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LETTERS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL DATED 27 AUGUST AND 24 SEPTEMBER 1948
FROM THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON THE SUBJECT OF
REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Paris, 27 August 1948.

By letter of 3 August 1948, the Acting Secretary-General requested Mr. A. Parodi to communicate to him any information in the French Government's possession on the subject of displaced persons in Europe and Arab refugees in Palestine.

The first of these questions is the only one on which my Government is in a position to furnish statistical details; they are given below.

There are five hundred and thirty-three (533) Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe in the French zone of Austria, four hundred and eighteen (418) in the French zone of Germany and two thousand, five hundred and thirty-nine (2,539) in the French sector of Berlin.

All these refugees come theoretically under the I.R.O. In practice, they receive no assistance from it but are given financial subsidies by the American Joint Committee.

There are also over three hundred (300) German Jews from the East of Germany in the French sector of Berlin. They are not eligible to come under the I.R.O., nor are they assisted by the American Joint Committee.

In regard to the third question raised in your letter of 3 August (relief and assistance for Arab refugees in Palestine and neighbouring countries), the French Government informed the Mediator that it would send to Beirut, in compliance with Count Bernadotte's request, the amounts of oil and dried fruits for which he had asked.

(Signed) François de Ross
Acting Director of the
French delegation

/Paris

Paris, 24 September 1948

By letter No. 202 dated 27 August, the French delegation accredited to the United Nations transmitted to you certain information on displaced persons of Jewish origin who are now in Europe (French occupation zones of Germany and Austria).

I have the honour to communicate to you the following additional information on the same question.

The number of Jewish refugees now in France amounts to 48,000, comprising both Jewish "displaced persons" who were victims of Nazism and Jews who became refugees from 1945 to the end of June 1948. This figure includes those who entered the country legally (about 15,000) as well as those who crossed illegally into French territory (about 33,000).

The persons concerned, apart from the private or family relief at the disposal of some of them, are assisted to a much greater extent by the main Jewish charities: "Assistance to deportees and refugees", the "Inter-charities Council" and the "Federation of Jewish Societies in France", whose funds are derived mainly from the American Joint Committee. Despite this body's extensive resources the assistance given to the refugees in France is apparently inadequate, and the situation is growing worse owing to the continual influx of new immigrants, mostly illegal.

(signed) illegible

Minister plenipotentiary,

Director of Conference Secretariats.
