

President's Secretary's File Box 71
Departmental File
State: Jan-June 1943

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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My dear Mr. President:

You asked about the proposed Ottawa conference to consider the refugee problem. The suggestion came about in the following way:

On January 20 the British Government submitted an aide memoire reviewing Great Britain's activity in helping Jewish refugees, making some inquiry as to what the United States could do in addition to what it had done, and suggesting that the matter was essentially a United Nations problem which might be dealt with in a United Nations conference.

We replied under date of February 25, reviewing what the United States had done, expressing our deep interest in the problem of racial, religious and political persecution and suggesting instead of a United Nations conference that the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, which you will remember was the product of the Evian Conference, be used as the instrumentality for the work, partly because it already existed, and further suggesting that a preliminary conference between the United States and Great Britain be held in Ottawa for the purpose of developing the possible field of action of that Committee.

In suggesting such a conference it was the thought that it would be preferable to have the coordinated activity of the American and British Governments as a

guide

The President,

The White House.

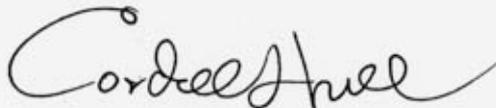
FDR Ltr. 7/7/43 + 7/7/43 to Myron Taylor re his continuing to serve with Intergovt'l Comm. on Refugees - directed Mr. Taylor folder, ser. 4-43.

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guide to the contemplated work of the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee.

I am enclosing copies of the British aide memoire and of our reply.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cordell Hull".

Enclosures:

British aide memoire,
January 20, 1943.
Department's reply,
February 25, 1943.

REFUGEE PROBLEM

The following statement was made in Parliament on January 19th in reply to questions.

His Majesty's Government's intention in associating themselves with the Allied Governments' declaration of December 17th on the German Policy of exterminating the Jews in Europe, was to help in arresting this Policy. They are at the same time conscious of the fact that the only real remedy for the consistent Nazi Policy of Racial and Religious persecution lies in an Allied victory. Every resource of all the Allied Nations must be bent towards this supreme object, measures for the rescue and relief of such refugees as succeed in escaping from German Occupied Territory cannot be exclusively British, and His Majesty's Government are now engaged in consultations with the other Governments most immediately concerned with a view to seeing what further measures it is possible to take as soon as possible to assist those who make their way to countries beyond German control. These consultations are necessarily confidential and it would not be in the interest of the refugees themselves to enter upon any discussion on them at the present juncture. His Majesty's Government's share in meeting this need has already been very substantial. They are nevertheless themselves working out certain practical proposals which they can make as a further contribution to this concerted effort by the United Nations.

AIDE MEMOIRERefugees from Nazi-occupied Territory

Many thousands of refugees continue to crowd into neutral countries in Europe, and the situation is developing with such rapidity and in such proportions that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have become impressed with the necessity for consultation and joint effort in dealing with the problem. Certain complicating factors which accompany this development appear to His Majesty's Government to emphasize this necessity.

(a) The refugee problem cannot be treated as though it were a wholly Jewish problem which could be handled by Jewish agencies or by machinery only adapted for assisting Jews. There are so many non-Jewish refugees and there is so much acute suffering among non-Jews in Allied countries that Allied criticism would probably result if any marked preference were shown in removing Jews from territories in enemy occupation. There is also the distinct danger of stimulating anti-semitism in areas where an excessive number of foreign Jews are introduced.

(b) There is at present always a danger of raising false hopes among refugees by suggesting or announcing alternative possible destinations in excess of shipping probabilities.

(c) There is a possibility that the Germans or their satellites may change over from the policy of extermination to one of extrusion, and aim as they did before the war at embarrassing other countries by flooding them with alien immigrants.

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2. His Majesty's Government, while aware of these complicating factors, find it impossible to make a merely negative response to a growing international problem, disturbing the public conscience and involving the rescue of people threatened by Germany's extermination policy. It is physically impossible on the score of shipping limitations alone for the United Kingdom or even for the United Nations as a whole, to contemplate meeting in full what may prove to be an unlimited demand. A great part of the refugees who leave German-occupied Europe will have to continue to be received in neutral countries whom His Majesty's Government wish to encourage not only by material help but by assurances (which the Swiss Government has in fact requested) that the refugee problem will be brought within the United Nations rehabilitation plans at the end of the war.

The absorptive capacity of accessible neutral countries in Europe seems however to be approaching its limit, and the Allied Governments cannot very well go on exhorting those countries not to turn any refugees back without offering co-operation in accommodating a proportion of them.

3. A detailed statement of the contributions by the United Kingdom and the Colonial Empire to the refugee problem will be found in the attached statement. It should be noticed that Great Britain, in spite of the prevailing stringency of food and housing under war conditions, is accommodating, besides Allied Forces or Merchant Seamen, nearly 100,000 refugees, while the

Colonies/

- 3 -

Colonies are straining their resources of food, labour and accommodation in housing many scores of thousands of refugees in addition to civilian internees, British and Allied evacuees, and prisoners of war; East Africa alone has taken in more than two and a half times its white population. Despite the substantial contribution already made by Palestine and the considerable difficulties of food, labour and accommodation which exists there, His Majesty's Government have within the last few weeks offered to take 4,500 children accompanied by 500 women from Bulgaria. Owing to the acute security problem in Palestine, the authorities are not prepared, except possibly in individual cases, to accept male adults from enemy or enemy-occupied countries; but His Majesty's Government will continue to do everything possible to facilitate the admission of children within the limits imposed by the 1939 White Paper. (A copy of the White Paper in question is enclosed for the convenience of the Department of State.)

4. His Majesty's Government are aware of the generous reception by the United States accorded to many thousands of refugees and of the action taken by the United States in finding other outlets, in particular San Domingo, after the establishment of the Evian Committee on the initiative of the President. They also appreciate that for security reasons the United States Government now scrutinizes new entrants into the country with the greatest care and that, in addition, the question of accommodation and food is influenced by the prevailing war conditions. His Majesty's Government understand, however, that the United States Government have offered to take large numbers of refugee children from France, and they enquire therefore whether,
taking/

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taking all factors into consideration, food potentialities, housing accommodation and the absorptive capacity of the United States on the one hand and the margin for free action within the immigration quotas on the other, the United States Government would still find it possible to offer, as part of an international effort, homes for a proportion of the adult refugees now reaching neutral countries.

5. Considering the matter in further detail, His Majesty's Government would mention that reception in the United States has at least one vital advantage over reception in the United Kingdom, namely that all additional persons received in the British Isles not only require shipping to transport them thither but start new shipping demands for their maintenance as long as they are there. In spite of this, however, and notwithstanding the other obvious difficulties referred to at the beginning of paragraph 3 above, His Majesty's Government are prepared to consider the possibility of further effort, as part of a general endeavour by the United Nations to cope with this problem. In particular, over and above the large part already played by the Colonial Territories, His Majesty's Government would be prepared to examine the question whether there is any scope, - even though it is now bound to be very limited -, for further admissions into the Colonies. It is unlikely for reasons already indicated that any but a very limited number of refugees could in future be accepted into the United Kingdom and, if it proved practical to accept here any further refugees as part of a comprehensive inter-Allied solution, His Majesty's Government would have to reserve to themselves the right/

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the right to accommodate them in the Isle of Man, possibly under conditions of detention, and could give no guarantee at this stage as to their ultimate disposal.

6. If an understanding could be reached between His Majesty's Government and the United States Government in regard to such a cooperative offer, the way would be open for approaching the other Governments of the United Nations, for example the Latin American countries (except Mexico which has made a very considerable offer of assistance in regard to Poles from Persia), the British Dominions or even neutrals to ascertain what they would be prepared to contribute towards the solution of the most immediate problem. This would have to be done with the minimum of publicity over details, and for this reason His Majesty's Government would be inclined to deprecate any kind of formal international meeting; but some kind of private conference of Allied representatives would appear to be the most expeditious and practical procedure, and if its main result was to elicit full statements of what the various Governments were doing and any difficulties in the way of their doing more this in itself would be of great value.

7. His Majesty's Government are gratified to learn of the despatch by the State Department of officials to North Africa, and would be interested to learn the views of these officials as to the capacity of North Africa to accommodate a substantial proportion of the refugees from Spain and Portugal and the possibilities of a civil administration taking responsibility for this problem, in which administration His Majesty's Government would be ready to take their share. His Majesty's Government are also aware that cooperation between the United States and British Governments and the Embassies of the two countries

in Madrid/

- 6 -

in Madrid have already produced useful local results. There is, however, still danger of unfavourable action by or an appeal from the Spanish Government in connexion with the situation in Spain, and His Majesty's Government therefore feel that consideration of the general problem of refugees is too pressing to be deferred any longer and in particular they consider that it is now necessary to get to grips with the question of alternative destinations. This is their reason for the present approach to the United States Government, on the basis that the time for unilateral and piecemeal action is passed and that combined practical measures must be taken.

8. His Majesty's Government will accordingly be grateful for the observations of the United States Government on the above considerations and, in particular -

- (a) Whether the United States Government agree that combined action by the United Nations is now called for.
- (b) Whether the United States Government would be prepared as part of this action to admit to the United States further adult refugees from Nazi-controlled areas and, if so, in what numbers.
- (c) Whether the United States Government would be able to arrange for the further reception of refugees in San Domingo and, if so, in what numbers.
- (d) What assistance in the matter of shipping would be available from the United States.

(e)/

- 7 -

- (e) Whether the United States Government agree as to the expediency of a private and informal United Nations conference and, if so, any views they may hold as to its composition, etc.
- (f) Whether the United States Government consider that assurances could now be given to neutral countries that the refugee problem will be brought within the scope of rehabilitation plans of the United Nations at the end of the war.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

RC:PHCB:ZJT

JANUARY 20, 1943

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REFUGEES FROM NAZI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY:
RECEPTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
BRITISH COLONIAL TERRITORY.

(Note:- The statistics of prisoners of war are strictly confidential.)

A. GREAT BRITAIN

Great Britain at the end of September, 1942, was accommodating following additions to normal population:

99,114 refugees (including 40,368 Germans, 5,584 Austrians, 12,255 Belgians and 8,437 Poles). In addition, there are about 13,000 refugee children and 37,407 Italian prisoners of war. These figures do not include:

- a) Aliens, including enemy aliens who are serving in the British and Allied forces maintained in the United Kingdom.
- b) British subjects, e.g. Gibraltarians evacuated to the United Kingdom owing to war conditions.

B. COLONIAL TERRITORIES.

- 1) Jamaica.- Additional population maintained 3,218 (including 558 refugees and 1,500 evacuees from Gibraltar, 572 prisoners of war and 588 civilian internees.)
- 2) Mauritius.- 1,530 illegal immigrants from Palestine. Arrangements for food, medical supplies, etc., are being made for 1,000 Greek refugees.

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- 3) Cyprus.- 4,830 additional population (including 4,650 refugees from Greece).
- 4) East African Colonies.- (with a total pre-war European population of about 30,000) have found or are in process of finding accommodation for 90,964 additional foreign population, including 21,000 Polish refugees from Persia (distributed among Uganda, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia and Nyassaland), and 60,000 Italians, prisoners of war. One thousand Polish refugees are also being transferred from Persia to Southern Rhodesia.
- 5) Palestine's substantial contribution towards the alleviation of the problem of refugees from Central and Southeastern Europe may be summarised as follows:-

The war necessarily limited territories from which immigrants could be admitted and practically all visas authorised have been intended for refugees stranded in neutral countries. Conditions of international travel have, however, made it difficult for prospective immigrants with visas for Palestine to reach that country within the period in which their absorption into the country was intended. Nevertheless, over 13,000 legal immigrants reached Palestine between April 1, 1939, and September 30, 1942. The total number of Jewish immigrants who entered during that period including illegal immigrants was about 38,000.

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The immigration quota for the three months period ending December 31st, 1942, provides for 3,000 Jewish immigrants and this includes 1,000 orphan children and 200 adults from the former Vichy France. In addition, arrangements are being made to admit some 270 Jewish children from Hungary and Roumania, and approval has been given in principle to the admission to Palestine under the immigration quotas of Jewish children from any enemy-occupied territory.

A plan approved by His Majesty's Government is now under consideration for the admission to Palestine from Bulgaria under the Immigration Schedule for the first half of 1943 of 5,000 Jews in Bulgaria (4,500 children and 500 adults - mostly women). The Swiss Government have approached the Bulgarian Government for the necessary exit permits.

War conditions create difficulties of sustenance in Palestine and any immediate large influx of immigrants would place a heavy strain on food supplies. Palestine has, however, in addition to the immigrants mentioned above, provided a temporary refuge for some 4,000 people from Central Europe of whom about 40 per cent are Jews.

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to His Excellency the British Ambassador and has the honor to refer to the British Embassy's aide memoire of January 20, 1943, relating to the situation of persons fleeing from persecution for religious, racial and political reasons and to the necessity for inter-governmental relief action in their behalf.

It is evident that the problem of the refugees in question cannot be solved in a satisfactory manner by any one of the Governments of the United Nations group nor of the neutral countries. It has been, and is, the traditional policy of this country to seek every available means by which to extend to oppressed and persecuted peoples such assistance as may be found to be feasible and possible under the laws of the United States. In pursuance of that policy, this Government has been and is taking steps to extend

assistance

- 2 -

assistance in a large measure to those European people who have been subjected to oppression and persecution under the Hitler regime. The measures of assistance afforded have assumed several forms, as follows:

1. Joint and several declarations of official attitude of condemnation of the policies and acts of the Axis Governments and their satellites in oppression or persecution of religious, racial and political minorities;
2. The appropriation and expenditure of large amounts of public and private funds for the relief of persons in need as a result of oppression and persecution because of their racial origin or religious or political beliefs;
3. The application of the immigration laws of the United States in the utmost liberal and humane spirit of those laws;
4. The calling by the President of the United States of the first Intergovernmental Conference at Evian-London in 1938 for the purpose of seeking a solution of refugee problems. There may be repeated here the

statement

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statement made in that Conference by the Honorable Myron Taylor on behalf of this Government, as follows:

"In conclusion, I need not emphasize that the discrimination and pressure against minority groups and the disregard of elementary human rights are contrary to the principles of what we have come to regard as the accepted standards of civilization. We have heard from time to time of the disruptive consequences of the dumping of merchandise upon the world's economy. How much more disturbing is the forced and chaotic dumping of unfortunate peoples in large numbers. Racial and religious problems are, in consequence, rendered more acute in all parts of the world. Economic retaliation against the countries which are responsible for this condition is encouraged. The sentiment of international mistrust and suspicion is heightened and fear, which is an important obstacle to general appeasement between nations, is accentuated.

"The problem is no longer one of purely private concern. It is a problem for intergovernmental action. If the present currents of migration are permitted to continue to push anarchically upon the receiving States and if some Governments are to continue to toss large sections of their populations lightly upon a distressed and unprepared world, then there is catastrophic human suffering ahead which can only result in general unrest and in general international strain which will not be conducive to the permanent appeasement to which all peoples earnestly aspire."

At the Evian-London Conference and through the Intergovernmental Committee which grew out of that Conference this Government exerted its most earnest efforts to persuade the various countries represented to provide asylum for as many refugees from the Axis countries as the laws of the several countries would permit. This Government has also approached other countries for the purpose of finding places of settlement for refugees with funds of the United States origin being made available.

5. As shown

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5. As shown by the records of the Department of State, from the advent of the Hitler regime in 1933 until June 30, 1942, 547,775 visas were issued by American diplomatic and consular officers to natives or nationals of the various countries now dominated by the Axis powers, the great majority of which persons were refugees from Nazi persecution. Of this number 228,964 were issued in the war years 1939-1942. Many more than that number of visas were authorized during this latter period, the aliens in whose behalf such authorizations were given having been unable to depart from their places of foreign residence to reach the United States. Yet, of the number actually issued, practically all of the aliens who received them during the war years 1939-1942 have actually arrived in the United States and have remained here, many of them having entered in a temporary status and not yet having departed.
6. Over 5,000 visas were authorized for the admission into the United States and permanent residence here of refugee children coming from France, Spain and Portugal under arrangements with certain private persons and organizations in the

United

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United States for their care. Visas were also authorized for the parents accompanying them, in certain cases. This Government has sought the friendly assistance of the Government of Switzerland to effect the release from France of such of these children who have not been permitted to leave France, for entry into Spain where visas may be issued to them by the American consular officers.

7. Since the entry of the United States into the war, there have been no new restrictions placed by the Government of the United States upon the number of aliens of any nationality permitted to proceed to this country under existing laws, except for the more intensive examination of aliens required for security reasons.

8. Considerable sums of money have been made available by the American Red Cross and from other American sources to the American Ambassador at Madrid for the care of refugees now in Spain pending their evacuation. A number of these refugees have already been removed to North Africa. The continuation of this movement and its extent are dependent upon military considerations.

9. The American

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9. The American Red Cross and other American organizations have provided assistance for refugees who have been able to reach other neutral countries, such as Iran, and have undertaken extended feeding among children, including refugee children, in France.
10. In evacuating refugees to neutral areas, the full influence of the United States diplomatic and consular representatives has been from time to time invoked, not only with the oppressor nations but with any Government concerned, on behalf of the refugees.

This Government understands that, in addition to the refugee classes under immediate consideration, the British Government has certain undertakings for the care of British evacuees and of prisoners of war. Likewise, the Government of the United States has certain similar undertakings, as follows:

1. For the successful prosecution of the war

and for

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and for Hemispheric safety, the Government of the United States has offered to receive dangerous Axis nationals from a number of the American Republics where facilities for the internment or close safeguarding of such Axis nationals do not exist. A considerable number of such Axis nationals have thus been brought to the United States and arrangements are being made for the receipt of more of them.

2. This Government has a number of camps in the United States and more camps are under construction or planned for the internment or detention of civilian enemy aliens. There are being maintained in these camps thousands of such aliens.
3. This Government has also established other camps for prisoners of war which are now in use and in which, by arrangement, there will also be placed large numbers of United Nations prisoners. The accommodation of these prisoners in the United States will leave available abroad considerable quantities of food, clothing, etc., for refugees there which would otherwise be used by those prisoners abroad, while on the other hand, the maintenance of the prisoners in the United States will result in a considerable reduction of supplies available here.

4. There

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4. There have been set up in the United States a number of relocation centers where approximately 110,000 persons of the Japanese race are being housed and maintained at public expense after removal from vital military areas.

The Government of the United States fully shares the concern expressed by the British Government for the situation of the refugees. It feels, in view of the facts set forth above, that it has been and is making every endeavor to relieve the oppressed and persecuted peoples. In affording asylum to refugees, however, it is and must be bound by legislation enacted by Congress determining the immigration policy of the United States.

The United States is of the opinion that further efforts to solve the problem may best be undertaken through the instrumentality already existing, the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. To this end it may be considered advisable in order to facilitate action by the Committee that a preliminary exploration of ways and means be undertaken informally by representatives designated by the Government of the United States and the British Government. Such exploration might be undertaken

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undertaken along the following lines:

- A. The refugee problem should not be considered as being confined to persons of any particular race or faith. Nazi measures against minorities have caused the flight of persons of various races and faiths, as well as of other persons because of their political beliefs.
- B. Wheresoever practicable, intergovernmental collaboration should be sought in these times of transportation difficulty, shipping shortage, and submarine menace, to the end that arrangements may be determined for temporary asylum for refugees as near as possible to the areas in which those people find themselves at the present time and from which they may be returned to their homelands with the greatest expediency on the termination of hostilities.
- C. There should accordingly be considered plans for the maintenance in neutral countries in Europe of those refugees for whose removal provision may not be made. Their maintenance in neutral countries may involve the giving of assurances for their support until they can be repatriated, which support will necessarily come from the United Nations augmented by funds from private sources. It may also involve the giving of assurances in all possible cases by their Governments in exile for their
prompt

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prompt return to their native countries upon the termination of hostilities.

- D. The possibilities for the temporary asylum of the refugees, with a view to their repatriation upon the termination of hostilities, in countries other than neutral, and their dependencies, should be explored, together with the question of the availability of shipping to effect their movement from Europe.

It is suggested that the British and United States representatives might meet at Ottawa for this preliminary exploration.

Department of State,

Washington,

February 25, 1943.

Department of State

BUREAU } A-L/B
DIVISION }

ENCLOSURE
TO

Letter drafted.....

ADDRESSED TO

MEMORANDUM FOR THE
PRESIDENT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE SECRETARY

7/20/43
7084
PSF
State

June 22, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

I refer to my memorandum of July 5 and to your memorandum of July 9 in reply, regarding the establishment of a place of temporary residence in French North Africa for refugees who have succeeded in escaping from Axis territory into Spain, on which matter you recently communicated with the British Prime Minister. My memorandum listed certain measures necessary to put the matter forward and your memorandum requested me to initiate those measures.

With the authorization conveyed by your memorandum I have requested the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to allocate \$500,000 of unrestricted funds from your Emergency Fund to implement our agreement with the British Government jointly to share expenses for the transportation and care of the refugees. As indicated in my memorandum, this amount would be made available to Governor Lehman, whose Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations is to care for the refugees after their arrival in French North Africa. The next steps to be taken are to request Mr. Murphy at Algiers to ask General Eisenhower and the French North African authorities to designate a place of temporary residence for the refugees in French North Africa, and to obtain the cooperation of the American Army authorities for the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations in that Office's responsibility for the care of refugees in French North Africa. Accordingly, I submit herewith for your approval a telegram to be sent to Mr. Murphy and a letter, for your signature, to the Secretary of War.

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Enclosures:

Telegram to Mr. Murphy
Letter to Secretary of War

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for

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 10, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The President has directed that the attached paraphrased copy of message No. 357 from the Prime Minister to the President, dated 10 July 1943, be furnished the Secretary of State for preparation of a reply.

Very truly yours,

CHESTER HAMMOND
Lt. Colonel, General Staff
Assistant to the Military Aide.

1 Incl.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date ~~MAR~~ 3 1972

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From: The Prime Minister
To : The President of the United States
No : 357, 10 July 1943.

For your message Number 308, I am most grateful.

I agree completely with your suggestions which will provide a solution for our difficulties in Spain. I will give the complementary instructions to our authorities as soon as I hear from you that you have issued the directives to General Eisenhower and Giraud, and to the American Ambassadors in Madrid and Lisbon.

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July 16, 1943

AMERICAN CONSUL

ALGIERS (ALGERIA)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. letter, 1-11-72
By Date MAR 8 1972

[REDACTED] FOR MURPHY

Reference Department's 774, April 23, 7 p.m., and your 750, April 30, 6 p.m., regarding refugees in Spain.

The President after discussion with Mr. Churchill directs that you ask General Eisenhower and the French North African authorities to designate a place in French North Africa as a place of temporary residence for those refugees of enemy nationality or stateless at present in Spain whose numbers are still estimated to be around six thousand at present. It is unlikely that this entire group would arrive at one time. Quarters should be located immediately for approximately fifteen hundred with the understanding that additional space for the entire number may be required at a later date. We understand from Royce and Hoehler that this entire question was discussed with General Hughes some weeks ago. The staff of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations has presumably been exploring possible sites in Morocco and may have useful suggestions. The care of the refugees at such temporary place of residence will be the responsibility of that Office under

Governor

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Governor Lehman, with representatives of the British Government cooperating and assisting. The President is directing the Secretary of War to issue instructions to the Army authorities concerned to cooperate fully with that Office in that connection with the thought that it may be necessary for the Army among other things to provide cots and tents and other equipment required for the immediate care of the refugees and the requisitioning or construction of buildings for their better housing.

The land transportation in Spain of these refugees to the selected port of embarkation will be arranged by the American and British Embassies and Legations in Spain and Portugal. Sea transportation will be arranged by the British Government. The costs of the refugees' transportation and their maintenance in the place of temporary residence will be borne equally by the British and American Governments.

The President informed Mr. Churchill that he is in complete accord with the thought of the French military authorities in North Africa that both for political and military reasons it is essential to transfer the refugees, after their arrival at the temporary place of residence, to a place of more permanent settlement for the duration of the war. To avoid the implication
that the

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that the United States is conducting a concentration camp for these refugees it is contemplated that they should be given some freedom of movement and that those who are qualified to help meet the labor shortage in ^{French North Africa} ~~Morocco~~ should be granted permits to work temporarily while awaiting transfer elsewhere.

The subsequent transportation of the refugees from the temporary place of residence to places of more permanent settlement and their continued care thereafter will be matters to which the Executive Committee of the Intergovernment Committee on Refugees, of which this Government is a member, will attend.

D.K.

F.D.R.

Eu:RBR

VD:HKT

A-L/B:GLB:MSL

OFR

Mr. Myron
Taylor

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TELEGRAM No. 308 OF JULY 9, 1943 FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

This refers to your 339, June 30, 1943, regarding provision for refugees in North Africa.

I will set out the elements of the problem as I understand them:

1. There are at present an estimated five or six thousand stateless or enemy-nationality refugees in Spain to be moved, largely of the Jewish race.

2. I am asking Generals Eisenhower and Giraud to designate Mogador or some other place in French North Africa as a place of temporary residence for these refugees and others who may be able to escape from Axis territory into Spain. They have already agreed in principle to the establishment of such a place of temporary residence.

3. I will arrange for the transportation of these refugees by land from Spain to the selected port in Portugal for their embarkation.

4. You will arrange for their sea transportation from Portugal to a port in North Africa.

5. I will request the American military authorities to make available cots and tents in sufficient number to meet the emergency needs of the refugees arriving at the temporary place of residence.

6. I will also arrange that preparations will be begun

begun immediately for a temporary reception center of more substantial character where the refugees can be housed and cared for until subsequent arrangements are made for their disposition which should be at the earliest possible moment.

7. The costs of the refugees' transportation from Spain and their maintenance in the place of temporary residence until such time as a more permanent settlement is agreed upon will be borne equally by our two Governments.

8. The work of administration for the refugees at the temporary place of residence will be the responsibility of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations under Governor Lehman, with representatives of your Government cooperating and assisting.

9. I am in complete accord with the thought of the French military authorities in that area that both for political and military reasons it is essential to transfer the refugees, after their arrival at the temporary place of residence, to a place of more permanent settlement for the duration. In this connection the Department of State has just been informed by your Embassy here in response to conversations Lord Halifax has had with Mr. Myron Taylor that certain places, among them Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Madagascar, are under active discussion and it appears not impossible that sites may be available there for the refugees.

It is

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It is also my understanding that a limited number of the refugees may be admitted into Palestine.

10. The subsequent transportation of the refugees from the temporary place of residence to places of more permanent settlement and their continued care thereafter would be provided under the auspices and jurisdiction of the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee, the costs thereof to be underwritten jointly by the British and American Governments.

I trust that you will let me know at the earliest convenient moment that we are in complete accord when I shall issue the necessary directives to complement those which you will issue.

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June 30, 1943

Paraphrase of message from Prime Minister to the President, Number 339.

Since we discussed the matter, the need for aid to refugees, particularly Jewish, has not abated; and every outlet should be kept open. North Africa remains the best outlet and the difficulties in connection with the proposed refugee camps there have been cleaned up, and there is now possible an early practical decision. At present our immediate facilities for aiding the victims of Hitler's anti-Jewish campaign are so limited that it seems all the more incumbent on us to open the small camp proposed for the purpose of removing some of them to safety, and I should be grateful if you could let me know if it has been found possible to bring this scheme into operation. General approval of this project has been given by General Giraud.

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

31 July 1943

The President,
The White House.

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the desires expressed in your letter of July 28, 1943, on the subject of refugees from Spain, a message has been sent to the Commanding General, North African Theater of Operations, directing him to cooperate fully with the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations in the provision of adequate quarters and equipment for these refugees who are expected to arrive in North Africa in the near future.

Respectfully yours;

R. L. P. [Signature]

Acting Secretary of War..

