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## COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

### HUNGARIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS

#### Note by the Canadian Delegation

1. Of the 36,503 Hungarian refugees admitted to Canada for permanent residence (as at 11th February, 1958) 958 were students from various Hungarian University Faculties:

<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Engineering	575	60
Science	85	8.87
Arts	61	6.36
Commerce	48	5.01
Medicine (including dentistry and pharmacology)	53	5.60
Agriculture	37	3.86
Pre-medical and pre-dentistry	24	2.50
Veterinary Science	13	1.35
Others (Industrial arts, fine arts, music, physical education, library science, law)	26	2.70
Graduate studies	10	1.04
Persons who could not establish standing in a university faculty	26	2.7
Total	958	100 %

2. As of 11th February, 1958, approximately 525 refugee students were attending Canadian universities. Of the remainder a number have failed to qualify by Canadian University standards; some have not been able to learn English or French sufficiently well to continue their studies; a few who had already obtained a degree in Hungary sought employment rather than pursue post-graduate studies; others are working to earn enough money to return to University.

3. Refugee students are attending 34 institutions of higher learning. The nature and extent of the assistance given refugee students vary. Several smaller colleges, unable to make a large contribution have nevertheless taken one or two students. In other cases students are receiving full scholarships consisting of room

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and board, tuition, books, pocket money, etc., given by the Universities themselves or by public-spirited citizens. Yet in other cases, the Universities have waived tuition fees, part of the remaining costs being provided by the students themselves, the remainder by organizations and individuals. The World University Service and the National Federation of Canadian University Students have been particularly active in this work. It is worthy of note that on most campuses the student bodies themselves have contributed considerable amounts towards the costs of maintenance of refugee students.

4. The most spectacular aspect of the refugee student movement has been undoubtedly the settlement in Canada of almost the complete Faculty of Forestry of Sopron University. Following arrangements made by telephone from Vienna by the then Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Hon. J.W. Pickersgill, in the early part of December 1956, an advance party composed of Dean Roller and a few professors journeyed to British Columbia to work out reception arrangements with the Powell River Company (a pulp and paper company) and the University of British Columbia. By February 1957, 307 persons (consisting of 193 students, professors and other dependents) were housed at Powell River in the Company's buildings. By their exemplary conduct, the Sopron's Forestry Faculty group soon gained the complete confidence and respect of the local population.

5. While at the Powell River Camp arrangements were made for the students to familiarise themselves with forestry techniques in British Columbia and to be given instruction in related subjects. The British Columbia Department of Education organized concurrent classes in English, with some 14 teachers, employing modern audio-visual methods of language instruction. While the Powell River Company supplied housing accommodation and amenities, the department paid for the cost of meals.

6. This arrangement continued until the end of May 1957 when efforts were made to place as many as possible in employment in the forestry industry. During the academic year 1957-58 the department of Citizenship and Immigration contributed towards the maintenance of the students at the rate of \$65.00 per month per person. For its part the University of British Columbia made available the sum of \$100,000 to be applied to the payment of the salaries of the Sopron professors, the payment of tuition fees of students who were unable to obtain summer employment and other related expenses.

7. It is expected that by the end of the current academic year the assistance of the department of Citizenship and Immigration will no longer be required. Approximately 50 students are expected to graduate this year and the remaining students, with assistance from private sources and their summer earnings will likely be able to provide for themselves.

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8. During his visit to Austria in December 1956, Mr. Pickersgill also met professors and students from several Engineering Faculties of Sopron University. Arrangements were made with the University of Toronto and with the Mining Association of Ontario to sponsor a group of 115 persons, including 76 students. This group arrived in January 1957 and from that time students' maintenance, tuition and other expenses have been met from private sources. Employment was arranged during the summer of 1957 and in the fall 49 students had qualified for admission to engineering courses at the University of Toronto. Amongst the remainder, several are employed in the mining industry and there are good reasons to believe that as they become more fluent in English and enhance their academic qualifications they, also, will enter University.

9. In summation it may be said that Hungarian refugee students, in the face of exceptional linguistic difficulties and under serious psychological stress, have adapted themselves remarkably well to their new environment and way of life. Social acceptance and co-operative efforts at all levels, government, universities, organizations and private citizens, have contributed greatly to their successful integration into Canadian society.

Palais de Chaillot,  
Paris, XVIe.