

I think anyone who has stopped to reflect on this matter for two minutes will realize that in the first week or for the most of the first ten days of this movement of refugees very few of them would be thinking about crossing the Atlantic or going to Australia. They were thinking about where they would get their next meal, they were thinking about what had happened to the other members of their families who had not escaped, they were wondering what was going on in Hungary and whether the revolution from which they had hoped so much, was going to be crushed or whether in fact a situation would be created which would enable them to go back to Hungary. I think the majority of them are still preoccupied mainly with those considerations.

But within a week there was an increasing number of people who decided that the best thing to do would be to go to Canada, the United States or Australia, at least to settle down for a while because there was not much hope in Hungary. We discussed with the Austrian government whether we should send teams into the camps and they asked us not to do so. They said, "You cannot send people across the Atlantic or to Australia unless they want to go". That means you have to ask questions and delay their movement. It does no great harm to anyone to be sent to Switzerland, Sweden, Germany or some other adjacent country from which he could go back home without too much trouble and where he can remain while he makes up his mind. They told us that they wanted to move these people from the camps, as quickly as possible, to other countries, where other countries had offered refuge. They told us that what they wanted was to have the United States, Canada and Australia deal promptly with those people who had indicated that they were interested in going to one of those countries. They told us that they would send such people to us, and that is the way the thing has been proceeding so far.

We indicated on the morning of November 6 that not only was priority to be given to whatever applicants there were, not only was the staff to be increased to handle whatever flow there was, but that anyone who wanted to come and who was physically in position to come would be given assisted passage without regard to what means he had. That was the case and it has remained the case. We did not inquire whether the loan would be paid back. We hope it will be paid back in due course, because I believe most of these people are going to have little difficulty in getting established in Canada in the next few months.