
LETTER FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DATED 20 AUGUST 1948
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING
JEWISH DISPLACED PERSONS

Sir,

At the meeting of the Security Council on August 2nd it was agreed at the instance of the Ukrainian representative that the Governments and authorities concerned should be asked to furnish further information on the various aspects of the refugee problem.

2. I have already put before the Council my Government's views on the question of the Jewish refugees detained in Cyprus; and I now wish to give the information at the disposal of my Government concerning Jewish displaced persons under my Government's control in Europe, i.e. in the British zones of Germany and Austria.

3. There are 8,067 registered Jewish displaced persons in the British zone of Germany and 814 in the British zone of Austria. Displaced persons are free to leave the camps whenever they wish to do so and enjoy the same liberties as anyone else in the British zones except that, at the instance of the Soviet Government, they are not allowed to carry on activities directed against their countries of origin or against repatriation. They are at liberty to see their national representatives and to be repatriated whenever they wish. The camps in which they live are run by British officials assisted by a staff recruited from the displaced persons themselves. All inmates of displaced persons camps have been screened and re-screened in order to make sure that no war criminals are among them.

4. In the light of the foregoing information, the Security Council will know what to think of Mr. Manuilsky's statement to the Council on August 2nd that "these persons are being kept in a situation which is almost comparable to the situation of criminals, and the camps where they are held are often managed by persons who themselves might even be held responsible for war crimes".

5. I should like to complete the data which I have just given by some indication of the efforts which my Government has already made to cope with the problem of Jewish and other displaced persons in Europe. The

/United Kingdom

United Kingdom has so far given sanctuary to some 80,000 Jewish refugees, most of whom came before the war. Since the war, my country has provided a permanent home for some 140,000 Poles and 70,000 European voluntary workers and their dependents. More than half of the refugees resettled since the end of the war, and one-third of the refugees resettled since the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization began operations on July 1st, 1947, have come to the United Kingdom.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

/s/

Alexander Cadogan

