

# American Friends Service Committee

20 South Twelfth Street



Philadelphia, Penna.

## BULLETIN ON RELIEF IN FRANCE

Bulletin #48

For the Use of Editorial Comment and Re-publication

February 8, 1943

News has just been received of the continuing relief program in France under the direction of Secours Quaker to which the American Friends Service Committee transferred all resources on November 8.

### Relief Services Continuing

A letter dated December 31, 1942 reads in part as follows:

"Relief activities are being continued by Secours Quaker to the same extent and in the same locations as before, except that the money transfers and international welfare inquiries have been discontinued. There are enough funds to continue the program through May and it is expected that the children's colonies program will continue for a somewhat longer period. It has seemed best to close the cooperative club for women which was located in Marseille.

"Feeding of children is being continued, although the stocks are rapidly diminishing, with little prospect of being replenished. What stocks there are have been moved to interior departments.

"The clothing recently received (thirty-eight tons from the United States) is being distributed. Considerable delay has been experienced because it has been necessary to make a complete count for control purposes. It is expected that the distribution will be completed by the end of January.

"Officers of the Secours Quaker, all French citizens, are:

Professor Lucien Cornil	President
Eleanor Cochu	Vice-President
Paul P. Camoin	Director-Administrator
Andree Montagnon	Secretary
Marcel Barlatier	Treasurer

"Final decisions of management rest with the Conseil d'Administration which is composed of the above officers and in addition: Madame Samuel Ybargoyen, Madame Sedan, Wilhelm Holst and Delegates in the field-- namely, Helga Holbek, Helene Rott de Neufville, Toot van Oordt and Mary Elmes.

### American Staff Members

With reference to the American staff members in France on November 8, the Committee has been informed through the State Department that five Quaker delegates are now with the American diplomatic corps in forced residence at Baden Baden in Germany. These Americans include: Burritt M. Hiatt, Roderic Davison, Laura J. Loyson, Russell W. Richie, and Gilbert F. White.

Three Americans, Lindsley H. Noble, Rosanna D. Thorndike and Herbert Lagler are still in one of the interior departments of the country where they are completing all transfers to Secours Quaker. The relation of the Americans to the program is explained by our correspondent in the letter previously quoted.

"Americans can carry on relief work but have been advised by officials at Vichy not to do so. For the sake of the program they are withdrawing from all active participation. Those joining the American diplomatic group expect to be repatriated. Lindsley Noble is closing the books of the American Friends Service Committee and trying to get everything in good shape from a financial point of view so that all obligations of the Committee will be settled or be in a position to be settled at the end of hostilities. The attitude of most of the local authorities, especially in the interior departments has been very cooperative and they have done everything in their power to help the Committee and its delegates."

"The French Government has named seven departments in which English and American citizens are allowed to reside. However, these persons are actually in residence forcee and cannot leave the village in which they are situated without special permission of the prefet of the department.

#### Statement of Outstanding Accounts

In a statement dated December 31, 1942, Lindsley Noble has transmitted a statement of account listing liabilities of the Committee. These include transmissions of funds for individuals who have departed for unknown destinations, franc transfers under license and other obligations.

The decision of the German occupying authorities in January to remove 50,000 French residents from the old port section of Marseille and raze the buildings may have seriously affected the activities of the Marseille office. In November and December Secours Quaker reported that some children's colonies, presumably in the Marseille area, were being moved to other departments. In November all stocks of food and clothing in the Marseille warehouses were removed to the department of the Tarn and from that department distributions made to the offices in Toulouse, Montauban, Perpignan and Lyons as well as to colonies and internment camps. The Marseille office has, therefore, been serving only as administrative headquarters.

#### Official Transfer to Secours Quaker

A copy of the letter addressed by Lindsley Noble to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on November 19 is given herewith:

Monsieur Morriere Bernadotte  
Secretary  
Comite de la Reconnaissance Francaise  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Vichy, France

Sir:

It is with profound regret that we must inform you today of the fact that the AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE is obliged to discontinue the activity of its organization for relief in France. This decision was arrived at entirely by the

consideration of recent international events and in no way indicates a desire to do so by our Committee in Philadelphia or its delegates here.

We have the honor of informing you, however, that the funds and stocks of our Committee have been transferred to SECOURS QUAKER, a French service organization, governed by a law, dated July, 1901, and entered on the lists of Secours National. That organization was kind enough to take over our program of aid to the innocent victims of war and to continue it in the same fraternal spirit that we have always endeavored to practice.

The social service headquarters of SECOURS QUAKER is at 29 Blvd. d'Athenes, Marseille. Its Executive Committee is composed of the following members:

Professor Cornil, President  
 Mrs. Eleanor Cochu, Vice-President and Secretary  
 Mr. Paul P. Camoin, Administrator-Delegate, Director  
 Mrs. Andree Montagnon, Treasurer

We dare to hope that you will find it possible to accord to SECOURS QUAKER the same facilities which you have so generously put at our disposal, and which are, as you know, indispensable if they are to make a success of the task they have undertaken.

Our eight delegates from America have gone to the various departments designated by the authorities (French) as an authorized place for residence, and we hope that they will be permitted to continue in those departments to help the needy in the times of despair which France must experience by aiding the SECOURS QUAKER in its relief program.

In the name of our Committee we want to express to the French Government as well as to yourselves our very sincere thanks for the aid which you have so generously given to us throughout the time of our activities in France: We regard it as a very high privilege to have been able to administer some relief - in a small way - to the people of France in their time of trial.

Very truly yours,

(s) Lindsley Noble  
 Director, pro tem.

The Service Committee is allocating all funds received since November for relief in France to a special account. Funds from this account will be used for services as soon as the way opens.

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