade requiring training in English are already financed and are either under way or soon will be during this semester. Substantial progress has already been made in obtaining private funds for scholarships for the next college year, but more remains to be done.

At the Committee's instance, the President recently wrote to the Governors of all the States concerning the appointment or continuance of Governors' Committees to coordinate activities for refugee relief, with specific application to the satisfactory permanent resettlement of the recent Hungarian refugees and those still to come. This letter was followed by more detailed information which I sent in behalf of the Committee to the Governors suggesting the creation also of local committees in areas where there were substantial numbers of refugees to coordinate the work of the various agencies there. Responses have been received from the Governors of many states. Your Committee is now considering inviting the Chairman of the various Governors' Committees to Kilmer for a conference and thorough discussion.

These activities are in no way based upon any indication that the absorption of these refugees has not been on a satisfactory basis. On the contrary, it has. However, with almost 30,000 refugees arriving in so short a time, it was felt that we should not take anything for granted, and should give careful attention to this important question. In this, the U. S. Employment Service and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare — the latter with the assistance of state and local Health and Welfare Departments — are assisting.

Of course, the leadership throughout continues to be in the religious and other agencies engaged in resettlement which have sponsored the refugees and which have so well carried on the main task of resettlement.

Since, so far as I know, there has never been in the history of our country an occasion on which such large numbers of homeless, penniless people, 90% of whom did not speak English, have come to this country in so short a time, our Committee's work deals with an activity without precedent, of great interest and of broad humanitarian value.

Permit me again to thank everyone of you for the interest, the wisdom and the devotion which you have brought and are bringing to the Committee's work.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tracy S. Voorhees

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 1957

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY MADE
PUBLIC THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE
OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE
PRESIDENT AND THE HONORABLE
TRACY S. VOORHEES

Dear Tracy:

I have your letter of the twenty-fifth and am deeply gratified by the accomplishments you reported in regard to resettlement of Hungarian refugees in this country.

As you pointed out, the success of this program is truly the product of the warmhearted actions of the American people as a whole and of the religious and other voluntary agencies in particular. Their immediate and generous response to this urgent need has been of inestimable value.

I am delighted to know that almost all of these refugees have now gone on from Camp Kilmer to other parts of our land. Thanks to the highly cooperative spirit that has characterized this effort, the remaining elements of the resettlement program will, I am confident, be accomplished without difficulty. I look forward with great interest to the report that you indicated will be made later by the Committee.

As you conclude your immediate responsibilities here, I want to express my sincere appreciation of your large and effective contribution to the success of this program. I know that the coordinating mission you agreed to undertake last November was not an easy one, and I am grateful to you for devoting your time and ability so completely to its successful outcome.

With warm regard,

Sincerely,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

more

Dear Mr. President:

Last November you asked me to act as your representative in connection with Hungarian refugee relief activities to assure full co-ordination of the work of the various voluntary and Government agencies, and to set up the requisite machinery for this purpose. The understanding was that this assignment was for temporary emergency purposes only. My responsibilities were defined as relating to the movement of refugees to this country and their reception and resettlement, not to the separate problems existing in Austria.

On my recommendation you appointed the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief as the machinery for the co-ordination of the work of the voluntary agencies generally and of their work with the Government agencies at the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center. To date 27,373 refugees have been received. More than 94% of these have already left Kilmer for resettlement under the sponsorship of responsible religious and other voluntary agencies. The President's Committee has assisted these agencies to the full extent possible, but the major credit for success in this resettlement work belongs to the voluntary agencies themselves and to the warm hearted action of the people of America.

As the above figures indicate, the emergency phase of your refugee program has now been met. The President's Committee has a useful continuing function for a reasonable further interval and will remain active while this need exists. The co-ordination of the work of the various Government departments and agencies in Washington has been effected through an informal group with which I have met at frequent intervals. This work has also now become routine. We are, I believe, now adequately organized to move to the U.S., to receive and to resettle on a routine basis any presently foreseeable number of Hungarian refugees who may be permitted to come.

For the above reasons I shall, subject to your approval, terminate my duties in the White House this week, but shall continue to serve as Chairman of the President's Committee. The Committee will later make its own report to you.

It has been for me a unique privilege to have been able to serve as your representative in this cause in which I so deeply believe and under the inspiration of your leadership.

With my gratitude,

Yours faithfully,

TRACY S. VCORHES

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Washington, D. C.
February 28, 1957

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE FOR HUNGARIAN
REFUGEE RELIEF:

Because the emergency phase of the Hungarian refugee problem is now passed, I am, with the President's approval, terminating this week my temporary assignment in the White House. I enclose a copy of my letter to the President.

It was the unanimous judgment of the members of the Committee present at the meetings which considered the subject of the Committee's remaining in existence and active for a reasonable further period, that this should be done; further that the principal functions should be as follows:

- (1) To continue the successful coordination of activities of the many different voluntary and governmental agencies at Kilmer.
- (2) To follow up as may prove necessary the subject of the successful resettlement of the refugees on a permanent basis, and to this end to coordinate the work of the various Governors' Committees and local coordinating committees, as well as the various other agencies concerned.
- (3) To continue the Committee's efforts concerning plans for the higher education of university grade students among the refugees, initially through basic courses in English, and then so far as possible through obtaining scholarships for promising students.
- (4) To furnish through the above work a continuing tangible proof of the interest of the President and of the American people in the Hungarian refugees.

For planning purposes, my present best estimate of the time the Committee will need to continue will be from thirty to perhaps a maximum of ninety days. I believe that we should then make a report to the President and, subject to his wish, call on him as a group, present our report and definitely terminate our activities on the basis that we are no longer needed. Definite decision on these matters must of course await later developments and action by the Committee.

To adjust the Committee's activities to the present less critical situation and lighter workload, General Collins, Mr. Beebe and I have agreed on the following steps to be taken as of March 1:-

- (1) General Collins is resigning as Director of the Committee but will continue as a member and Vice Chairman. He will, after March 1, be able to give only a relatively small amount of time to the Committee's work, instead of his almost full time service since last December.
- (2) Mr. Carusi is terminating his work with the Committee as of March 1. He has generously contributed his full time services at the Washington office. Because of his ability, and his broad previous experience, including his earlier service as Commissioner of Immigration, he has been of invaluable aid in the Committee's work.
- (3) The Committee office in Washington will be continued in reduced space. My assistant in the White House, Mr. Harry T. Carter, will move to the Committee office in Washington and be in charge of the work there for the time being. Aside from Mr. Carter, the staff there is being reduced to two secretaries.
- (4) At Kilmer, where such a large part of the work of the Committee has throughout been centered, Mr. Beebe has consented to continue to serve as Vice Chairman and to be responsible for the Committee's work there. However, he feels that it is no longer necessary for him to be on duty full time at Kilmer. Instead, from his office at the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn he will be in daily touch with Kilmer by telephone, and will at frequent intervals return to Kilmer as necessary to keep in close touch with matters there. He will also be available to go to Kilmer at any time should any critical problem arise. To carry on the day to day work at Kilmer under Mr. Beebe's supervision, Colonel Jack B. Dunn has agreed to continue on a full time basis as Mr. Beebe's assistant, in addition to Colonel Dunn's important activities as coordinator of the work of the various Governors' Committees for refugees. All action for The President's Committee will be taken in Mr. Beebe's name, and Colonel Dunn will keep in close contact with him. We are most fortunate that Colonel Dunn is willing to continue to contribute his valuable full time efforts. As he and Mr. Beebe have worked closely together for many weeks, this arrangement should provide on a very satisfactory basis for the Committee's activities at Kilmer.

Pursuant to the decision at the last meeting of the Committee, the subcommittee for Kilmer, consisting of Mr. Beebe as Chairman, General Collins, Mr. Hoskins, Mr. Leavitt, Msgr. Swanstrom and Dr. Wilson has been appointed and will meet at regular intervals. I shall serve as an ex officio member of this subcommittee.

While the work at Kilmer will be on a much smaller scale than heretofore and is thoroughly organized, the very fact that the job there has been done on such a successful basis to date makes it desirable for us to take every possible step to assure that there will be no let-down in the quality or the acceptability of the leadership and coordination of activities there. The above arrangements will, I believe, assure this.

The work of the Committee in providing for the needs of students for higher education will continue to be carried on under the direction of Dr. Krout, as our one man subcommittee for this purpose, with the able assistance of the Institute for International Education and the World University Service. Arrangements for courses in basic English for the refugees who are students of university grade requiring training in English are already financed and are either under way or soon will be during this semester. Substantial progress has already been made in obtaining private funds for scholarships for the next college year, but more remains to be done.

At the Committee's instance, the President recently wrote to the Governors of all the States concerning the appointment or continuance of Governors' Committees to coordinate activities for refugee relief, with specific application to the satisfactory permanent resettlement of the recent Hungarian refugees and those still to come. This letter was followed by more detailed information which I sent in behalf of the Committee to the Governors suggesting the creation also of local committees in areas where there were substantial numbers of refugees to coordinate the work of the various agencies there. Responses have been received from the Governors of many states. Your Committee is now considering inviting the Chairmen of the various Governors' Committees to Kilmer for a conference and thorough discussion.

These activities are in no way based upon any indication that the absorption of these refugees has not been on a satisfactory basis. On the contrary, it has. However, with almost 30,000 refugees arriving in so short a time, it was felt that we should not take anything for granted, and should give careful attention to this important question. In this, the U. S. Employment Service and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare -- the latter with the assistance of state and local Health and Welfare Departments -- are assisting.

Of course, the leadership throughout continues to be in the religious and other agencies engaged in resettlement which have sponsored the refugees and which have so well carried on the main task of resettlement.

Since, so far as I know, there has never been in the history of our country an occasion on which such large numbers of homeless, penniless people, 90% of whom did not speak English, have come to this country in so short a time, our Committee's work deals with an activity without precedent, of great interest and of broad humanitarian value.

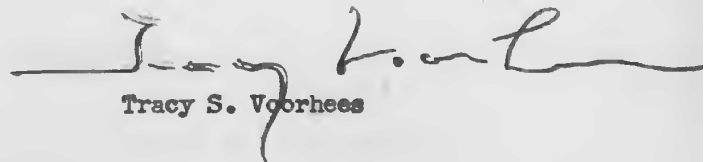
I am glad to report that the privately contributed funds for the cost of the public information activities of the Committee in aid of resettlement have been made available, and this activity through Communications Counselors, Inc. is still proceeding in support of the work above set forth to assure satisfactory permanent resettlement. As a part of this, Communications Counselors, Inc., through Mr. Mark Foster, will continue the public information activities at Kilmer with, as heretofore, the very helpful assistance of the Army PIO unit.

Although you may have received a copy before, I am sending under separate cover a kit which was recently sent to some 1800 newspapers and also to the various Governors' Committees. In addition to this, there have been a series of television, radio and press programs and articles. In some of these we have had highly valuable assistance from the Advertising Council.

If the above arrangements are satisfactory to the Committee, I think that there is no need for an early meeting of the full Committee. However, I shall be glad to call such a meeting at any time should there be an indication that the members feel that it is desirable.

Permit me again to thank everyone of you for the interest, the wisdom and the devotion which you have brought and are bringing to the Committee's work.

Respectfully submitted,


Tracy S. Voorhees

1 Attachment:
Copy of letter to
The President,
February 27, 1957.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 1957

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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With warm regard,

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Dear Mr. President:

Last November you asked me to act as your representative in connection with Hungarian refugee relief activities to assure full co-ordination of the work of the various voluntary and Government agencies, and to set up the requisite machinery for this purpose. The understanding was that this assignment was for temporary emergency purposes only. My responsibilities were defined as relating to the movement of refugees to this country and their reception and resettlement, not to the separate problems existing in Austria.

On my recommendation you appointed the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief as the machinery for the co-ordination of the work of the voluntary agencies generally and of their work with the Government agencies at the Joyce Kilmer Reception Center. To date 27,373 refugees have been received. More than 94% of these have already left Kilmer for resettlement under the sponsorship of responsible religious and other voluntary agencies. The President's Committee has assisted these agencies to the full extent possible, but the major credit for success in this resettlement work belongs to the voluntary agencies themselves and to the warm hearted action of the people of America.

As the above figures indicate, the emergency phase of your refugee program has now been met. The President's Committee has a useful continuing function for a reasonable further interval and will remain active while this need exists. The co-ordination of the work of the various Government departments and agencies in Washington has been effected through an informal group with which I have met at frequent intervals. This work has also now become routine. We are, I believe, now adequately organized to move to the U.S., to receive and to resettle on a routine basis any presently foreseeable number of Hungarian refugees who may be permitted to come.

For the above reasons I shall, subject to your approval, terminate my duties in the White House this week, but shall continue to serve as Chairman of the President's Committee. The Committee will later make its own report to you.

It has been for me a unique privilege to have been able to serve as your representative in this cause in which I so deeply believe and under the inspiration of your leadership.

With my gratitude,

Yours faithfully,

TRACY S. VCORHEES

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FEB 28, 1957

crossed

March 1, 1957

NEW YORK TIMES

Picture of Tracy S. Voorhees

CAPTION: Attorney resigns post as refugee co-ordinator

Washington - 28 Feb:

Tracy Voorhees, New York attorney, resigned today as President Eisenhower's personal representative on Hungarian refugee problems. He said the "emergency phase" has ended.

Accepting the resignation President Eisenhower thanked Mr. Voorhees for successfully attempting the difficult mission of co-ordinating efforts to bring refugees here and find them new homes and jobs.

Mr. Voorhees reported that 27,373 refugees had reached ~~the~~ Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and all but 1,594 persons had gone on from there to homes. Most of these were brought here in December and early January.

Mr. Voorhees, who had a White House office, said the work of moving the refugees into this country and from Camp Kilmer into jobs and homes now had "become routine."

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

May 14, 1957

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Report TO THE PRESIDENT BY

The President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief

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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*,
WILLIAM HALLAM TUCK, *Vice Chairman*,
LEO C. BEEBE, *Vice Chairman (Kilmer)*,
ALFRED M. GRUENTHER,
LEWIS M. HOSKINS,
MRS. JOHN C. HUGHES,
JOHN A. KROUT,
MOSES A. LEAVITT,
GEORGE MEANY,
MSGR. EDWARD E. SWANSTROM,
CHARLES P. TAFT,
R. NORRIS WILSON,
WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, *Counsel*.

May 14, 1957