

ICEM News

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FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.

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ICEM COORDINATING ALL HUNGARIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT:
4,000 ALREADY MOVED NEW HOMELANDS.

New York, Nov. 16 — Approximately 4,000 Hungarian refugees have already been moved to new homelands under the crash program devised by the 27-nation Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) which is the coordinating agency for all refugee movements from Austria. This report was cabled here this morning by ICEM Director Harold H. Tittmann, concurrent with the information that 8,000 Hungarian refugees streamed into Austria in the last 48 hours.

According to Mr. Tittmann, the total arrivals during the last 12 days has reached nearly 30,000.

The ICEM Director reported further that "the program for movement of large numbers of these people to countries which so generously offered to share responsibility to extend asylum is under way and daily picking up speed."

In response to the Austrian Government's request that ICEM act as coordinating agency for all refugee movements from Austria, ICEM's facilities have been expanded in an all-out effort to meet the emergency and to provide the necessary teams to register and document refugees, assist their selection and provide the necessary transport arrangements.

In addition to rail transport, the ICEM is organizing special airflights to speed the lift. Also the eastbound legs of air-charter flights under the regular U.S. Refugee Relief Act were also utilized to bring 6,000 U.S. Escapee Program "welcome kits" from the United States.

"As of today," Mr. Tittmann said, "2,118 refugees have been transported to Switzerland, 600 to the Netherlands, 600 to Belgium, 150 to Germany, 100 to France and 200 to Sweden. These countries are continuing their efforts. In addition, Australia and the United Kingdom have begun selecting and the United States is expected to start selecting shortly. ICEM teams operating out of the regular Vienna and Salzburg offices, plus newly opened area offices in Graz and Linz will assist these selection missions in their task of maintaining the flow.

"In the meantime, offers of asylum continue to pour in from ICEM's member governments. In addition to those announced on November 14, I have offers from New Zealand for 500 refugees, from Canada to give priority to Hungarian refugees under its regular program, from Luxemburg to take refugees to the limit of its capacity to absorb them, from Spain to take and care for an unlimited number of orphans, from Colombia to take 1,000 refugees and from Belgium to take 3,000.

"Switzerland has increased her original offer from 2,000 to 4,000 and the Netherlands from 1,000 to 1,300; Denmark has offered to take 200 women and children; the Union of South Africa in addition to its cash contribution has offered to receive 250 refugees and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland has coupled its cash pledge with an offer to receive certain numbers of refugees and orphans.

"The response, enthusiasm and generosity of these countries is truly overwhelming", the Director stated.

Meanwhile ICEM's normal overseas resettlement operations continue. This month, under its regular program for movement of European migrants, ICEM expects to transport 10,000 people to new homes overseas. Of these, half will come to the United States for admission under the U.S. Refugee Relief Act — 3,780 on 54 chartered flights and 1,258 on the General Langfitt. (The ICEM-chartered vessel is expected to dock in New York on November 23).

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The New York office of ICEM receives daily cabled reports on the Hungarian refugee situation. For further information, please call Edward Marks or Ruth Tropin at OXford 5 - 3380.

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