

Hungary 1956-1959 - correspondence, resolutions, General Assembly and Secur...

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Hungary - 1956

29 Nov.

Text of a telegram addressed to all Govern-
-ments members of the U.N. by D.H. and
the U.N. Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees
(conc. Assistance to Hungarian refugees)

UNITED NATIONS
Department of Public Information
Press and Publications Division
United Nations, N. Y.

Relief

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CAUTION: ADVANCE RELEASE
Not to be made public
Before 3:00 PM (EST)
Thursday, 29 November 1956

Press Release SG/542
29 November 1956

SECRETARY-GENERAL AND DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
LAUNCH APPEAL TO GOVERNMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO HUNGARIAN REFUGEES

Following is the text of a telegram addressed today to all Governments members of the United Nations and to the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland, the Vatican and Vietnam by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees:

PLEASE BRING FOLLOWING ATTENTION YOUR GOVERNMENT:

WISH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GENEROUS EFFORTS BEING MADE BY MANY GOVERNMENTS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF GENASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/RES/398 CONCERNING ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM HUNGARY, AND HAVE HONOUR REQUEST THAT IMMEDIATE ATTENTION BE GIVEN SUBSEQUENT RESOLUTION A/RES/409 ADOPTED BY GENASSEMBLY ON 21 NOVEMBER AT ITS ELEVENTH SESSION AND TRANSMITTED BY ME TO YOUR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ON 26 NOVEMBER. THIS RESOLUTION URGES GOVERNMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS "TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SECGEN, THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES OR OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES FOR THE CARE AND RESETTLEMENT OF HUNGARIAN REFUGEES AND TO COORDINATE THEIR AID PROGRAMMES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER."

A SITUATION OF THE UTMOST URGENCY HAS NOW DEVELOPED. IN A COMMUNICATION TO THE SECGEN, THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO UNATIONS WROTE ON 26 NOVEMBER "THE HUNGARIANS STREAMING INTO AUSTRIA AT THE PRESENT TIME ARRIVE DEPRIVED OF ANY MEANS AND IN A STATE OF EXHAUSTION. THEY HAVE TO BE CARED FOR IMMEDIATELY, TO BE FED AND CLOTHED. THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH EVERYONE WILLING TO HELP, IS UNDERTAKING ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE THESE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. BUT, IN SPITE OF ALL THE DESPERATE EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE TO COPE WITH THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM, AUSTRIA CANNOT DO IT ALONE. SHE NECESSARILY DEPENDS ON GENEROUS JOINT IMMEDIATE HELP FROM OTHER COUNTRIES." THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IN A REPORT (DOCUMENT A/3371) SUBMITTED ON 19 NOVEMBER ESTIMATED ORIGINAL COST OF CARE

(more)

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FOR REFUGEES THEN EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN AUSTRIA FOR SIX MONTHS. AT THAT TIME, ONLY SOME THIRTYFOUR THOUSAND REFUGEES HAD ARRIVED AND MINIMUM NUMBER EXPECTED TO REMAIN FOR SIX MONTHS WAS ESTIMATED AT TWENTY THOUSAND. AS OF 28 NOVEMBER, THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER REPORTS THAT APPROXIMATELY NINETYTWO THOUSAND ARRIVALS HAD SO FAR BEEN RECORDED, AS AGAINST APPROXIMATELY TWENTYTWO THOUSAND DEPARTURES. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES LIKELY TO REMAIN IN AUSTRIA THEREFORE REQUIRES SUBSTANTIAL UPWARD REVISION; BEARING IN MIND THE TIME ELEMENT INVOLVED IN COMPLETING ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESETTLEMENT, AND THE RELUCTANCE OF MANY REFUGEES TO MOVE AGAIN PENDING CLARIFICATION OF THE SITUATION IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY. IN LIGHT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME, ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE WAS THAT 6,530,000 DOLLARS WOULD BE MINIMUM SUM REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FOR EXPECTED TWENTY THOUSAND REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA DURING SIX MONTHS, IN ADDITION TO AID PROVIDED ON EMERGENCY BASIS BY RED CROSS AND OTHER AGENCIES. ALREADY ON 21 NOVEMBER, THE GROWING INFLUX OF REFUGEES MADE IT NECESSARY TO SUBMIT AN ADDENDUM TO THIS ORIGINAL REPORT AND ESTIMATE POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT ORIGINAL FIGURES NO LONGER APPLIED AND CONCLUDING "ANY APPEAL FOLLOWING GENASSEMBLY ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE BASED ON NEW ESTIMATES."

WHILE IT IS STILL NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE EXACTLY DIMENSIONS OF PROBLEM OVER NEXT SIX MONTHS, IT IS NOW CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF PRESENT INFORMATION AS TO NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA AND THOSE LIKELY TO BE MOVED ELSEWHERE IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AND OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE ALREADY COMMUNICATED TO THE SECGEN AND THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, THAT NOT LESS THAN A FURTHER TEN MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR MEETING MINIMUM NEEDS FOR ESTIMATED SIXTY THOUSAND HUNGARIAN REFUGEES FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS.

WE WOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE AN INDICATION OF ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE YOU ARE PREPARED IN THIS EMERGENCY TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE SECGEN OR TO THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. WE WOULD REQUEST PRECISE INDICATIONS OF THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF SUCH ASSISTANCE, WHETHER IN CASH OR IN THE FORM OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM OR RESETTLEMENT OFFERS.

SIGNED DAG HAMMARSKJOLD SECGEN AND JAMES READ DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

(more)

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This appeal follows a resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 9 November 1956, of which section D, paragraphs 1 and 2, read as follows:

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to call upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to consult with other appropriate international agencies and interested Governments with a view to making speedy and effective arrangements for emergency assistance to refugees from Hungary;

"2. Urges Member States to make special contributions for this purpose."

A subsequent resolution (A/RES/409) adopted by the General Assembly on 21 November requests the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Refugees to continue their efforts on behalf of refugees from Hungary and:

"3. Urges Governments and non-governmental organizations to make contributions to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or other appropriate agencies for the care and resettlement of Hungarian refugees and to co-ordinate their aid programmes in consultation with the Office of the High Commissioner.

"4. Requests the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to make an immediate appeal to both Governments and non-governmental agencies to meet the minimum present needs as estimated in the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Secretary-General and authorizes them to make subsequent appeals on the basis of plans and estimates made by the High Commissioner with the concurrence of his Executive Committee."

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