



REPATRIATION OF GREEK CHILDREN

Communication dated 11 October 1951 from the Permanent
Mission of the Federal People's Republic
of Yugoslavia to the United Nations,
addressed to the Secretary-General

New York, 11 October 1951

The Permanent Mission of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to call his attention to the following:

Under resolutions 193 C(III), 288 B(IV) and 382 C(V) of the General Assembly, all Member States and States where Greek refugee children are now living were requested to take all the necessary steps, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and the International Red Cross, with a view to the early return of these children to their parents. In pursuance of these resolutions and prompted primarily by considerations of humanity, the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia has through the Yugoslav Red Cross taken action towards the solution of this problem.

The Government has granted to the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and to the League of Red Cross Societies, as well as to the representatives of other international institutions, permission to visit the homes in which these children are housed. They were thus given the opportunity of witnessing all the love and good will with which these children are treated in Yugoslavia and the efforts that have been made to better the conditions into which they were brought, being left without parents and protection.

The Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia had communicated in 1950 through the International Committee of the Red Cross, the

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conditions under which the return of these children to their parents would be carried out and, upon acceptance of these conditions by the Greek Red Cross, the repatriation of the children, for whom the proper applications had been received from parents, was begun.

From November 1950 to May 1951, 289 children were repatriated in three transports while, in the same period, fifty-six children were sent to Australia, three to Canada and one to France. The repatriation of children to Greece is continuing.

However, in addition to these children, there are also Greek children in Yugoslavia whose parents are living in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Romania. The Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, anxious to comply fully with the recommendations of the aforementioned resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, has taken all the necessary steps for the return of these children to their parents too. For this purpose, the Yugoslav Red Cross has requested that, with regard to all these children for whom the lists of applications from parents were sent from the abovementioned countries, whether directly or through the International Committee of the Red Cross, the original applications of the parents be sent to it through the League of Red Cross Societies as required under the aforementioned resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. However, no reply to this request has to date been received. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia has in its note Br. 44218 of 4 March 1950 and by repeatedly approaching the Czechoslovak Embassy in Belgrade on the subject, endeavoured to solve the question of the departure of children whose parents are in Czechoslovakia from the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, but without any success because no reply has been received to these requests.

The Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia has, as can be seen, done all within its power, in co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and with the League of Red Cross Societies, and in compliance with the General Assembly resolutions, to arrange for the return of the children who had fled from Greece and are now in Yugoslavia.

On the other hand, the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Yugoslav Red Cross have also endeavoured to secure the return

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of the children now in Albania, Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania to their parents in Yugoslavia, but without success. The Yugoslav Red Cross has, as far back as September 1950, sent a letter, Br. 3958 of 7 September 1950, to the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva listing the applications of the parents for the return of 2,509 children from the aforementioned countries; that is, from Albania 32 children, Bulgaria 4, Czechoslovakia 649, Hungary 646, Poland 592, Romania 586. The League of Red Cross Societies has, in its letter 44/53, informed the Yugoslav Red Cross Society that all these lists have been forwarded to the Red Cross societies of the above-mentioned countries. In spite of repeated urging, no replies from the Red Cross societies of these countries to the lists of applications of the parents have been received by the League. Any further effort for the return of the children to their parents, now living in Yugoslavia, has thus been rendered impossible. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia has tried to settle the question of repatriation of these children by directly approaching the representatives of the above-mentioned countries, but without success, because these notes too, remained unanswered with the sole exception of the reply from the Czechoslovak Embassy in Belgrade, stating that this question should be dealt with through the International Committee of the Red Cross. (Notes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Br. 420658 of 7 December 1949).

The Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia is of the opinion that a final solution of the question of the return of Greek refugee children whose parents are in Yugoslavia is long over-due, and the Secretary-General is requested to call upon the Governments of Albania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria to take the necessary action, in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly, for the return of the children now in those countries, and who have been sought through the League of Red Cross Societies, to their parents in Yugoslavia.

The Permanent Mission of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations has the honour to request that this note be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.
