

CARE  
1947-52

File under  
CHS - Mrs R  
agreed to be a  
member

U1B

CARE

Mr. French of CARE has been working with the State Dept.  
on a project to send surplus agric. commodities to  
Yugoslavia - powdered milk, eggs, etc.  
He is building up a committee of 15 or 20 people and  
would like you to be a member. They have to raise between  
\$500,000 and \$1,000,000 to pay costs of transportation and  
distribution.

bill from Care  
I can't do any  
work but all  
I want is to have  
him on radio that way so

Office address: PARCELUS, New York

Telephone: MAngover 2-6494-B

## C A R E

### COOPERATIVE FOR AMERICAN REMITTANCES TO EUROPE, INC.

(A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION)

50 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK 4, N. Y.

General Manager  
PAUL COMLY FRENCH

#### OFFICERS

##### President

MURRAY D. LINCOLN  
Cooperative League U. S. A.

##### Vice Presidents

IRVING ABRAMSON  
National CIO Community  
Service Committee

NATHANIEL H. BYANS

American Friends  
Service Committee

ALEXANDER LANDESCO

American Jewish Joint  
Distribution Committee, Inc.

ANDER MEYER

American Aid to France, Inc.

JOSEPH ROYENSKY

American Relief for  
Czechoslovakia, Inc.

MATTHEW WOLL

Labor League for Human  
Rights, AFL

##### Secretary

THOMAS KEOGH

War Relief Services —  
National Catholic Welfare  
Conference

##### Treasurer

HAROLD S. MINER

Congregational Christian  
Service Committee

May 15, 1947

*Thank*

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square  
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Christiane Berthelot, to whom you have been so kindly sending packages, gave us an autographed picture which she asked me to convey to you. I thought you might also be interested in seeing the newspaper reports of the presentation of the woolen package to her in Paris.

Very truly yours,

*Paul Comly French*  
Paul Comly French  
Executive Director

Enclosures

#### MEMBER AGENCIES

American Christian Committee for Refugees, Inc.; American Friends Service Committee; American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.; American Relief to Austria, Inc.; American Relief for Czechoslovakia, Inc.; American Aid to France, Inc.; American Relief for Poland, Inc.; Church World Service, Inc.; Committee on Christian Science War-time Activities of The Mother Church; Congregational Christian Service Committee; Cooperative League of the U.S.A.; General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists; Greek War Relief Association, Inc. U.S.A.; International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc.; Labor League for Human Rights, AFL; Monmouth Central Committee; National CIO Community Service Committee; Federated Testimonial Fund, Inc.; Save the Children Federation, Inc.; Tolstoy Foundation, Inc.; United Ukrainian American Relief Committee; Unitarian Service Committee; United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc.; United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America; War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference; YWCA-World Emergency and War Victims Fund.

EMMA SPOU EVITAREFO

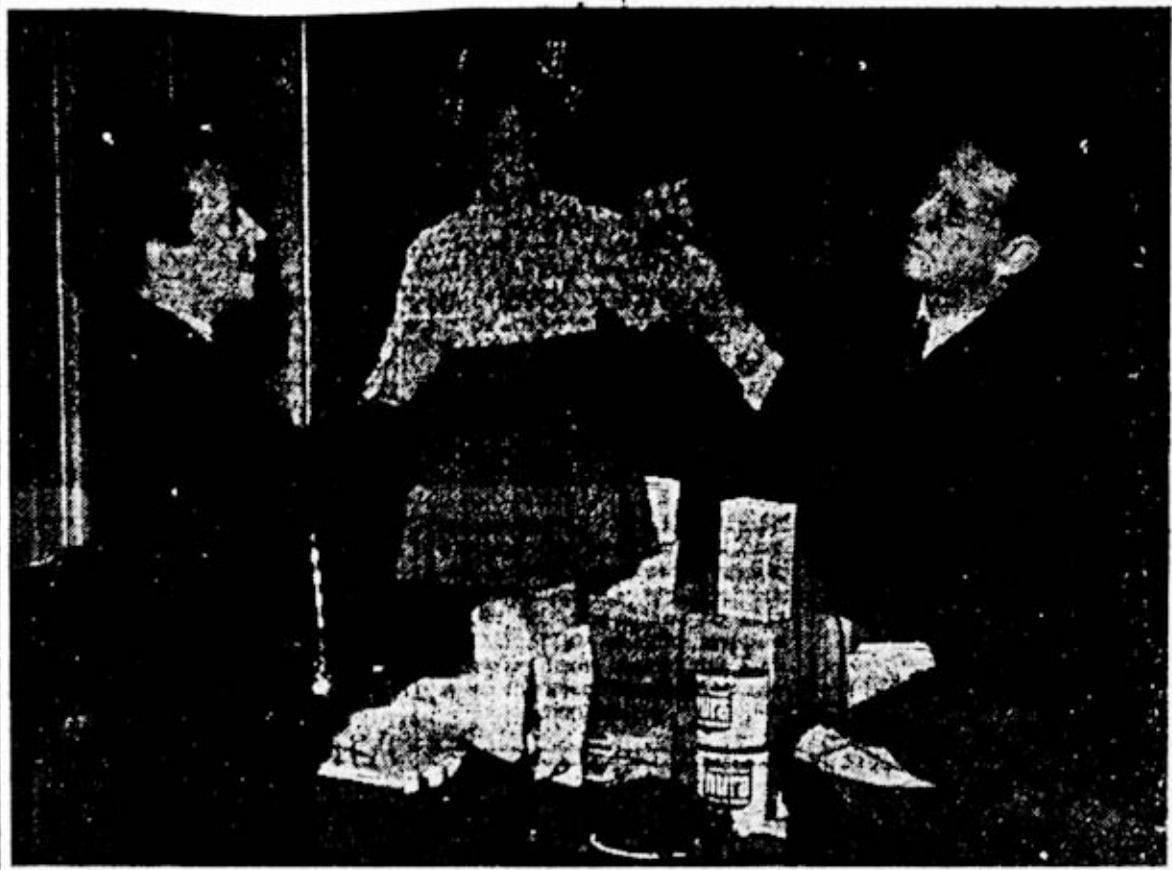
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*Christiane*

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Le général Ralph C. Smith, chef du C.A.R.E. en France, et Mme Schiaparelli viennent de remettre à Christiane Bertolet le colis de Mme Eleanor Roosevelt.

Les Chouans s'agitent... Les rou-  
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La petite  
Berthelot

(7 ans)  
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sa photo-  
graphie...

Mais les néophytes  
mieux du nouve  
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LA Cour vous condamne à  
pétuité.  
L'homme a entendu  
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Le père de Christiane Berthelot était cheminot. Héros de la résistance, il fut fusillé par les Allemands. Mme Roosevelt a adopté Christiane et lui a envoyé un premier colis de friandises et de tissus. Premier colis symbolique qui sera suivi de milliers d'autres, envoyés par la Coopérative des remises américaines à l'Europe.

...pour M<sup>me</sup> Roosevelt  
sa mère adoptive

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Cours de feu

Cable address: PARCELUS, New York

Telephone: HANover 2-6485

*Banking  
Feb 20th*

# CARE

COOPERATIVE FOR AMERICAN REMITTANCES TO EUROPE, INC.  
(A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION)

50 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK 4, N. Y.

Hon. President  
DONALD H. NELSON

*file*

February 14, 1947

*I can see to it  
by 20 Feb 9 30*

GEN. WILLIAM H. HASKELL  
Executive Director

PAUL COMLY FRENCH  
General Manager

### OFFICERS

President  
MURRAY D. LINCOLN  
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Treasurer  
HAROLD S. MINER  
Congressional Christian  
Service Committee

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square  
New York, New York

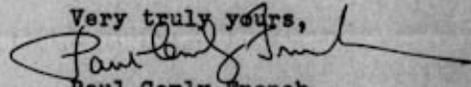
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Hayden Covington, the  
general counsel for Jehovah's Witnesses, with  
whom I worked while I was Executive Secretary  
of the National Service Board in Washington,  
called me and asked if I would ask you to  
talk with him about the problems of their  
people in Yugoslavia.

As you can see by the  
enclosed clipping, it is a matter of some  
urgency, and they feel they have no one to  
whom they can turn to give them a hand at  
this time except you.

The groups that have been  
sentenced to be shot may be executed in the  
next two weeks and the matter is one of some  
urgency.

Very truly yours,



Paul Comly French  
General Manager

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[Copy]

NEW YORK TIMES, Wednesday, February 5, 1947:

18 Sect Leaders On Trial

Jehovah's Witnesses Accused in  
Zagreb of 'Non-Cooperation'

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Feb. 4--Eighteen officials of Jehovah's Witnesses went on trial yesterday in Zagreb, it was announced today. According to the indictment, officials of the "false religious sect" refused to cooperate with the "people's authorities."

The group "maintained contact with international reaction" by sending "false reports" to the organization's European headquarters in Berne, Switzerland, and thence to the international headquarters in Brooklyn, the indictment charged.

The alleged leader of the group, Rudolph Kale, was said to have admitted that the organization had been formed clandestinely in 1936. The officials were accused of having told their followers to avoid conscription and undermine the efforts of the regime and that they should await the coming of the "kingdom of Jehovah."

LAW OFFICES OF  
HAYDEN COVINGTON, 117 ADAMS STREET · BROOKLYN · NEW YORK

February 16, 1947.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Chairman  
Human Rights Committee,  
United Nations,  
Lake Success, New York.

*other corresp  
rec at 29 W 59  
sent to Mr Ribnikan  
of Yugo.*

Dear Madam:

For several days I have been trying to get an appointment with you about your aiding, if possible, in relieving the injustices suffered by the recent conviction of seventeen Jehovah's witnesses in Yugoslavia, three of whom have received death sentences. I asked Mr. Paul Comley French, head of CARE, to make representations to you. I am afraid that perhaps he has not given you enough details. Accordingly, I am taking this opportunity to give you the facts in sufficient detail, so that you can make an intelligent appraisal of the matter.

Rudolph Kalle and sixteen other ministers of the gospel, all of whom are nationals of Yugoslavia, have supervised the missionary evangelistic work of Jehovah's witnesses in Yugoslavia, under the direction of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, for many years. This primitive missionary evangelistic work carried on for the comfort of the people is international in scope. The missionary evangelistic work is done by Jehovah's witnesses in practically every nation under the sun. It has been recognized as lawful and permissible in all English-speaking governments and other governments dedicated to the preservation of the human rights of their citizens.

Formerly, in all nations dominated by the Axis powers, the work of Jehovah's witnesses was banned. It was first made unlawful by the decree of Adolph Hitler, immediately following his rise to power in

Nazi Germany in 1933. He summarily banned Jehovah's witnesses and confiscated all their property. He ordered all of Jehovah's witnesses who could be found and who could be apprehended taken into custody and confined in concentration camps. This procedure was followed in every country that came under the domination of the Axis powers. When the Allies invaded Europe and defeated the Axis powers, Jehovah's witnesses were liberated from concentration camps and restored to their former legal status in Germany and the other countries formerly dominated by Nazi Germany. At present the work of Jehovah's witnesses in Germany has been restored and is being carried on with approval of the authorities in the American, British, French, and Russian zones.

All such governments have found it not to be seditious. The work has been described by the Supreme Court of the United States. The Court said that Jehovah's witnesses "spread their interpretations of the Bible and their religious beliefs largely through the hand distribution of literature by full or part time workers. They claim to follow the example of Paul, teaching 'Publicly, and from house to house.' Acts 20:20. They take literally the mandate of the Scriptures, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' Mark 16:15. In doing so they believe that they are obeying a commandment of God.

"The hand distribution of religious tracts is an age-old form of missionary evangelism—as old as the history of printing presses . . . It is more than preaching; it is more than distribution of religious literature. It is a combination of both. Its purpose is as evangelical as the revival meeting. This form of religious activity occupies the same high estate under the First Amendment as do worship in the churches and preaching from the pulpits. It has the same claim to protection as the more orthodox and conventional exercises of religion. It also has the same claim as the others to the guarantees of freedom of speech and

freedom of the press." (Murdock v. Commonwealth 319 U.S.103)

In Yugoslavia, as in all other countries of the world, the work of Jehovah's witnesses is done by nationals residing within their respective homelands and countries. Although the work is carried on by such nationals, it is done in each country under the supervision of the central international governing body of Jehovah's witnesses, which is this Society. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of Pennsylvania, with main offices in Brooklyn, New York, for the purpose of preaching the gospel of God's Kingdom throughout the world and acting as the legal supervising agency and governing body of the international group of missionary evangelists known as Jehovah's witnesses. The property located in the Branch office in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, belongs to the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, the American corporation. However, the management of such property and the Society's supervision of the work of Jehovah's witnesses in Yugoslavia is done by nationals of Yugoslavia.

When the Yugoslavian Government capitulated to Hitler and submitted to domination by the Nazi Government, in 1941, Jehovah's witnesses were banned and shortly after, hunted like criminals; many were executed during the domination of the government. All during the war the work was carried on at great expense to the life, liberty and welfare of Jehovah's witnesses in Yugoslavia. Since the rise of Marshal Tito's government to power, the treatment of Jehovah's witnesses in the Federated National Republic of Yugoslavia has not changed. They have continued to be persecuted for their way of worship of Almighty God.

From time to time, pleas for help and intervention have been made by the Jehovah's witnesses in Yugoslavia to the international headquarters at Brooklyn, through the European Branch office of the Society, located in Berne, Switzerland. Certain letters and

reports describing in detail the persecution and experiences of Jehovah's witnesses in Yugoslavia have been sent to the Brooklyn headquarters. These have been accompanied with requests for help to establish freedom of worship for Jehovah's witnesses in Yugoslavia.

In the fall of the year 1946, search and seizure was made of the records of the Society's missionary headquarters in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Upon the arrest of seventeen nationals of Yugoslavia, Jehovah's witnesses in charge of the Society's work in Yugoslavia, copies of the reports were confiscated. Because of the reports written by some of these ministers in charge of the missionary work in Yugoslavia to the Brooklyn office, criminal charges were made and proceedings instituted against these seventeen persons. They were charged with being officials of a false religious sect and refusing to cooperate with the "people's authority." They were charged with sending "false" reports to the Branch office of the Society in Berne, which forwarded such reports to the international headquarters in Brooklyn. Because such persons advocated God's Kingdom as the only hope of the world and dedicated their lives thereto, they had conscientious objections to the performance of military service and claimed exemption therefrom, as do all other ministers of religion. As a result of their claim for exemption as ministers of religion in Yugoslavia, they were also charged with undermining the efforts of the government. Their advocating the establishment of God's Kingdom as the only hope of the world resulted with their being charged with sedition.

The trial of these charges began on February 3, 1947, according to a press report appearing in the New York Times of February 5, 1947. A copy of this news report is attached herewith. On February 6, 1947 the judgment of the trial court in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, was rendered, whereby three of Jehovah's witnesses were sentenced to death and eleven others sentenced from five to fifteen years in prison. Three were acquitted. This appears in the news dispatch

in the New York Times, February 7, 1947, a copy of which is attached.

Desperate efforts have been made by the Society's Brooklyn office and its Branch office at Berne to communicate with friends, relatives and attorneys of the condemned men. This has been without success.

It is feared that the judgments of the court will be executed at once unless some immediate steps are taken to force the Yugoslavian Government to dismiss the charges. It is realized that it is impossible to have the charges dismissed immediately. It is suggested that the United Nations immediately request the Federated National Republic of Yugoslavia to stay the execution of the death sentences until a more complete investigation can be made. The Yugoslavian Government also ought to be requested that if the charges are not dismissed upon appeal, that the death sentences should be commuted.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would take prompt steps, therefore, as requested in the outset of this letter, to exercise the power of your office to relieve the injustices suffered by these men, as well as request the Government of Yugoslavia to stay the execution of the death sentences, pending further investigation by the United Nations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hayden B. ...". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Respectfully,".

(New York Times, February 7, 1947)

#### 18 SECT LEADERS ON TRIAL

#### Jehovah's Witnesses Accused in Zagreb of 'Non-Cooperation'

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BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Feb 4--Eighteen officials of Jehovah's Witnesses went on trial yesterday in Zagreb, it was announced today. According to the indictment, officials of the "false religious sect" refused to cooperate with the "people's authorities."

The group "maintained contact with international reaction" by sending "false reports" to the organization's European headquarters in Berne, Switzerland, and thence to the international headquarters in Brooklyn, the indictment charged.

The alleged leader of the group, Rudolph Kale, was said to have admitted that the organization had been formed clandestinely in 1936. The officials were accused of having told their followers to avoid conscription and undermine the efforts of the regime and that they should await the coming of the "kingdom of Jehovah."

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(New York Times)

(New York Times, February 7, 1947)

3 SECT CHIEFS DOOMED

Other Jehovah's Witnesses' Aides Sentenced  
in Yugoslavia

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Special to The New York Times

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Feb. 6--The trial in Zagreb of seventeen members of the "international sect, Jehovah's Witnesses," ended with death sentences for three, it was announced today. Eleven others received sentences ranging from five to fifteen years and three were acquitted.

According to the indictment, leaders of the group supplied false information to their European headquarters in Berne, Switzerland, which was transmitted to the international headquarters in Brooklyn. It was charged further that the group had worked against the interest of the State and had told its followers to avoid conscription, as well as work, since a new regime, "the kingdom of Jehovah," was coming.