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COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS

Statement submitted by the League of Red Cross
Societies, an organization on the Register of non-
governmental organizations.

The Secretary-General circulates, in accordance with paragraph 23 (f) of Council resolution 288 B (X), the following statement:

Dated: 9-14 April 1951

Received: 30 July 1951

Recommendations adopted by the International Conference of National Red Cross Societies on the refugee problem in Western Germany and Austria, convened at Hanover in April 1951, by the League of Red Cross Societies.

Recommendation No. 1

The International Conference summoned at Hanover by the League of Red Cross Societies, assembling the representatives of 17 national Societies, of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and of the League of Red Cross Societies, after having examined the problem of the refugees at present in Germany and Austria, of whom there are nearly 9 millions, and after having studied the official measures already taken by the government authorities of the two countries and the efforts which have been made by their charitable organisations, the national Red Cross Societies and other foreign organisations, in an endeavour to mitigate the great distress of hundreds of thousands of these refugees,

observes that while the sufferings of these refugees can be alleviated, the problem itself cannot be solved by Red Cross means alone. This problem is

essentially of an economic nature and can be solved only by resorting to a form of aid which will enable the refugees and expellees to reconstruct their existence. The necessary steps to achieve this end can only be taken by means of well-organised and constructive national and international co-operation.

In the same way the Conference would be very happy to see the United Nations extend their relief measures to the refugees beyond those already undertaken for the legal protection of a very restricted category of political refugees, and to envisage the economic rehabilitation of all refugees, expellees and stateless persons in the whole world, without distinction of race, religion, or nationality.

The Conference,

invites the national Red Cross Societies to urge the governments of their countries to take action through the medium of the great international organisations to which they belong, whose task it is to succeed in establishing normal living conditions for the refugees,

is of opinion that one of the main tasks of the national Red Cross Societies is to enlighten public opinion throughout the world regarding the refugee problem in order to develop knowledge thereof and thereby stimulate the spirit of mutual assistance.

Asks the national Red Cross Societies to intervene in favour of refugees and expellees with the authorities and institutions concerned, requesting them to initiate such constructive measures as are beyond the powers of the Red Cross.

Suggests that the national Red Cross Societies intensify their charitable activities until such time as a solution, on an international level, of the problems under discussion be found.

Les autres recommandations adoptées par la Conférence de Hanovre et qui traitent de problèmes pratiques relatifs à l'aide que les Sociétés nationales de la Croix-Rouge peuvent apporter aux réfugiés, aux immigrants et aux émigrants, seront communiquées sur demande adressée au Secrétariat de la Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge, 26, avenue Beau-Séjour, Genève.

The other recommendations adopted by the Hanover Conference on practical problems involved in assistance by the national Red Cross Societies to refugees, immigrants and emigrants, may be obtained on request from the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, 26, Avenue Beau-Séjour, Geneva.