



DENES AND MARIA (left) and Erzsebet and Lajos, two refugee couples married at Trentham Immigration Hostel soon after they reached New Zealand, will be among those heard in "Distant Refuge"

part of the story. In the course of preparing this programme I spoke to many of these people, and among the questions I asked was what they wanted to do first. Without exception they answered, "Get a job." For them a job, any kind of job to start with, is the symbol of all they hope for—money, companionship, a home, a settled place in the community, no longer to be refugees, prisoners, or something other than themselves.

The two-way process has started. At the immigration hostel I watched an official sit hour after hour, with endless patience, kindness and cheerfulness, interviewing the Hungarians through an interpreter, finding out *exactly* what job would suit them best. Alongside him was another official with a list of the homes that had been offered, from end to end of the country. He told me of the people in a southern city who had made available a newly-furnished house, and who were waiting with a hot meal to greet the family who would occupy it. I myself met a man and his wife who had offered both home and schooling to a 15-year-old girl. And the appeals conducted throughout the country have enabled the welfare organisations to provide much in the way of clothing and comfort.

The task of settling down will not always be easy, for the experience and way of life of these people has been very different from our own. But the reply of Judith, a secretary, when I asked her whether she thought she would ever return to Hungary, will stand for them all. She said: "I expect I may be sometimes homesick for my country, but the goodness I have experience of New Zealanders will help me through this illness. I shall not go back."

(Replacing the usual UN programme from YAs and YZs on Friday, February 1, will be a special UN feature, "What Do They Want?" made in the Hungarian refugee camps in Austria.)

HUNGARIANS FIND A NEW HOME

A SPECIAL programme, "Distant Refuge," about the arrival of Hungarian refugees in New Zealand, will be broadcast in the Main National Programme on Sunday, February 3, at 9.30 a.m. William R. Roff, of the NZBS Talks Section, who compiled it, describes here some of his experiences while preparing the programme.

IT was a bright, sunny day. In the bus on the way from Wellington to the immigration hostel at Trentham, I spoke to the young couple across the aisle from me. Ivon had been a schoolteacher in Budapest, and he holds two diplomas from the agricultural university there. His pupils had taken a major part in the rising. He thought, and was pleased to think, that his superiors might suspect his teaching. So they left. Ivon's wife, Edith, looked young and tired, her gentle

eyes resting gratefully on the hills around the harbour. She spoke less English than her husband, and presently, when there was a break in our conversation, she turned from the window and spoke to him in Hungarian. He smiled and translated for me: "She says, how much cost to hire a piano in New Zealand?"

Experiences like this have been common among those who have had anything to do with the Hungarian refugees arriving in this country since the middle of December. So far we've become host to about 470, and another 60 reach Auckland by air on January 23. After that it's hoped to receive 500 more by sea. Most of them, unlike Ivon and Edith, can speak no English, many are without personal possessions apart from the clothes they wear, and they're all tired and over-strained after their experiences

in Hungary and the journey to the South Pacific. When I asked one woman how long they had been travelling, she said, "Five years in the aeroplane, one year in the train from Auckland." It seemed quite possible.

What sort of people are they? From what one can gather, this was a young person's revolution, and that is reflected in the composition of the groups we've so far received. The average age of the first draft was well below 30, and the later arrivals are very little older. The majority are single men and women, from almost every walk of life—there are bricklayers, needlewomen, precision engineers, a surgeon, labourers, and even a film actress. In time, when they've learnt English, this country will be enriched by the addition of many valuable skilled workers. But their skill is only

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The Science Conference

THE 32nd meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science had just opened as we went to press, and on Thursday, January 31, YA and YZ stations will broadcast the first of a series of post-conference talks. Twenty years ago at its last meeting in New Zealand, the President, Sir David Rivett, in his opening address on *The Scientific Estate*, said: "We have turned, largely but perhaps not yet far enough, as a public scientific association, towards those studies which are concerned more particularly with Man, and especially with Man as a social being. . . The interplay of human beings, the social product and all its reactions, as justly claim our earnest attention as the interplay of atoms and molecules; and possibly in the end may prove to be no less orderly when viewed on a sufficiently broad scale." Whether modern science would be able to extend its technique, and therefore its boundaries, rapidly enough to handle the social environment as it had handled and was handling the physical environment, was a hard ques-

tion, said Sir David, but it could hardly be denied that a severe challenge was extended to it.

The enlargement of the sections devoted to the social sciences in this year's conference shows that science is meeting the challenge, and in the main emphasis is laid on the practical—on the political and economic problems urgently needing solution and on the implications of recent history. Several New Zealanders now prominent in the social sciences overseas have returned to give papers at this meeting. One is Professor Raymond Firth, successor to Malinowski in the Chair of Anthropology in the University of London, who has continued the tradition of fine scholarship and humane study established by his predecessor. Another is Professor J. W. Davidson, of the Australian National University, Canberra, a world expert on Pacific affairs.

The programme of the present conference also shows extensive subdivision in the other sciences over the past 20 years, indicating their growth, increased specialisation, and the growing number of applied fields. Here again the emphasis is on practical problems, such as those that influence the development of agriculture, raw materials and power in Australia and New Zealand.

New Zealanders eminent overseas in fields other than the social sciences who



PROFESSOR RAYMOND FIRTH

are here for the conference include Professor F. W. G. White, Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australia, who is presiding over the section dealing with Astronomy, Mathematics and Physics, and Professor F. J. Turner, head of the Geology Department of the University of California.



PROFESSOR J. W. DAVIDSON

Several of the eminent visitors are known to NZBS listeners through talks given in the past.

The well-known broadcaster Crosbie Morrison has also come to New Zealand for the conference, and later will gather material and record for the NZBS a series of talks on New Zealand wild life.