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May 8 - 1957 Refugees In Austria Decreasing

Hungarians Go To Other Nations

By Robert N. Sturdevant

By Wireless to the Herald Tribune

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VIENNA, May 7.—All but 8,000 to 10,000 Hungarian refugees will be moved out of Austria by the end of the year, the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration predicted today.

Those remaining, out of the 171,000 who crossed the border after the anti-Communist revolution in October, will be largely the "hard core" cases—persons with tuberculosis or other diseases who have been rejected by the immigration authorities of most nations.

G. Edward Borst, chief of the I. C. E. M. mission in Austria said that by the end of June the Hungarian refugee population will have been reduced to 25,000. Most of these could be moved much more quickly were it not for a slowdown of acceptance by receiving nations, particularly the United States.

One of the big problems is how to dispose of 2,900 teen-aged children who arrived in Austria without their parents. They cannot go back because many of them fought in the anti-Communist revolt.

Several hundred small children and babies who were brought out by friends of parents have not been reunited with their mothers and fathers. There are parents who left children inside Hungary with friends. Efforts made through the United Nations to obtain permission for the children to leave Hungary have been without success.

A decision on the Hungarian problem is expected at the end of this month when international relief organizations meet at Geneva under United Nations auspices.

Last Refugees At Kilmer to Go Tomorrow

CAMP KILMER, N. J., May 7 (AP).—The last busload of more than 25,000 Hungarian refugees who fled their homeland for America will leave this processing center Thursday.

A group from President Eisenhower's Committee on Refugee Relief will join with Brig. Gen. Sidney C. Wooten in a brief ceremony at Gate 4—the threshold to new homes for all the refugees departing from the camp.

When the refugees leave, this World War II embarkation camp will once again be mothballed. It has been reactivated twice—once for the Korean War and again for the Hungarian refugee program.

The last to go are widowed mothers and Hungarians with special skills who have not been placed.

HUNGARIAN FAST IN EXILE PRESSED

Inmates of Austrian Camp Ask All Refugees Join Hunger Strike on U. S. Ban

SALZBURG, Austria, May 9 (Reuters)—Hungarian refugees in nearby Camp Roeder called on other Hungarian refugees throughout the world today to join a three-day-old hunger strike against United States immigration policy.

Even sick men in Camp Roeder refused to eat their lunch. They joined in the general threat not to eat until Washington reconsidered a decision to end its emergency refugee program and admit all Hungarian refugees who wanted to enter the United States.

A statement issued by the refugees accused the United States—"our greatest trust"—of dealing with them only superficially.

"Our hope to find a new homeland there has been disappointed," the statement declared. "We, therefore, call upon all decent Hungarian refugees, homeless as we are, who have sympathy with us, to go on a hunger strike."

"We Hungarians are prepared sooner to die of hunger than to continue to live in the uncertain conditions forced on us by the Americans," the statement went on. It was sent to the United States refugee aid organization and the Salzburg Provincial Government.

Strike pickets roamed the camp kitchens as the statement was announced. But most refugees lay quietly on their beds to preserve their strength, on the advice of camp doctors.

The refugees plan to send a delegation to Salzburg when Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt visits the city next week-end to ask when emigration to the United States will resume.

44 Children Repatriated

Dispatch of The Times, London

HORGOS, Yugoslavia, May 9—The repatriation of forty-four Hungarian children, all under the age of 14, took place today at this post on the Yugoslav-Hungarian border. Red Cross officials from both countries and a score of journalists and photographers invited by the Yugoslav authorities were present.

Minister Urges Entry

Special to The New York Times.

BUCK HILL FALLS, Pa., May 9—A leading church relief executive charged here today that the Soviet Union was making political capital out of the Congressional delay in permitting more Hungarian refugees to enter the United States.

The Rev. Dr. Norris Wilson, director of Church World Service, declared that Congressional inaction on President Eisenhower's plea to set up regular future refugee quotas was being used behind the Iron Curtain as evidence that the United States "knuckles under when the chips are down."

Dr. Wilson said that a "minimum" of 10,000 refugees from Hungary now in Austria and Yugoslavia "must" be brought to the United States. He described these refugees as units of broken families whose relatives were now in the United States.

During the day the Rev. Dr. Roswell P. Barnes was elected executive secretary of the United States Conference of the World Council of Churches here. He will succeed the Rev. Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, who will retire Jan. 1.

Cuba May Admit 5,000

Louis de Cseh, president of the United States branch of the Hungarian Revolutionary Parliament, said yesterday he thought it likely that Cuba would admit about 5,000 Hungarian refugees soon, and that Mexico and other Latin-American nations would follow suit.

CAMP FOR REFUGEES IS CLOSED AT KILMER

Special to The New York Times.

CAMP KILMER, N. J., May 9

—Army engineers closed the reception center for Hungarian refugees here this afternoon.

Shortly before, the last group of thirty-three Hungarians rode out of the Army camp that had served as a haven for almost 32,000 of their countrymen since last November.

Tracy S. Voorhees, chairman of the President's committee for Hungarian refugee relief, said Operation Mercy was "another humanitarian effort on the part of the American people."

Twenty-five of the refugees went to the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn.

Brig. Gen. Sidney C. Wooten, commanding officer of the center, received the Benemerenti Medal from Pope Pius XII. Capt. John J. Kowsky, Roman Catholic chaplain at the post, made the presentation.

The twenty-five refugees joined seventy-five others at the St. George Hotel, which since May 1 had been the national headquarters for the refugee program. They will remain until they are united with their sponsoring organization.



Press
Clippings

Herald Tribune photo by Nat Fein

LAST HUNGARIAN REFUGEES LEAVE KILMER—Dr. Gyoergy Polgar, his wife, Katalin, and their children, Istvan, eleven; Gyoergy, two-and-a-half, and Borbala, eight, as they left Camp Kilmer, N. J., yesterday. They were among the last Hungarian refugees to leave the Army camp.

Kilmer Ends Processing Of Refugees Last of 32,000 Leave Camp

In an article in Section 1, Page 20, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell reports on the assimilation of the Hungarian refugees into American life and their contributions to the nation's economic and moral well-being.

By Lyn Fernbach

CAMP KILMER, N. J., May 9.—The last of nearly 32,000 Hungarian refugees sheltered and processed here during the six months following the Hungarian revolution left this Army camp today.

Tracy S. Voorhees, chairman of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief, and Brig. Gen. Sidney C. Wooton, commanding general of the Army-operated refugee reception center, personally bade farewell to the last thirty-three men, women and children.

At Brooklyn Hotel

Then, after they had heard an Army band play both the United States and the Hungarian national anthems, the refugees boarded an Army bus and three Army staff cars. They were then driven to the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn where they will stay until jobs and homes have been found for them.

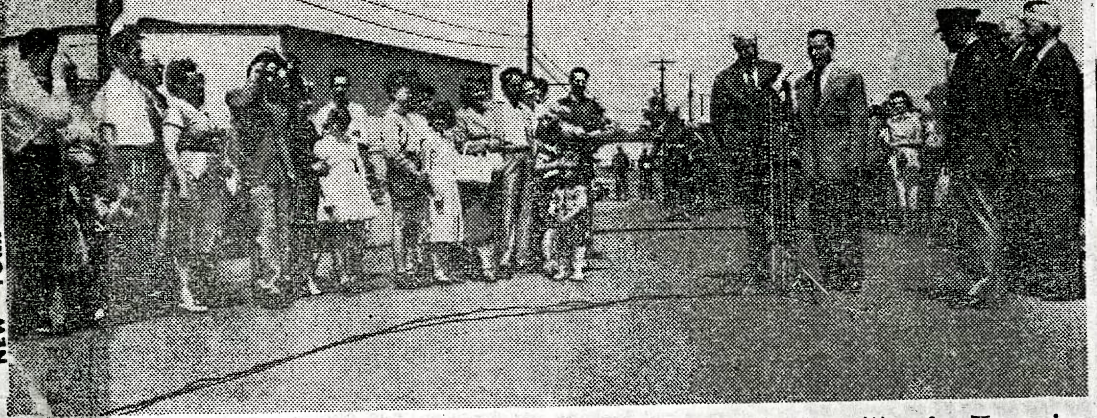
The departure of the last refugees—most of them recent arrivals who have not yet been placed into jobs—marked a milestone in the history of Camp Kilmer. More important, it ended what may perhaps be described as the most humanitarian phase in the life of the Army camp.

That phase began on Nov. 21, 1956, when sixty Hungarian refugees arrived at the camp—still filled with the terror of the Soviet counter attack on the Hungarian freedom fighters. From the non until last April 30 ships and planes brought nearly 32,000 refugees to this Army camp which had been padlocked and deserted for seventeen months when it was reopened last Nov. 15.

22 Agencies in Work

With up to 2,200 refugees arriving on a single day, the camp was soon crowded with men, women and children. Many of these had been able to save nothing but their lives and the clothes on their backs. To help them fill both their immediate needs and their wishes for new jobs and homes, twenty-two civilian and government agencies went to work.

ISTEN HOZIA AVILITIA
WELCOME TO AMERICA



NEW YORK POST. FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1957.

The last refugees to occupy Camp Kilmer bid goodbye to President's Committee for Hungarian Relief as the reception center closes. Some 32,000 refugees passed through these gates.

Camp Kilmer Closed, Last Refugees Leave

Camp Kilmer, N. J., is closed today after handling about 32,000 Hungarian refugees.

Army engineers shut down the camp yesterday afternoon shortly after the last group of 33 refugees left, most of them going to the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn.

Tracy S. Voorhees, chairman of President Eisenhower's committee for Hungarian refugee relief, said the program, dubbed

Operation Mercy, was "another humanitarian effort on the part of the American people."

In a brief ceremony marking

the closing of the camp, Brig. Gen. Sidney C. Wooten, commanding officer, was presented the Ben Emerenti Medal from Pope Pius XII by the post's Catholic chaplain.

The St. George Hotel, which since May 1 has been national headquarters of the refugee program, still has 100 refugees awaiting relocation by their sponsoring organizations.

Special to the New York Post
Salzburg, Austria, May 10—

The hunger strike of Hungarian refugees protesting the ending of the U. S. emergency program continued into its fourth day today.

Even sick men and women refused to eat their noon meal yesterday. Only pregnant women and children under 12 took food.

In a resolution calling for the hunger strike, the refugees said:

"Our greatest trust was in the U. S. Our hope to find a new homeland there has, however, been disappointed, for the U. S. has dealt with us only superficially."

Mission Completed

One woman weeps as others [→] stand at attention during playing of "Star-Spangled Banner" prior to departure of the last busload of Hungarian refugees from Camp Kilmer, N. J.

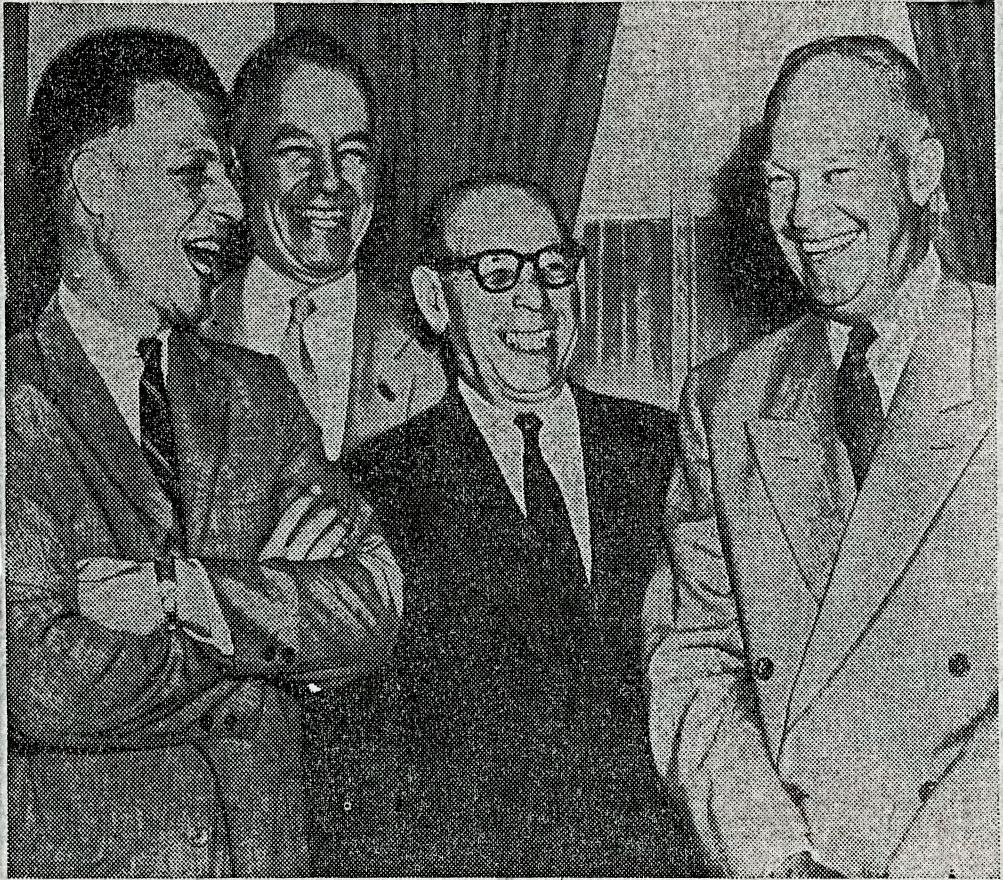
(NEWS foto by Joe Petrella)



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President Ends Refugee Panel But Pledges More Aid



Associated Press Wirephoto
It's unanimous—President Eisenhower enjoying a light moment at the White House with members of his Hungarian refugee relief committee, which he disbanded after receiving its final report. They are, from left, William H. Tuck, Charles P. Taft and Moses A. Leavitt.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 14—President Eisenhower dissolved his emergency Presidential Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief today but he promised the United States would continue to help fugitives from

the Communist satellite nation both here and abroad. The President pledged continued assistance to Austria, where many of the refugees still are awaiting resettlement. The President's views were expressed in a statement ac-

companying release of the committee's final report. He said the policy of this country was to "continue to meet its full share of the free world's responsibility to help these

Continued on Page 12, Column 5

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1957.

PRESIDENT ENDS REFUGEE PANEL

Continued From Page 1

people * * * The committee, set up on Dec. 12 after the ill-fated Hungarian revolution last fall, reported that a total of 32,075 refugees had been brought into the United States and resettled as of May 1. It said that the Military Air Transport Service had transported 13,120 on 214 flights; the United States Military Sea Transport Service 8,945 on five ocean voyages; and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration 9,664 on 133 flights.

President Hails Agencies

The committee asked to be dissolved because it said the machinery to handle more refugees and give continued aid to Austria "is now in operation * * * on a normal rather than an emergency basis."

The President in his statement praised the religious, voluntary and Government agencies that conducted the resettlement "at such an unprecedented rate and in so many other ways helped the refugees."

The committee noted that the average of the refugees was under 25 years, and that more than half were professional, skilled or semi-skilled workers who had little difficulty finding jobs.

It said the Government had

pursued "in detail" health and security investigations of the refugees because of "public concern on both these grounds."

"Up to May 1," it said, "only five out of more than 32,000 refugees have had to be deported as security risks."

The committee said the resettlement program had proceeded well.

Committees Set Up

"Governors' committees to coordinate refugee relief still exist in states which have received more than 90 per cent of these refugees," it said. "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."

The committee said that it had created a continuing team to handle the work of resettling the more than 1,000 university students who were among the refugees. It said a large proportion of these were pursuing studies "in areas of the sciences in which the United States has critical personnel shortages."

The committee said that the leading part played by the United States in assisting Austria with the refugees "has, we believe, attracted far less attention than its magnitude and importance in contributing to the solution of the refugee problem deserve."

Honorary Chairman of the Committee was Lewis W. Douglas; chairman was Tracy S. Voorhees. Gen. J. Lawton Col-

lins, William T. Tuck and Leo C. Berbe were vice chairmen.

Members of the committee were: Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, Lewis M. Hoskins, Mrs. John C. Huges, John A. Krout, Moses A. Leavitt, George Meany, Msgr. Edward E. Swansrom, Charles P. Taft, R. Norris Wilson, and William J. Donovan, counsel.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1957

Eisenhower Disbands Unit For Hungarian Refugee Aid

WASHINGTON, May 14 (AP). —President Eisenhower today disbanded his Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief but promised that this country's efforts on behalf of Hungarians "here and abroad" will continue.

Mr. Eisenhower acted after receiving a final report from the fifteen - member committee which he appointed in December to co-ordinate efforts of government and voluntary agencies in resettling those who fled from Communist Hungary.

The committee said 32,075 Hungarians have reached this country and said this apparently was the largest "mass movement" into the United States in so short a period.

Only Five Deported

The group, headed by Lewis W. Douglas, former Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, said only five of the refugees "have had to be deported as security risks."

"While Russian tanks were firing on Hungarians," the report said, "United States 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."

The committee proposed its own dissolution on the ground that machinery now is in operation to help refugees "on a normal rather than an emergency basis."

Voicing agreement, Mr. Eisenhower said the action does not mean that "America's work for the Hungarians — here and abroad—is over."

Congress and the Refugees

Austria still has more Hungarians refugees than it can care for. It has appealed to both the United States and to the United Nations to take steps to see that these refugees are admitted to other countries. Unfortunately the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 expired last Dec. 31, and the non-quota visas granted under it were only valid until April 30. And apparently only a few Hungarian refugees from Soviet oppression will still be admitted on parole, as was the case earlier this year.

Immigrants can now in general come in only under the quota system, which is based on the national origins shown by the 1920 census and which imposes a ceiling of 154,857 persons annually. Unfortunately, most of these quotas are assigned to Great Britain, Germany and Ireland and not to the countries from which the freedom-loving refugees are escaping. An average of 60,000 quota numbers assigned principally to these three countries go unused every year. Last January President Eisenhower asked that the quota system be revised so that these unused visas could be assigned to other countries in Europe. He also asked for emergency legislation to assure a haven in this country for 75,000 refugees from Communist persecution.

The case of the refugees from Hungary illustrates the necessity for swift enactment of this legislation. While Austria is overcrowded with these unfortunate victims of Communist tyranny, their entry into the United States has been slowed down to such an extent that no more will be processed at Camp Kilmer. And those who have arrived thus far have no immigrant status what-

soever but are here on "parole" without the right to permanent residence.

We are sure Congress has no intention of refusing them this right. But every day that Congress delays in sanctioning their admittance, in authorizing the entry of additional refugees who will be an asset to this country, the greater will be the disillusionment in the displaced persons camps in Austria and Yugoslavia, the greater the bitterness against the United States for talking about freedom for the satellites but doing nothing about those who have actively opposed Communist oppression.