UNHCR



TOPIC: Sudan-Chad Refugee Conflict

CHAIRS: Sydney Scott, Zach Sniderman

LAIMUN XXIX

December 2-3

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Committee Description

Topic: Sudan-Chad Refugee Conflict

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LAIMUN XXIX

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Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXIX of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXIX will take place on Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3 of 2023 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 120 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following <u>these directions</u>. The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 24 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, November 30 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the <u>LAIMUN Rules of Procedure</u> for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Akash Mishra and Lily Stern Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXIX secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org



Introduction to the USG

Hi delegates!

My name is Claire Koerber and I am the Under-Secretary General of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for Mira Costa Model UN; I am excited to welcome you all to LAIMUN XXIX.

The advanced and novice ECOSOC committees cover a variety of prevalent international issues that require multifaceted approaches and solutions. Each delegate brings a unique perspective into debate and it is important to use creativity in developing solutions while also paying attention to country policy. Your chairs will hold you to high standards in regards to solutions, speeches, caucusing, and diplomacy, so please be sure to keep this in mind.

To ensure you are adequately prepared for debate, please submit your position papers promptly to your chairs. All work should be your own. This goes for all preparation, speeches, solutions, and resolutions as well. LAIMUN has a strict no pre-written resolution policy, and resolutions should only be worked on at the chair's discretion. Be sure to act respectfully in committee towards fellow delegates and chairs.

I hope LAIMUN XXIX provides you with lasting memories and educational experiences. Our LAIMUN staff do their utmost to give all delegates the best experience possible. We want all delegates to gain knowledge, confidence, speaking skills, and most importantly, a new understanding of international relations and the current events around us that affect the way we live today. Throughout the weekend, make sure to participate and stay engaged during debate. Who knows...if nothing else, you may actually learn a thing or two.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to ecosoc@mchsmun.org or any other secretariat member. Looking forward to seeing you in December and best of luck in your preparation towards success!

All the best,

Lily Stern and Akash Mishra Secretaries-General Claire Koerber Under-Secretary General ECOSOC

Introduction to the Dias

Hello Delegates!

My name is Sydney Scott, and I will be one of your chairs for UNHCR with Zach. I am a senior at Mira Costa and in my third year in the MUN program at Mira Costa. I have done several local and travel conferences at the College of William and Mary and the University of Chicago. In my sophomore year, I was a legal UNOOSA novice; in my junior year, I was a co-chair for CND Advanced.

Outside of school, I love to spend my time outdoors and around nature. I enjoy going to the beach and going on different hikes in PV. I love gardening and arranging flowers; I see it as a way to de-stress. During my free time, I enjoy volunteering at my local Senior Center. During the summer, I organized games and activities and helped however I could.

Within school, I am involved with the Shared Closets Club, which focuses on donating clothing. I am also involved in the Mental Health Matters Club, which focuses on transparency in mental health, and fundraising for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). I tend to gravitate toward history classes in school, and I loved European History and Psychology. I am interested in hearing the differing opinions and solutions to the Sudan-Chad Refugee Conflict. Feel free to always reach out with questions (unchr.nov.laimun.xxix@gmail.com).

I'm excited to meet you all in person,

Sydney Scott

Hello Delegates!

My name is Zach Sniderman, and along with Sydney Scott, I will be your chair for UNHCR this December. I'm a Junior here at Mira Costa, and have been involved with this amazing program all three years. I've participated and excelled in numerous conferences throughout my mun career, including local conferences here in the South Bay, as well as NHSMUN last year.

I was born and raised in England, and moved here just five years ago. I still have a bit of an accent, so don't be surprised if you hear it during debate! As a result of my English background, I love European History, as well as Rugby, which I've played for 10 years, 3 of which here at Costa. I'm very interested in hearing new stories and perspectives, which is why I'm interning for TedX, and work to organize Ted events here at Costa. I also am a huge fan of listening to music, with some of my favorite artists being MF DOOM, Tyler, New Order, and David Bowie.

Within UNHCR, I hope to see creative, well-developed, but most importantly feasible solutions as we dive into some of the one of the greatest migration issues of the last century.

Being UNHCR, both Sydney and I will also be looking for country policy to take a large role in your solution making. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns, and good luck!

Best,

Zach Sniderman

Committee Description

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an agency that was created in 1950 and was utilized for the first time to aid thousands of Europeans who lost their homes or fled during World War II. The organization was given a three year mandate in order to complete their goal in Europe, and accomplished just that. This led to a Nobel Peace Prize in 1954¹, that solidified the importance and significance of the UNHCR within the international community. Almost seventy years later the UNHCR continues to provide humanitarian aid as well as protection to refugees, stateless people and forcibly displaced communities globally.

Furthermore, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has worked in a total of 135 countries, and has successfully aided over 50 million refugees to restart their lives². The UNHCR provides a multitude of emergency assistance in the form of healthcare, sanitation, shelter and occasionally food and water. In addition, the organization advocates for transformative policies that protect and serve displaced peoples. They also provide countries in

¹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "History of UNHCR." *UNHCR*, www.unhcr.org/en-us/history-of-unhcr.html.

² United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "What We Do." *UNHCR*, www.unhcr.org/what-we-do.html

conflict templates that guide governments on proper actions that will help resolve and diminish the refugee and humanitarian crisis in their own borders. Lastly, through the utilization of volunteers and donations, the UNHCR continues to provide aid and assistance to refugees throughout the international community.

Topic: Sudan-Chad Refugee Conflict

I. Background:

Estimates show that 60,000 people have already been forcefully displaced from Sudan to Chad in a refugee crisis that erupted from a new dispute between rival factions of the Sudanese government. The conflict broke out on April 15th 2023, with initial clashes in the country's capital, Khartoum, and eventually making their way toward the Western Darfur region. Since then, over 10,000 people have died in Western Darfur as conflicts have escalated. Western Darfur, in particular, has been so greatly affected by the conflict due to its pre-existing ethnic tensions. Darfurians make up a variety of cultural and linguistic groups, including the Fur, the Masalit, the Zaghawa, the Arabic Rizaiqat, Missairiyya, and Ta'isha.³

This is not the first time that ethnic disagreements have led to fighting in Sudan. The British rule over Sudan from 1899 to 1956 exacerbated tensions so tremendously that since Sudan gained its independence in 1956, it has suffered two civil wars.⁴ These wars have, in large part, been instigated by its division between Arabic-speaking Muslims and a diverse group of African people that predominantly either practice Christianity or continue to follow traditional religions. The first of these, lasting from 1955–1972 was motivated by a push for autonomy for

³ "Understanding the Darfur Conflict." *Origins*, origins.osu.edu/article/worlds-worst-humanitarian-crisis-understanding-darfur-conflict?language_content_entity=en. Accessed 14 June 2023.

⁴ ."." Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa. Encyclopedia.Com. 25 May. 2023 ." *Encyclopedia.Com*, 15 June 2023,

www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/sudanese-civil-wars#:~:text=Ther e%20have%20been%20two%20 prolonged,country%2C%20their%20 times%20 have%20 diverged.

the South, which had historically been mistreated by the British, and the second aimed to restructure the political system. The death toll was catastrophic, with 500,000 in the first and an astounding 4,000,000 in the second. The modern conflict has sprouted into an issue that is just as bad, if not worse, than the first two civil wars and is risking millions more lives. It was instigated when the RSF, or Rapid Support Forces, formerly part of the Sudanese government, began attacking SAF (Sudanese Armed Forces) bases. Fighting between the two ensued, and by May of 2023, the SAF claimed to have weakened the combat capabilities of the RSF. Despite this, air strikes and other forms of fighting have continued to persist, with General Dagalo of the RSF vowing to continue fighting and to hang the opposing general.

Additionally, Sudan's many years of instability have created a pre-existing refugee crisis within the country. Several million people are currently internally displaced within Sudan, along with 1.13 million from other conflict-rife countries. Many of these refugees have been forced to move further as a result of the renewed conflict, with the most common destination being their neighboring country of Chad. The current conflict has created a sudden influx of refugees into Chad and the humanitarian crisis that has ensued could be even worse than in Sudan. Acting as a home for roughly 400,000 Sudanese even before this conflict, Chad's already struggling economy is being tested by the thousands of refugees that pour in each week. Humanitarian workers are working tirelessly with minimal resources to provide essential aid to overflowing border cities. To make matters worse, over 90% of the migrants that arrived at the Gaga Camp, a UNHCR-run camp on the border of Chad and Sudan, were women and young children. Many of these people had left their husbands and younger children at home to "defend themselves and

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their property," (Mastiura Ishakh Yousouff, IDP) while they fled their homes for fear of the violence.⁵ These people have escaped the conflict back home, but are so traumatized that many continue to carry painful memories embedded within guns and violence, to the point where they are frightened by local police. This sentiment has created widespread fear and panic within many border camps like Gaga. Communities have reported feeling fear of being attacked within their hometown, even after having migrated across the Chad border. According to UN estimates, 6.9 million, over 1/3 of Chad's population, needs urgent humanitarian assistance. Many of these refugees are in such squalid conditions that they have been forced to take shelter in the open, under palm trees, or for those who are lucky, in makeshift shelters near the border. In fact, shelter is being described as one of the most dire necessities of most refugees. Food, water, and health care, too, are absolutely essential, with the vast majority of refugees having a desperate need for these resources. Many refugees have nothing as they cross the border and are left with nothing after having arrived in Chad. These problems have only been amplified amidst the sweltering 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) heat. Local residents have been forced to be generous with their housing and resources, too, with one 44-year-old mother of 5 claiming to have hosted over 50 people in her house in just one week. The kindness of the locals is a large factor in why the death toll has stayed so low, with many relating to the plight of the helpless refugees.

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⁵ Madowo, Larry. "As Sudanese Refugees Flee Horrors of War, Poverty-Stricken Chad Is Struggling to Help." *CNN*, 25 May 2023, www.cnn.com/2023/05/25/africa/sudanese-cross-into-chad-intl/index.html.

^{6&}quot;Sudanese Refugees Fleeing Violence Flock to Chad." *UNHCR*, www.unhcr.org/news/stories/sudanese-refugees-fleeing-violence-flock-chad. Accessed 14 June 2023.

⁷ "Unexpectedly High Number of Refugees Cross into Chad to Flee Fighting in Sudan." *NPR*, 23 May 2023, www.npr.org/2023/05/23/1177626408/unexpectedly-high-number-of-refugees-cross-into-chad-to-flee-fighting-in-su dan#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20refugee%20agency,from%20Sudan%20to%20neighboring%20Chad.

However, they are being stretched to their limit, and the UNHCR is working to help relocate refugees to the nearest refugee camp, the "Gaga Camp" 50 kilometers away.

Chad is not the only destination for Sudanese refugees, however. The total Sudanese refugee count since the beginning of the crisis is a shocking 260,000, with Egypt also receiving a large portion of the refugees. Ties between Egypt and Sudan run deep, with some parts of each country appearing to be very similar to one another. In fact, for many people in Aswan, a city in Egypt, there is very little distinction between them and their Sudanese counterparts. As a result of this inherent familiarity and close proximity related to Egypt, it has become a very popular destination for Sudanese refugees.

The largest concern is still the relocation of the thousands of refugees at the Sudan-Chad border for one critical reason: Chad is currently running the risk of experiencing a major humanitarian disaster in the region as the result of the devastating rainy season that begins each year in late June. The rain has already significantly hampered efforts to move people away from the border, which has created additional desperation and an a further worsened crisis. With such heavy rains, most refugees can no longer sleep outside, leading to families being forced to squeeze into community shelters with "16 other families" (UNHCR). Many workers aiming to help relocate as many of the refugees as possible have even described the scenario as a "race" to get as many people to safety before the rainy season begins.⁸

II. United Nations Involvement:

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⁸ "Race against Time to Stop 'humanitarian Disaster' among Sudan Refugees in Chad." *The Guardian*, 24 May 2023,

www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/may/24/race-against-time-stop-humanitarian-disaster-among-sudan ese-refugees-in-chad.

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, described Sudan as having been "ravaged by a deadly conflict" and has called for an immediate ceasefire. The rest of the UN has aimed to echo this call, and with its humanitarian partners they are working towards scaling up aid throughout Sudan to the multitude that have been affected by this conflict. UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric reported that the World Health Organization (WHO) had successfully delivered 30 tons of medical supplies that have been used to aid thousands southeast of the capital, as well as medical supplies used to treat at least 2,400 in Khartoum. As a whole, the UN also understands the significant danger that the rainy season has created in terms of stranded refugees, as many are without shelter, food, and many other basic necessities. The UN also states the importance of quick and efficient evacuation.

Aid organizations, such as UNICEF, have also been successful in bringing aid to endangered Sudanese, having successfully delivered roughly 235,000 liters of clean water to many healthcare facilities located in Northern Darfur, close to the Chad border. UNICEF is also actively distributing other vital supplies, such as sanitation and health equipment, to over 15,700 patients. They have also been involved in installing water points, as well as distributing "water treatment material and ready-to-use therapeutic food, and essential medicines to health centres to ensure the treatment of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition."

The WFP, or the World Food Program, has also made a significant contribution to the

⁹ "As Desperate Sudanese Flee Their Embattled Nation, Security Council Urges Warring Parties to Respect Ceasefire, Reboot Negotiations, Immediately End Fighting | UN Press." *United Nations*, press.un.org/en/2023/sc15265.doc.htm. Accessed 15 June 2023.

¹⁰ "Sudan Crisis: Un Continues to Scale up Aid, as Security Allows | UN News." *United Nations*, news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136717. Accessed 15 June 2023.

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effort to bring relief to displaced persons in Sudan. It has distributed food and nutrition supplies to more than 20,000 refugees in over 8 different parts of the country.

The UNHCR has distributed critical non-food items to over 3,000 families so far. They say they are "gravely concerned" and are working closely with the Chadian government in order to formulate a quick and effective response. The UNHCR's largest action has come in its role in evacuating and relocating refugees from border towns to refugee camps, which in many cases are 130 kilometers away. Refugees feel "at peace" at the Gaga camp and are provided with a warm meal and the knowledge of water nearby upon arrival. 12

III. Topics to Consider:

A. Conditions of Refugee Camps

Due to the continuing violence in Sudan, the number of potential refugees has been rising. Many Sudanese people are fleeing to neighboring countries and living in refugee camps. Due to the growth of refugees from Sudan, these refugee camps often have poor conditions. Host countries need more funding to change these conditions, as well as more humanitarian aid from outside sources. The primary refugee camps are located in Chad due to their proximity to Darfur, Sudan. As the number of refugees coming to Chad has grown to 370,000, the state of the camps has only worsened. Refugees from Sudan have few options and opportunities, giving them no economic capital. They are unable to support their families and continue to suffer from

¹¹ "UNHCR Gravely Concerned as Refugees Fleeing Fighting in Sudan Arrive in Chad." *UNHCR*, www.unhcr.org/news/unhcr-gravely-concerned-refugees-fleeing-fighting-sudan-arrive-chad. Accessed 15 June 2023.

¹² "Sudanese Refugees in Chad Moved to Safety Away from Border." *UNHCR*, www.unhcr.org/news/stories/sudanese-refugees-chad-moved-safety-away-border. Accessed 15 June 2023.

¹³ https://www.acaps.org/country/chad/crisis/darfur-refugees

instability. Because of the duration of the crisis, with Sudanese people fleeing since 2003, much of the infrastructure needs to be updated. This causes continuing issues with health services and clean water. Medical facilities are often outdated and cannot tend to the significant number of people needing medical assistance. The lack of medical care in these camps only increases with the poor sanitation conditions. The camps near Sudan have little access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), an organization created by the WHO. The goal of WASH is to have clean sanitation and hygiene globally. However, they still need to meet the needs of the people of the refugee camps in Chad. These camps are in dire need of clean water, and the refugee population continues to increase. Currently, 50% of Sudan still needs access to potable water. The problem in Chad's refugee camps continues to worsen as the conflict in Sudan does. Improving Chad's refugee camps is crucial until Sudan's disputes are dissolved.

B. Human Trafficking in Refugee Camps

Initially, the increasing number of refugees fleeing into Chad was due to the extreme violence between the two armies in Sudan. The country had more citizen casualties and a lack of opportunity as the conflict continued. Overall, this caused an overwhelming amount of Sudanese refugees in Chad, and since May of 2023, 90,000 Sudanese have been displaced. As the conflict continues, the impact of the rising number of refugees has increased the amount of human trafficking present. Many refugees from Sudan seek asylum in dangerous areas with no economic stability or support. Those involved with human trafficking use this against the

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 $https://www.npr.org/2023/05/23/1177626408/unexpectedly-high-number-of-refugees-cross-into-chad-to-flee-fighting-in-sudan\#: \sim: text= The \%20 United \%20 Nations \%20 refugee \%20 agency, from \%20 Sudan \%20 to \%20 neighboring \%20 Chad$

refugees, making them more susceptible to human trafficking. Those who are most vulnerable are women and children, especially young girls. Many girls will be forced into marriages, sexual abuse, and domestic work. Young children are also very vulnerable and are often used for child labor. It is estimated that 45% of children aged 5-14 are used for child labor through human trafficking. 15 Chad has made significant changes to stop the rise of human trafficking in these refugee camps. Chad worked with the Ministry of Women, Family, and National Solidarity to provide safe centers for those who are most vulnerable to human trafficking. These centers acted as shelters that provided food, education, and housing to victims of human trafficking and those most susceptible to being victims of human trafficking. Even though Chad has attempted to reduce the amount of human trafficking in the refugee camps, the Chadian government will not prosecute any trafficking cases. This means that individuals who use human trafficking for child labor, early marriages, and sexual abuse will never see consequences. To eradicate this problem, there needs to be legislation changes made to ensure those involved with human trafficking are convicted for their crimes. There also needs to be more protective solutions for refugees to ensure they are safe after fleeing danger.

C. Impacts on Global Relations

The impacts of the war on other countries can be expansive. While the war in Sudan continues, the relationship between surrounding countries and Sudan is in jeopardy. Many countries are worried about possible war expansion, humanitarian issues, trade, and land that

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https://borgenproject.org/human-trafficking-in-chad/#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20Department%20of%20State,State%20said%20that%20Chad%20hosted

could be affected by the war. Due to the severity of the issue, countries like the USA have deeply considered removing and evacuating the Sudan embassy. ¹⁶ The war significantly impacted countries like Egypt. Their relationship loosely began due to the connection of the Nile River. The countries shared culture and trade through the Nile, and because of the war, this relationship could cease. Along with the cultural similarities, the countries also have political similarities. The countries would band together to enforce laws and operations they saw fit. Due to the severity of the war, this invalidates their ideas. During this war, 177 soldiers were evacuated from Sudan for preventative measures, the first public move Egypt made away from Sudan. ¹⁷ Another country that has separated itself from Sudan during the crisis is Chad. Chad has been taking in over 400,000 refugees. Although the country protects the Sudanese people, they believe this war could expand, causing a larger war. Chad is extremely afraid of the potential humanitarian issues that could arise. Countries worldwide have questioned the actions in Sudan but hope the conflict does not expand globally.

IV. Case Study: Russo-Ukrainian War

The Jewish refugee crisis 1930 started when Adolf Hilter rose to power as the German Reichstag in 1933 and was eventually appointed Chancellor. Adolf Hilter was the leader of the National Socialist German Worker's Party, known as the Nazi Party. His evil acts of discrimination began when he passed the Enabling Act, allowing him to pass laws without going to the president first. From there, Hilter enacted discriminatory laws against the Jewish

¹⁶ https://apnews.com/article/sudan-conflict-nile-africa-russia-03adebaff0c95992c6f90543dcb2c894

¹⁷ https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/4/21/why-the-conflict-in-sudan-is-worrying-its-neighbours

population in Germany. The population of Jewish individuals in Germany was low when Hilter rose to power, 500,000, but when these laws were enacted, over 37,000 began to fly into neighboring countries in search of asylum. Eventually, under the power of Hilter, laws like the Nuremberg race Laws prevented Jewish people from having fundamental rights in Germany. The refugee crisis during this time was shut down due to closing borders in the United States. The US prevented immigration from other countries as many workers feared their jobs would be taken from refugees. After the Kristallnacht, Germany passed a law that removed all Jewish people from German life. The attempts to seek asylum during this time grew exponentially. 300,000 Jews applied to move to the US, but the US Quito was settled at 27,000. 10,000 Jewish children were admitted to the United Kingdom without their families. ¹⁸

Additionally, 77,000 fled, hoping to seek asylum anywhere that would take them. When fleeing from their homes, they often encountered issues with housing, food, water, and the weather. Many were unable to survive the intense winters during this time. This refugee crisis grew to astronomical levels. The conditions the Jewish people lived in during this time of Nazi Germany were inhumane. Eventually, the UN took measures to protect the Jewish refugees fleeing their oppressive homes. The UN Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Convention prevented countries from sending Jewish refugees back to Germany and allowed them to enter and live in other countries. The act significantly improved the conditions many refugees had to endure, but by the end of the Holocaust and World War II, 55 million people

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 $https://www.teachingwithtestimony.com/themes/twt_ui/resources/pdf/SHOAH-TWT-StudentActivity-JewishRefuge \ e-V2.1.pdf$

were displaced and removed from their homes.¹⁹ The impacts of Adolf Hitler's power and its effects will always be present, but with the help of other countries, many who were displaced could find help. There should have been other ways for Jewish refugees to find a safe shelter, but the world reacted too slowly to the inhumane actions happening in Germany.

V. Guiding Questions

- 1. How can refugees be given more opportunities in terms of education, vocational training, and work within refugee camps?
- 2. What can the UN and other organizations do to increase healthcare and hygiene in refugee camps?
- 3. What are ways to reduce global tensions during wars?
- 4. How can we reduce food insecurity in the Sudan-Chad refugee crisis?

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https://www.nationalww2 museum.org/war/articles/last-million-eastern-european-displaced-persons-postwar-germany

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