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DATE:

2 Jan 1956

FROM:



# ICEM *News*

NEW YORK OFFICE:  
11 WEST 42ND STREET  
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION

TELEPHONE:  
OXFORD 5-3380

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

No. 200.

ICEM ASSISTS NEARLY 70,000 MIGRANTS TO REACH  
U.S. IN 1956; HUNGARIAN REFUGEE LIFT BOOSTS  
FIGURE TO NEW HIGH.

New York, Dec. 31 — During 1956 a total of 69,300 migrants, including over 21,000 Hungarian refugees, left Western Europe for settlement in the United States with the assistance of the 27-nation Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). This was the largest number of U.S. bound migrants aided by ICEM in any year since its organization in 1952.

Both before and after it shouldered the special task of organizing the evacuation of Hungarian refugees from Austria, the ICEM continued uninterruptedly its regular assignment of finding new homelands for Europeans from overcrowded western countries.

In 1956 the five-year old Committee moved a total of 128,800 migrants to new overseas homelands — in addition to approximately 90,000 Hungarians who were helped in reaching permanent or temporary asylum in the West during the last two months.

According to latest figures released by the New York office of ICEM, the United States led this year in welcoming new European settlers, chiefly under the now expired Refugee Relief Act of 1953 — 48,000 sailed or flew under ICEM auspices to this country in addition to the recent Hungarian escapees offered asylum by the U.S. Australia ran second by receiving 40,000 migrants from Europe. Other destinations were: Argentina, 8,700; Canada, 7,400; Brazil, 5,900; Israel, 5,200; Venezuela, 4,900; Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, 1,900; Uruguay, 1,700; Chile 400, and various other lands 3,200.

When the Hungarian refugees thronged Austria early in November of this year the Austrian Government called upon ICEM to coordinate resettlement activity. To meet the needs of this emergency program, the Committee expanded its program in Austria by the addition of trained migration staff from other European offices. ICEM's seven teams in Austria registered and documented all the 90,000 refugees who were evacuated to other countries in the past sixty days, including the 21,300 Hungarians who have entered the United States.



In the case of those bound for the U.S., the Committee organized an airlift from Vienna and Linz for the direct movement to McGuire Air Base of the 6,300 who received immigration visas under the Refugee Relief Act. In the case of the remaining 15,000 being admitted to the U.S. as paroled aliens, ICEM arranged rail transportation from Austria to embarkation points in Germany where the refugees were transferred to U.S. military ships and planes for the balance of the lift.

The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration was created on December 31, 1951, to assist in refugee resettlement and tackle the dual problems of over-population in certain Western European countries and under-population in some overseas nations through a program of planned resettlement.

The Committee's task encompasses more than the provision of transportation -- it has aided national selection missions of receiving countries, organized language and vocational training, carried on information programs about countries of immigration, aided in placement and helped to promote wider resettlement opportunities.

ICEM's migration operation got into full swing in February 1952 and since that time the Committee has moved some 570,000 Europeans chiefly from Germany, Austria, Italy, Netherlands and Greece to overseas lands where they could resume or start a more productive, secure life. Over 140,000 of these have come to the U.S.

The Committee is headed by former U.S. Ambassador Harold H. Tittmann and maintains world headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Liaison offices are located in the main countries of emigration and immigration.

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