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Today in the USSR there are more than 600.000 refugees from Middle Asia, Kazakhstan, Tuva and Azerbajdjan. There are 230 thousand refugees from Armenia. To Armenia there are quarter of a million refugees from Azerbaidzan and more than 600.000 -homeless after the earth-quake. These are the people of different nationalities, russians, meskhiturks, asteks, tadzhiks, ukrainians, azerbajdzkanians and armenians. According to the forecasts, the number of refugees is going to reach 4-5 millions in the coming few months. This is not only a humanitarian, but political problem. It has its roots in Stalins constitutional arrangements of the country. Unfortunately 5 and a half years of the new thinking announced by Gorbachov failed to bring about any changes.

It is a paradox that this social system has managed to create such a flood of refugees in the times of peace, in the absence of any war. This situation is aggravated by the system of the police control over the place where an individual lives - the system of "propiska".(One has to have a permission, issued by The Ministry of Internal Affairs, to live at a certain place). This cuts off the possibility, for the people who have to move, to have medical care, to find a job, to get their pension paid, to send their children to school. Our state is ruined and impotent to such extent that it is unable to give these people any real help. Since these people deprived of any human rights, are inside their own state, they are not under the jurisdiction of the UN Refugee Committee .

I appeal to this conference to address UN Refugee Committee to take care of the soviet reguees and render them help in accordance with the international status.

E.Bonner

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