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English Children Are Welcome Here

Ten Thousand Americans Offer Homes to Young Refugees

Too young to fight but not too young to die, England's children seek a place to call home for a while. Some are originally from continental Europe, twice refugees. They look across the Atlantic, to where the United States Committee for the Care of European Children is trying to bring many of them over as quickly as possible. In its 10 days of life, the Committee (Honorary Chairman, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt; Chairman, Marshall Field) has had over 10,000 offers from families willing to take from one to five children. (See also pages 3 and 6.)

Nobody knows how many will be admitted or how many will land in Canada on the first child-refugee ship, due three weeks from now. The quota for British children is 6500 a month; for children from other countries quotas are considerably lower. Responsible only for admitting children under the existing U. S. laws, the Committee is getting children's names, (chiefly in low-income groups) from England so the children may enter the U. S. as "known children," directly and quickly.

(continued)

² *English Children*

How It's Done

The Migration Department at Committee headquarters, 215 Fourth Ave., is jammed with haunted men and women trying to rescue children, usually those of relatives or friends. A large staff, partly volunteer, shows them how to fill out the initial registration form, and supplies them with affidavits of support. Copies of these affidavits, with substantiating documents, are sent to the U. S. Consul nearest the designated child.

This is fortified by a cable to the Consul and to the child's relatives, advising them to register the child with the Consul for a quota number. If these steps don't bear fruit, the children who are between five and sixteen might be sent to Canada, from where the Committee will see that they reach their new but temporary homes here.

Responsibilities

The newly set-up Child Care Division accepts applications for "unknown children," although there's no telling when they will arrive. Among many applying yesterday, a grandmother, son, daughter-in-law and grandchild wanted a little English girl, aged 10.

The British Government has just made the Committee the official organization to take care of these children. The Committee cautions hospitable families to be sure they can undertake the necessary responsibilities. The children are to be here for the duration of the emergency and that may mean a long time after the last bomb has fallen.—L. Z.

PM