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## **Aid to Hungarian refugees**

### **Report**

Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population

Rapporteur: Mr Etienne de la VALLEE POUSSIN, Belgium



## A. Draft Recommendation

The Assembly,

Profoundly disturbed by the tragic events now occurring in Hungary;

Reaffirming its deep feelings of unity and brotherhood with the heroic people of Hungary in their sufferings;

Welcoming the individual offers of help made by Member States to provide relief for Hungarian refugees,

Urgently requests the Committee of Ministers not to disregard the obligation resting upon the Council of Europe, as the representative of the European community, to provide not only moral but material aid to all those who have fought for freedom;

Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :

1. request all Member States, regardless of the aid they have already given individually to Hungarian refugees, to make a collective contribution on behalf of the European community to the Austrian Government;
2. make the necessary arrangements for the credit balance in the administrative Budget of the Council of Europe for the Financial Year 1955 to be transferred to the Austrian Government;
3. request each Member State to receive the largest possible number of Hungarian refugees without requirement of the Austrian return visa, and to accord to all of them who are able to work the facilities available under the system established by the Statute relating to refugees and provided for under the Geneva Convention of 1951. In particular, Member States should immediately grant to Hungarian refugees received in their territory, whilst speeding up and reducing the usual administrative formalities as certain States have already done :
  - a. residence permits,
  - b. labour permits;
4. invite Member States to negotiate agreements with the U. S. Administration, the Governments of Australia, Canada and other Governments overseas which have undertaken to receive Hungarian refugees in order to ensure that refugees who have been selected for asylum in European countries other than Austria will not be prejudiced thereby from final resettlement in the United States, Australia, Canada or elsewhere overseas;
5. request each Member State to facilitate the admission into apprentice training centres of young Hungarian refugees who wish to learn a trade or to specialise;
6. request Member Governments to keep the recommend all those Member States which are by way of giving asylum to Hungarian refugees to do their utmost to ensure that :
  - a. no form of discrimination in the selection of refugees should be practised which would place any additional burden on the Austrian Government;
  - b. the refugees do not remain for a long period in the reception camps but are rapidly assimilated into the economy of the various countries;
  - c. members of the same family of refugees remain together;
  - d. the refugees are enabled to find employment similar to that in which they were engaged before they were compelled to leave their homeland;
  - e. the refugees are, as far as possible and if they so desire, settled in areas where the same religious confession as their own is practised;
7. Secretary-General of the Council of Europe informed of all the steps they may take in this connection, including those referred to above, so that the Assembly and the public may be made aware of them;
8. grant Council of Europe fellowships to those Hungarian refugees who have been obliged to interrupt their studies owing to the events of which they are the victims; request all Member States receiving refugees to ensure that the latter can continue and complete their professional training or their education in cases where such training or education had been interrupted by the events in Hungary;
9. ensure that each Member State shall receive in charitable or other institutions or establishments, at its own expense, and in the light of the Interim Agreements on Social Security concluded by Member States of the Council of Europe, women, children and old people who are incapable of work;

10. support the efforts of I. C. E. M. and approach the competent authorities of certain overseas countries, in order that the latter may give asylum and employment to Hungarian refugees and their families;
11. give urgent consideration, in cooperation with the International Red Cross, to the possibility of providing humanitarian and material aid to all those who, remaining inside Hungary, are suffering as a result of recent events.

**B. Explanatory Note by M. de la VALLEE POUSSIN**

**1.**

The Committee on Population and Refugees held an emergency session at the Austrian Parliament Building in Vienna on 12th and 13th November 1956, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Jeger, Vice-Chairman.

It held four meetings, and members also made a journey to Nickelsdorf on the Austro-Hungarian frontier and to refugee camps at Eisenstadt and Treiskirchen. On 13th November the Committee visited reception centres for refugees run by the Red Cross and private voluntary organisations in Vienna.

At one of its meetings, the Committee heard a statement by M. Strasser, Representative to the Consultative Assembly, on his visit to Hungary from 4th to 11th November.

The following attended the meetings as observers : MM. Bermann, Alexander and Temnomeroff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and MM. Esgate and Teichmann of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration.

In conclusion, the Committee unanimously adopted the above draft Recommendation which it hereby submits to the Standing Committee, this body being competent to adopt it on behalf of the Assembly as a matter of urgency.