



HUNGARIAN RELIEF BULLETIN

The American National Red Cross, Washington, D.C.

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ARC HUNGARIAN RELIEF ROLE GREATLY EXPANDED

The American Red Cross has mobilized its volunteers and staff throughout the nation to provide new welfare services in connection with President Eisenhower's expanded program for bringing a total of 21,500 Hungarian refugees to the United States.

At request of Tracy S. Voorhees, President's Coordinator for Hungarian Relief, the Red Cross rushed plans to provide the following in addition to its previous commitments for Hungarian relief;

- (1) Teams of Red Cross recreation and welfare staffs aboard the three U.S. Navy transport ships assigned to bring refugees to the United States from the West German port city of Bremerhaven;
- (2) Staff and volunteers at staging areas in Munich and Bremerhaven to provide welfare and comfort services to refugees before debarkation to the United States;
- (3) Reception teams at the Brooklyn docks and McGuire Air Force Base to greet and assist the Hungarians as they arrive in this country;
- (4) A staff of 60 and over 250 volunteers, on a 24 hour basis, at Camp Kilmer, N. J., where the Red Cross has been assisting both the Army and other welfare agencies in caring for the Hungarians until they depart for their new American homes.

These new responsibilities assigned by Mr. Voorhees will require several hundred additional Red Cross workers, according to ARC President Ellsworth Bunker. The three ships taking part in the sea shuttle are Gen. Elting, Marine Corp and Gen. Hahn. The Gen. Elting sailed for Bremerhaven Friday to pick up its refugees. The others will follow in approximately one-week intervals.

The Red Cross team aboard the Gen. Elting will be directed by Harold Kase, of the New York Chapter. Other team members are: Jerry Coron, Canton, Ohio, Miss Phoebe Steffey, NHQ, and Mr. Lewis Cseh of the New York City Chapter.

The expanded Camp Kilmer operation will be directed by Jack Henry, assistant manager of Eastern Area.

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 * SCHOOL CANCELS XMAS PARTY TO HELP ARC *
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 * Each year the Senior Class of the Hartford (Kan.) High school holds *
 * a Christmas party for all students and faculty. This year at a secret *
 * meeting the class voted overwhelmingly to cancel the party and donate the *
 * cost -- between \$75 and \$100 -- to the Red Cross for Hungarian relief. *
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ARC AID FOR ALL AT CAMP KILMER

More than 1,000 refugees had cleared through the Camp Kilmer reception center as of December 5, and all had received Red Cross help of one kind or another. Supplies distributed include under clothing, socks or stockings, pajamas, shorts or blouses, cleaning tissues and toilet articles. More than 400 messages were dispatched for refugees by the Red Cross which is also providing free transportation to trains, busses and airports for them.

A battery of Red Cross sewing machines, manned by Hungarian-speaking volunteers, make necessary clothing alternations. Junior Red Cross gift boxes are given to refugee children and toys contributed from many groups are also distributed by Red Cross.

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 * FREEDOM TO WORSHIP STRESSED AT CAMP KILMER *
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 * "I am so happy, especially for our children, that we will have a *
 * fuller and richer Christmas in this wonderful land. Our Christmases in *
 * Hungary have been miserable these past several years. We have not had *
 * freedom to observe it in the religious sense because we have been afraid." *
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 * This comment from a Hungarian refugee mother is typical of many made *
 * to Red Cross volunteer interpreters at Camp Kilmer. *
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 * "I am thankful for the freedom we will have to worship here and I *
 * look forward to Christmas. The Communists tried to keep us from going to *
 * church, but they never could stop us, although we risked our lives when *
 * we attended the masses," added Mrs. Judith Velar of Budapest. *
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CLEVELAND PRESS CO-SPONSORING MERCY FLIGHT

The Cleveland Press is the first newspaper in the nation to co-sponsor the shipment of a plane load of Hungarian relief supplies direct to Vienna. The mercy plane leaves Cleveland at 11:30 this morning and is due to arrive in Vienna at 8:15 a.m. EST tomorrow.

Joint sponsors in the flight are the United Hungarian Societies and the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the Red Cross. Traveling on the plane will be two

officials of the Cleveland Press -- City Editor Louis Clifford and Nationality Editor Theodore Andrica. The cargo includes 20,000 pounds of clothing and medicine.

ARC TO OPERATE SECOND CAMP IN AUSTRIA

A second team of American Red Cross welfare specialists has arrived in Vienna to operate a Hungarian refugee camp near Salzburg. Plans are also being made to mobilize a third team for similar duty.

Directing the 2nd ARC team will be Emil F. Lewis, director of Field Service, SEA, veteran of 12 years of Red Cross experience. Second in command will be AFD Robert D. Martin, MWA, who ran a refugee camp for UN Relief and Rehabilitation Association in Italy after World War II.

Other members are Miss Kathleen Lewis, JRC asst. dir., Dallas, Tex., Chapter; Dr. Noile Muney, well-known Denver, Col., physician, surgeon and ARC volunteer; Miss Margaret Stiel, FD, Fitzsimons General Hospital, Denver; Miss Jeanie Adkerson, national deputy director, Nursing Services; and, Miss Ida Larkin, First Aid & Water Safety secretary, NHQ.

The ARC decided to take over the second camp under an agreement between the League of Red Cross Societies and the Austrian government which calls for the League to up from 20,000 to 35,000 the number of refugees being cared for in centers operated by the League's member societies.

LABOR AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS BACK ARC APPEAL

Many large national organizations have expressed keen interest in, and a desire to support fully, the special ARC fund appeal for Hungarian assistance. Here are excerpts from some of replies received in response to Chairman E. Roland Harriman's appeal for assistance:

"Please be assured that the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations wholeheartedly supports the new nationwide appeal of the Red Cross for a \$5,000,000 fund for relief of the Hungarian victims of Soviet oppression. Like all other Americans, the fifteen million members of our affiliated unions have been profoundly shocked by the brutal mass murders of the Hungarian people, and by the inhuman suppression of human rights in that unfortunate country. I am confident they will respond generously to the appeal of the Red Cross for immediate funds. GEORGE MEANY, PRESIDENT, AFL-CIO.

"We heartily applaud the decision of the American Red Cross to appeal to the American people for a \$5,000,000 emergency fund for Hungarian relief. The AFL-CIO, through its Community Services Committee, urges all in our far-flung membership to assist to make this campaign the success it so richly deserves to be." Joseph A. Beirne, Chairman, AFL-CIO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE.

"Be assured of my fullest cooperation and of that of my associates. Special stress will be laid on inclusion of your announcement in our appeals and publications." Msgr. Bela Varga, President HUNGARIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL.

"The plight of the unfortunate people of Hungary touches the hearts of Civitans. Civitan International, through its many local clubs and its thousands of members, will respond to the humanitarian challenge, and will cooperate with the Red Cross." Luther R. Medlin, President, CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL.

"It will be my purpose to immediately convey to our entire membership the contents of your message, and I feel sure the response will be generous." Guy L. Brown, Grand Chief Engineer, BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS.

"Enclosed herewith is a copy of my circular letter of even date addressed to the recording secretaries of our lodges in the United States asking that the membership make contributions to this worthy cause." H. E. Gilbert, President, BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN AND ENGINEERS.

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Executive Vice-President James T. Nicholson arrived in Geneva today to attend a meeting of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross. He will also discuss the ARC role in Hungarian relief with League of Red Cross Society officials, and other Red Cross representatives.

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Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, former Allied Supreme Commander in Europe, and President-elect of the ARC, was interviewed on Dave Garroway's NBC-TV "Today" program Friday morning. The General made a strong appeal for support of the ARC fund appeal.