

EXEMPLAIRE N°
COPY

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH
2nd February, 1957

NATO UNCLASSIFIED
DOCUMENT
AC/52-D/223

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

HUNGARIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS

Note by the Acting Secretary

Attached for the information of delegations are papers submitted by the Delegations of Canada, France, Germany and the Netherlands on assistance extended by these countries to Hungarian refugee students.

(Signed) K. H. BEYEN

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIe.

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED - PUBLIC DISCLOSURE / DÉCLASSIFIÉ - MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

HUNGARIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS IN CANADA

Up to the present time sixty scholarships with a total value of \$ 120,000 have been provided for sixty Hungarian students at seventeen universities all across Canada. It is expected that the number will be increased as additional funds become available.

2. In order to provide the necessary books, clothing etc, that will be needed by Hungarian refugee students, contributions are being collected by the students and faculties of Canadian universities. Arrangement for lodging at the various universities is being provided by college dormitories and by fraternities.

3. In addition to the federal government, three other organizations are active in the establishment of Hungarian refugee students in Canada. They are: a special committee of the National Conference of Canadian Universities, which represents the administration of Canadian universities and colleges; the World University Service (WUS); and the National Federation of Canadian University Students (NFCUS). WUS has taken an active interest in this problem from early November and has canvassed Canadian universities and colleges for offers of scholarships and accommodation for refugee students. As a result of its efforts, close to one hundred offers of varying nature have been received.

4. NFCUS, which is represented on the majority of Canadian campuses, has also been active in such matters as the provision of tuition, accommodation, text-books, and pocket money.

5. At the request of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, the National Conference of Canadian universities had established a special committee to deal with the placement of refugee students. This Committee is in the process of soliciting from Canadian universities and colleges and from business corporations offers of tuition and accommodation for refugee students. The committee will interview students at an immigration hostel in Montreal and will direct them from there to the appropriate institution where final selection will be made. Plans are also under way for local employment and for intensive language instruction in English and French so that students without knowledge of these languages may be able to resume their studies next September.

6. The Federal Government is maintaining a hostel in Montreal for refugee students and is working in close co-operation with the NCCU committee. Instructions have been issued to the Canadian visa officer in Vienna to give priority to students desiring to come to Canada. Chartered flights have been arranged for the months of January and February to transport them. It is anticipated that by the end of February, between four and five hundred students will have arrived. The WUS and NFCUS are also co-operating with the NCCU committee, WUS having made available to that committee the offers of assistance it had received from its own earlier canvass.

DECLASSIFIED - PUBLIC DISCLOSURE / DÉCLASSIFIÉ - MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

7. In addition to these arrangements for the placement of individual students, there have been two projects for the establishment of portions of the faculty and student body of Sopron University.

8. The majority of the faculty and student body of the forestry department of the University of Sopron are being established in British Columbia where they will continue their activities as a unit. The group of 280 persons consisting of approximately 200 students, 19 professors and 61 dependents will be accommodated at a construction camp of the Powell River Company, eighty miles north of Vancouver, where arrangements are being made to give them intensive training in the English language so that they will be prepared to attend regular lectures at the University of British Columbia next autumn. While they are at the Powell River camp, the Canadian Government is prepared to contribute to the costs of food and clothing and to operating expenses. This group has already arrived in Canada and will be in British Columbia about 27th January.

9. One hundred and ten students from five other faculties of Sopron University are being established in the city of Toronto. Arrangements are being made by the University of Toronto with the co-operation of the Department of Education of the provincial government for intensive language training preparatory to the resumption of regular studies at the University next fall. These students, like those of the forestry department, were transported to Canada by the Canadian Government and arrived on 16th January.

HUNGARIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS IN FRANCE

Number of Students

On 15th January, there were 249 Hungarian refugee students in France, 130 in Paris and 119 in the provinces, chiefly in Lyons and Strasbourg. There are new arrivals every day.

Reception centres and conditions of admission to State Universities

At each university there is a reception centre for foreign students. It is these centres, particularly the one in Paris directed by Madame Marty, 44 rue de Belle Plasse, 7ème, which are looking after the Hungarian refugees.

If the Hungarian students who wish to continue their studies are not in possession of the diplomas required for admission, they are enrolled subject to certain conditions - this means that they can attend lectures after signing a statement listing, on their honour, the diplomas they hold. Their enrolment is to be confirmed later after an examination.

French language courses

Steps have already been taken to organize special courses for these students. Each Rector has acted in accordance with the means at his disposal. The question is now being studied by the Ministry for Education.

Private initiative

The Free Europe University in Strasbourg accepts Hungarian students who wish to attend its classes.

HUNGARIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS IN GERMANY

In the Federal Republic of Germany there are actually about 800 refugee students from Hungary. From among this number, nearly 100 students are already fully matriculated in German universities since they are sufficiently familiar with the German language to attend lectures. These students, like the German refugee students from the Soviet occupied zone of Germany, are granted three-term rehabilitation allowances of DM 150 per month which are made available from funds of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Furthermore, these students are granted by the universities concerned exemption from fees and are given free meals; a large number of them are given free or at least low cost accommodation.

Nearly 700 students are taking lessons in German preparatory to entering German universities. During this time, they are granted allowances from funds of the Federal Ministry of the Interior which cover all costs of living and instruction and actually amount to a maximum of DM 258.

DECLASSIFIED - PUBLIC DISCLOSURE / DÉCLASSIFIÉ - MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

HUNGARIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Up till about the middle of December 110 Hungarian refugee students had arrived in the Netherlands.

In the course of the month of January these students have been enrolled at different universities and high schools under the auspices of the "University Asylum Fund".

The "University Asylum Fund" was established at the beginning of 1948 on the initiative of university professors, members of university staffs and students after the "coup d'état" in Prague. Its aim is to enable university professors and students, who because of the suppression of freedom of education in their country have been forced to abandon their studies or have had to leave their country and wish to come to the Netherlands, to continue their studies there.

"The University Asylum Fund" maintains close contacts with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, - which makes known the aims and activities of the "University Asylum Fund" in European refugee camps - with the World Council of Churches and several other private institutions working in refugee centres.

The necessary money is donated by students' unions, private persons and by an increasing number of trading and industrial firms. Moreover, the "University Asylum Fund" being a member of the "Netherlands Federation for Aid to Refugees", is entitled to a proportionate share in the proceeds of national collections, organized by the Federation. So far the Fund has received no financial assistance from the Government.

The "University Asylum Fund" is wholly independent from any political party or grouping and observes strict neutrality in the religious field.

Refugee students studying under the auspices of the Fund receive a monthly stipend of hfl. 140,- and a quarterly allowance for clothing of hfl. 30,-.

Consequently the sum of at least hfl. 2,000,- a year per student is needed to guarantee his study in the Netherlands, the average duration of which is estimated at a period of 5 years.

Medical insurance premiums, study books and examination fees are paid for by the fund. Refugee students are exempt from the payment of university fees.

Apart from the 50 Czech students who were admitted to the Netherlands in 1948 and the Hungarian students who have arrived recently, the Fund has taken care of 63 refugee students from Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

The Hungarian refugee students who have arrived since November last were taken to a central reception centre of the "University Asylum Fund" where general orientation courses were given. As no selection took place before their arrival in the Netherlands, they were tested in the reception centre in order to find out in what stage in the Netherlands curriculum they might start their studies.

Before being sent to a university or high school, the students live for some time with a Netherlands family in order to enable them to "acclimatise" and to acquire a working knowledge of the Netherlands language.

When the refugee students have been matriculated a local committee of the "University Asylum Fund" supervises their studying activities and renders assistance to them if needed.