

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

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U.N. and International Committee of the
Red Cross conclude agreement on relief
in Hungary (U.N. Press Release)

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Press Release SG/548
5 December 1956

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
CONCLUDE AGREEMENT ON RELIEF IN HUNGARY

An agreement has been concluded between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, by which the latter will act as the agency for the distribution of supplies furnished by the United Nations for relief to the population of Hungary.

The agreement was reached pursuant to a resolution adopted by the General Assembly at the Second Emergency Special Session on 9 November 1956 (Doc. A/RES/399), which requested the Secretary-General to undertake immediately the necessary measures for relieving the suffering of the Hungarian people and urgently appealed to all countries concerned to give full assistance to him in the implementation of this task.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Secretary-General by Georges Palthey, Deputy Director, European Office of the United Nations and, on behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, by its President, Leopold Boissier.

The agreement provides that the International Committee of the Red Cross will carry out relief with contributions made to the United Nations pursuant to resolution A/RES/399. The Committee will use any funds transferred to it by the United Nations for the exclusive purpose of providing immediate aid to the population of Hungary, in particular by furnishing medical supplies, foodstuffs and clothing. It will distribute relief under this program in accordance with the principles of the Red Cross and in the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, without discrimination and on the basis of need alone.

The Committee will supply all organizational supervisory and technical personnel, services and equipment required for the operation of the program, and the United Nations will defray such administrative and operational costs attributable to the performance of the United Nations relief program as may be agreed between the United Nations and the Committee.

The United Nations and the Committee will act in close collaboration in regard to the planning and the implementation of the program. In particular, the Committee will extend full cooperation to any representative who may be sent to Hungary by the Secretary-General in connection with the program.

(more)

The agreement relates to the distribution of relief supplies on Hungarian territory and does not cover action to assist refugees from Hungary, whose situation has also been made a responsibility of the Secretary-General and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

In taking action to carry out the resolution on relief in Hungary, the Secretary-General addressed an appeal to governments on 15 November, asking them to make contributions for that purpose. The replies of governments so far received are available in document A/3405, issued for general distribution on 30 November.

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