

The Reader Writes

10 JUN 1957
Waiting Hungarians

TO THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR:

I read with great interest the dispatch from your correspondent in Belgrade on Hungarian refugees in Yugoslavia. He writes that the United States is in danger of losing Hungarian friends in Yugoslavia and an East-West propaganda battle. From my experience with refugees in Austria I would say that battle may be lost.

When the Hungarian exodus began in November the United States *invited* refugees to register for emigration. Thousands did so. They had such faith in the United States that they did not register for any other country. These people have waited five or six months in the camps. Now they are told that unless they have parents, children, a husband or wife already in the United States, admission will not be granted, and it is too late to register for other countries.

The United States has done much for the Hungarians, though in proportion to less wealthy countries the number admitted is small. Financial help has been generous. But charity is not enough. When these people were invited to register for the United States an implicit promise was made. That promise has been broken. These good and very gallant people are now condemned to life in the camps as displaced persons. They are young people, many are teen-agers or in their early twenties. They were our front line against communism. They looked to the United States, the home of liberty, for a new life. Now many believe that they have been betrayed.

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