

L 1945-11
LEF-LEH

JAY LEFEVRE
30TH DIST. New York

LeFevre
COMMITTEES
INSULAR AFFAIRS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON:
POST-WAR ECONOMIC POLICY
AND PLANNING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

April 16, 1947

Re: Legis. - H.R. 2910
Committee on the Judiciary

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Apartment SixA
29 Washington Square West
New York, 11, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am in receipt of your communication of the 14th instant advising me that you favor the passage of H.R. 2910, a bill to authorize the United States during an emergency period to undertake its fair share in the resettlement of displaced persons in Germany, Austria, and Italy, including relatives of citizens or members of our armed forces, by permitting their admission into the United States in a number equivalent to a part of the total quota members unused during the war years.

As you probably know, this bill is presently pending before the House Committee on the Judiciary. I am not a member of the committee but I am advised that no action has as yet been taken on the bill and none is scheduled.

You may be assured that I shall keep in mind your views on the matter should the bill be brought before the House for action.

Sincerely,

Jay LeFevre
Jay LeFevre

JL/mg

April 8, 1947

To: Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

From: William S. Bernard

This is to inform you that Representative William G. Stratton, Congressman at Large from Illinois, has introduced our bill, H. R. 2910 in the House of Representatives on April 1st. We are hoping to obtain hearings early in May.

Enclosed is a mimeographed copy of the bill.

*W. S. Bernard
Congressman*

80th Congress
1st Session

H. R. 2910

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

A B I L L

To authorize the United States during an emergency period to undertake its fair share in the resettlement of displaced persons in Germany, Austria and Italy including relatives of citizens or of members of our armed forces by permitting their admission into the United States in a number equivalent to a part of the total quota numbers unused during the war years.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. Title of the Act. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Emergency Temporary Displaced Persons Admission Act".

SECTION 2. Conditions on Admission of Displaced Persons. During the four fiscal years following the passage of this Act, displaced persons applying for admission for permanent residence to the United States shall be admitted as non-quota immigrants provided that:

(a) They are qualified under all immigration laws of the United States for admission for permanent residence.

(b) Not more than 100,000 of such displaced persons shall be admitted under this Act during the first of the four fiscal years following the passage of this Act; not more than 200,000 during the first two of such fiscal years; not more than 300,000 during the first three of such fiscal years; and not more than 400,000 in the total four fiscal-year period.

SECTION 3. Priority to Relatives of American Citizens and War Veterans. Priority under this Act shall be given to the widows, parents, children and other relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity of citizens of the United States or of persons who served honorably in the armed services of the United States during World War II or World War I.

SECTION 4. Authority for Administrative Regulations. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall have authority to prescribe appropriate regulations for the administration of the provisions of this Act and the President may utilize such agencies of the Government as he deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. Definition of "Displaced Persons". As used in this Act, the term "Displaced Person" means a person in Germany, Austria or Italy at the time of the passage of this Act who (1) is out of his country of former residence as a result of events subsequent to the outbreak of World War II; and (2) is unable or unwilling to return to the country of his nationality or former residence because of persecution or his fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinions.

Write Your Congressman
' That
' You Are In Favor Of
' Bill H.R. 2910

Citizens' Committee on Displaced Persons
39 East 36 Street
New York 16, N.Y.
Murray Hill 4-7860

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

Leffler



In reply refer to
OA

*you accept I know
your letter I know
to State Dept
can find out Post
of the Post
down info.*

*And just
Lester*

September 18, 1947

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Reference is made to the letter from the Reverend Andor M. Leffler, of Cleveland, which you enclosed with your letter of August 12, 1947 to Mr. James P. Hendrick, Division of International Organization Affairs. *started.* Dr. Leffler's letter asked what could be done to bring persons of Hungarian birth now in Czechoslovakia to the United States or to have them transferred to some other country. It is understood that the persons involved are not American citizens.

The United States Government has carefully considered what action might be taken in cases of this character. No present international machinery exists for securing the suggested wholesale transfer to this or other countries, nor is it believed that such procedure would be feasible. United States action has been limited and must, it is believed, continue to be limited in the immediate future to using its good offices to encourage continued willingness on the part of Czechoslovakia and Hungary to use the procedure of bilateral negotiations for the settlement of minority problems. The United States Missions in Prague and Budapest are familiar with the differences which have arisen there and are following developments of the issue closely.

With respect to the problems involved, the following historical background may be of interest.

On the basis of humanitarian principles, it has been the policy of the United States Government to oppose unilateral action by Czechoslovakia in the transfer of its inhabitants of ethnic Magyar origin and to urge and support direct negotiations between that country and Hungary aimed

at

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
25 Washington Square, West,
New York, New York.

at a mutually satisfactory settlement of their respective minority problems. At the Conference of Twenty-one Nations which met in Paris in the summer of 1946, the United States Delegation opposed a Czechoslovak amendment to the draft peace treaty with Hungary which would have authorized the forced transfer, of a maximum of 200,000 persons of ethnic Magyar origin. The United States Delegation, however, supported certain clauses, which were incorporated in the treaty, calling for bilateral negotiations between Czechoslovakia and Hungary for the resolution of this issue within six months from the effective date of the treaty, after which the matter could be brought before the Council of Foreign Ministers. In stating this Government's views on the matter at the Plenary Session of the Conference in Paris in October 1946, the Honorable Walter Bedell Smith reaffirmed the basic position of the United States as follows:

"We sympathized with the motives behind the Czechoslovak desire to solve this minority problem once and for all but for humanitarian reasons we could not look with favor on incorporating into a treaty of peace the principle of a forced unilateral transfer of population. The United States consistently supported the view that the subject was one for bilateral negotiations between the two countries concerned and that any solution of the minority problem which was not based on a mutually satisfactory agreement would remain a source of future friction between them and hamper the growth of friendly relations which is so necessary for the peaceful development of Central Europe. We also believe that the principle of voluntary transfer should be stressed to the utmost and that every effort should be made - through minor territorial adjustments if necessary - to reduce to a minimum the number of people to be uprooted from the land on which in many cases they and their ancestors have been living for generations."

The compulsory labor decrees, which prescribe redistribution of man-power in order to meet the economic needs of Czechoslovakia, are an integral part of that country's Two Year Plan. The removal of more than 2,000,000 Germans from the Sudeten land, which was approved by the Allied nations at Potsdam on condition that transfers be conducted in a humane and orderly manner, has created a severe shortage of

agricultural

agricultural and industrial workers in that area, which the Government proposes to alleviate by implementation of the manpower decrees. This planned movement does not apply exclusively to the ethnic Magyar population but to Slovaks as well. In fact many more Slovaks than Hungarians have been resettled in Bohemia and Moravia.

ended here

A recent bilateral agreement between Czechoslovakia and Hungary, which implements an earlier one of February 1946 providing for an equal exchange of minority national, prescribes that negotiations with respect to that portion of the Hungarian minority not dealt with in the 1946 agreement shall be undertaken upon ratification of the Hungarian Peace Treaty by Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

The extent to which the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, recently formed by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (of which you are Chairman) may be given authority to study a problem such as this has not, as you know, yet been determined.

Dr. Leffler's letter and enclosures are returned to you herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Dean Rusk
Dean Rusk
Director, Office of
Special Political Affairs

Enclosures:

1. Letter from Andor M. Leffler to Mrs. E. Roosevelt, dated August 5, 1947.
2. Quotations from Letters Received by Clevelanders from Czechoslovakia.

First Hungarian Lutheran Church

2836 EAST BLVD.

CLEVELAND 4, OHIO

REV. ANDOR M. LEFFLER

August 5, 1947

1491

McKesson 2624

~~SE Driskill 623~~

CE Williams 2735

Miss Maunstein

Kidd

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
New York.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The enclosed quotations are self-explanatory. They reveal the tragedy of a small group of people whose only crime seems to be that they were born Hungarians. The quotations are taken from letters which came to members of my Congregation and Community.

As I read these letters, I became convinced that the unfortunate people of Upper-Hungary, (now Slovakia), who are being sold into slave labor to Bohemian farmers and whose earthly possessions are given to strangers without any compensation, ought to be given a chance to escape at least slave labor.

It occurred to me that there are people in the United States who may find, or at least suggest a way of escape to these folks. I know that our people who are receiving these letters, would gladly give all they have in order to rescue their relatives from slave labor.

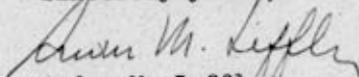
I trust the Lord, that after reading these translated quotations, you will also be moved with compassion and desire to help.

The actual letters herein quoted are in my possession and I will be glad to send Photostatic copies if you would so desire.

In sending these quotations, I was not prompted by any political or publicity motives. I have only two humble requests of you. First, read these quotations for they tell their own story. Second, please advise me as to the possibility of rescuing some of these unfortunate deportees from slavery. Let me know if there would be a way to bring them to the United States or to any other country

where personal liberty is still a fundamental privilege of all persons.

Sincerely yours,



Andor M. Leffler

P.S. For obvious reasons it is best not to identify here and now either the writer, nor the place of his residence. However, I am giving the name and address of those who received the letters in Cleveland.

QUOTATIONS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED BY CLEVELANDERS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Letter received by: Mr. Paul Gerta,
12705 Forest Ave.,
Cleveland, 20, Ohio.

Date of mailing: November 24, 1946

"....and, what you have no doubt heard about, happened here too. Twelve families will be deported. It is frightful that people have to leave their own homes. We will go before our judges on the 6th of December; we, who neither killed anyone nor stole from anybody. What will happen to us, we do not know. I am writing these few lines because we heard that America would give a home to these Hungarians. Please, write to the Immigration Offices or to the President, that they should please let these twelve families in the Country as farmers. We are all farmers, and since I know the places around Cleveland, I know that there are many empty farms there where we could live and work, and if we had a chance to work, we could even buy these farms some day, or we would be glad to work in a factory or any place. I know that we could stand our place....."

*

Letter received by: Mr. Andrew Lenart,
2907 East 120 Street,
Cleveland, 20, Ohio.

Date of mailing: December 15, 1946

"....I must write very tragic news. The judge of the village was just informed that tomorrow or the day after tomorrow the Slovak police and the Czech soldiers are coming and will take everyone who has less than five held (acre) of land. All our livestock and other goods are being taken away, families are being separated and are taken like cattle to those places where they have evacuated two million Germans. These Germans bombed their homes before they left. The Slovaks and Checks want to eliminate all the Hungarians. They have the power now... and if someone does not want to go they beat him until unconscious and tie him and throw him on their trucks as if he were an animal...."

*

Letter received by: Mr. Joseph Kovacs,
2927 East 126 Street,
Cleveland, 20, Ohio.

Date of mailing: January 7, 1947

"....We went through a great deal and what is yet ahead of us we do not know and we cannot write. They are closing in around the villages and they throw the people on trucks and take them to Bohemia. They have already taken fifteen families from here, and 75 from Gemoretne....."

*

Letter received by: Mrs. Barbara Szoke,
2712 East 89 Street,
Cleveland, 4, Ohio.

Date of Mailing: January 26, 1947

"I'll try to write about everything the way it happened. From our village 52 families were taken away. Eighty-six were to go, but the rest stayed behind. At that time we thought that they were fortunate and would not have to go. But now we know that this was only to fool us. They are taking everyone who is Hungarian. When Uncle Jehn was taken, the order was to deport only hired hands and small landowners from the villages. We are really in a bad way my dear Godmother. To leave here everything that we have earned through life without a penny compensation. Those who were deported could take nothing but a few pieces of furniture, a little food, and some clothing. But do not cry for us, the Lord is good and He will find a way to help us. However, I cannot write anything hopeful. This fate seems to be measured out to us all. We shall all be slaves. One is taken today, another tomorrow. Last Friday the deportation was from Tornalja, Kiralyi, and Abafalva. They were twice in Tornalja now. They took my father's sister, Elizabeth too... According to rumors, our village was left alone until February 5th, but they may come tomorrow for no one is certain of anything. We are waiting every day for the catastrophe... Not only we Hungarians will be moved from our homes, but even these Slovaks who stayed in their place in 1938. Now we are sentenced, and are placed very lowly, but the earth is round, and besides it turns around, once up, once down...."

*

Letter received by: Mrs. Gaspar Kovacs,
2998 East 81 Street,
Cleveland, 4, Ohio.

Date of mailing: February 12, 1947

"....from our little village they have already taken 46 families. It would be impossible to write down the terror of those days. The village is very much cleaned out now. They took the rich and the poor alike. We would be gone now too, except that my dear mother was very sick, so we were left here but we don't know how long. Write about yourselves. Oh, you must have it ever so much better than we. I am sure that no one is forcing you to move, or to go anywhere...."

*

Letter received by: Mr. Stephen Druzgale,
7800 Grand Avenue,
Cleveland, 4, Ohio.

Date of mailing: February 25, 1947

"They have already taken two transports to Bohemia as slaves. They regard no circumstances, when the call comes all have to go. From our village they have already taken 50 families. Some of these have good

masters over them, but others have it very bad. The little furniture they are permitted to take goes on freight trains. The people go on passenger trains but there is not enough room on them to stand, and it takes four days for them to get there. When they arrive, they are lined up like animals and the "masters" are picking from among them. Those who are not bought one day are driven to the market on the next. It is awful that they allow anything like this to happen in this day and age, and then they have the audacity to write on the outside of these trains: "Volunteers". My dear aunt Mary, we are still here. They was to throw us across the Hungarian border with 50 kg. of goods. We belonged to the Hungarian National Party, and now for this the Peoples' Court pardoned us, but this means nothing here. All they want is our home and cattle, and whatever else we possess so that the Slovak "brother" may have it...."

*

Letter received by: Mr. Stephen Kovacs,
2700 Grand Avenue,
Cleveland, 4, Ohio.

Date of mailing: January, 1947. Postmark: March 4, 1947.

"We are in a very bad way for it is belived here that by Springtime not a single Hungarian will be left in Upper-Hungary. This certainly would be bad. Well, we think it will happen because we hear that now at one place, now at another they are taking the people. They have taken seven families from our village too. They would have taken more, but people fainted from fear and they left them here. We were very scared for the Army moved in on us, and for three days no one was allowed to leave the village. After that, they called the men for medical examination, and whomever they liked, they ordered to go. It was very, very cold, and some of the poor people had little children. But it made no difference; they had to go just the same. We could not even say good-bye to them...."

*

Letter received by: Mr. Steven Barna,
2716 East 89th Street,
Cleveland, 4, Ohio.

Date of mailing: March 17, 1947

"It is really a big thing when one is thrown out of his own home, and with military force one is driven into this Bohemia to be a slave to others. There are such people among us who had hundreds of acres of farmlands and twenty pieces of cattle, and lovely homes in the homeland, and now they have to be servants to the Bohemians. Into their lovely homes they are taking such unceuth people who make their fires on the floors of the rooms, and have not even beds, only a great many children, and have nothing to eat, so those who are still at home take turns in feeding them. What will happen to the Hungarian people we do not know. They probably want to exterminate them. Maybe you, my dear cousin, know more about our fate, for we have no newspapers, nor do we hear the radio. We are not allowed to. We are nothing but slaves to these Chechs here. Write to us what, if anything will be done by the Great Powers about the fate of these 600,000 Hungarians.

We are not far from Prague. Our pay is 240 kgs of grain for three months, one liter of milk a day, 850 crowns for a month, one cubic meter of wood, and also living quarters. The quarters are good. We are very sorry now that we have built a good house at home. If we ever get back it will be ruined by that time. Makes no difference what they would have here; nothing belongs to us. Our hearts are breaking to get back to the land where we were born. Especially my dear mother is very homesick. She is hoping that she could at least be buried in the homeland."

*

Letter received by: Mrs. Charles Ferenc,
11808 Buckeye Road,
Cleveland, 20, Ohio.

Date of mailing: March 25, 1947

"After we lived through this terrible war, we thought our lot will become lighter, for during the war first the Germans, then the Russians took everything we have had. But all this was nothing compared to the fate that we are suffering now. After the war ended we became again part of Czechoslovakia and the Slovaks received great power from Stalin for they all lied that they were partisans. Especially the worthless Slovaks. These always talked about getting rid of the Hungarians. Now their desire is being fulfilled. A great many of the Hungarians were deported to Bohemia and some others will be sent to Hungary. We were also deported. They forced us to come here to Bohemia as servants. From the village of Ras 18 families were brought here. The Slovak "lords" robbed us of everything we had, our real estate and other goods, only some of our clothing and furniture was left. All of us are here now, but we are separated from each other, my son, my daughter, my son's wife, my sister-in-law, my mother-in-law... This fate I do not wish even for my worst enemy. We work here for the Czech peasant and our only pay is our food. We are in rags and we are condemned alive unless the good Lord will help us, for we have lost our faith in mankind...."

*

Letter received by: Mr. Julius Kispal,
7800 Grand Avenue,
Cleveland, 4, Ohio.

Date of mailing: March 30, 1947

"We lived through the war, and even that was not so bad. We were in constant danger because the front was right in the village. But now that about one half of our people were driven out of here, we feel like crying. Those of us who stayed here are not much better off, for all our goods are being destroyed by the Slovak "brothers". They were laughing when the army trucks were taking our people and said: "Now, you dirty Hungarians, you burn now, and we will be happy". It was very bad to hear this from them for they know that we are not responsible for anything... They have already taken our house and our land. At first my husband Jeha was cleared as not war-guilty, but now, without any further say-so they took all that we had. They have such laws that one kills the other. There is no civil order here...and now like wandering dogs we will be thrown out of all that we were able to gather through a lifetime of hard work. If this

happens, I would rather die. We had a small piece of land, and we built on it about two years ago. We tried to save, but it would have been better if we had squandered everything away."

*

Letter received by: Mrs. Elizabeth Ujlaki,
2696 Grand Avenue,
Cleveland, 4, Ohio.

Date of mailing: April 22, 1947

"We are in a very bad situation. In the place of our deported Hungarians they have already brought new occupants. These new people are all Carpatho-Russians. They are all able to speak a little Hungarian but not very much. We are very sad because of this situation. It is true that these Carpatho-Russians were also sorry to leave their homes, but at least they are not slaves here as our people are where they were taken to in Bohemia."

*

Letter received by: Mr. Edward C. Szujder,
Vermilion, Ohio.

Date of mailing: April 28, 1947

"I hope you do not mind, my dear Uncle, that I am disturbing you with these few bitter lines. You do not know me, for it was a very long time ago when you left your home and found a much better one, not such an unkind home as ours. But you see, we did not select this place. We were forced to come. The police and the military forces came, and drove us out of our old homesteads. As I think of that terrible day, when they actually dragged us out of our little homes, my heart wants to break. This is a most awful situation we find ourselves in. They have no regard for us at all. They gave us such places to live in that we would not have kept our cattle in at home. If you could see us now, your heart would break. They give us 790 crowns as our pay, but the other day I went to buy a suit for my little son, and they wanted 800 crowns for a little suit, so I had to come home without it. My poor little son cried all the way home....

...when we were begging them at home not to take us away, they just laughed and said we would get lots of money. It was so cold when they brought us, that we thought we would freeze. When we arrived at our destination, they came and started to barter for us as if we were cattle on the market place, and when I cried and did not even dare to look up for the shame of it, they just laughed at us. They do the same thing all the time. Now that we need ration tickets for clothing and asked for them, they said belligerently, that the Hungarians deserve nothing. I even told my husband why don't the three of us die together one night, so that we would not have to endure the shame of this any longer. But he is a strong man, and has hope. He said that it will not be always like this...."

*

Letter received by: Mrs. Charles Frank,
11808 Buckeye Road,
Cleveland, 20, Ohio.

Date of mailing: May 2, 1947

"....the days go very slowly here, for we are not used to being slaves. The only right that we have is to work early morning to late at night.... you write, my dear sister, that we should have declared ourselves Slovaks. No Hungarian in his right mind could do that, for whoever was born as a Hungarian cannot help it and it should not be a crime. The Hungarian cannot be a Slovak, neither can the Slovak be an Hungarian. Those who gave up their nationality will some day be sorry for it.... And furthermore, those who declared themselves as Slovaks were not helped by it for even some of them were deported...."

*

Letter received by: Mrs. Balint Sztolar,
2694 East 89th Street,
Cleveland, 4, Ohio.

Date of mailing: May 11, 1947

In this letter a man is writing to his Mother in America about his own son being arrested and held in jail for two months because investigators found an old rusty gun hidden behind an outhouse on the man's farm. Previously the young man turned in all his good hunting guns to the authorities.

*

Letter received by: Mrs. Barbara Sieke,
2712 East 89 Street,
Cleveland, 4, Ohio.

Date of mailing: May 12, 1947

"My dear aunt Barbara. You asked how we are making our living. Well, this is a problem for a Hungarian now. It seems that by and by we will not even be allowed to speak Hungarian. Living is getting harder both for the tradesman and the farmer. From the tradesman they take away his trade and from the farmer his land. They give all that we have to the Rumanian-Slovaks who came here. About one third of our village is already occupied by these people."

*

Letter received by: Mrs. Barbara Szoke,
2712 East 89 Street,
Cleveland, 4, Ohio.

Date of mailing: May 17, 1947.

"My dear Sister:

I hope that these few lines will find you in the best of health. We wish the best of health to all of you. We are also healthy. We have received your letter with a great deal of sorrow for we have always trusted that America will investigate our case and will rescue us from this slavery, but it seems that we Hungarians have no other friend to turn to but God. So now we place all our trust in the good Lord, knowing that He will deliver us from the hand of these godless people. I hope we live that long. These people here have no God. It makes no difference to them what day it is. We must work for them on Sundays and Holidays as well as on weekdays. They plow and sow on Sundays and never go to Church. We have to work from four in the morning until seven at night and we have only a half an hour for dinner. And if you have only as much strength as necessary for walking, you must work. We cannot leave our places no matter how badly we are treated, but they can sell us among themselves. We are being marketed as slaves. Some among us from Gomer County have our third "owner" already. The Hungarians of the Uplands were born into evil times, my sister. Even you are not writing any good news from there. Here we don't know anything. We only exist. Nothing more is ours from this world, for they have taken all our happiness from us. It is hard to leave your own country even when you go of your own free will, but how much more painful it is when they take you into slavery.... They brought us to this God-forsaken little place where we must spend the rest of our lives in loneliness. It would be better if we would die quickly, my beloved Sister....

....We constantly pray to our beloved Lord to send His angel of peace to this earth, so that peace and justice would be given to all. We are so broken up. All of us, young and old alike. Oh, if we could only leave this place which holds for us some terrible memories of five long, long months...."

"Reference is made to Dr. Leffler's letter asked what could be done to bring persons of Hungarian birth now in Czechoslovakia to the U.S. or to have them transferred to some other country. It is understood that the persons involved are not American citizens.

"The United States Government has carefully considered what action might be taken in cases of this character. No present international machinery exists for securing the suggested wholesale transfer to this or other countries, nor is it believed that such procedure would be feasible. United States action has been limited and must, it is believed, continue to be limited in the immediate future to using its good offices to encourage continued willingness on the part of Czechoslovakia and Hungary to use the procedure of bilateral negotiations for the settlement of minority problems. The United States Missions in Prague and Budapest are familiar with the differences which have arisen there and are following developments of the issue closely.

"With respect to the problems involved, the following historical background may be of interest.

"On the basis of humanitarian principles, it has been the policy of the U.S. to oppose unilateral action by Czechoslovakia in the transfer of its inhabitants of ethnic Magyar origin and to urge and support direct negotiations between that country & Hungary aimed at a mutually satisfactory settlement of their respective minority problems. At the Conference of 21 Nations which met in Paris in the summer of 1946, the U.S. Delegation opposed a Czechoslovak amendment to the draft peace treaty with Hungary which would have authorized the forced transfer of a maximum of 200,000 persons of ethnic Magyar origin. The U.S. Delegation, however, supported certain clauses, which were incorporated in the treaty, calling for bilateral negotiations between Czechoslovakia and Hungary for the resolution of this issue within 6 months from the effective date of the treaty, after which the matter could be brought before the Council of Foreign Ministers. In stating this Government's views on the matter at the Plenary Session of the Conference in Paris in October 1946, the Honorable Walter Bedell Smith reaffirmed the basic position of the U.S. as follows:

"We sympathized with the motives behind the Czechoslovak desire to solve this minority problem once and for all but for humanitarian reasons we could not look with favor on incorporating into a treaty of peace the principle of a forced unilateral transfer of population. The U.S. consistently supported the view that the subject was one for bilateral negotiations between the 2 countries concerned and that any solution of the minority problem which was not based on a mutually satisfactory agreement would remain a source of future friction between them and hamper the growth of friendly relations which is so necessary for the peaceful development of Central Europe. We also believe that the principle of voluntary transfer should be stressed to the utmost & that every effort should be made - through minor territorial adjustments if necessary - to reduce to a minimum the number of people to be uprooted from the land on which in many cases they and their ancestors have been living for generations."

"The compulsory labor decrees, which prescribe redistribution of man-power in order to meet the economic needs of Czechoslovakia, are an integral part of that country's Two Year Plan. The removal of more than 2,000,000 Germans from the Sudeten land, which was approved by the Allied nations at Potsdam on condition that transfers be conducted in a humane and orderly manner, has created a severe shortage of agricultural and industrial workers in that area, which the government proposes to alleviate by implementation of the manpower decrees. This planned movement does not apply exclusively to the ethnic Magyar population but to Slovaks as well. In fact many more Slovaks than Hungarians have been resettled in Bohemia and Moravia."