

32.1.8

UNITED NATIONS

VEREINTE NATIONEN

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES



DER HOHE KOMMISSAR FÜR FLÜCHTLINGE

Branch Office for Germany

Amt des Vertreters in Deutschland

Telegrams : HICOMREF, BAD GODESBERG
Telephone : 65 811

BAD GODESBERG
Rheinallee 18

Our Ref. :

Your Ref. : HCC/1/VRH/EW

2 January 1963

Mr. V. R. Hicks
Correspondent in South Africa of the
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
304, "Dunwell", Jorissen Street
Braamfontein
J o h a n n e s b u r g / South Africa

Dear Mr. Hicks,

I owe you an apology for my long silence, but I hope I am not too late to wish you and your family a fruitful and happy 1963.

First and foremost I wish to thank you again for your very kind reception and for the frankness with which you allowed yourself to discuss with me the various problems confronting you in your work as our Office's correspondent. I have just managed to terminate a general report concerning my duty visit to Johannesburg and Pretoria, and I handed it to Dr. Beermann when I was in Geneva for Christmas. I am sure he will send you a copy soon.

Both Dr. Weis and Dr. Beermann were satisfied with the oral description I gave of our meeting with Dr. du Plooy. Considering the political circumstances surrounding our visit and its rather limited importance, it resulted in an expression of the Government's continuing cooperative attitude towards our work, and brought forth a promise of a closer look at our Convention. I think it was all we could hope to achieve at this stage.

After a most interesting week in the Congo (Leopoldville) I immediately motored up to Bad Godesberg, Germany, on our arrival in Geneva. My wife and daughter will remain in Switzerland until we can move into the new house I found here.

Work in the German Branch Office looks as if it is going to be very interesting and prospects of staying here a few years are happy indeed.

I hope your family and you yourself are well and that circumstances will soon permit you to make the oversea's trip which you have had to put off for so long. In any case I shall contact you again when my next home leave will be due. - Thanking you again for your wonderful hospitality I remain

yours sincerely


Frank E. Krenz

UNITED NATIONS

INFORMATION SERVICE
European Office of the United Nations
Geneva

Press Release No. REF/770
4 January 1963

Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees

(For use of information media - not an official record)

SWITZERLAND TO BEGIN SELECTION
OF HANDICAPPED REFUGEES IN ITALY

Geneva. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Felix Schnyder, announced today that a Swiss mission will arrive in Italy on Monday, 7 January, to begin screening handicapped refugees and their families for admission to Switzerland.

Later this month the team will proceed to Austria.

Under the scheme a total of one hundred persons counting the handicapped refugees and family members will be welcomed in Switzerland for permanent settlement. The Swiss Federal Government, aided by a grant from the High Commissioner's Office, will cover full costs of care and maintenance for three years. Thereafter, if aid is still required, voluntary agencies will participate in expenses that may still be necessary.

At least half of the quota are expected to be selected in Austria and Italy. The rest will be chosen on the basis of dossiers from among refugees of European origin in Germany, Greece, Turkey, North Africa, the Middle East and the Far East.

The Swiss team consists of the Chief of the Refugee Section of the Department of Justice and Police and two representatives of voluntary agencies. They will be working in close co-operation with the High Commissioner's Office and the Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration.

In 1961, Switzerland admitted 200 persons under a similar programme. In spite of handicaps which had previously caused repeated rejections for emigration, many have made remarkable progress in becoming successfully settled in Switzerland.

"Switzerland's willingness to undertake a further scheme of this kind with the same liberal criteria," Mr. Schnyder stated, "is particularly welcome at this time when I am asking all governments to give favourable consideration to providing re-settlement opportunities for handicapped refugees of European origin in the residual group in Europe, the Middle East, Far East and North Africa.

In addition to these two special schemes, Switzerland for many years has accepted an annual quota of fifty refugees requiring institutional care in homes for the aged or sanatoria.

AIRMAIL
 ROUTING SLIP

TO The UNHCR Correspondent in
SOUTH AFRICA.

FOR

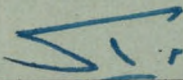
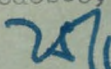
Approval	More details
Reply, please	Your information
See me, please	Returned as requested
Your signature	Investigate and report
Note and file	For immediate action
Note and return	Reply for my signature
Your comments	Initial and forward

REMARKS : This may interest you.

DATE

25/I/63

FROM


 V. Tedesco, UNHCR


FICHE-D'ACCOMPAGNEMENT

A :

POUR

Approbation		Plus de détails
Réponse s.v.p.		Votre information
Me voir s.v.p.		Retourné comme demandé
Votre signature		Enquête et rapport
Noter et classer		Pour action immédiate
Noter et retourner		Réponse pour ma signature
Vos commentaires		Initiales et faire suivre

REMARQUES :

DATE

DE

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
REFUGEES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION,
Hong Kong Office,
3rd Floor, United Chinese Bank Building,
31/37 Des Voeux Road, C., Hong Kong.

FE-G-25

10th January 1963

Old Believer families to Brazil

Dear Dr. Beermann,

Reference all our correspondence concerning the reception of the Old Believer families at Durban during the "Ruys" call en route to Brazil am attaching, believing it to be of interest, a translation of a letter written us by the MARTUSHEVs.

A copy is going to Miss Pollak with my thanks for her Committee's generous reception of these refugee immigrants.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony W. Clabon
Special Representative

*file
jcc/1*

Dr. V.A.M. Beermann,
Chief, Fund Raising Section,
Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland.

TRANSLATION

DURBAN
26th December, 1962.

Dear Mr. A.W. Clabon,

We have the pleasure to inform you that we have arrived in Durban. We were met by Miss Chailina with some other ladies and they took us in the town and brought us back. We had a most wonderful time and were very happy. The next day they took us again and we had an excellent lunch and also received many presents from them, and we all thank them very much.

During our voyage the sea was quiet and not much waving. Therefore we are all feeling very well and healthy, and now only left 15 more days to end of our journey.

We all thank you very much for all your kind assistance and wish you the best of luck.

Sincerely yours,

/Signed/ Mihail and Nadejda MARTUSHEV



Russian Refugees In City

A GROUP of 18 men, women and children, White Russian "Old Believers", refugees from Hong Kong, arrived in Cape Town last night in the Dutch ship Ruys on their way to Brazil.

Their resettlement in Brazil was made possible by money collected in South Africa during World Refugee Year. Arrangements are being made to entertain the group while they are in Cape Town and to provide them with things they may need.

The problem last night when the Rev. Basil Brown, secretary of the Christian Council of South Africa, went to welcome the refugees was that they could only speak Russian and nobody could interpret. He was therefore unable to find out their needs.

ISRAELI HELP

Anybody who speaks Russian and who is prepared to act as an interpreter to-day should get in touch with Mr. Brown at 77-3910 as early as possible.

A Cape Times reporter who visited the group later in the evening found an engineer from an Israeli ship who was able to speak Russian.

Through him he was told that the group are farmers and intend farming when they reach Brazil.

"OLD BELIEVERS": The group of White Russian "Old Believers" who arrived in Cape Town last night on their way to Brazil. It is part of their religion not to drink or smoke or shave — as can be seen from the men's beards.

HOUSE ARREST NOTICE

Anglers Told:

UNITED NATIONS

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES



NATIONS UNIES

OFFICE DU HAUT-COMMISSAIRE
POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

Télégrammes : HICOMREF

Téléphone : 33 10 00 33 20 00 33 40 00

Palais des Nations

GENÈVE

18 January 1963

Dear Mr. Hicks,

...
I have pleasure in forwarding to you somewhat belatedly, a copy of the report made by Mr. Krenz after his visit to you in November last year. I am sure you will find this an interesting document, and I am glad to note that this contact appears to have been fruitful both for you and this Headquarters. Some copies of the 1951 Convention have been despatched to you, according to your request.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'V.A.M. Beermann', with a horizontal line underneath.

V.A.M. Beermann,
Chief, Fund Raising Section

Mr. V.R. Hicks,
Secretary,
South African National Committee for
World Refugee Year,
P.O. Box 672,
Johannesburg
South Africa

John H. Coe / 1

Mr. S.J.C. Wright

V. Tedesco

"Old Believers"

21 January 1963

1. You will remember that a group of "Old Believers" recently passed through Durban, South Africa, en route for Brazil. The raising of funds for the resettlement of this group was one of the objectives of the Durban Committee for World Refugee Year.

2. We asked Professor Hansi Pollak, of the Durban WRY Committee, to ensure that any publicity given to the group should steer clear of their past experience but, rather, concentrate on these very colourful and photogenic people, their future and the efforts of the WRY Committee to help them. This, as you will see from the attached clippings received by Dr. Beermann, has been done.

3. In a personal letter to Dr. Beermann, Miss Pollak gives the following details of the programme arranged for the "Old Believers" while in transit in Durban:-

"A" (1) After arrival, Members of Committees and particularly the Business and Professional Women's Club and S.A. Association of University Women, went aboard with large quantity of good clothing, etc. We had made arrangements for an interpreter, a former Imperial Russian Opera Singer. After distribution, drive in Durham and environs in private cars - also in afternoon.

(2) Sunday - party at home of Mrs. Chaplin - distribution of individual personal gifts to each Member. I had a letter (not from Mrs. Chaplin) telling me the Old Believers were deeply moved "blessed us all several times" and sang their blessing in Russian."

4. This might be a useful item for "UNHCR Reports...".

VT/bmc cc: Representative, UNHCR Branch Office
for Latin America
Special Representative, Hong Kong
UNHCR Correspondent in South Africa
Dr. Beermann
Mr. Manning/Mr. Woodward
Mr. Tedesco (2)
P.I. Chron.
Registry

44-6901

HCC/1/VRH/EW.

23rd January, 1963.

Chief, Fund Raising Section,
United Nations High Commissioner, for Refugees,
Palais des Nations,
GENEVA. SWITZERLAND.

Dear Dr. Beermann,

Many thanks for your letter of 18th January 1963 forwarding copy of report by Mr. Krenz. It was indeed a pleasure meeting him and our discussions were most helpful to me.

Mr. Krenz is quite right when he speaks about the difficult time ahead and we shall need much encouragement in the days to come. The difficulties emanate from the man in the street who forms his opinions from press news.

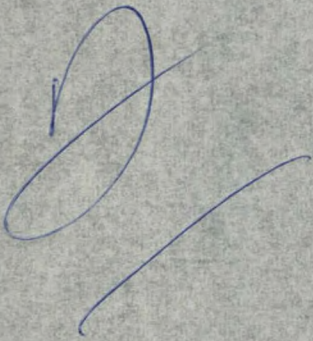
Thank you for the copies of the Convention.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,



V.R. HICKS.
CORRESPONDENT.



John Hec/1

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.: A/12

28 January 1963.

Your Ref.:

Dear Mr. Hicks,

OLD BELIEVERS FAMILIES TO BRAZIL.

You may not have been advised that certain refugees from Hong Kong who passed through Durban last December have expressed to Mr. Clabon their satisfaction for the reception they were given on this occasion.

I felt therefore that the following text of a letter from Mihail and Nadejda Martushev might be of interest to you:

"We have the pleasure to inform you that we have arrived in Durban. We were met by Miss Chailim with some other ladies and they took us in the town and brought us back. We had a most wonderful time and were very happy. The next day they took us again and we had an excellent lunch and also received many presents from them, and we all thank them very much.

During our voyage the sea was quiet and not much waving. Therefore we are all feeling very well and healthy and now only left 15 more days to end of our journey.

We all thank you very much for all your kind assistance and wish you the best of luck."

Incidentally, with reference to the photographs of this group which we discussed recently, our Headquarters would still be most interested in obtaining two sets if this proves possible.

Yours faithfully,

James W. Stewart
James W. Stewart
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. V.R. Hicks,
UNHCR Representative,
P.O. Box 672,
JOHANNESBURG.

B

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

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