

Ry/s

32.8.3

S. A. R. O.



S. A. V. O.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE ORGANISATION  
DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE VLUGTELING ORGANISASIE

CAPE TOWN  
KAAPSTAD

W.O. 2246

HJL/PC

18th January, 1961.

V. R. Hicks, Esq.,  
Secretary,  
National Committee for World Refugee Year,  
P. O. Box 672,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Hicks,

My Committee has asked me to bring before your Committee the position of SARO, and to solicit its consideration of a request my Committee wishes to make.

As you are aware, SARO, which was formed some years ago, has operated in a restricted area. With the advent of the World Refugee Year, my Committee was instrumental in calling the Conference in Cape Town which led to the formation of the National Committee, and for a time acted as Hon. Treasurer for the Interim Committee formed on the decision of the Johannesburg Conference.

At about the same time, my Committee decided to endeavour to raise the sum of £100,000 in two years to assist in bringing refugees to South Africa, and for this purpose appointed Mr. J.G.Chalmers as Public Relations Officer.

My Committee regrets to say that, after several months of concentrated effort, it finds that there is little or no interest in Cape Town in the refugee problem.

Further, it has found that the efforts being made by the National Committee to obtain the support of Mayors, and other prominent people in the Western Province, has definitely restricted the efforts of SARO to raise funds. Some Mayors have expressed confusion at the existence of two fund-raising bodies, and certain contributors have sent sums to the National Committee which were raised on the initiative of Mr. Chalmers - one example is Ellerslie School which sent a contribution of £10 to the National Committee instead of to SARO.

With the difficulty experienced in raising funds, my Committee finds itself in a serious financial position, with debts amounting to £350 (see attached statement), which it can see no means of liquidating in spite of special appeals made to organisations and persons in this area.

My Committee feels that part of its difficulties arises from the fact that two separate organisations are operating in the same field, and feels that it would be in the interests of the cause which both have at heart if efforts could be

concentrated through one organisation, a proposal which my Committee discussed in December, the decision being postponed until after the year end holidays.

My Committee now makes the recommendation that the National Committee agrees to liquidate the indebtedness of SARO and to take over its work in this area. In return my Committee offers :

1. To hand over all the assets of SARO which consist chiefly of a number of pamphlets received from the International Refugee Committee, and about 120,000 badges imported for sale to school children and others, or perhaps used in street collections, which my Committee is unable to organise for several months owing to available dates being already taken up.
2. To hand over to your Committee a picture kindly donated by Gabriel de Jongh to be sold for refugee funds. This picture, is stated to be worth £120. A similar picture sold by the Red Cross about a year ago realised some £1200. My Committee feels that if the picture is sold in Johannesburg either by American auction at a prominent theatre, or by competition (for which purpose my Committee possesses a simple bilingual cross-word puzzle), a large sum of money could be raised. This would offset the sum of £350 asked for, and leave a substantial sum for National Committee funds. My Committee has considered offering the picture to competition, but hesitates to spend the money required for tickets and organisation, apart from which the competition would take several months to organise and carry out, and my Committee has no funds for the purpose. It feels, however, that with the organisation at the disposal of the National Committee, the cost would be very little outside the cost of tickets, if a competition was decided upon.
3. The badges referred to in Mr. Chalmers' letter of 9th December, to be handed to the National Committee. It is felt that a special appeal, outside the Western Province, to schools and other interested organisations might result in the sale of these badges, which at 6d. each would bring in a sum of £3,000.
4. The offices in C.T.C. Building, Cape Town, could be taken over by the National Committee if it so desires. My Committee intends giving notice to vacate the offices at the end of January, but would be pleased to arrange for the tenancy to be transferred.

If your Committee can see its way to acceding to the request of my Committee, it is intended to wind up SARO and so leave the field clear to the National Committee to pursue its objects. I have no doubt that my Committee would be happy to act as a Regional Committee to assist in any way it can to promote the aims and objects of the National Committee.

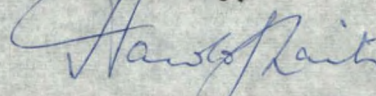
As a good deal of work has still to be done in the Western Province including the organisation of Committees under the auspices of Mayors, my Committee suggests that the National Committee considers taking over the services of Mr. Chalmers, who is fully competent to act as Public Relations Officer in the Western Province area. His salary is £100 per month, and no doubt the National Committee would make suitable arrangements for travelling expenses if Mr. Chalmers was required to do work outside Cape Town.

The National Committee may wish to consider creating regional committees in such centres as Port Elizabeth, East London and Kingwilliamstown, for which purpose Mr. Chalmers' services may be required.

Viewing the position as a whole, my Committee feels that its suggestions will appeal to the National Committee as a means of avoiding overlapping, and of more closely organising its work in this area.

As it is necessary for action to be taken before the end of January, my Committee will greatly appreciate the immediate consideration of your Committee to the position outlined herein and to the requests and suggestions made.

Yours faithfully,



Harold J. Laite

CHAIRMAN .

SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE ORGANISATION

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Expenses to end of January, 1961.

Balance due to Congo Relief Fund . . . . .	£ 130. 13. 8.
Douglas Typing Services . . . . .	11. 4. 5.
Rent (January) . . . . .	7. 10. 0.
Balance Mr. Chalmers' December salary . .	75. 0. 0.
Salary, January (Mr. Chalmers) . . . . .	100. 0. 0.
Petty Cash . . . . .	5. 0. 0.
Refund, postages, etc. . . . .	4. 13. 11.
Sundries (telephone etc.) . . . . .	15. 18. 0.

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£350. 0. 0.



THE SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE ORGANISATION  
DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE VLUGTELING ORGANISASIE

CAPE TOWN  
KAAPSTAD

W.O. 2246

HJL/PC

20th January, 1961.

V. R. Hicks, Esq.,  
Secretary,  
National Committee for World Refugee Year,  
P. O. Box 672,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Hicks,

In reply to your telegram, I have to advise you that the amount due to the Congo Refugee Fund results from an arrangement made by a member of our Committee that SARO would receive money donated as a result of an appeal which was published in one or two church magazines. Up to October an amount of £546. 2. 9. was received and forwarded to the Relief Committee. Sundry other amounts were received while our books were with the auditors and these amounted to £130. 13. 8. This amount was not paid over to the Relief Committee as it was inadvertently used for administrative purposes and it was only when the books were returned that it was found that this amount was due to the Congo Refugee Fund.

My Committee naturally wishes to pay this amount over to the Relief Committee which is the reason why it appears on the statement of expenses which were forwarded to you.

At your request, I enclose a copy of our Constitution.

Yours faithfully,

Harold J. Laite  
CHAIRMAN

Laird

Ry/s

Phone 29694

Cape Town

Your letter 18 January

please clarify amount due

to Congo Fund and forward

copy your constitution

immediately.

Arks 44-6901

3pm 20/1/61

Phonogram

Phonogram

To/ H. J. Laite

Phone 29694

Cape Town

Executive Committee  
consider ~~at~~ your letter of  
18th January must be  
submitted to National  
Committee for decision

Hicks

144-6901

3.45 pm

27/1/61

VRH/EW. 1R4/8.

28th March, 1961.

Mr. H. Laite,  
P.O. Box 4240,  
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Laite,

As indicated in my telegram of 27th January 1961, your letter of 18th January was carefully considered by our Executive Committee, who felt that it was a matter of such importance that it should be dealt with at National Committee level. This has now been done, and I have been directed to send to you the following reply:-

1. We are deeply sympathetic with the Committee of your organisation in the very real difficulties they are facing, as outlined in your letter, and desire to do everything in our power to assist you.
2. We regret that it is not possible for us to use funds which were given specifically for W.R.Y. for any other purpose, and we feel sure you will appreciate that it will be highly improper and a betrayal of public trust, to do so.
3. Members of our National Committee express their sincere regret that your Organisation finds it difficult to continue. We venture to hope that you will be able to make arrangements of such a nature that the question of dissolution can be deferred to a later date. We express this hope as it seems to us highly probable (although no one can say with any degree of certainty) that when the work of our Committee is concluded that there will be a need for a permanent national refugee body. By a process of amending your constitution it might be possible for your organisation to fulfil that role.
4. In the meantime the National Committee has directed me to say that if you would like to pass on the badges which you have in your possession to us, we would be willing to try and dispose of them. This I understand you cannot do yourselves. We shall not attempt to sell them at 1/-, but will try to get them distributed in some way, and any return we get from them we shall pass on to you at a later date. Even if they are given away they will be of more value, as a means of publicity, than they are at the moment, but we think we might sell quite a good number at perhaps 3d each, or even use them in lieu of flags for street collections.
5. If you have any literature, pamphlets etc., which you can no longer use, we should be willing to dispose of it from this office.

May I repeat that the Members of our National Committee were most anxious to do anything that was possible under the circumstances to help relieve your burden of anxiety. If what we suggest does not immediately help you to meet your liabilities, it is largely because we are limited by the terms of our own constitution from doing anything practicable at the moment.

Thanking you and with every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR WORLD REFUGEE YEAR.

V.R. HICKS.  
SECRETARY.



# ICEM

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION

TUSSENREGERINGSE KOMITEE VIR EUROPESE VERHUISING

Telegraph : Promigrant Pretoria

256 PAUL KRUGER STREET  
PRETORIA - SOUTH AFRICA

Telephone 2-8025

Our Ref. : SA/ADM/10

Your Ref.:

24 March 1961

Dear Mr. Hicks,

I return your proposed draft letter to Mr. Laite and agree that it is all the National Committee can say.

As you are aware, I have a rather personal interest in SARO, particularly in respect of its initiative in starting a National Committee for World Refugee Year as I was the one who encouraged them to take part in that activity.

However, neither I nor your Committee have any legal or moral responsibility to SARO whose members must have realised the financial risk they undertook when they employed a Secretary and made other commitments.

As Cape Town has a good deal of wealth and its share of philanthropists, I cannot help but think that something must be lacking in the SARO set-up or outlook if after all this time it cannot get reasonable financial support.

I want to talk to Laite and as I told you, I will do this as soon as I return to Cape Town. Nevertheless I think you must send him your letter and I cannot suggest any changes.

Yours sincerely,

  
GREGORY ESGATE  
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. V. R. Hicks,  
Secretary,  
S.A. National Committee for  
World Refugee Year,  
P.O. Box 672,  
JOHANNESBURG.

R4/8



THE SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE ORGANISATION  
DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE VLUGTELING ORGANISASIE  
W.O. 2246

CAPE TOWN  
KAAPSTAD

18th April, 1961.

The Secretary,  
S.A. National Committee for W.R.Y.,  
P.O. Box 672,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Hicks,

Your letter of the 28th ult. in reply to Mr. Laite's letter of 18th January, 1961 was read to my Committee at our last meeting on the 10th inst. and I was instructed by my Committee to acknowledge receipt of same and thank the National Committee for its expressions of sympathy as contained therein.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*John G. Chalmers*  
John G. Chalmers.  
HON. SECRETARY.

*Mr van Wyk*  
*To the please!*  
*W.R. Hicks*  
*20/4/61*

*None.*  
*Spencer*  
*26/4/61*

*J*  
*W*

Ry/s

7-30 July



THE SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE ORGANISATION  
DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE VLUGTELING ORGANISASIE

CAPE TOWN  
KAAPSTAD

W.O. 2246

26th June, 1961.

Dear Mr. van Wyk,

At a meeting of my Committee held on 16th instant, I was asked to write to you personally as Chairman of the Executive of the National Committee, in connection with para. 6 pp 4 of a report dated 25th April, 1961, on Mr. Hicks' visit to the Western and Eastern Cape.

Mr. Hicks did not contact myself as Chairman of SARO, nor Mr. Pols, a member of the National Committee, nor the Secretary of SARO, nor ask for a meeting with the Committee of SARO. My Committee only learned that he had visited Cape Town through reports from persons on whom he had called.

My Committee therefore is at a loss to understand the purpose of the paragraph referred to, or the reason which prompted the phraseology used, particularly the first sentence, namely: "The position in the Cape Peninsula is not healthy, and I am convinced that a concerted effort should be made in Cape Town to set up an active local Committee", etc.

My Committee feels that, although no doubt unintentional, this sentence conveys a reflection upon it which it cannot accept. It will be obliged if early steps are taken to correct any wrong impression this phraseology may have given.

Speaking on the activities of the National Committee, my Committee desires me to express its inability to understand the apparent lack of co-operation with SARO, and of co-ordination with it, since the formation of the National Committee.

I am asked to call attention to certain facts, namely that the National Committee owes its existence to SARO which organised the Cape Town Conference which adopted a resolution calling for the formation of a National Committee; the early work to this end done by SARO; the collaboration between Mr. Pols and Mr. Blaxall in organising the Johannesburg Conference at which the National Committee was formed; the use of SARO's Welfare Organisation registration until the registration for the National Committee was approved; the services of the Hon. Treasurer of SARO in administering the sum of £ 50 given to the National Committee for preliminary expenses, and other assistance rendered by SARO.

Under all the circumstances, my Committee feels that a definite lack of co-operation has been shown by the National Committee in its activities, particularly in the Western Province.

2/.....

I was asked to remind you that the call for funds, and for the formation of Committees in various centres, was conducted by the National Committee without reference to SARO so far as concerned the Western Province area, with which SARO was most familiar. This action caused certain overlapping which my Committee felt would be detrimental to the objects in view unless SARO ceased its activities for a time, which, as will be indicated later, it decided to do.

In my letter of 18th January, 1961, it was suggested that, to avoid duplication of effort, SARO would cease active work and that the National Committee, assisted by a picture by Gabriel de Jongh which my Committee was prepared to make available, should cover certain expenditure by SARO. In this letter it was explained that it was my Committee's opinion that two organisations could not do the same work in the same territory, and it suggested that it would be in the best interests of the end in view if only one organisation was responsible.

The suggestion of my Committee was not accepted in a letter to which I am asked to refer as below, and consequently my Committee decided to raise its own funds and while retaining its organisation allow it to lie quiescent until the life of the National Committee expired by effluxion of time. This life, it is gathered, has now been extended until 31st December, 1961.

My Committee was interested to note the suggestion in para. 6 of the report that the National Committee should "be prepared to meet a reasonable amount of expense for publicity in order to facilitate the work of the local Committee" and "Funds for advertising and publicity must be placed at the disposal of such a Committee". My Committee finds it difficult to understand why such a proposal was recommended without discussion with SARO, or a knowledge whether SARO was willing or not to act directly on behalf of the National Committee or as a co-ordinating factor in the Western Province area. Even had there been any assumption that SARO was inactive at the time, it seems to my Committee only reasonable that those who had formed and acted for SARO for so long a time should not have been ignored in such a matter, especially as my Committee had offered to act as a regional committee.

Under the circumstances my Committee feels you will appreciate its astonishment when it read the paragraph forming the subject of this letter.

One other paragraph in the Report calls for comment by my Committee, namely para. 11 page 3 : "At Mossel Bay when people enquired at the Municipal offices they were informed that Cape Town had advised that activities on behalf of RY had now ceased".

Neither members of my Committee, the Secretary, nor myself as Chairman, have any knowledge of the alleged statement. As far as we are aware, no communication has been received from or made to anyone at Mossel Bay, and my Committee feels that, at

least, an enquiry should have been made from SARO before the statement was incorporated in the report, unless, of course, there are other people, unknown to my Committee, who may have been responsible.

In light of the reasons which prompted this letter, my Committee has asked me to refer specifically to certain points in the letter from the National Committee dated 18th January, 1961.

While the expressions of sympathy contained therein were appreciated, my Committee felt that the view expressed in paragraph 2 re the use of funds given for WRY, showed a misunderstanding of the position. The offer of the Gabriel de Jongh picture was not mentioned in the letter and apparently was not even considered. My Committee felt that the practical angle as indicated in my letter was that the disposal of the picture would be more easily achieved in Johannesburg, and would enable the National Committee to raise a considerable sum of money out of which the Administrative shortfall of SARO could be met. This would in no way interfere with or alienate funds raised for WRY as the money had been expended by SARO on administrative expenses and, therefore, did not differ from money being expended by the National Committee for similar purposes.

So far as concerns paragraph 3 of the letter, I am asked to point out that the constitution of SARO does not call for amendment and it is in a position to carry on whenever the National Committee ceases to exist.

With regard to paragraph 4, I am asked to say that my Committee feels that the badges referred to can just as easily be sold at a nominal figure or be given away by SARO as by the National Committee. The reason for offering them was the belief that they could be disposed of at a reasonable figure to aid the funds of the National Committee less the cost of importation the recovery of which to SARO was not mentioned in the letter under reference.

My Committee expressed disappointment at the views expressed in the letter, because if any of the expenditure incurred by it had been incurred by the National Committee in establishing a branch or special committee in Cape Town, it would have been met from the various sources of revenue including, in the case under consideration, funds raised from the disposal of the picture. My Committee trusts it will not be misunderstood when it suggests that a more practical approach to the question, seeing that the two organisations were engaged in the same work, would have been more helpful under the circumstances.

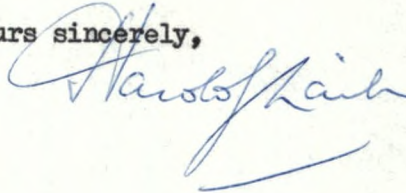
However, the position is now clarified, as explained above, by the decision of my Committee to carry on and develop its funds against the time when it will continue its work on the dissolution of the National Committee.

My Committee wishes it to be clearly understood that it is the views set out in paragraph 6 of the Report, which makes it feel that its position should

be made clear in order to avoid possible misunderstandings in the future.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hans Hofmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

F. J. van Wyk, Esq.,  
Chairman,  
Executive Committee,  
National Committee for WRY,  
P. O. Box 672,  
JOHANNESBURG.

ICEM

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION  
TUSSENREGERINGSE KOMITEE VIR EUROPESE VERHUISING

Telegraph : Promigrant Pretoria

256 PAUL KRUGER STREET  
PRETORIA - SOUTH AFRICA

Telephone 2-8025

Our Ref. :

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Your Ref. :

6 July 1961

Dear Mr. van Wyk,

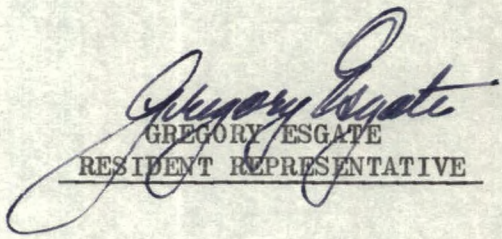
Mr. Harald J. Laite of SARO has written to me enclosing a copy of his 26 June 1961 letter to you and copies of his exchange of correspondence with Mr. Hicks dated 18 January and 28 March 1961.

In his short letter Mr. Laite expresses his astonishment at paragraph 6 of Mr. Hick's report about his visit to the Cape in April and informs me that his Committee requested him to send copies of this correspondence to me,

"..... as my Committee would not like any misconception about its activities, more especially as presumably when the National Committee's work is concluded and it ceases to exist SARO will be available to continue activities in terms of its constitution."

I have now replied to Mr. Laite and enclose a copy of my letter for your confidential information.

Yours sincerely,

  
GREGORY ESGATE  
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

*Ry/s*

F. J. van Wyk, Esq.,  
Chairman,  
Executive Committee,  
South African National Committee  
For World Refugee Year,  
P.O. Box 672,  
JOHANNESBURG.

# ICEM

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION TUSSENREGERINGSE KOMITEE VIR EUROPESE VERHUISING

Telegraph : Promigrant Pretoria

256 PAUL KRUGER STREET  
PRETORIA - SOUTH AFRICA

Telephone 2-8025

Our Ref. :

Your Ref.:

6 July 1961

Dear Mr. Laite,

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 1961 enclosing copies of the correspondence SARO has exchanged with the South African National Committee for World Refugee Year.

I am extremely unhappy to learn that SARO, which was so courageous and successful in promoting the formation of a National Committee, has not apparently been able to gain the support of the people of Cape Town and the Western Province for its own worthy project or for the broader programme of the National Committee.

From your letter of 18 January addressed to Mr. Hicks I gain the impression that the efforts of SARO for its own project came to a complete standstill at the end of January and that even its continuation thereafter as a Regional Committee for the National Committee depended upon the latter's willingness to assume SARO's indebtedness. If, as seems probable, the National Committee gained the same impression, I can understand that having replied as it did in its letter of 28 March, the National Committee no longer considered SARO active or effective as a Regional Committee for the national effort. If this was so I cannot see anything incorrect or affronting to SARO in Mr. Hick's report that, "The position in the Cape Peninsula is not healthy ..." in respect of the national programme and I wonder if your Committee truly believes that with SARO even temporarily out of action or unsuccessful the position could be described as other than "unhealthy".

Mr. H. J. Laite,  
The South African Refugee Organisation,  
P.O. Box 4240,  
CAPE TOWN.



As you and your Committee are well aware, I have been keenly interested in SARO for years because I have long believed that such a non-sectarian representative permanent voluntary agency is vitally needed in South Africa. I am deeply distressed to learn of the seriousness of your difficulties in gaining the moral and financial support essential to SARO's ultimate success and am even more concerned that this has not been possible even during a period of nation-wide publicity of the refugee problem. I would have thought that generous and leading SARO support of the National Committee - not in competitive ways but as its most active regional body - would have led to a national recognition of SARO as the logical permanent successor to the temporary Committee.

I am reluctant to comment upon the arrangements you suggested to the National Committee in respect of SARO's indebtedness but I don't see how they could have answered you more generously. Surely the badges and other material provided without charge by WRY's international Committee or its affiliated bodies were not intended to be considered the property of one organisation but rather of all South African organisations working for the targets of WRY.

After the most careful study of the papers you sent me I have come to the conclusion that a basic misunderstanding of the relative roles of the National Committee and SARO may have existed from the outset. Whereas I can understand that SARO, as the founding and possible succeeding body may have considered itself a sort of senior partner with special privileges and reserved areas of operations, it does seem obvious to me that the National Committee with its nation-wide responsibilities could only accept such a relationship as long as SARO could stand on its own feet financially and prove its effectiveness in the national effort.

It is my sincere hope that SARO and the National Committee can reach an accord which will make possible the continued cooperation of both bodies in common cause and that SARO can achieve the status and public support it will need to become a leading voluntary refugee agency in South Africa.

Thank you for your kind regards which I reciprocate fully. Please give my warmest greetings to your Committee and let me know if there is any way I can assist you.

Yours sincerely,

GREGORY ESGATE  
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

ICEM

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION  
TUSSENREGERINGSE KOMITEE VIR EUROPESE VERHUISING

Telegraph: Promigrant Pretoria

256 PAUL KRUGER STREET  
PRETORIA - SOUTH AFRICA

Telephone 2-8025

Our Ref.: SA/ADM/10

Your Ref.:

CONFIDENTIAL

15 July 1961.

Dear Mr. van Wyk,

Further to my letter of 6 July 1961 and its enclosure, I now enclose a copy of the reply received today from Mr. Laite for your confidential information.

Yours sincerely,

  
GREGORY ESGATE  
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. F.J. van Wyk,  
Chairman, Executive Committee,  
S.A. National Committee for WRY,  
P.O. Box 672,  
JOHANNESBURG.

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE ORGANISATION

P.O. Box 4240,  
CAPE TOWN.

HJL/PC

13 July 1961.

Dear Mr. Esgate,

I am much obliged for the expression of your views in your letter of the 6th instant.

As your letter will be laid before the next meeting of my Committee, I do not wish to anticipate its views, but I feel that there is some misconception of the position, due, probably, to a failure on my part to put certain points clearly.

Referring to para. 2 of your letter, the creation of any impression such as you suggest was unintentional. SARO could not decide to close down until it heard from the National Committee, and then only by decision of a general meeting. It offered to act as a Regional Committee, and would have been pleased to do so, if asked. Until SARO had, in fact, closed down, I cannot see how, in the absence of any attempt by the National Committee at liaison with it, the position could correctly be described as unhealthy. I may say, for your information, that so far from being closed down, other than to cease its special fund-raising campaign during WRY, SARO intervened a few days ago on behalf of a refugee family which arrived in Cape Town, unexpectedly, to guarantee the cost of its accommodation and give it any other assistance it can.

Para. 1, page 2.(i) I do not know in what ways SARO could support the National Committee without knowing what kind of support was required, and no approach was made to my Committee for organised support. (ii) By virtue of its constitution, SARO is the logical successor the the National Committee.

Para. 2. The offer of the picture was not mentioned in the letter from the National Committee. It was from the proceeds of the sale of this, which we felt would be more successful in the Transvaal, that the expenses of SARO, incurred in pursuance of its objects, could have been met.

True, the badges were supplied without cost, but certain import charges had to be incurred, and we felt that, at least the National Committee might have offered to defray part of these costs which it would have had to bear had it imported them.

Para. 3. SARO does not consider itself a senior partner in the National Committee's effort. It is content to know that through its efforts the National Committee was founded, but it did expect some cooperation from the National Committee, especially as Mr. Pols, a member of that Committee, offered cooperation. As far as I am aware, or can trace, we were never

approached in this matter, and SARO's difficulties stemmed from the action of the National Committee in calling upon the Mayors of Western Province towns to organise support for WBY, in which step it did not consult SARO. So SARO was faced with an accomplished fact at the time when it had decided to embark upon a special fund raising campaign. So not only did we find confusion in the mind of at least one Mayor, but a school we had approached sent its collection direct to the National Committee. SARO did not object to this, and I only mention it to show how the campaign was affected because of lack of cooperation or consultation.

This would not have happened had SARO been consulted and a suitable method of approach to fund raising been decided upon. It was not so much a question of SARO standing on its own feet, as of being faced with certain difficulties, which I think you will agree, under the circumstances, were inevitable.

SARO's attitude can be summed up, I think correctly, in the view that two organisations cannot operate successfully in the same field at the same time for the same objects.

The position seems to have arisen from a lack of cooperation from the beginning, but in relation to the subject of my letter to the National Committee, my Committee feels that when Mr. Hicks visited Cape Town he could have contacted the Chairman, the Secretary, Mr. Pols (a member of the National Committee) or any other member of my Committee and asked for a meeting to see if there were any ways in which my Committee could help. If no help had been forthcoming, the wording of the report might have been justified, but scarcely so until inability to help had been demonstrated.

There is no desire on the part of my Committee to do anything which will restrict the efforts of the National Committee. Its object in writing to the National Committee was simply to remove any misconceptions which might arise from the report, with the phraseology of which it cannot agree.

I feel that no purpose will be served by pursuing the matter. We have tried to remove any possible misconceptions, and can now only wait until the end of the year, when the National Committee presumably will have ceased activity, to consider what action is desirable to continue the work in terms of SARO's objects.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H.J. Laite

G. Esgate, Esq.,  
I.C.E.M.,  
256 Paul Kruger Street,  
PRETORIA.

In reply please quote:

Ref. RY/8/VRH/HM

18th July, 1961.

Mr. H. Laite,  
P.O. Box 4240,  
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Laite,

As Mr. van Wyk was unable to reply to your letter of 26th June 1961 before going on leave at the beginning of this month, he asked me to write and tell you that both he and I regret any misunderstanding that has arisen.

He considers that as there are so many points which arise from your letter, it would be impracticable to reach clarification through correspondence, and suggests that he and I travel to Cape Town early in August, unless you are likely to be in Johannesburg about that time. Will you please advise me early whether his suggestion is convenient to you, in order that I may make the necessary arrangements?

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee details of the visit of Mr. C. Brouwer, UNHCR special Representative for the Netherlands and Scandinavia, to this country were discussed. I am enclosing a copy of our letter of the 13th instant to Mr. Brouwer and we were wondering whether you would be able to arrange for him to address Rotary in Cape Town. It would be a good thing if the Mayor could be persuaded to arrange a cocktail party at which Mr. Brouwer would meet leading Cape Town figures connected with welfare work. Such meetings will, we feel, be to the benefit of both our Organisations.

Mr. Brouwer will be in Johannesburg from Friday 8th September to Tuesday 12th when he travels either to Cape Town or Durban, depending on arrangements and days on which Rotary Clubs meet. He addresses Rotary in Pretoria on 21st September and possibly in Port Elizabeth on the 14th September.

Your assistance will be appreciated.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

V.R.Hicks.  
SECRETARY.

In reply please quote:  
Ref. RY/8/VRH/HM

24th July, 1961.

Gregory Esgate Esq.,  
Resident Representative,  
I.C.E.M.,  
409 Savelkould Building,  
256 Paul Kruger St.,  
PRETORIA.

Dear Mr. Esgate,

Enclosed please find copy of my letter dated 18/7/61 to Mr. Laite and copy of his reply dated 21/7/61 for your information.

Yours sincerely,

V.R.Hicks.  
SECRETARY.

*J*

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