

President's Secretary's File
Departmental File
State: July-Dec 1943 Box 71

0. The following is
a list of the
names of the
refugees in
Spain who
are being
sent to
Palestine.

*State Dept. folder
2-43
plus mail*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 31, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

FROM: HON. MYRON C. TAYLOR

I have been informed of a telegram from the American Ambassador in Madrid which states that the number of refugees in Spain is 1800, of which 500 already hold visas for Palestine. This is quite a different situation from the one on which we were basing our action, namely, there were said to be 7000 who needed to be moved to North Africa.

This revised figure leads me to question whether the plan should be actually put into effect if some other temporary or permanent disposition of the smaller number could be arranged for.

I am delighted to know that the problem of refugees in Spain seems to have assumed much smaller proportions.

*Original signed letter and
 enclosed to State 7/26/43
 with original of memo. & copy of
 Sec. Hull's memo of 6/22/43
 249H*

My dear Mr. Secretary:

There are now in Spain a number of refugees who have escaped from Axis and Axis-controlled territory. The large majority of these refugees are of French nationality. Those of French nationality are being moved onward by the French North African authorities to French North Africa where the French authorities are providing for their care, taking many of them who are qualified into the French military forces and giving civilian employment to others. A smaller number of the refugees in Spain are of Allied nationality and are being taken care of by their respective governments.

There is a remainder estimated at present to be about five or six thousand persons who are of enemy nationality or stateless, the larger number of them being of the Jewish race. It is essential that these people should be removed from Spain in order, first, to relieve the Spanish Government of its concern for them and, secondly, as a humanitarian measure, to keep open, by their removal, the channel for the escape of additional refugees into Spain. The shipping situation makes it very advisable that some place nearby should be selected for their reception.

I discussed this matter with Mr. Churchill on his recent visit to Washington and I have been in communication with him in further regard to it since his return to London. I enclose for your information a copy of a telegram which I sent Mr. Churchill and paraphrases of two telegrams I received from him in that connection. You will note that I have decided with Mr. Churchill's concurrence that these refugees shall be moved on to French North Africa to a place of temporary residence

there

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there to be designated by Generals Eisenhower and Giraud, where they and others who may be able to escape from Axis territory into Spain may remain until they can be transferred to a place of more permanent settlement for the duration of the war. The selection of a place of more permanent settlement and the removal of the refugees to that place are matters to which the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, of which this Government is a member, will attend.

The Secretary of State, under my direction, is telegraphing Mr. Murphy at Algiers to request General Eisenhower and the French authorities to designate some place in French North Africa as a place of temporary residence for the refugees. The care of the refugees at the temporary place of residence in French North Africa will be the responsibility of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations under Governor Lehman, with representatives of the British Government cooperating and assisting. I desire you to issue instructions to the Army authorities concerned to cooperate fully with the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations in that Office's responsibility for the reception and care of the refugees upon their arrival in French North Africa. This may entail, among other things, the provision of 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.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Enclosures:

Telegram to
Mr. Churchill
Two paraphrases of tele-
grams from Mr. Churchill

The Honorable

Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War.

*File
Journal*

TO DISCUSS WITH THE PRESIDENT

1. Rome - open city - Department favors this - Spanish have offered to intercede with Germans - We have taken this up with General Marshall.
2. Moscow Conference - Hull's return - Future Plans - Admiral Standley feels has gone and will continue as he predicted.
3. European Advisory Commission - London - President's thinking on U. S. representation.
4. Azores bases - Kennan and Norweb returning authorized to negotiate oral agreement.
5. British Reciprocal Aid Figures - British wish to announce to Parliament on 11th - Oscar Cox preparing statement for President to make Congress - Halifax obtaining draft Chancellor's statement.
6. Amending Eden Exports White Paper - Told Halifax British could say working on new arrangement with U. S. - If asked, we will say this is true.
7. British Dollar Balances - Discussions between U. S. Departments and with British here continuing - Morgenthau will make recommendations.
8. Argentine Freezing - Unless emergency, Morgenthau has agreed to hold up until Hull returns and he and Hull can discuss with President.
9. Secret Turkish Matter
10. Senate Post-War Resolution - Ascertain President's present thinking.
11. Feeding Occupied Europe - Church organizations again pressing - Can't understand why if done in Greece can't be done elsewhere.
12. Italian Leadership - On our side weak - Murphy and General B. W. Smith both stressed this.
13. Tunisia - Harsh treatment natives by French - Arab papers prohibited, etc. - Atlantic Charter - President may wish to talk with former Consul General Doolittle (memorandum attached).
14. Tunisia - Jewish Problems - cable - memo. to President.

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GENERAL MATTERS TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT

1. British oil discussions - proposed agreement relative to Middle East - joint actions and exchange of information - conservatism - timing of discussions.
2. French West Africa - what are President's views on politico-strategic structure as given to Glassford. Department does not know.
3. Pacific Islands - showing certain islands claimed by us and U. K. as our islands on maps being prepared for War Department. (List attached)

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