

9.10.06

121

NATO UNCLASSIFIED
and
PUBLIC DISCLOSED

ENGLISH ONLY
27th March, 1957

NATO RESTRICTED
WORKING PAPER
AC/119-WP/31/1

COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL ADVISORS

HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN THE NETHERLANDS

Note by the Netherlands Delegation

The absorption of the 2,854 Hungarian refugees admitted for permanent residence in the Netherlands is proceeding satisfactorily. By the middle of February 86% (2,097 refugees) of this total number had found employment. At this time only 129 Hungarian refugees still had to be placed. The remainder are children, aged people, some 110 students and those unfit to work.

2. As was to be expected, the initial employment found for refugees has not always proved entirely suitable, so that in some cases another job had to be found. Committees have been set up at local and regional level in order to assist the refugees in the process of their integration into society. Up to the middle of February some 50 refugees had decided to return to Hungary.

3. Whenever a refugee indicates his desire to return to Hungary, an investigation is made as to his motives. Sometimes these are connected with inappropriate housing or unsuitable employment, for which a remedy can be sought. If, however, a refugee - after having been duly warned of the risks he may run upon his return in Hungary - persists, he is not kept from leaving. In principle the returning refugee is expected to pay his own fare, though in urgent cases the Government provides the required tickets. The return trip is usually made through Germany and Czechoslovakia. For travel documents he has to apply to the Hungarian Legation at The Hague which invariably refuses to furnish travel funds.

4. There have been no indications as yet of a tendency amongst young refugees to join leftist groups or organizations. In general, the duration of their stay in the Netherlands has been too short, it is felt, to draw any conclusions on this subject.

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIIe.

NATO RESTRICTED