

Charles H. Jordan

PRAGUE IS QUERIED ON LOST AMERICAN

Czechs Deny Holding Him and Pledge Wide Search

By PETER GROSE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 38—The Czechoslovak Government today disclaimed knowledge of the whereabouts of Charles H. Jordan, an American official of a Jewish relief organization who disappeared in Prague two nights ago.

United States officials said that the Czech Foreign Ministry denied that Mr. Jordan was under arrest or in custody and had given assurances that a police search of the entire country was underway. They reported having found no sign of him in the area of the capital.

The United States charge d'affaires in Prague, Edward W. Burgess, went to the Foreign Ministry this morning to ask that a full police report be made available to the United States Embassy as soon as possible.

He was instructed to inform the Czech Government that the safety and whereabouts of Mr. Jordan were a subject of the "greatest concern" of the United States Government. The authorities replied that they "fully appreciated" the gravity of the case.

Pending further information, United States officials were unwilling to draw any conclusions about possible political implications of Mr. Jordan's disappearance.

Agency Was Denounced

The 59-year-old New Yorker is executive vice chairman of the American Joint Distribution Committee, known familiarly as "Joint," which has long provided aid to Jews in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe. It has periodically been denounced in the Communist press as a "subversive Zionist agency."

Mr. Jordan was traveling through Eastern Europe on vacation. Before arriving in Czechoslovakia on Monday, he and his wife visited, Hungary and Rumania and expected to go on to the Soviet Union.

"Joint is no known to have any relief operations in Czechoslovakia, but Mr. Jordan reported to have made contact with representatives of several local Jewish organizations before he vanished Wednesday night.

According to information received here, Mr. Jordan left his hotel at about 9:30 P.M.,

Father to Refugees

Charles Harold Jordan

"I CONSIDER myself an international civil servant," Charles Harold Jordan told an interviewer two years ago. "I go any place I am sent to and where the people may need me."

Going where he is sent and where he is needed has meant traveling the face of the globe for much of his adult life for the 59-year-old man who holds the titles of executive vice chairman and director general of the American Joint Distribution Committee, which helps needy Jews overseas. On Wednesday, while vacationing prior to attending an international conference on Jewish matters next week in Israel, Mr. Jordan vanished in Prague.

In 1941 Mr. Jordan began his work with the Joint Distribution Committee as director for the Caribbean area, with headquarters in Havana.

It was not his first post in humanitarian work. He had already seen service with the Jewish Family Welfare Society of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia County Relief Board, the Jewish Social Service Association in New York City, the National Committee for the Resettlement of Foreign Physicians and the National Refugee Service.

Served in the Navy

After two years in the Caribbean area, Mr. Jordan enlisted in the Navy and served as a pharmacist's mate third class before rejoining the Joint Distribution Committee at the end of the war as director of Far Eastern activities. From headquarters in Shanghai, he supervised a program of relief, rehabilitation and migration for 15,000 European refugees.

In 1948 he moved to Paris to take charge of the Joint Distribution Committee's immigration department, overseeing the emigration and in-

ported to have been questioned by the Czech police in the search for clues. Numerous incidents of harassments of Jews and Jewish organizations have been reported recently in Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European countries, in the wake of the strongly pro-Arab stand taken by the Communist Governments during the Arab-Israeli war.

Nephew Arrives in Prague

Mr. Jordan's nephew, Paul Kaplan, a student at Marietta College in Ohio arrived in Prague yesterday as previously arranged to join the vacation tour. He and Mrs. Jordan were re-



United Press International

Goes where the need is—

tegration of hundreds of thousands of Jewish displaced persons. In 1959, the French Government named him a chevalier of the Legion of Honor in recognition of his services on behalf of refugees from other countries who had found a haven in France.

A few years ago he said, "It's a wonderful feeling to meet refugees or others whom we helped in the old days who have succeeded in making a new life for themselves."

Mr. Jordan was appointed assistant director general of the organization in 1951 and became its director general in 1955. In addition to his work with the agency he has been active in other organizations devoted to international social welfare.

From 1959 to 1961, he served as cochairman of the International Committee for World Refugee Year, which is sponsored by the United Nations. He was elected chairman of the governing board of the International Council of Voluntary Agen-

cies at its creation in 1962 and serves as chairman of its Commission on Refugees. Earlier this year he was elected chairman of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service.

Helps Form Organization

In 1961, Mr. Jordan was instrumental in the creation of the International Council on Jewish Social and Welfare Services, which gave formal structure to the long-standing de facto cooperation among major Jewish welfare agencies working overseas. He still serves as executive secretary of the council.

In 1965 Mr. Jordan was elected to the board of governors of the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Two years earlier, the Norwegian Refugee Council awarded him its annual plaque in recognition of his services and those of the Joint Distribution Committee in behalf of refugees.

The son of Hertha and R. Alfred Jordan, Mr. Jordan was born in Philadelphia and attended the University of Berlin and the Philadelphia and New York Schools of Social Work.

For diversion, he collects paintings, sculpture and stamps.

Mr. Jordan and his wife, Elizabeth, who was traveling with him when he vanished, live at 340 East 64th Street in New York. The Jordans have no children.

"Do I need children of my own," he once asked an interviewer, "when I have many thousands of them throughout the world?"

Yesterday a colleague summed up Mr. Jordan's attitude toward his career: "It's more than a job. It's devotion and dedication."

Officials here could find no information to link Mr. Jordan with any of these specific cases, or any ties to previous police incidents involving Americans in Czechoslovakia.

The United States Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Jacob D. Beam, was to return to Prague today after a short leave and is expected to make a further representation to the Foreign Ministry tomorrow.