A GREAT HUMAN TRAGEDY CONFRONTS THE FREE WORLD. RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT FOR ALL THOSE ESCAPEES FROM COMMUNIST-DOMINATED EASTERN EUROPE NOW AIDED BY THE IRON CURTAIN REFUGEE CAMPAIGN OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE WILL END BY MAY 20, 1952, UNLESS ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE. THIS TRAGEDY THREATENS MANY OF THE ADDITIONAL THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO WILL ESCAPE FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN WITHIN THE NEXT MONTHS.

Twelve IRC offices in Europe are staffed with appeals for assistance from escapees who cross the Iron Curtain barriers into Western Europe at the rate of 1,000 per month. Dr. Floyd Black, American President of Roberts College at Istanbul, who heads our Turkish committee, reports that Bulgarian anti-Communist escapees cannot secure work permits in Turkey. These refugees are almost entirely dependent upon us for support, although the Turkish Red Crescent is cooperating.

423 refugees from Iron Curtain countries-professionals, technicians, resistance leaders—and their families, with assurance or visas for the United States or Canada, will need ocean transportation and resettlement aid. Many Iron Curtain refugees at present with their families in the United States are awaiting job placements and must be supported by the International Rescue Committee.

On Monday, March 24, President Truman issued a directive allocating $3,200,000 for assistance to Iron Curtain Refugees. In his statement, Truman underscored the unique importance of the problem of the Iron Curtain Refugees from the standpoint of our national security. The President accurately stated the case:

“The miserable condition in which these refugees from Communism find themselves and their present inability to emigrate to new homes and start new lives, lend inevitability to despair. Their disillusionment is being effectively exploited by Communist propaganda. These men and women are friends of freedom. They include able and courageous fighters against Communism. They ask only for an opportunity to play a useful role in the fight against Communism. It is the responsibility of the free world to afford them this opportunity.”

This money is not yet being used because the machinery of government grinds slowly. Meanwhile brave men and women who have thrown off the yoke of Communist tyranny are in danger of being abandoned to their fate. Private relief is the only available channel of American help. The American government program is not yet organized. Government funds, when available, will help solve part of the problem. But this aid must be supplemented by the specialized endeavors of American voluntary agencies. Counselling, orientation, processing for migration, supplemental relief and medical attention—these are things that the refugee must have. From a psychological standpoint, this personalized assistance is of the greatest importance because it convinces him that he is wanted, that the Western world cares about his fate.

If these human beings are abandoned, we shall give point to the editorial comment of The New York Times:

“For far too many, after interrogation, have been cast on the ash heap as thanks for the fantastic risks they have taken to escape to freedom.”

The Iron Curtain Refugee Campaign of the International Rescue Committee has given emergency aid to more than 50,000 persons who have escaped behind the Iron Curtain. More than 1,400 refugees from Iron Curtain countries have been resettled in the United States and Canada through this agency. More than $3,000,000 has been effectively invested in this effort, including aid to refugees from the Soviet zone of Germany, during the past three years by the International Rescue Committee. Among the most notable Iron Curtain refugees brought to the United States or Canada by us are: three outstanding nuclear physicists; a top-ranking Soviet geologist; a former Hungarian Minister of Defense; several of the Soviet Arctic transportation system; a Czechoslovak Army general formerly in charge of planning and executing fundamental statement of purpose:

NO MAN OR WOMAN WHO CHOOSES OUR SIDE IN THIS WORLDWIDE BATTLE BETWEEN FREEDOM AND SLAVERY SHALL BE TURNED BACK TO COMMUNISM.

REFUGEE LEADERS PLEA
We, the undersigned representatives of the European peoples subjugated by Communist tyranny, urgently appeal for support for the Iron Curtain Refugee Campaign of the International Rescue Committee in its present emergency.

The nature of the escapers' first contact with the Western world is of the greatest importance. Ordinarily he reaches the free side of the Iron Curtain completely without means and emotionally and physically exhausted from his bowing ordeal. Although he may be kept alive in overcrowded camps, all too frequently he experiences an almost total personal indifference that embitters even the strongest soul.

It is hardly possible to exaggerate the value of the service which the International Rescue Committee has rendered to those who have succeeded in escaping behind the Iron Curtain and to those who have suffered and continue to suffer in the fight for freedom and democracy.

The promptness with which the International Rescue Committee has come to the assistance of those who have escaped, and the warmth and understanding displayed by its representatives have been a source of great spiritual encouragement for the refugees in Europe. It has demonstrated to them that on the way to freedom they have not been abandoned to their fate. It has confirmed their faith in the ideal of humanity which they have been a source of great spiritual encouragement for the refugees in Europe. It has demonstrated to them that on the way to freedom they have not been abandoned to their fate. It has confirmed their faith in the ideal of humanity which they have fought to prove that the right of asylum is not a mere formality devoid of human content. It has helped to keep alive hope for tomorrow in the breasts of all peoples who are today enslaved by Communist tyranny.

It would be a catastrophe of the first order if this vital work were to come to an end for lack of funds. The hardships of the refugees would be increased and the Communist propaganda would gain over the fact in many quarters and radio broadcasts.

HERBERT H. LEHMAN PAPERS
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Secretary, International Peace Union
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Former Vice-Premier of Czechoslovakia
VACLAV MAJER
Chairman, Czechoslovak National Committee
JOSEPH LETTRICH
Former Chairman Slovak Council
Vice-Chairman, Council of Free Czechoslovakia

HELP TODAY WITH YOUR GIFT
IRON CURTAIN REFUGEE CAMPAIGN of the INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
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Enclosed is my contribution of $ to help refugees from Communism in this emergency.

(Contributions are deductible from taxable income)