

President's Secretary's File
Departmental File
State: Welles, Summer Jan June 1939
Box 76

*PSF
Welles
state 1*

January 9, 1939.

Letter to the President from Sumner Welles
transmitting the original of a communication to the
President from His Majesty Abdul Aziz ibn Saud, King
of Saudi Arabia.

Re-Jewish situation and Palestine

See: Palestine folder-Drawer 1-1939

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1939.

file
1

MEMORANDUM FOR
MRS. ROOSEVELT

TO READ AND RETURN

F. D. R.

PSF: Welles

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 25, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

With reference to the telegram from Barcelona signed by a group of Spanish ladies, alleging the murder by the Rebel forces in Spain of two hundred women, which you sent over to me on January 21, I am enclosing herewith two telegrams received this morning from our Chargé d'Affaires in Barcelona which refer to the charges contained in the cable you sent me.

It seems to be clear in the two telegrams I enclose that none of the foreign correspondents have as yet had an opportunity to verify the charges made. Under existing circumstances, of course, this would be almost impossible. Personally, I have no doubt whatever that the reports may be entirely accurate. However, I think you may agree with me that it would be undesirable for the White House to make any comment on the report unless we had some more positive evidence

The President,

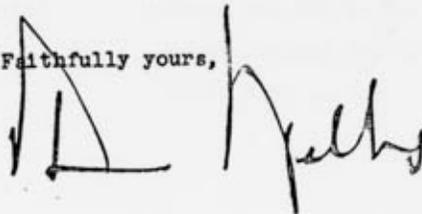
The White House.

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than that as yet presented.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. A. Phelps". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed phrase "Faithfully yours,".

REB

A portion of
this telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (A)

(MADRID)
Barcelona via N. R.

Dated January 24, 1939

Rec'd 6:50 p. m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1187, January 24, 7 p. m. (GRAY)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Your 515, January 23, 3 p. m.

The story regarding the alleged slaughter of old men, women and children by troops of the Littorio Division following their occupation of Santa Coloma de Queralt first appeared in the Barcelona newspapers on January 17. It was attributed to the commander of the Eleventh Division, who stated that when his forces evacuated that village they took positions on the heights surrounding it from which, a few hours later, they observed, without the use of field glasses, that all the old men, women and children who had taken refuge in Santa Coloma de Queralt from the surrounding territory had been assembled in a group. They were then slaughtered by machine gun fire. It was estimated that some 225 to 250 persons were killed. This

report

REB

2-#1187, From Madrid, Jan.24,7p.m.

report was carried in the press for several days, together with an appeal to world opinion signed by the President of the Cortes, heads of political parties, deputies, writers, and others. (END GRAY)

The propaganda section of the Ministry of State to whose censorship all foreign correspondents are subject handed this story to them and some of them carried it. The Associated Press correspondent informed me at the time that he mistrusted it and did not carry it.

I shall make such efforts as are possible under present conditions to verify the report.

THURSTON

EMB

REB

GRAY

(MADRID)
BARCELONA VIA N.R.

Dated January 24, 1939

Rec'd 7:10 p. m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1189, January 24, 10 p. m.

My 1187, January 24, 7 p. m.

Robert Allen, an American who came to Spain as an ambulance driver with the International Brigade, but who for some time has been assistant correspondent for the Associated Press and Reuters is tonight stopping in the Embassy awaiting evacuation.

Allen informs me that while neither the Associated Press nor Reuters carried the atrocity stay at first they did so later after becoming reasonably convinced of its truth. He says the Government offered to take foreign correspondents to the front to interview eyewitnesses but this plan could not be carried out.

THURSTON

EMB

HTM



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WN104CL BARCELONA 281 19 2230 GBW1089

1939 JAN 20 12 16

NLT MRS ROOSEVELT

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

ONCE MORE SPANISH PEOPLE SHUDDER IN HORROR AND INDIGATION AT CRUEL DEED
 WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN HISTORY STOP IN CATALAN VILLAGE SANTA COLOMA DE
 QUERALT TWO HUNDRED WOMEN WERE SHOT IN COLD BLOOD AFTER BEING GATHERED
 TOGETHER IN VILLAGE THRESHINGFLOOR STOP THIS HORRIBLE CRIME COMMITTED

J & P
Can you check
if this is true? If so
bring it all in cabinet
for the fact?
J & P

Telephone: National 2600

To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.



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WN104CL

MRS

2/50

ON DEFENCELESS WOMEN SHOWED UP INVASIONS TREACHERY AND HORROR FOR
MURDERERS FORMED PART ITALIAN LITTORIO DIVISION STOP WE WANT ALL WOMEN
TO KNOW OF THIS DEED WHICH ADDS ONE MORE CRIME TO THOSE COMMITTED BY
INVADERS STOP MAY WOMENS CONSCIENCE WORLD OVER AS MOTHERS WIVES DAUGHTERS
RISE UP IN WAY

Telephone: National 2600

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WN104CL

MRS

3/50

PASSIONATE PROTEST UNMASKING THOSE COVETING OUR LAND AND OPENING
HUMANITY'S EYES TO THIS DEED INHUMANITY WHICH TEARS AT OUR HEARTS AS WOMEN
LUIZA ALVAREZ DEL VAYO WIFE MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ISABEL OYORZABAL PALENCIA SPANISH MINISTER STOCKHOLM
MARGARITA NELKEN DEPUTY ET SECRETARY RUP MATILDE DE LA TORRE
DEPUTY JULIA ALVAREZ RESANO DEPUTY

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MRS

4/50

JOSEFA RUIZ GENERAL DIRECTOR EVACUATION

MATILDE CANTOS GENERAL INSPECTOR PRISONS

MATILDE HUICE SPANISH DELEGATE LEAGUE NATIONS SOCIAL

PROBLEMS COMMITTEE DOLORES PIERA MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR

TRINIDAD ARROYO DE MARQUEZ DOCTOR MARGARITA COMAS

PROFESOR GENERALITAT NORMAL SCHOOL EMILIA ELIAS

DIRECTOR MADRID NORMAL SCHOOL JUANA ONTANON PROFESSORS

MADRID NORMAL SCHOOL ROSA ROIG DOLORES NOGUES

Telephone: National 2600

Form 113WN-TD 196

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MRS

5/50

DOLORES CABALLERO LUISA ESTEVEZ ALL PROFESSORS BARCELONA NORMAL
SCHOOL MARIA TERESA MARTINEZ BUJANDA INSPECTOR PRIMARY EDUCATION
MERCEDES USUA PROFESSOR BARCELONA NORMAL SCHOOL MARIA ZAMBRANO
WRITER MATILDE MUNOZ WRITER DOLORES IBARRURI CALLED PASIONARIA
VICEPRESIDENT OF CORTES IRENE FALCON WRITER TRINI TORRIJOS
CONSUELO ALVAREZ WRITER JOSEFA LOPEZ GARRIDO GLORIA MORELL
CONSTANCIA ETORA

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6/31

CHIEF FOREIGN PRESS OFFICE BELEN SARRAGA WRITER AURORA ARNAIZ
VICTORIA KENT DEPUTY ADVOCATE ROBERTA RAMON PEPITA MELIA ACTRESS
ROBERTA CARMENLAGAR ACTRESS MAGDA DONATO WRITER NATALIA ELASUA
VICE PRESIDENT BASQUE CATHOLIC WOMEN

Telephone: National 2600

Form 112WN—TD 194

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1-11
Welles
1
5/24

Letter to President
From Sumner Welles

June 28, 1939

In re-Presidents desire to hold meeting of Executive Committee of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees which he took up with Myron Taylor as the President wished. Attaches Taylor's reaction on meeting to him for the Pres. information.

See Palestine folder-Foreign file-Drawer 1-1939