

X/13 CS - ICEM APPEALS FOR AID TO MEET CS REFUGEE FLOW

GENEVA, SEPT. 4 (RFE SPECIAL/MAHONEY) -- THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM) TODAY ISSUED A WORLDWIDE APPEAL FOR GOVERNMENTS TO CONTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO MEET NEW REFUGEE DEMANDS, CAUSED TO A GREAT EXTENT BY THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IN HIS APPEAL DIRECTOR GENERAL BASTIAAN W. HAVEMAN WARNED THAT THOUSANDS OF NEW REFUGEES MAY BE STRANDED FOR LACK OF ICEM ASSISTANCE IF HELP IS NOT RECEIVED.

ICEM IS THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR MOVING REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS.

IN 1966, SOME 30,500 REFUGEES WERE MOVED BY ICEM, THE 1967 FIGURE REACHED 35,128 AND THE PRESENT YEARS ESTIMATE OF REFUGEE MOVEMENTS HAS BEEN INCREASED TO 40,500. THEY HAVE COME LARGELY FROM EASTERN EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA . ALL INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT THIS UPWARD TREND WILL CONTINUE, THE APPEAL SAID.

ADDITIONAL BURDENS FOR ICEM OPERATIONS ARISE OUT OF THE PRESENT CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION, THE STATEMNT STRESSED.

ICEM DIRECTOR HAVEMAN SAID THAT A T LEAST 500,000 DOLLARS IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO MEET THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1968. FOR 1969, THE CURRENTLY FORESEEN DEFICIT WILL BE APPROX. 1,150,000 DOLLARS, HE SAID.

THIS CRITICAL SITUATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES HAVE BEEN CONVEYED BY TELEGRAMS FROM DIRECTOR HAVEMAN TO THE 30 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF ICEM, INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS AND THE MANY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

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