

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS
FACT-FINDING SUB-COMMITTEE
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS SUPPLIED BY U.N.R.R.A.

(At the request of the sub-committee)

DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE FAR EAST (a)

JANUARY 1946

Claimed Nationality and Residence	Country of Location					
	China	Philip- pines	Siam	India	British Malaya	Japan
European refugees		650(b)				
Germany	8,800					
Austria	3,700					
Poland	1,150					
Italy	1,200					
Czechoslovakia	240					
China		8,600				30,000
Korea	200,000					
"Overseas" Chinese from						
Indo-China	13,000					
Burma	30,000					
Malaya	34,000					
Siam	4,300					
Netherlands East Indies	13,000					
Philippines	21,000					
Other and undetermined	69,000					
Chinese from Hongkong	500,000					
Malaya			23,000			
Java			6,000		15,000	
Netherlands			18,000		14,000	
Indians from Burma				366,000		
Chinese and Burmese from Burma				28,000		

(a) Very rough estimates taken from a report of the Special UNRRA Displaced Persons Mission to the Far East, March 1946.

(b) Jewish refugees not reported by nationality.

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JUL 16 1946

 UNRRA - European Regional Office
 6 May 1946

SUMMARY OF THE NUMBERS OF DISPLACED PERSONS
IN THE FAR EAST, JANUARY 1946

(Based on Report of U.N.R.R.A. Special Displaced Persons
Mission to the Far East, March 1946)

China

Displaced persons were found to fall into three main categories, namely: European refugees; Koreans in China; and "overseas" Chinese.

1. European Refugees. They total approximately 15,000, of whom about 8,800 have German nationality, 3,700 Austrian, 1,150 Polish, 1,200 Italian, and 240 Czechoslovak. One thousand are of unknown nationality. About 90% of the European refugees are Jews. Of the total group about 24% are over fifty-five years of age, 67% are between seventeen and fifty-five, and only 9% are under seventeen. The overwhelming majority of the group come from urban communities and were formerly engaged in industry, trade, or the professions. Most of them arrived in Shanghai during 1939 and 1940.

2. Koreans. Information given the Mission by "China National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration" indicated the presence in China of at least 200,000 Koreans. Of this number, at least half were believed to be in Manchuria. Shantung Peninsula, Peking, and Tientsin were reported to be harbouring fairly large groups, approximately 30,000 in each place. It should be recognized that all of these figures are subject to question, no adequate system being possible in the existing situation for the registration of Koreans in China.

3. "Overseas" Chinese. This term defines Chinese who emigrated before the war to other countries of South East Asia (Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, British Malaya, Netherlands East Indies, Burma); gained domiciles in the country to which they emigrated; returned to China for one reason or another, prior to or at about the time of

the outbreak of war; and have been prevented by the war from returning to their countries of permanent residence. Figures as to the numbers of so-called "overseas" Chinese who had registered with the branch offices of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission, given the Mission by its officials at the time of the U.N.R.R.A. Mission's visit to Chungking, indicated a total of about 184,000 "overseas" Chinese. The countries to which these Chinese desired to return and the numbers, respectively, were given as follows: Indo-China 13,000; Burma 30,000; Malaya 34,000; Siam 4,300; Netherlands East Indies 13,000; Philippines 21,000. About 10,000 were accounted for by persons who claimed a right to return to some one of eleven different countries, including the United States, Canada, the Hawaiian Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Cuba and Peru. The above breakdown leaves about 58,700 of the total unaccounted for, in terms of the claimed country of legal residence or domicile. It is probably explained by the fact that registrations in Kwangtung Province are incomplete, and that the Chungking office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission made an over-all estimate for that Province. In any case, they are the best figures obtainable.

Besides the 184,000 "overseas" Chinese just mentioned, there is an indeterminate but relatively large number of Chinese in Kwangtung Province who claim a legal residence in nearby Hongkong (estimated at one-half million at least). At the time of the Mission's visit to Canton and Hongkong, it was reported that large numbers of Chinese were returning to the British Crown Colony.

4. Formosa. The number of Chinese "mainlanders" displaced (by deportation) to the Island of Formosa is relatively small, and although the Mission was told that there were some 500,000 Formosans on the Chinese mainland no data supporting such a guess were ever received by us. The figure of 500,000 is certainly an exaggeration. However,

inasmuch as Formosa is now being reincorporated into China, it seems logical to consider that these Chinese and Formosans, respectively, are "internally" displaced.

5. Japanese "intruders" in China. The number of Japanese "intruders" in China is large, probably between two and three millions.

6. Chinese displaced outside of China. With the completion of the repatriation of the approximately 6,600 Chinese refugees from Manila and the anticipated repatriation of the remaining 3,000 in the southern Philippine Islands, and in view of the satisfactory progress being made by the Chinese and United States military authorities jointly in repatriating approximately 30,000 Chinese uncovered in Japan at the time of Allied entry, the number of Chinese remaining displaced outside their own country is relatively small. They are scattered all over the world, mostly in the seaports, and in each place constitute only a small group.

Philippine Islands

Two groups of displaced persons were found; something over 9,600 Chinese, and approximately 650 European (Jewish) refugees.

1. Chinese. As of 15 February, all but 1,000 of the 6,637 Chinese displaced persons in Manila had been repatriated and arrangements had been made for the remainder. Ships were underway to the Southern Islands ports to repatriate the other 3,000.

2. There are 650 Jewish refugees in Manila, who are believed to have landed in Manila in more or less the same circumstances as did the much larger groups of European Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

South-east Asia

1. In Siam there are approximately 23,000 Malayan labourers (mostly Tamil coolies) deported from Malaya by the Japanese to work on the Siam-Burma railway. There are also about 6,000 Javanese similarly deported as forced labour, and some 7,000 Dutch refugees

(mostly women and children) brought from Batavia and Soerabaya by the British after the Japanese surrender on Java. These last are in addition to approximately 11,000 Dutch ex-prisoners of war interned by the Japanese in Siam.

2. In India, there are some 394,000 persons displaced from Burma, of whom about 366,000 are Indians, the remainder Burmese, Chinese etc. They claim to be domiciled or to have a legal residence in Burma. They were forced out of their country of adoption by the Japanese and now desire to return to Burma.

3. In British Malaya there are approximately 15,000 Javanese deported from Java to Malaya by the Japanese as forced labour; some 14,000 Dutch refugees (mostly women and children) moved from N.E.I. by the British military authorities after the Japanese surrender, mostly in refugee camps under the joint care of the British and the Dutch authorities. Approximately 6,000 Malayan coolies (in addition to the 23,000 referred to under Siam above) had been returned to Malaya under the care of the British Military Administration. However, since these Tamils are now back in their country of adoption (they are mostly rubber plantation workers) they are not counted here as displaced persons in Malaya.
