

CONFIDENTIAL

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
Vienna Office

Charles R. Read
20 S. 12th Street
Philadelphia 7, Penna.

11/12/56

Dear Charlie:

This morning I went out to the Traiskirchen Camp with Ed and got my first glimpse of the situation. Refugees continue to pile in, 1900 yesterday and 2000 are expected today. One of the important reasons for the present influx is the lack of food in Hungary. Some of these pass right through the Camp; for instance yesterday we distributed clothes in the regular way to 350 and to about 250 people in buses who just passed through the camp without stopping at all.

I am sure that Allen will have been able to explain the situation to you and the role of coordination that Gertrud von Catharin is playing as well as the distribution of our supplies. There are a great many men coming in now. I saw mainly men this morning. Since we and other organizations do not have the necessary warm mens' clothing quite a lot of such was purchased this morning and several private cars were pressed into service this afternoon to take it to the camp. I am sure that not only men's clothing was purchased but more of it is needed than of any other kind. I enclose the copy of a letter which I have written to Herrn von Bertrab of the Bavarian Red Cross to confirm a telephone conversation that we have just had. He felt sure that he could send us rather large quantities of the articles listed. We have also heard that the Oxford Famine Relief Committee is sending two or three truck loads of clothing. Also FSC told Bernard over the telephone that they have 1000 pounds available.

I was particularly interested to learn that the radio announced yesterday that the first convoy of International Committee of the Red Cross supplies had crossed the border of Yugoslavia into Hungary. If it is really possible to get supplies into Hungary that will mean that a vast amount more will be needed.

It is not clear just where the refugees who leave Austria are being sent and it is unfortunate that the responsibility for the reception camps and the processing rests with the Innenministerium; in other words with the police. That means that there is no individual processing being done, for the most part. I have a memo before me that lists the offerings by country which I thought might be of interest. Sweden will take at least 1,000; Belgium 3,000; France 800 families and will give scholarships for 100 students; Holland 1,000; Switzerland 2,000 (most of those have already gone); USA 5,000.

I shall try to keep you informed of developments and take a little of the load off Ed. Aileen Taylor arrived this afternoon and I am sure will be put to work distributing clothing.

Sincerely thine,

Julia

P.S. Up to last night 10,000 had passed through the camp, or at least entered it.