

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

HS L 179:83



Dag Hammarskjöld's sand.

Hungary - 1956

29-30 Dec.

- a) S'eynes, Ph. de (Under-Sec. for Relief to
the Hungarian People)
- 1 interoffice memorandum to D.H.
- b) 2 code cables from de Seynes to Pelt (European
Office of the U.N.)
- c) 1 code cable from A. Pelt, Geneva to de Seynes

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General

Date: 29 December 1956

THROUGH:

FILE NO.: _____

FROM: Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary for Relief to the Hungarian People

Ph. de Seynes

SUBJECT: Hungarian Relief

1. In November, before your departure for Rome and Cairo, I sent you a memorandum setting forth the general lines of the conception I had in mind with regard to the United Nations relief operations within Hungary. I indicated that, subject to your approval, it was my intention to conclude an agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross under which it would serve as a channel of distribution for supplies made available to it by the United Nations either in kind or purchased with cash from contributions made to the United Nations for that purpose. You indicated your agreement with this approach to the problem, provided that a line is kept open for later operations under the United Nations aegis in cooperation with the Red Cross. I have acted in accordance with this decision and the result is an Agreement concluded with the International Committee of the Red Cross which keeps open the possibility of action by the United Nations in cooperation with the Red Cross.

2. Now that these arrangements have been concluded, the question which presents itself forcibly to us is that of whether the United Nations is to receive contributions from Governments for the purpose of relief within Hungary. It is quite clear that the Hungarian people expect the United Nations to be active at least in connection with relief. Also the International Committee of the Red Cross certainly expects the United Nations to be more than a silent partner.

3. On 15 November, an appeal was issued in your name to the Member Governments of the United Nations requesting contributions for relief within Hungary. The response to this appeal has been negligible. On 13 December, in your interim report to the General Assembly (A/3443), Governments were again urged to make contributions for this purpose.

4. Quite apart from the question of the prestige of the United Nations and the necessity of giving effect to resounding resolutions, I believe that the most effective way in which the relief programme can be handled is by having the United Nations function as a central point for the collection of contributions, particularly from Governments, and for receipt of information on relief requirements. Contributions received

by the United Nations would be made available to the International Committee of the Red Cross on the basis of submission of requirements to the United Nations by that Committee. Insofar as resources available to the United Nations are inadequate or in unsuitable form to meet the list of requirements received from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Secretariat could undertake negotiations with individual donor Governments with a view to adjustment of the form of their contribution.

5. Although we have not been officially informed of a contribution by the Government of the United States we understand that this Government has \$15 million in surplus supplies which it intends to make available partly for relief within Hungary. It would be important to have this contribution made to the United Nations. This would greatly help us in a series of conversations which should be held with Governments. Without any pledge on the part of the United States, such conversations with other Governments would be fruitless. [Perhaps you will find it possible to mention the matter to Mr. Dulles when you see him on Monday.] I of course fully realise that the Assembly resolutions were adopted in a different political climate and that a decision whether or not to help the Hungarian people under present circumstances may be a difficult one for the United States Government. On this it would be interesting to know their current thinking; but the main point is if they are going to contribute, are they disposed to do it through the United Nations or not. [I have arranged for Myer Cohen to go to Washington in the coming week for discussion with the State Department on this.]

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TO: PELT GENEVA
FROM: DE SEYNES
DATE: 29 DECEMBER 1956
NUMBER:

Further to my 2155 the following cable received from FAO.

"Secgen reference De Seynes' telephone conversation Broadley prefer nominate Wahlen instead Sinard. Wahlen arrives Geneva 2 January. Sen."

To which I replied as follows: "I suggested Sinard because Hungarian Government informed me two visas would be available in Vienna for ECE officials repeat ECE officials only, should I decide to have them accompany me. After conversation with Broadley I arranged for Sinard's participation and notified Hungarian Government accordingly prior receipt your cable. While Wahlen's participation in mission would be most valuable, reluctant reopen with Hungarian Government already difficult negotiations at this very late stage. De Seynes."

This for information you, Palthey, Stetsenko, Obez.

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TO: PELT PALTHY GENEVA
FROM: DESEYNES
DATE: 30 DECEMBER 1956
NUMBER: 2161

Please telephone the following message to DirGen FoodAgri Rome Mr. Sen from de Seynes. This channel be used due to absence code facilities to Rome.

Message begins. Sen Strictly Confidential. Your cable December 30. I wish point out understanding exists between myself and Government Hungary that mission be limited three persons, myself and two ECE officials; the limitation in number is based on necessity preserve secrecy. I cannot break agreement nor speculate on willingness Hungarian Government modify these arrangements. Therefore would hope no difficulty in taking Sinard as member my mission. I will be delighted meet Wahlen Geneva before proceeding Vienna. If to proceed Budapest as your personal representative strongly believe desirable he await my return since presence two separate missions simultaneously could endanger secrecy. My visit Budapest limited to three to four days. Deeply regret misunderstanding which has occurred as to your concurrence that Sinard accompany me. Message ends.

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TO: DESEYNES
FROM: PELT, PALTHEY, GENEVA
DATE: 29 DECEMBER 1956
NUMBER: UNGVA 2118

Votre 2155 et 2156. CICR et nousmemes tres heureux votre voyage.
Boissier et Stetsenko d'accord. Pour eviter indiscretions par sejour
hotel logerez chez Palthey. Prevenez heure arrivee.