

VIENNA AREA COMMAND

8. PUBLIC WELFARE

a. Public Welfare Agencies. Due to the fact that there existed in Vienna a great overlap in the duties and responsibilities of various governmental and civilian agencies doing welfare work, this sub-section accomplished a considerable degree of coordination and allocation of job responsibility among them to the extent that a much more efficient over-all organization now exists for welfare work.

b. Children Movements. During the month of November, 800 children were sent from the city of Vienna to private homes in rural areas of Austria. There they are assured an increased diet of body-building foods during the winter months. This makes a total of 7,851 children sent to homes within Austria since July 1945. The first shipment of 406 children to Switzerland under the auspices of the Swiss Red Cross left Vienna on 22 November and the movement has been reported as highly successful. Plans have been completed for the second shipment of approximately 500 children to Switzerland on 5 December 1945. Present figures show that 800 children were returned to Vienna during the month of November, which, according to the best records available, leaves only 19 children to be returned.

c. The movement of all children to and from the city of Vienna, whether by public or private agencies, has been centralized in Department X/2, Child Welfare Section, City of Vienna, under the direction of Dr. Schoenbauer, and under the military supervision of the United States Representative of the Public Welfare Sub-Committee VIAC.

d. ARC Emergency Supplementary Feeding Program. Effective 1 November all doctors serving full time in the institutions included in the emergency feeding program were considered as eligible for supplementary food, bringing the total number of recipients to 6876. During the month of November the total number of recipients in institutions reached a peak of 7908 on the 23 November 1945 and remained almost constant to the end of the month. The nursing mothers and pregnant women benefiting by the program has shown a gradual increase throughout the month as additional women learned of the advantages, reaching a total of 982 at the close of the month, as compared to 520 on the last day of October. Effective 1 December the program will be extended to include the Nervenheilanstalt Maria Schloss, a hospital, located at Vienna XIX, Hofzeile 18-20.

e. School Feeding Program. The school feeding program has now extended to 572 schools and is serving 125,740 meals per day as compared to the report received 3 November 1945 which showed 554 schools and 110,877 meals served daily. Assurance has been given that enough supplies remain to carry the program up to the 24th of December 1945. Recent health reports received by the Public Welfare Sub-Section show a great need for this additional food to children of school age, and it is recommended that every effort be made to keep the program going and to supplement the present supply at the earliest possible date. The program has now been placed in the hands of the Public Welfare Sub-Committee VIAC with the United States Representative and the French Representative in joint charge of operations.

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