Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 298 (1961)[1]

Assistance to refugees in the Federal Republic of Germany and in Italy

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Assembly,

2. Having noted the Report on the situation of refugees in Germany (Doc. 1315);

3. Whereas, apart from 13 million "national" refugees, the population of the Federal Republic of Germany still includes some 200,000 refugees within the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);

4. Whereas, according to estimates by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, about 8,000 foreign refugees were still living in camps in Germany at the beginning of 1961 and nearly 17,000 refugees living outside camps had not yet been definitely resettled;

5. Whereas the non-settled refugees within the mandate of UNHCR include, in camps alone, over 700 handicapped refugees requiring special measures;

6. Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is conducting a camp clearance scheme scheduled for completion in Germany in the course of 1963 and has recently started programmes for the handicapped refugees among the non-settled refugee population living outside camps;

7. Whereas, however, the United Nations High Commissioner still requires funds for assistance to handicapped refugees needing special measures and unlikely to benefit from emigration schemes;

8. Whereas the German authorities have made, on behalf of refugees, and foreign refugees in particular, efforts to which the Assembly is glad to pay a tribute;

9. Whereas Germany, Austria and Italy are among the European countries where refugee problems have been most acute;

10. Whereas member countries of the Council of Europe will wish to show their concern by contributing to the settlement of these distressing problems ;

11. Recalling its Recommendation 227 (1960) and Resolution (60) 14 of the Committee of Ministers, whereby the Council of Europe was enabled to make a contribution of 100,000 new French francs on behalf of refugees in Austria;

12. Recalling its Resolution 184 (1960) concerning the problem of refugees and over-population in Italy,

1. Assembly debate on 27th September 1961 (17th Sitting) (see Doc. 1315, Report of the Committee on Population and Refugees). Text adopted by the Assembly on 27th September 1961 (17th Sitting).

13. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers take steps to release an appropriation of 200,000 new French francs so that the Council of Europe may be associated with the establishment of :

the rehabilitation centre including a protected workshop for handicapped refugees requiring special care, which forms part of a project planned by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner in conjunction with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany, to be set up at Stuttgart for 10 couples and 40 single persons belonging to the most difficult cases;

the protected community which is being planned in Italy by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner in conjunction with the Italian authorities for part of the 130 refugees in camps who are the most difficult to settle.