

Ira Hirschmann Papers  
Box 1  
Correspondence between US Embassy.  
Ankara and War Refugee Board 6-8-44  
10-11/44

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara  
To: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 5, 1944  
NUMBER: 1018

[REDACTED]

There follows Ankara's No. 71 from the Ambassador for Pehle, WRB.

Replying to Department's cable of June 1 No. 492, it is suggested by me that the proposal which is contained in the message to the World Jewish Congress from its Swiss representative be submitted to Barlas of the Jewish Agency for an expression of opinion or in the alternative that Hirschmann on his arrival here, make an appropriate recommendation to the War Refugee Board for transmittal to the World Jewish Congress.

Due to the steadily increasing number of organizations and individuals who are interesting themselves in the rescue of Jews from the Balkans and who are seeking funds for this purpose, it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to judge the extent to which their respective activities should be encouraged. The board may wish to bear in mind that in this connection the cost merely tends to increase by competitive bidding for the limited number of vessels available without increasing the number of vessels.

STEINHARDT

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H.D. White, Pehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter  
By R. M. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM <sup>Rec'd</sup> ~~SENT~~

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 8, 1944  
NUMBER: 1033

  
You are asked to inform the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the USA and Canada, Rabbi E. L. Silver, Israel Rosenberg, Vaadhatsala Emergency Committee, Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowits, Aron Kotler, Magudas Israel World Organisation, and Jacob Rosenheim in answer to their cable which I received today that in addition to exerting my own efforts on behalf of the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, I have been rendering and will continue to render every possible aid to Messrs. Kastner, Klarner and Grifel and that it is assumed that my continuing efforts are known to them.

STEINHARDT

DCF:VAG:HL

6/10/44

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Lobby  
By R. H. Parks ~~Per~~ AUG 1 1979

Sec'y Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.

MJB - 938  
Distribution of  
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special arrangement.  
v)

Ankara

Dated June 9, 1944

Rec'd 10:38 p.m.

Secretary of State.

Washington.

1039, June 9, 5 p.m.

FOR WEB FROM THE AMBASSADOR.

Ankara No. 72.

For the information of the board. In discussing today with Barlas of the Jewish Agency the reasons for the decreasing number of Jew refugees arriving in Istanbul by rail from Bulgaria he informed me that the President of the Jewish community in Ruschuk had recently called on the chief of police of Sofia to inquire why exit visas for Jew refugees were being withheld. The Chief of police replied that he had directed the discontinuance of the issuance of exit visas to Jew refugees after receiving a report to the effect that every Jew refugee arriving in Istanbul was being closely questioned by representatives of the British and American Intelligence Services concerning military and other conditions in Bulgaria.

STENINHARDT

BB PR

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Parks ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ AUG 1 1979

cc@ Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hode,  
Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish,  
Stewart, Weinstein, HoB. White, Pehle, Files.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: American Embassy, Ankara  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 19, 1944  
NUMBER: 1104

[REDACTED]

The Ambassador sends the following, Ankara No. 77, for the War Refugee Board.

Department's cable dated June 15, No. 534, is referred to herewith.

Since representatives of the various Jewish organizations in Istanbul or others during recent months have reported to the Embassy only one instance of refusal of entry into Turkey to Jewish refugees without visas by Turkish border guards, the details of the reports which have come to the board's attention that such occurrences have been "not infrequent" would be appreciated by me so that I may bring these specific cases to the attention of the Turk authorities. While it is most unlikely that the Turk authorities would enter into an "arrangement" for the violation of their own laws by agreeing that refugees without Turk visas could enter Turkey, as stated in my cable dated June 5, No. 1010, on several occasions I have been assured by the Turk Foreign Office that entry would not be refused to Jewish refugees provided that British and Jewish agency representatives in Istanbul issue them Palestine entry certificates. Such certificates are being issued now without delay as a matter of course, and consequently a considerable number of Jewish refugees without Turk transit visas who have arrived overland at Turk border points from Bulgaria have passed through Turkey en route to Palestine. For some time past, Turk border guards have been under instructions not to turn back Jewish refugees but to detain them on the Turk side of the frontier pending instructions. It is essential, in view of the foregoing, that I be furnished immediately with the details of all cases in which Turk border guards have failed to carry out their instructions. As matters now stand refugees arriving overland are no less favorably placed than those who arrived by sea. I do not anticipate any unfavorable change in this situation since the arrivals by sea without Turk visas have far exceeded the arrivals by rail. Thus it would seem from the Department's cable under reference that the Turk authorities have been taking substantially the same position as those of the other neutral countries adjacent to enemy controlled areas who have refrained from barring the entry of refugees. The Turk authorities might be frightened by an attempt to convert the present benevolent attitude of the Turk authorities in admitting refugees arriving by sea or land without Turk visas into an arrangement of a more formal character, and they might suspect the organization of a movement beyond their physical capacity to deal with and it

would result

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Parks Dept. 4115 1 1979

- 2 -

would result in our losing some of the ground already gained rather than making a further advance. Since our objective is to evacuate the maximum possible number of refugees from the Balkans to Turkey or Palestine, I feel that at least for the present we should seek to hold the Turks to a strict compliance with the informal assurances that they have given us rather than press for a formal agreement which would involve the risk of withdrawal of the informal assurances.

If notwithstanding what I have pointed out above, it is preferred by the board and the Department that I press the Foreign Office for a formal agreement, of course I shall try to do as you wish.

STEINHARDT

CC:Sec'y, Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Gaston, Laughlin, Lesser, Lufford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Pehle, Files.

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June 20, 1944

5 p.m.

War Refugee Board

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA

553

The following WEB no. 56 is for Hirschmann.

A report at earliest possible time on status of Schleifer children case discussed with Hirschmann before his departure would be appreciated. The case has been previously taken up with Ambassador Steinhardt and Barlas we understand. If deemed desirable by you, Davila, who is interested in matter, has authorized the use of his name with Gretsianu. Necessary expense funds will be willingly provided by Schleifers.

HULL  
(GRW)

WEB:MMV:KG  
6/20/44

NR S/CR

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

cc:Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargey, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Files.

MMS  
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arrangement. (S) (S) (S) (S) (S) (S)

June 23, 1944

7 p.m.

ANKERGRASSY,

ANKARA  
568

War Refugee Board cable 57 below is for Steinhardt and  
Hirschmann.

Your 1066 of June 14 regarding prospects of procuring  
vessels from Turkish Government to evacuate refugees from  
Balkan ports to Istanbul highly gratifying to Board. The  
most promising likelihood of breaking the present shipping  
bottleneck appears to be offered thereby.

We informed you in our 538 of June 18 of the British  
Foreign Office opinion that a settled German policy of refus-  
ing to facilitate the evacuation of Jews to Palestine  
prompted the German refusal to grant a safe conduct to the  
BARDALAND. We requested Minister Johnson, as you will recall,  
on the assurance to the Germans that the refugees evacuated  
on the BARDALAND would be taken from Turkey to havens of  
refuge other than Palestine, to ask the Swedish Government  
again to take up the question of a safe conduct with the German  
Government. It is suggested, in line with this request to  
Johnson, that you renew your efforts to procure a German safe  
conduct for the TARI from Constantza to a Turkish port, if it  
will not (repeat not) interfere with your efforts to obtain a  
Bulgarian safe conduct as set forth in your 941 of May 23, this  
time upon the assurance to the German Government that any  
Jewish refugees evacuated on the TARI would not be removed  
from Turkey to Palestine but to other havens of refuge.

HULL  
(GHW)

WENLHMV:KG 3/CR NE SE SWP  
6/22/44

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin,  
Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart,  
Weinstein, E. D. White, Pehle, Files.

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State Dept. Log

JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1978

BAS  
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arrangement. [REDACTED]

June 30, 1944

4 p.m. [REDACTED]

War Refugee Board

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA

587

The following WRB cable 65 is for Hirschmann.

Information just received by Board is that cable below has been sent through regular channels to World Jewish Congress by Barlas.

QUOTE For your information and through you of Board proposal increase individual transit allowing twenty visas Budapest, Sofia, Bucharest, respectively, approved Turkish Foreoffice. Abolition list system instructing consuls issue visas on recommendation local representatives also agreed UNQUOTE.

The Turks agreed, according to report of March 6 from Hirschmann, to grant transit visas to 27 families weekly from Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania combined, constituting weekly about sixty persons. Report also states that Turks had agreed to grant every ten days transit visas to ten adults and 140 children.

Board would appreciate comments on quoted cable in light of above. Current statistics on entries into Turkey by land routes would also be appreciated.

HULL  
(GLW)

S/CR

HULL  
SE

WRB:MMV:KG  
6/29/44

GPH NE

cc:Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akvin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Lurford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargo, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Files.

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State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parker Date: AUG. 1 1979

MMS  
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arrangement. ~~( )~~

June 30, 1944  
9 p.m.

AMBASSY,

ANKARA.

589

The War Refugee Board cable 67 below is for  
Hirschmann.

Indicated by Sofia report received here that a  
thousand Turkish pounds are demanded there for each  
Turkish visa. Inquiry as to correctness of report  
would be appreciated, also if correct your efforts  
to reduce required amount materially.

HULL  
(GMW)

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter

By R. H. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

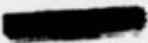
WRB:MMV:EO  
6/30/44

HE S/CR

cc:Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akrin, Bernstein, Cohn, Borenstein, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston,  
Hodel, Laughlin, Lasser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith,  
Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Files.

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arrangement. (SECRET)

July 1, 1944  
4 p.m.



EMBASSY,

ANKARA.

592

The War Refugee Board cable 61 below is for Hirschmann.

The following cable received from Lisbon:

QUOTE British Embassy Ankara has telegraphed British  
Legation Lisbon stating number Jewish refugees Constanta  
1,300 not 5,000 as claimed by Joint here. Suggested transship-  
ment from Istanbul by rail also questioned by British repre-  
sentatives Ankara who claim inadequacy rail facilities for  
even this smaller number UNQUOTE

It is assumed a plan can be evolved, in view your talk  
with Secretary General of the Foreign Office referred to  
in Ankara's 1066 of June 14, for transshipment of refugees  
arriving in Istanbul on Turkish ships to Palestine by rail.

HULL  
(OHV)

WRB:MKV:KG  
7/1/44

NR

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By R. M. Parks GWS AUG 1 1979

cc: Sec'y. Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Goston,  
Hedel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Sandish,  
Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Pehle, Files.

RE  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ( [REDACTED] )

July 1, 1944

6 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

594

Reference is made in WRB cable 69 below to Hirschmann to Embassy's 1104 of June 19.

Knowledge of instructions to Turkish border guards not to turn back Jewish refugees at Bulgarian border notwithstanding lack of Turkish visas very interesting to Board. Board had no previous intimation regarding any such instructions. Reports received here concerning non-admission cover incidents before issuance thereof, we therefore assume. Board notes that arrivals by rail only mentioned in your cable. Question thus arises whether Jews and other persecuted people trying to cross Bulgarian border clandestinely on foot or otherwise are covered by these instructions. Do these instructions extend to all clandestine refugees? Board hopes the instructions can be continued in effect and, if they do not now extend to those arriving at border by other means than rail, that such cases will be included therein. Please use your best judgment regarding means to fulfill these hopes.

Information concerning number of refugees crossing from Bulgarian frontier during past month without Turkish visas would be appreciated.

WRB:MMV:KB  
6/30/44

S/CR

WE

HULL  
(GLW)

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akvin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lessery-Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Files.

FBI  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET)

July 4, 1944

6 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA

606

The cable below for Hirschmann is WEB no. 72.

Reference is made to Department's 440 of May 17 last paragraph and 499 of June 2 first paragraph.

Jewish Agency informed Pinkerton of report by refugee that not 12 or 15 but 26 Jews remain arrested in Bucharest. Refugee confirms that there are reasons to believe that the authorities in Rumania are showing a tendency to alleviate the conditions of the Jews there in the hope that this might place them in a more favorable position with the allied powers after the occupation of the country and in international discussions which will follow the war. He believes therefore that intervention regarding the fate of the arrested Jews might produce results and says it is not out of the question that as a result of such intervention the proceedings might be wholly suspended and the persons released.

Kindly advise what steps have been or are being taken in regard to this matter.

MULL  
(GEW)

WEB:MMV:KG      HE      SE      S/CR  
7/4/44

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Messer, Luford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Pehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter  
By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

BJR-47

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (b)(7)(C)

Ankara

Dated July 5, 1944

Rec'd 4:59 p.m., 6th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
2017, July 5, 2 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA  
NUMBER 86.

For your information a luncheon conference was arranged at the invitation of Ambassador Steinhardt on July 2 to consider and coordinate plans for the expansion of the work of rescuing refugees from the Balkans. Among those present were Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt, Counselor Robert F. Kelley, Ira A. Hirschmann, special representative of the War Refugee Board, and his assistant Herbert Katski; and the following representatives of organizations engaged in refugee rescue work: Joseph Schwartz and Feuben Resnik, American Joint Distribution Committee; Dr. Judah Magnes and Harry Vitales, Middle East Advisory Committee of the American Joint Distribution Committee; Chaim Barlas, Jewish Agency; Jacob Griffell, Agudath Israel, Vaad Haazalah, and other orthodox groups; Zevschind, Histadruth; and David Schweitzer, Hicem.

It was agreed among the organizations that overlapping and duplication of effort now exists and that greater results will be obtained by coordinated efforts. Ambassador Steinhardt pointed out the unfavorable reaction he had received from Turkish high officials to counteract confusion resulting from numerous individual organizations approaching these officials frequently with similar or conflicting projects; also the difficulties placed in the path of the representatives of the United States Government in dealing effectively with the Turkish Government as a result of these conflicts.

An agreement was reached to form an over-all coordinating committee including all effective agencies now represented in Turkey. The committee is to be directed by Ira Hirschmann, War Refugee Board representative and his assistant Herbert Katski.

It was understood that all efforts of individual organizations, especially those related to chartering of

ships, would

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks AUG 1 1979

-2-

ships, would be pooled into a single coordinated effort in which all effective agencies would be afforded an opportunity to participate.

We are sure that you will take advantage of Ambassador Steinhardt's imminent return to Washington to learn from him at first hand and in detail the current situation existing in Turkey with regard to the refugee movement.

When the above mentioned committee is formed in Istanbul and operating, we will keep you informed of its program and developments.

KELLEY

JJM:KFC

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akain, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Weinstein, Files.

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[REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated July 5, 1944

Rec'd 5:56 p.m., 6th

Secretary of State  
Washington  
2018, July 5, 3 p.m.  
FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHMANN  
Ankara No. 87.

Reference is made to your 64, June 29. Preliminary investigations here have disclosed the following information with regard to the cessation of movement of refugees from Constanza to Istanbul in May and June.

The sinking of the MARITZA occasioned the withdrawal on the part of the Bulgarian authorities of permission to release ships for refugee purposes. The Bulgarians fear the loss of additional small ships and the Germans alleged that they required the tonnage for military purposes. Steps were taken thereafter to secure small Turkish ships engaged in transporting merchandise from Istanbul to Varna, Bulgaria, under agreement between the Turkish and German Governments, since the Turk Government does not wish to use the big ships in foreign waters. The Jewish agency informs us that is has arranged for four Turkish and one Greek ship to transport refugees on their return voyages from Constanza to Istanbul. The ships now ready for sailing at Constanza and the approximate number of passengers they can transport are: SS KAZBEK 450, MAFKURA 150, BILBIL 350, MARINA 350, and the Greek SS MYRNA 1200 passengers. There is reason to hope that should the above mentioned five ships, the first of whose departure is expected daily, successfully conclude their voyages, they will be followed by these or other ships of similar type and under similar circumstances. Katzki and I are working with representatives of the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee to break the deadlock which is delaying the departure of these ships. Upon their arrival at the port of Istanbul we have the assurance of Ambassador Steinhardt that as a result of his personal agreement with Cevadacikalın, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there will be no difficulty in permitting the ships to disembark in Istanbul their passengers without proper papers and in arranging for their transportation through Turkey to Palestine.

Another factor leading to the delay of the above-

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter

By R. H. P. Date AUG 1 1979

-2- #2018, July 5, 3 p.m., from Ankara.

mentioned ship movement is the reorganization of the Rumanian Government control if its operations connected with this so-called illegal transportation. We are informed that the Rumanian Government has established an inter-ministerial committee for immigration which included representatives of several government departments as well as one Jewish representative, Zissu who is reported to be a close friend of Mical Antonescu and a rich man. People leaving Rumania must be in possession of exit permits and the formation of this new committee interrupted arrangements which had been made for securing such permits. An interim period was evidently necessary to arrange for these new connections. The Rumanians are reported to have decided to permit children and adults over 45 to leave the country and it is reported that the Germans have accepted their plan. Many of these refugees have come to Rumania illegally from Poland and some are now arriving from Hungary.

An appreciable number of the 2600 refugees above-mentioned will be children who were released from Trans-nistria as a result of the efforts of the War Refugee Board in March 1944.

The information contained in your 64 has been conveyed to Schwartz in Ankara. Ambassador Steinhardt and I recommend that the program outlined in your 64 be undertaken with concurrent participation in the responsibility by the WRB since from our explorations to date the type of proposals mentioned therein seems to be only immediate means for rescuing appreciable numbers of refugees from the Balkans.

The above will be elaborated upon fully in a report which will be sent to you in due course.

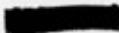
KELLEY

EDA  
RR

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara  
To: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 5, 1944  
NUMBER: 1010

  
AMBASSADOR sends the following for WRB.

Referring to message Number 69 from Ankara and Department's telegram of June 2, Number 499, it is my opinion that any approach to the Hungarian Minister and his staff here would be of no use whatever, since their pro-Nazi attitude is notorious, as the Department knows.

In connection with the last paragraph of cable referred to, it is thought that the Turkish agreement to an "arrangement" involving violation of their own laws by allowing refugees or any other individuals to enter Turkey without Turkish visas is an extremely remote possibility. Separate representations concerning each group or individual, upon arrival, have been presented in obtaining permission for Jewish refugees to enter and pass through Turkey without Turkish visas, and this fact should be borne in mind in this connection. I believe, when appropriate representations are made in each case, the Jewish refugees entering Turkey from Bulgaria will be treated with the same kindness as have those coming from Greece.

STEINHARDT

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter  
By K. H. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

CC:  
Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin,  
Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel,  
Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks,  
Pehle, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein,  
H.D. White, Files.

AD-200  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (S) [redacted]

Ankara  
Dated July 7, 1944  
Rec'd 3:54 a.m., 8th

Secretary of State  
Washington  
1230, July 7, 2.p.m.

FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHMANN  
Ankara No. 89

By arrangement with Gilbert Simond of the International Red Cross, I conferred yesterday with Alexandre Cretzianuc, Rumanian Minister to Turkey, at the home of Simond. Cretzianu took pains to emphasize the determined efforts of the Rumanian Government to assist in the transportation of Jewish refugees from Rumania. He asserted that since my absence from Turkey he had received two telegrams from Miscae Antonescu to the effect that "I am doing my utmost to assist in the transportation of Jewish refugees." Cretzianu insisted that he had in his possession further corroboration that the camp in Transnistria which had contained 48,000 refugees had been completely disbanded in March 1944, but that he could not guarantee any orderly movement of refugees, since he asserted that the bombing of Ploesti and Bucharest had caused marked confusion and chaos in Rumania for all citizens and had multiplied the difficulties connected with all traffic movements.

Cretzianu promised to verify the authority and function of the Rumanian Interministerial Committee dealing with refugee transportation, referred to in the Embassy's 1218, July 5 for the War Refugee Board. Stating that the Rumanians unanimously desire to withdraw from the war provided Rumania would not become another Italy, he warned that such a step at this time would unquestionably bring about complete German occupation and under such circumstances "I fear that Rumania may become another Hungary insofar as the Jews are concerned." Cretzianu emphasized the friendly role that his government was playing at this time in connection with the Jewish refugees. He promised to assist in expediting the embarkation of refugees on the ships in Constanza and to report to me through Simond the information he will receive from Antonescu after he has communicated our conversation to Bucharest.

I am proceeding today to Istanbul where I shall meet with the Jewish organization representatives there to form the advisory committee and endeavor to expedite the ships movements from Rumanian.

KELLY

WSB  
RPL

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter

By R. W. [redacted] AUG 1 1979

c:  
SC'y  
brahamson  
kzin  
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FBM  
Distribution of true  
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arrangement. [REDACTED]

July 7, 1944

6 p.m.

EMBASSY,

ANKARA

616

The following War Refugee Board cable 74 is for  
Hirschmann:

On recommendation of War Refugee Board, Treasury has  
issued license to Emergency Committee, New York, permitting  
remittance of \$5,000 to Eri Jabotinsky provided that such  
funds be utilized by Jabotinsky only as authorized by Ambassa-  
dor Steinhardt and/or Hirschmann.

For your guidance, the funds may be used by Jabotinsky  
in order to arrange for the rescue of persons in enemy terri-  
tory whose lives are in imminent danger and to sustain and  
safeguard the lives of such persons pending evacuation to  
places of safety. The necessary funds, goods or services  
from persons in enemy territory may be acquired against pay-  
ment by any of the three methods which are prescribed under  
Section (A) of License No. W-2166 issued to the Union of  
Orthodox Rabbis and set forth in Department's cable dated  
April 8, 1944, No. 311.

Periodic reports should be filed by Jabotinsky through  
Embassy.

HULL  
(GLW)

S/CR  
WRB:MSKV:OMH  
7/5/44

NE

SWP

WT

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept Letter

By E. H. Parks Date Aug 1 1979

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Borenstein,  
Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann,  
Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehls, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein,  
H. D. White, Piles

Ankara

Dated July 9, 1944

Rec'd 8:40 p.m.

EOC-19

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. ( [REDACTED] )

Secretary of State,

Washington.

MOST IMMEDIATE

1246, July 9, 1 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara number 90

The Turkish SS KAZBEK which departed on July 6, from Constanza for Istanbul with 739 refugees including 251 children arrived in Istanbul Saturday evening July 8. I informed Mr. Kelley in Ankara of the impending arrival of the vessel and he in turn informed the Turkish Foreign Office.

When the KAZBEK successfully concludes her voyage, you will be immediately informed.

KELLEY

LMS

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975  
1 1979

By S. H. Parks Date AUG

cc: Miss <sup>W</sup>hauncoy (For Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannen, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, White Files.

MAE  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED]

July 10, 1944

6 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

621

The following War Refugee Board cable 75 from Pehle  
is for Robert F. Kelley, Counselor of Embassy.

Of the \$160,000 transferred to your account in the  
Banque Centrale de la Republique de Turquie, Ankara, by  
cable on April 11, 1944, please transfer \$10,000 to Ira  
A. Hirschmann for his use in connection with War Refugee  
Board operations. Also transfer \$50,000 to Mr. Iver C.  
Olsen, War Refugee Board Special Attache, United States  
Embassy, Stockholm, Sweden. Please confirm both trans-  
fers by cable.

HULL  
(GLN)

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

WRB:MMV:OMH  
7/6/44

NE

FA

BF

SWF

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Borenstein  
Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Laxford,  
Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein  
H. D. White, Files

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED]

July 11, 1944

7 p.m.

EMBASSY,

ANKARA

627

The WEB cable 78 below is for Hirschmann.

Reference Ankara No. 78 for WEB (Embassy's 1128 of June 21).

For your information the following is text of cable received from McClelland in Bern under date of July 5, 1944:

QUOTE A message in code, received by air on June 2 from the Prime Minister of Romania, was the basis for the information given in Paragraph 2 of theour message of June 17 Number 3867.

Statement was made by the Romanian delegate to ICRC; Soneriu, that he was able to give formal assurance (it is presumed for the ears of the Allies) that Jews coming from Hungary into Romania would not only be allowed to cross the border secretly but that their safety would be looked out for by the Romanians.

The fact that the few Jews who are able to reach the frontier of Romania do not seem to find the Romanians making things difficult for them is born out by word received from Jewish sources in Budapest UNQUOTE.

HULL  
(GLW)

WEB:MMV:KG  
7/11/44

S/CR

NE

SE

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedmann, Gaston, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Laxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Pehle, Files.

HIS  
Distribution of the  
true reading only by  
special arrangement.

July 17, 1944

7 p.m.

~~SECRET~~  
Refugee Board

AMEMBASSY,  
ANKARA.

641

The following for Hirschmann is WKB cable 82.

We have been advised by Minister Johnson that Mr. Aurel Theodoru Director of Service Maritime Roumaine (a government enterprise) has been in Stockholm and has mentioned 12,000,000 kronor as a preliminary figure for the sale of the BRSSARABIA and the TRANSYLVANIA, the above price apparently covering both ships. Theodoru suggested that these vessels be purchased for refugee evacuation from Constanza. He asserted that if the vessels were purchased by InterCross or the Swedish Red Cross, as a condition of the sale the Rumanian Government would guarantee to grant safe-conduct and would further guarantee to obtain a German safe-conduct. Theodoru proposed that the purchase price of the two vessels be deposited in Sweden with a guarantee that the funds would be made available for purchases of goods for delivery in Rumania after the War. According to the proposal these goods could be held blocked in Sweden in the name of the group or organization purchasing or chartering the ships.

The Board is cognizant of the information concerning these ships furnished in your report of February 20 and your 1063 of June 14 and also that certain small vessels apparently have now been obtained for refugee evacuation from Rumania. However we would appreciate your reaction to the above proposal.

NULL  
(OHV)

S/CR  
WRH:MMV:KG  
7/17/44

NE

NON

cc:Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Pohl, Files.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By E. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

FORM. GRADE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, ANKARA  
 TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
 DATED: July 18, 1944  
 NUMBER: 1287

The joint approach to the Turkish Government, as outlined in the Department's 602, July 2, has been discussed with my British colleague and we are of the opinion that in the situation now obtaining in Turkey in the matter of facilitating the escape of refugees from axis Europe, joint action of the nature suggested would not achieve the desired purpose and might in fact tend to bring about the adoption of a less liberal policy than is now being pursued by the Turks. It is believed by my British colleague and me that it would be preferable to refrain from making a joint approach at the present time and instead to take advantage of the first favorable opportunity to emphasize the readiness of the American and British Governments to assist the Turkish Government, whenever it may become necessary, by arranging the onward movement of refugees to other havens and by making available food and other supplies and funds.

In view of the fact that the factor which has tended most to act as a restraint on Turkish cooperation has been the fear of the Turks that Turkey will be inundated by a mass influx of refugees, we feel that the approach in question might have a harmful effect. Gradually this fear is being dissipated, and in consequence Turkish cooperation has been increasing steadily. At present the Turkish Government is making a number of Turkish vessels available to bring refugees to Turkey from Constanza, and when 759 refugees reached Istanbul last Sunday, the largest group ever to arrive in Turkey at one time, the Turkish Government arranged a special train so that within twenty-four hours after their arrival the refugees could depart from Istanbul en route to Palestine. My British colleague and I consider that it would be unfortunate in these circumstances to take any action which might lead the Turks to believe that a mass influx of refugees into Turkey was imminent and in frightening the Turks and inducing them to embark on a more cautious policy would be the only result of such action.

On numerous occasions the two Ambassadors have emphasized to the highest Turkish officials the desire of the American and British Governments that the Turkish Government make a greater contribution to the rescue of Jews from German-controlled Europe and the readiness of the two governments to assist the

Turkish Government

DECLASSIFIED  
 State Dept. Release

JUL 15 1975

By: H. H. Parks Date: 11/18/79

Turkish Government to the maximum extent possible in respect to added burdens devolving upon Turkey as a result of assistance rendered to refugees, and it is our feeling that in view of this fact the Joint approach is not necessary at the present time.

Ambassador

Along these lines Steinhardt has repeatedly spoken to Turkish officials. I am told by the British Ambassador that, under authority from London, he recently assured the Prime Minister in writing that the competent British authorities in Istanbul will immediately, on application, grant Palestinian entry visas to all Jewish refugees who may reach Turkey and expressed the hope that in view of this formal assurance the Turkish Government would authorize its representatives in Europe to issue, without prior reference to Ankara, Turkish transit visas to any Jewish refugees who may apply for them and instruct the competent authorities at Turkish ports and frontier posts to permit the Jewish refugees arriving at Turkish frontiers without Turkish visas entry and journey to Istanbul.

In view of the written assurance given by the British Ambassador that Palestinian entrance visas will be granted immediately to all Jewish refugees who reach Turkey, I am requesting the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with a view to keeping before the Turks the interest of the Government of the United States in the rescue of Jews from German persecution in Axis Europe, to instruct the Turkish Consuls in Bulgaria, Rumania, and Hungary to issue without prior reference to Ankara individual or collective Turkish transit visas to any Jewish refugees who may apply for Turkish visas and also to instruct the competent authorities at Turkish frontier posts to permit Jewish refugees, irrespective of the means by which they arrive at the frontier, to enter Turkey and proceed to Istanbul even though they arrive at the frontier without Turkish visas.

The information contained in the foregoing message is concurred in by Mr. Hirschmann.

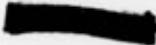
KELLY

DCR:MAS:FB 7/19/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Consul, Istanbul  
DATED: July 18, 1944  
NUMBER: 330

  
Please deliver the following message to Joseph Schwartz,  
Istanbul, from Moses A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint  
Distribution Committee:

In connection Balkan evacuation remitting to Saly  
Mayer Swiss franc equivalent \$500,000 as requested.  
Assume Saly Mayer will receive instructions for payment  
from Lisbon.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter

By R. M. Parks Date: AUG 1 1979

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel,  
Langlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargey, Standish, Stewart,  
Weinstein, H. D. White, Pehle, Files.

NJR-243

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. ( )

Istanbul

Dated July 20, 1944

Rec'd 8:11 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

428, July 20, 9 a.m.

TO WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MOSES LEAVITT, JOINT  
DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ.

The following is a statement of our accounts in connection with the rescue program up to the present date.

The steamship MARITZA and the steamship NILGA, each having made two voyages, brought 1,074 passengers at a cost of \$453,220. Four Turkish boats and one Greek boat, on which it is estimated approximately 3,700 passengers will be carried, will cost \$753,720. Of these five boats the steamship KESEK has already arrived with 755 passengers. The total cost of all of the above ships is \$1,205,940. Against this amount we have already underwritten \$800,000 and the Jewish Agency has promised to participate to the extent of 20% with a possible increase to 25% from funds collected by Palestine Yishuv Egypt, South Africa for these purposes but not from the regular funds of the Jewish Agency nor from any funds collected in the United States of America. Thus the agency participation in the above boats will be at least \$241,188 or possibly \$301,485 leaving an additional amount to be appropriated us for these purposes of either \$164,752 or \$104,455.

The total cost of land transportation from Istanbul to Haifa and maintenance in Istanbul and en route from December 1943 through June 1944 for 2,719 persons is about \$287,730 against which we have paid here \$30,000 sent by Nirelman plus \$10,000 from our own funds plus the request we made to have you transmit 80,000 to the British Passport control office Istanbul. This leaves balance to be paid on this account of \$197,730. I shall advise you within the next few days as to the manner of remitting this sum. The above figures do not include transportation from Istanbul to Haifa for 755 passengers who arrived on the steamship KESEK. These figures will be included in the July accounts.

In addition to above there is another project for three opportunities and two Turkish vessels with a total capacity about 2,000 passengers costing

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

By: M. H. Parks Date: 11/17/79

-2- 4428, July 20, 9 a.m., from Istanbul

approximately \$507,300 of which we are asked to provide 80% or possibly 75%. I shall send details of this project later; meanwhile would ask that you authorize me to proceed with plane maintenance and transportation to Haifa of the above 5,700 passengers will cost approximately \$420,000 exclusive of the cost of refugees arriving from Bulgaria by train. Hirschmann is fully advised of all of the above projects.

ERRY

RR EB

CC: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, G. Ston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Maffeo, McCormack, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Files.

GEK-234  
Distribution of  
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special arrangement.  
[REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated July 20, 1944

Rec'd 10:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington

1391, July 30, 1 p.m.

THIS TELEGRAM IS FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA NO 110 FOR  
PEHLE WRB:

The information below is a further report on the situation in Hungary with relation to efforts to rescue the Jewish population (REEMES 1332, July 21, Ankara No. 101).

Lists of 8,200 names for whom Palestine certificates have been authorized have been delivered to the Swiss Legation in Hungary through the channel of the Swiss Minister in Ankara. The Swiss Minister and the British Embassy in Ankara confirmed to me that they both had information to the effect that these lists have been received in Budapest.

It is understood, of course, that many of the approved certificate holders in the above list probably have been already deported. We are exploring methods of attempting to locate these deportees in order that the certificates might be made available to them.

Also 2,000 of the above 8,200 Jewish refugees are preparing to proceed from Hungary to Rumania and are awaiting Rumanian transit visas Cretzanu has been urged by me to press his Government in Bucharest to provide these visas without delay.

Additional lists are being prepared by the Jewish Agency for submission to the British who have up to the present authorized certificates for all names that have been submitted.

MRM  
LMS

KELLY

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files.

LC-303  
Distribution of  
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special arrangement  
(██████████)

Ankara

Dated July 20, 1944

Rec'd 11:38 pm.

Secretary of State

Washington

1320, July 20, 2 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

ANKARA No. 98.

For your information Bader of the Jewish Agency who is liaison officer with the Jewish communities and groups in occupied territories, received a telegram dated July 15 from Kastner who is an important member of the Jewish Relief Committee in Budapest and is reported to be well known to other committees as a reliable person. The following is a translation of the telegram.

"Consult Schroeder's friend Istanbul about your flight to Budapest Saturday. Your proposal about a purely financial arrangement uninteresting (repeat uninteresting). Cable whether Schroeder meeting next week with Schwartz at Lisbon would lead to quick results. Schroeder's proposed meeting with Schwartz, who should have full power, is urgently important. In matters of emigration I am also in contact with Dobkin. Regret Bader's trip here impossible".

Concerning the above we are informed that Bader had been urgently invited by a member of the German Consulate in Istanbul to proceed to Berlin or possibly to Budapest to discuss matters relating to the Hungarian Jews. Bader, acting under instructions from his superiors in the Jewish Agency, referred the matter to Shertock in London who, I am informed, discussed it with "highest authorities" and cabled back that Bader was not to proceed under any condition.

In his exchange of telegrams on the subject with Budapest, Bader inquired whether it would be possible to negotiate on the basis of a financial arrangement instead of the supply of commodities. The telegram quoted above gives the reply that this suggestion is not acceptable but indicated that Schroeder himself would like to discuss the matter in Spain or Portugal, preferably with a representative of the JDC.

In this connection, Joseph Schwartz of the WRB received today the following telegram from Pilget in Lisbon transmitting a message from Kastner dated July 15.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1978

2 - #1000, July 20, 2 p.m., from Ankara.

"1700 people are waiting for a solution by the Germans. Cable whether Schwartz and Dobkin are ready to proceed to Spain in order to meet with a German representative to settle the matter. Advise whether Madrid or Barcelona will be the meeting place in ten days time".

The 1700 mentioned above have been referred to in information received from several sources ~~namely~~ namely Schwalb in Switzerland, Dobkin in Lisbon and Kastner in Hungary and also from passengers recently arrived on the S.S. KASBEK. Joseph Schwartz is proceeding to Lisbon from Turkey July 22 and is requesting my advice and your authorization to meet with Schroeder or his representative in connection with the above matter.

I have informed Schwartz that my instructions preclude any action at this time connected with the above situation and that I am merely reporting the matter fully to Washington and requesting for Schwartz advice from you regarding the possibility of his meeting in Portugal or Spain with Schroeder. Schwartz will report to the American Embassy in Lisbon upon his arrival there which he expects will be approximately July 29. We are assisting Schwartz in arrangements for his transportation to Lisbon.

From the above telegrams, there would appear to be a potentiality which might result in the rescue of some refugees and which suggests the possible usefulness of such a meeting. Schwartz requests that Baerwald be informed of these developments if it meets with your approval.

KELLEY

JJM WMB

LL-596  
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~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Ankara

July 21, 1944

Rec'd: 9:57 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

136, July 21, 4 p.m.

FOR FEHLE, WRB, FROM HIRSHMANN, ANKARA NO. 103

A report received by us from the Vaadhatsala Committee in Istanbul, dated July 17, states (REURTEL 59, July 1) that no part of the \$25,000 transferred to them by Vaadhatsala, New York, was expended up to June 1. The only disbursement made since that date was the payment of 12064.57 Turkish pounds to the firm of W. F. Henry Vandersee, Istanbul for the transportation of refugees from Constansa to Istanbul. A written report concerning this disbursement is being forwarded to you by mail.

KELLEY

JT  
BB

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By B. H. Parks Date            AUG. 1 1979

KEM-625

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. ( [REDACTED] )

Ankara

Dated July 21, 1944

Rec'd 11:24 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1332, July 21, 11 a.m.

FOR PERHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HIRSCHMAN.

Ankara N. 101.

For your information it is reported in Istanbul the Hungarian Government has decided that for the present there will be no further deportation of the Jews from Hungary; that all Jews holding certificates for Palestine will be permitted to have exit permits from Hungary; and that all children up to the age of ten will be permitted to leave Hungary provided satisfactory arrangements can be made for them by rescue organizations.

I am endeavoring to obtain further information and details regarding the above and will report such information together with the steps deemed advisable to be taken from here to effect the rescue of these refugees.

WMB EH

WELLEY

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By E. E. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

MJB-632

Ankara

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government

Dated July 21, 1944

Rec'd 11:39 p.m.

cc. Miss Chauncey (For Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, White, Files.

Washington.

1334, July 21, 2 p.m.

Department's 622, July 10, 7 p.m.

The Embassy is informed that David Schweitzer now represents the HIAS organization in Istanbul. However, inasmuch as Schweitzer intends to leave Turkey in the near future, the Embassy perceives no objection to Jacobson's coming to Turkey as director of refugee immigration activities for the HIAS.

KELLEY

WMB WFS

cc. Miss Chauncey (For Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, White, Files.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By E. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

FBM-981  
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Ankara

Dated July 22, 1944

Rec'd 1:03 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1343. July 22, 5 p.m.

We are informed that the Rumanian Government has not enforced the decree but is requesting the Jewish organizations in Rumania to arrange for the evacuation of the refugees from Hungary at the earliest possible moment. I have urged the branch of the organization of the Jewish agency charged with sea transportation of refugees from the Balkans to arrange that the refugees from Hungary be given priority if possible.

The Rumanian Government is reported not to be interfering at the present time with the escape of refugees from Hungary into Rumania in the manner referred to above. From my observations here, this escape route, while fraught with dangers, offers at the moment the best means of evacuation of appreciable numbers of refugees from Hungary. The requisites for the utilization of this route are: One, carefully chosen personnel; two, tacit acquiescence of Rumanians, and three funds for the documentation, feeding and clothing of the refugees and the subsidizing of "agents".

The WMB will undoubtedly desire to encourage the acceleration of this movement. While funds are apparently now available for the enterprise in its present scope we are urging that it be expanded without delay, in such event additional funds may be necessary on short notice. While we have made no commitments for funds relating to the above, it may be desirable and necessary in due course to do so. For this purpose, I shall be able to draw on the 2000 sovereigns placed at my disposal in Ankara.

KELLEY

WMB HTM

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodal, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Max Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter

By R. H. Parks Date 11/11/79 1 1979

MAE-991  
Distribution of true  
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arrangement. (REDACTED)

Ankara

Dated July 22, 1944

Rec'd 10:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1343, July 22, 2 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara No. 104

FOR YOUR INFORMATION. There is now in active operation an organized underground movement for transportation of refugees across the border from Hungary into Rumania. No figures regarding the actual number who have crossed into Rumania by this method are available for obvious reasons, but we are reliably informed that 600 to 700 refugees from Hungary are now in Budapest, including Polish refugees who had fled from Poland via Slovakia to Hungary during the past 12 to 18 months. In addition, refugees from Hungary estimated to number 700 to 800 are now hiding in frontier towns, mainly Arad and Turdu, 15 to 20 miles within the Rumanian border. A small number of the Jewish refugees arrived on their own initiative from Koloshwar, most of the remainder having proceeded from Budapest with the assistance of the organization above referred to.

After the arrival of these refugees in Rumania, Baron von Killinger, German Minister to Rumania, brought pressure to bear on the Rumanian Government to enact a decree to the effect that anyone escaping across the Rumanian border would be executed by the Rumanians forthwith. This decree was enacted and actually published in Rumania. It has also appeared in the press in Istanbul.

DU

KELLEY

MRM

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormak, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Borenstein, Files.

BJR - 654  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. [REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated July 24, 1944

Rec'd 11:22 p.m. 25th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1256, July 24, 3 p.m.

FOR THE REFUGEE BOARD FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ FOR  
LEAVITT JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE NEW YORK CITY

I received a letter from Josef Blum Budapest dated June 13 in which he advises concerning the situation in Hungary. Approximately 400,000 (400,000) Jews had been deported as of that date and further transports were in preparation. Many of those able to work have been sent to Waldsee near Ludwigshafen from which place thousands of postcards have been received. Upper Hungary, sub-Carpathian, Transylvania and Southern Hungary are already Judenrein. Jews are not permitted to live in towns of less than 10,000 (10,000) population and in cities over that number they are confined to ghettos from which they are sent to concentration points for deportation. Thus far the Jews of Budapest had not yet been subjected to deportation.

A concentration camp has been established for those unfit for labor to which the first 30,000 consisting of children, women sick and old people are being sent to be kept there until they can be sent to or through Spain. For the care of these 30,000 they ask for \$5,000 (\$5,000) as a one time grant to be deposited with Saly Mayer at the disposal of Philip von Freudiger, a member of the Central Jewish Committee, other members of which are Dr. Reszoo Kastner Julius Link, Jool Brand and Josef Blum. In addition, they request a monthly budget of \$360,000 for this purpose. I would ask you to undertake all possible steps in order to make available at least the \$500,000 which they request for all emergency operations and requirements. They have great hopes that some might still be saved via Spain where they estimate 5,000 to 6,000 might be sent weekly. They suggest further that, if Spain cannot accommodate the approximately 30,000 to 50,000 who might be able to leave within a reasonable time refuge should be found for them in North Africa. They look upon Spain as the only possible avenue of escape since the

Gormans

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept Letter

By R. H. [REDACTED] Date AUG. 1 1979

-2- #1356, July 24, 6 p.m., from Ankara.

Germans refused to consider the possibility of sending people via Turkey.

Messages received from Switzerland today as well as information from other sources including the Papal Nuncio in Istanbul indicate that Palestine certificate holders may be permitted to leave, also that children up to 10 years of age may be permitted to depart under the auspices of the International Red Cross if a haven is found for them. Further that the people in concentration camps may receive food and supplies from the outside provided these are sent through the International Red Cross. There is also an indication from several sources that a number of Hungarian Jews, the figure varying from 1,200 to 1,700, have either already left or are prepared to leave Hungary on route to Spain.

In connection with all these matters I am leaving for Lisbon at once.

KELLEY

RR:WSB

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Boronstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lessor, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

LC.. 92  
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special arrangement.  
(██████████)

Ankara  
Dated July 26, 1944  
Rec'd 6:17 a.m. 27th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1370, July 26, 4 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN.

The Bulgarian Minister to Turkey in an interview today arranged by Simond of the Intercross informed me (Ankara's 107) that his Government had accepted the proposals which I had made and authorized me to transmit the following decisions of his Government.

One. The Jews are gradually having restored to them the status which they held before the war.

The "Restrictions, oppressions, persecutions and abuses" are being eliminated.

Two. Facilities have been officially authorized which will permit them to leave Bulgaria with all possible assistance and a minimum of formalities.

Three. Instructions will be issued to expedite the departure from Bulgaria of vessels containing refugees.

Four. The departure by rail will be authorized by approximately 400 to 500 refugees weekly provided the Turk authorities grant transit visas en route to Palestine.

Balabanoff stated that the above measures were being communicated to the leaders of the Bulgarian Jewish Community. He emphasized that the change of policy was definitive but the steps would be gradual in order not to "fly in the face of the Germans". I urged upon Balabanoff the immediate withdrawal of the two notorious oppressive anti-Jewish Bulgarian laws. Balabanoff replied that these would definitely be cancelled within a brief time.

With respect to the technical difficulties involved in securing the necessary certificates to permit departure from Bulgaria, Balabanoff said that these difficulties would be relieved within technical possibilities. I thereupon urged that children be given first priority since they required few certificates, to which he agreed with the proviso that we define children as under 15 years of age. I told the Bulgarian Minister that the new policy of his Government in regard to refugees would be presented as a

- 2 - 1370 - July 26, 4 p.m. FROM ANKARA

of good will to Washington, and I suggested that the release without delay of large numbers of refugees would receive favorable publicity in America which the present Bulgarian Government is seeking.

Balabanoff stated that his Government's new regime was essentially liberal in policy and was attempting to find the best and quickest ways to "get out from under the Nazi yoke" being at the same time very sympathetic to the Soviets whom they held in high regard but not without some fear.

Balabanoff said that his Government agreed to the proposal concerning the sailing of the SS TARI to a Bulgarian port and return to Istanbul without a German safe conduct, provided the Bulgarians granted the necessary authorization, to which a Turk official had agreed with Ambassador Steinhardt and Simond. I will report further on this project which has been revived.

At the conclusion of the interview, I requested Balabanoff to confirm in writing the agreement of his Government to the foregoing. The Embassy's next numbered telegram will contain a translation of Balabanoff's letter.

KELLEY

WMB JJM

CC: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akxin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files.

HMK - 9  
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special arrangement  
(██████████)

Ankara

Dated July 26, 1944

Rec'd 10:11 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1371, July 26, 5 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMAN ANKARA 108

The following is a translation of a letter addressed to Simond of the Intercross by Balabanoff, Bulgarian Minister to Turkey, referred to in my 1370, July 26.

"In regard to the question you raise, relative to a Turkish vessel which could go to any Bulgarian port to embark Jewish children from Rumania and possibly also Jewish Children from Bulgaria, I am able to communicate to you the following: in principle, the Bulgarian (\*) would have no objection to this. But for a settlement of this question I would suggest that you address the Bulgarian Red Cross which on its part, will submit the question to the Government in order to obtain the latter's decision.

I take advantage of this opportunity to share with you the impressions which I bring back from my last short visit in Bulgaria.

There is no doubt that the new Bulgarian Government regrets exceedingly all the measures which have been taken regarding I

KELLEY

(\*) apparent omission

EEC JJM

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files.

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State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

JIS  
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arrangement. [REDACTED]

TO BE SENT IN SECRET "W"

July 27, 1944

9 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA  
662

The cable below for Hirschmann is WRB 84.

The following names have been suggested by sources believed to be reliable for contact in connection with rescue activities in behalf of persecuted people; ILIE MOSCOVICI VATRA LUMINOASA BUCHAREST DIMITRIE POP BUCHAREST AND LOTHAR RADECEANU BUCHAREST BERL FRIEDMAN S/R AUSTRULUI BUCHAREST LEON GELLER STRADA COMANESCU 10 JASSY RUMANIA INCZE LASZLO AND FAMILY NAGYVARAD ARANY JANOS UCCA 2 HUNGARY EUGEN TORES BUDAPEST GUYON RICHARD AND MARGARET ST 4 BUDAPEST II AND LASZLO GERO SAME ADDRESS NICOLAS STIASSNY BUDAPEST V POZSONYI UT 14 EMIL STIASSNY BUDAPEST III ZSIGMOND KIRALY UT 96 MRS ERZSI SZILAGYI BUDAPEST III KRISZTINAKORUT 26.

Please communicate all of these names to Leon P. Denenberg, Representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Istanbul, and discuss with him the possibility of using the names.

HULL  
(GHM)

WRB:MMV:OMH S/CR NE SE  
7/26/44

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

LFG-420  
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arrangement. [REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated July 27, 1944

Rec'd 10:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1381, July 27, 9 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM KELLEY

Ankara No. 109

Upon Mr. Hirschman's informing me that the Bulgarian Minister had advised him that the Bulgarian Government was agreeable to the use of the Bulgarian vessels VITA and PIRINE for the evacuation of refugees from Burgas, I requested that the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to authorize the two Bulgarian vessels in question to proceed to Istanbul with refugees from Burgas. I informed him that the Bulgarian Government had given its consent to the use of these two vessels for the evacuation of refugees provided the Turkish Government gave its approval. I said that each of these vessels was capable of transporting about 400 refugees. I urged that the Turkish Government permit these vessels to make not merely a single voyage but repeated voyages provided the Bulgarian Government would agree to such arrangement. The Secretary General welcomed the idea and said that the Turkish Government was particularly interested in establishing a regular procedure for the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans through Turkey. In the present instance, he said that it would be possible to arrange for one of these boats to arrive in Istanbul from Burgas every 10 days or 2 weeks and that way the Turkish Government would be able to make arrangements in advance for the movement of the refugees by train from Istanbul to Syria. He said that the idea appealed to him and he would recommend it to his Government. I requested him to issue appropriate instructions as soon as possible to the Turkish Consul in Sofia so that one of these vessels could leave for Istanbul in the very near future. He promised to do so.

KELLY

WMB RR

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 16 1975

By E. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

MMG  
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 special arrangement.  
 (XXXXXX)

War Refugee Board

TO BE SHIPPED IN [REDACTED]  
 July 28, 1944

AMEMBASSY  
 ANKARA

665

The cable below from Department and Board is War Refugee Board 83.

1. There follows the substance of a message received from Amlegation Bern:

QUOTE A note from the Foreign Office, dated yesterday, states that according to a telegram from the Swiss Legation at Budapest, authorization has been given by the Government of Hungary for the departure of all Jews from Hungary who hold entry permits for another country, including Palestine.

This same message states that transit through occupied territories will be permitted by the German Government. As soon as possible the Swiss Legation, in collaboration with the Palestinian Bureau, Budapest, will take necessary measures for evacuation. It is probably that Hungarian police passports will constitute travel documents. UNQUOTE

In view of the foregoing it is of the utmost importance that no effort be spared to induce the Turkish Government promptly either to issue transit visas to every person in Hungary holding a Palestine certificate or to inform the Hungarian Government that all such persons may enter Turkey enroute to Palestine without the formal issuance of visas, and to advise the Hungarian Government of its willingness to do so. Furthermore, every effort should be made with Jewish Agency representatives to secure the speedy issuance of as many additional Palestine certificates as possible to persons in Hungary. Time is obviously of the essence and the Board should be informed promptly of any difficulties that may be encountered.

2. Since the above quoted message may have broad implications, please endeavor urgently to ascertain whether the Turkish Government will promptly advise the Governments of Germany, Rumania, and Bulgaria and such authorities as there may be in Slovakia (as well as Hungary) that Turkey is prepared to issue transit visas to all persons holding Palestine certificates or to admit such persons enroute to Palestine without the formal issuance of transit visas. If Turkey has

already taken

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975

State Dept Letter

By R. E. Parks Date AUG 1 1973

-3- #665, July 29, 1944, 8 p.m., to Ankara

already taken this position, it would nevertheless seem appropriate at this time formally to restate it to all Axis governments. Please keep the Department and Board advised.

3. There follows the substance of the pertinent portion of a message to Ambassador London:

QUOTE In further response to message from Bern, the substance of which is quoted above, this Government is prepared to advise the Hungarian and neutral governments that all Jews arriving in neutral countries from Hungary will be afforded havens in United Nations territory just as promptly as military considerations permit, neutral governments to be given adequate assurances as to the maintenance of such persons in the meantime and to be requested to advise the Hungarian Government of their willingness to receive such persons. Please endeavor to ascertain from the Foreign Office whether the Government of the United Kingdom will join this Government in this attempt to save lives. American missions in neutral countries are being instructed to take appropriate action along these lines in collaboration with their British colleagues if possible, alone if necessary. Since time is of the essence, British missions should be advised of Foreign Office views promptly. UNQUOTE

Accordingly, you are requested to consult with your British colleagues and either in collaboration with them or alone, as the circumstances may develop, approach appropriate officials of the Turkish Government with the request that Turkey advise the Hungarian Government that it is prepared to receive Jews released by Hungary and permitted to go to Turkey. You may assure appropriate Turkish officials that if Turkey so advises the Hungarian Government, Jews arriving in Turkey from Hungary will be evacuated to United Nations territory as promptly as possible and that in the meantime the United States will undertake to make arrangements for their maintenance and support in Turkey. You should inform the Department and the Board promptly of the results of your consultation with your British colleagues and your approach to the Turkish Government.

4. There are a number of persons in enemy controlled areas to whom American visas were issued on and after July 1, 1941, the date when present existing procedures and security checks became effective, who, by reason of transportation difficulties and the advent of war, were unable to make effective use of such visas. It is believed that a large proportion of such persons are among those groups subject to enemy persecution. In the belief that the availability of new American visas for such persons may save their lives, the Swiss Government is being requested to advise enemy governments that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an

immigration visa

was, July 28, 1944. 6 p.m., to Ankara

immigration visa to any person to whom an American immigration visa was issued or for whom a visa was authorized on or after July 1, 1941, and who has been in areas controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies since December 8, 1941, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer in a neutral country and is found not to have become disqualified for the issuance of a visa.

Accordingly, American consular officers in Turkey are hereby authorized to issue new American immigration visas to any such person to whom an American visa was issued or for whom such visa was authorized after July 1, 1941, provided that (a) such person other than a child under 16 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report dated subsequent to the previous approval, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

Please advise appropriate Turkish officials of the foregoing authorization and attempt to secure their prompt agreement to advise enemy governments of Turkey's willingness to permit the entry into Turkey, with or without transit visas, of all persons to whom American immigration visas were issued on or subsequent to July 1, 1941. You may assure such officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not (repeat not) to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Detailed instructions in connection with the issuance of new American immigration visas pursuant to the foregoing authority will follow promptly.

5. The foregoing measures represent an attempt on the part of this Government to take advantage of the information contained in the message from Amlegation Bern, the substance of which is quoted above, on various visas. The Board would appreciate any views that Hirschmann may have with respect to any further action that might be taken. In this connection, Hirschmann might consider, in the light of Department's ACT of July 11, WEB's 78, and such information as he may have through channels available to him, the advisability of requesting the Rumanian Government freely to admit Jews from Hungary into South Eastern Rumania pending their evacuation therefrom. Any views that Hirschmann may have should be transmitted to the Board promptly.

6. The instruction set out in paragraph marked three above is issued notwithstanding your 1287 of July 15.

STETTINIUS

Acting

(GLW)

EO A-B

WEB:MNV:OMH VD RE WR ER  
Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aknin, B. Bernstein, G. H. H. Model, Dubois, Friedman, Gaste, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack

LFO

July 29, 1944

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arrangement. [REDACTED]

EMBASSY,

ANKARA

667

The following War Refugee Board 86 is for Hirschmann.

The Board is highly pleased with your efforts to increase the refugee movement from Bulgaria referred to in your 1344 of July 22.

For your information an informal memorandum has been given to the Bulgarian Minister at Stockholm through Legation contacts. This memorandum which was prepared along the lines suggested by the Board and of which you were orally advised prior to your departure has apparently been forwarded by courier to the Bulgarian Foreign Office. Meanwhile the American Legation in Stockholm has received an informal reply from the Bulgarian Minister stating substantially the following:

QUOTE Bulgarian actions with respect to Jews have been enforced with leniency and sympathy by all of our Government branches. It is a well known fact even among the Bulgarian Jews that the late King Boris, as well as the head of the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, have made every effort to insure that Jews were treated with compassion. This is no less true of the general Bulgarian population which has maintained a sympathy for Jews which even today will be readily admitted by the Jews. It is a fact that Jews today are living under circumstances not worse but better than those faced by large group of Bulgarian citizens who have been driven from their homes when they were destroyed by American bombing and who have lost all possessions.

The Government of Bulgaria has never turned a deaf ear to humanitarian considerations or those of tolerance. All Bulgarians are mindful that only through moral integrity can a small nation find strength. No less today than heretofore do we stand ready to give consideration to suggestions for the protection of Jews and other refugee groups, but we insist that those advancing such proposals should themselves be in a position to show leadership in humanitarian principles.

The air forces of the United States have been engaged in acts of great violence and cruelty against defenseless civilian

populations

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

-2- #667, July 29, 6 p.m. to Ankara

populations in Doupnitza, Vratza, Sofia, Skopje, Velles, Plovdiv and others. A most arbitrary violence has been done to the Chateau of Vrana where the Queen, only recently made a widow, is residing with her two fatherless children of seven and twelve years. The Chateau, which was far removed from any objective of a military nature and even far removed from other habitations, was totally destroyed. //

If the people of Bulgaria can be assured that there are people in the United States of such a character who sincerely deplore these outrages and cruelties; if those who control the policies of the powerful American Republic, instead of directing threats, were to give assurances that the destruction and violence of their military leaders would be replaced, and that hereafter there would be no further ruin and slaughter of an innocent civilian population, then it may be said without question that the Government of Bulgaria would be prepared to recognize the moral justification and right of the United States to advance humanitarian pleas, and the Bulgarian population would readily welcome and approve action consistent with such advice. UNQUOTE //

The Board suggested that the Legation consider replying informally to the Bulgarian Minister in the following vein:

QUOTE The problems arising from aerial bombings are not within the province of the War Refugee Board, but in such matters informally and objectively one cannot overlook bombings by forces with which Bulgaria continues to be allied, of such civilian centers as Warsaw, Rotterdam, Belgrade, Amsterdam, London and Coventry. The methodical persecution and oppression of Jews and other helpless civilian minorities as heretofore and presently practiced in German controlled and German allied areas is quite separate and apart and over and above civilian suffering on both sides incident to military action, particularly aerial warfare. This Government has taken the unequivocal position that those responsible for the oppression, persecution, deportation or extermination of such civilian minorities as has been and is being witnessed in Germany, France, the Lowlands, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Baltic states, the Balkan countries and elsewhere will be punished for their crimes. UNQUOTE

After quoting the appeal of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of May 31 to the people of Hungary to protect the Jews, the Board's cable to Minister Johnson continued as follows:

QUOTE The same applies to other Axis countries, including Bulgaria. Those to whom these warnings are applicable have it within their power henceforth so to act with respect to Jews and other helpless civilian minorities as to invite more favorable

consideration

-3- #667, July 29, 6 p.m. to Ankara

consideration than their conduct up to now may warrant, and to demonstrate a resurgence of that moral integrity which alone gives nations, large or small, strength.

For your information and guidance, the informal response transmitted in your telegram under reference has, of course, made a very unfavorable impression. Whether the Bulgarian Minister or his principals realize the seriousness with which the American people and Government consider the unspeakable treatment accorded Jews and other minorities by Germany and her satellites seems doubtful. It is likewise doubtful whether they realize the determination of this Government as expressed in the President's statement of March 24 and repeated by implication in the statement above quoted to see to it that those who share the responsibility therefor will be punished. UNQUOTE

STETTINIUS  
Acting  
(GLW)

ACTING

WEB:MMV:OMH  
7/29/44

S/CR

ME

SE

NOE

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aksin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

To be sent in Secret W  
July 31, 1944

BAS  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement (██████████)

7 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,  
ANKARA

669

The following War Refugee Board cable 88 is for Hirschmann.

Please refer to your 1365 of July 25 concerning your request to Cretzianu that the Rumanian Government issue without delay thousands of transit visas to Jews in Hungary.

In a recent discussion with the Board, Ambassador Steinhardt suggested the desirability of taking precisely such action. Your initiative on this matter is much appreciated.

You may, in your discretion advise Cretzianu of the American Government's hope that the Rumanian Government will do all possible to implement the formal assurance given by the Prime Minister of Rumania to the Rumanian delegate to the ICRC (our 627 of July 11). The Rumanian Government can do so by secretly facilitating the type of admissions referred to in your 1343 of July 22 as well as by granting transit visas. It is hoped that the Rumanian Government will permit Jews to enter and remain temporarily in Rumania even though it may not (repeat not ) be possible to evacuate them immediately.

STETTINIUS

(Acting)  
(GLW)

ACTING

WRB:MMV:KG  
7/31/444

S/OR

NE

SE

Miss Ehauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, ~~Karinx~~ Weinstein, Cable Control files.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: July 31, 1944  
NUMBER: 1395

It is believed the War Refugee Board will be interested in the following information.

I was advised this morning by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Government of Turkey has decided to discontinue the movement of Turkish ships in both the Aegean and Black Seas, for the present, with the following exceptions: certain ships will be permitted to ply between Iskenderun and Mersin, and certain wooden ships will be allowed to transport coal between Istanbul and Zonguldek.

KELLEY

DCR:GFw

8-2-44

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Boronstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter

By R. E. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

100-869  
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special arrangement.  
(██████████)

ANKARA  
Dated August 1, 1944  
Rec'd 8:52 a. m. 2nd

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1400, August 1, noon.

FOR PEHLE, WRB, FROM HIRSCHMANN, Ankara's 112.

A group of 40 children, 12 girls and 28 boys between the ages of twelve and seventeen years, accompanied by two adult escorts, arrived in Istanbul on July 30 by rail from Bulgaria. All were in possession of Turk transit visas and departed for Palestine on July 31 by rail. The children were part of a group of 100 for whom lists were submitted many months ago but whose documentation because of technicalities was only recently completed. Some of the children all of whom are Bulgarian had been waiting two years for the completion of immigration formalities.

Inquiry among the children indicated that an additional group of approximately 200 have their documentation for emigration to Palestine in varying stages of completion. Efforts are being made here to evacuate them during August in the same manner as the group of 40. In view of the statement made to me by Balaban of R (RMB'S 1371, July 26) I am pursuing this among other possible steps by the Bulgarians on order to obtain a concrete indication of the intentions of the Bulgarian Government in the matter of the amelioration of the conditions of its Jewish citizens and facilitating without delay the movement of those desiring to depart.

According to information received in Istanbul the Jewish Community of Rouse in Bulgaria has been designated by the Bulgarian Government as the agency which is to concern itself with the preparation of Jews desiring to emigrate to Palestine. Until now the Bulgarian regulations did not permit the existence of any Jewish organization in consequence of which all steps for emigration had to be undertaken for individuals by attorneys at large fees. The designation of the Rouse Jewish Community for this purpose may indicate a first step in a more orderly emigration of Jews from Bulgaria.

KELLEY

HTM

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

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State Dept. Letter  
By R. H. Parks Dept. AUG 1 1979

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY  
arrangements.

4 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA

670

The following War Refugee Board cable 87 is for Hirschmann.

There follows the text of a communication received from the Apostolic Delegate, Washington:

QUOTE In further reference to my letter of July 7, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jewish people in Hungary, I am pleased to inform you that I have received another communication on the subject from His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State.

His Eminence states that according to a communication of July 16, 1944, from the Apostolic Nunciature in Budapest, the personal appeal of the Holy Father to Regent Horthy has lead the latter to assume a more determined attitude of opposition to the racial laws. Likewise the members of the Catholic Hierarchy were encouraged to carry on a more intense activity in favor of victims of racial laws.

It seems that the Government of Hungary has now given assurance to His Eminence, Cardinal Seredi, Primate of Hungary, that deportations of Jewish people will cease. The Apostolic Nunciature adds that in fact the whole racial situation is somewhat improved. UNQUOTE

Please advise the Board of any information you may have indicating whether Hungarian authorities are fulfilling assurances above reported.

STETTINIUS  
(Acting)  
(GLW)

ACTING

WRB:MMV:OMH  
7/29/44

NE

SE

S/CH

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Sandish, Weinstein, Files

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State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

AMT-737  
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ANKARA

Dated: August 2, 1944

Rec'd 10:45 p.m., 46h

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1414, August 2, 8 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Through an intermediary I have transmitted the following message to Bulgarian officials;

One. We intend to hold the Bulgarian Government responsible for the taking without delay of the steps which Balabanoff informed me would be taken (REEMBS1370, July 26) with a view to ameliorating the situation of the Jews in Bulgaria and eliminating all varieties of persecution and abuse and facilitating by every possible means the departure of those Jews who desire to emigrate.

Two. We will not be satisfied until the two scandalous anti-Jewish laws are completely revoked and we expect the Bulgarian Government to take steps to this end with the least possible delay.

Three. In the meanwhile the Bulgarian Government is expected to be completely lax in the enforcement of the aforesaid laws.

Four. The necessity for the evacuation of Bulgarian Jewish citizens should be removed without delay and the emigration of such citizens should be the result of voluntary action and not of a necessity imposed by discriminatory treatment and laws.

- 2 - #1414, August 2, 8 p.m., from Ankara.

Five. The Bulgarian Government should in its own interest take steps to rehabilitate its Jewish population for productive work.

Six. Existing relief agencies in Turkey, with the assistance of the United States Government will endeavor within possibilities to provide food, clothing and economic aid for the rehabilitation of Bulgaria's Jewish citizenry, and we expect the Bulgarian Government to give all possible assistance to this work.

Balabanoff and his intermediaries have emphasized their urgent desire to do something which could win for the present Bulgarian Government the good will of the United States at this special juncture, and have reported in a pointed way the effect which the absence of the bombing of Bulgaria since March 20 had had on the Bulgarian Government and people.

It should be our ~~aim~~ aim to salvage and to put back on their feet as quickly as possible the entire remaining 45,000 Jewish population of Bulgaria rather than to press for the pitifully small sporadic movement of evacuation to Palestine which the circumstances prescribe at this time. We should emphasize that people rehabilitated in their own country will become more useful citizens and not create any post-war problem.

JT

KELLEY

MRM

c.c. Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzig, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, ~~Wass~~ Weinstein,

AMT-823  
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arrangement. [REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated August 4, 1944

Rec'd 6:57 a.m., 5th.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1424, August 4, 2 p.m.

FOR FEHLE TRB FROM HINSCHMANN.

Ankara's No. 115, reference Embassy's 1423,  
August 4, 1 p.m.

I have learned that the emergency committee to save the Jewish people of Europe is planning campaigns for the solicitation of funds for projects to be undertaken in Istanbul for the purpose of rescuing Jews from the Balkans.

For your information Jabotinsky has placed no (repeat no) other proposal for rescue work before us and there is little likelihood in our opinion that under present conditions here additional feasible proposals will be possible in the near future. Also, funds are available from present sources for all refugee emigration now under way or under consideration for the immediate future. For your guidance recent political developments here and other factors

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

-2- #1424, August 4, 2 p.m., from Ankara.

factors beyond control of any relief or rescue organization limit for the moment rescue possibilities and the existing difficulties cannot be overcome by the mere possession of funds. If you agree please transmit the above to Baerwald.

KELLEY

HR

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Fehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

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reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████████)

August 4, 1944  
6 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

678

The War Refugee Board cable 92 below is for  
Hirschmann.

The result of Hirschmann's negotiations with  
the Bulgarian Minister and of Kelley's approach to the  
Turkish Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs (your 1370 and 1371 of July 26 and your 1381  
of July 27) is highly gratifying to the Board. Please  
accept our congratulations.

The Board would like to be advised whether in  
view of your 1287 of July 15 efforts are also being made  
to induce the Turkish Government to issue transit visas  
for the 400 to 500 refugees the Bulgarian Government is  
now apparently willing to permit to leave Bulgaria weekly  
by rail.

STETTINIUS

ACTING

(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
8/3/44

NE

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein,  
Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser,  
Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish,  
Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

RA-77  
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reading only by special  
arrangement. ~~(Sensitized)~~

Ankara  
Dated August 5, 1944  
Rec'd 11:12 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington.

1429, August 5, 1 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA NO. 116.

Three Turkish vessels the BULBUL, the MARINA and the MAFKURA arrived today Istanbul from Constanza carrying approximately 1100 Jewish refugees. This is the largest number of refugees which has ever arrived at one time from the Balkans. As soon as Mr. Kelley learned of the arrival of the vessels he informed the Turkish Foreign Office which made arrangements at once for the issue of transit visas and for special trains to transport the refugees to Syria.

Arrangements are also being made for food and medical attention for the refugees on their arrival.

As the Board has been informed these vessels chartered by the Jewish Agency have been subject to numerous difficulties as a result of which their departure from Rumania was considerably delayed.

It was only due to the prior arrangements made by Ambassador Steinhardt with the Turkish Foreign Office, the insistent pressure exercised on the Rumanians by the board's representative and the repeated representations made by Mr. Kelley at the Foreign Office that this deadlock was finally broken and the vessel permitted to sail from Constanza during a time of important political events.

Data regarding the refugees, their sex, ages, organizational affiliations and other pertinent information will follow.

KELLEY

RB:WSB

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter

By R. H. Parks ~~DAWG~~ 1979

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodol, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargey, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Files

-----  
 -----  
 To: Secretary of State, Washington  
 DATED: August 5, 1944.  
 NUMBER: 1430

With reference to Department's cable 665, dated July 28, 1944, following a consultation with my British colleague and after being advised that no instructions from London had been received by him on the subject, this morning I discussed the matter of issuance of Turkish transit visas to people in Hungary who hold Palestinian certificates or American immigration visas which were issued on or subsequent to the first of July, 1941, with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, During the conversation, I requested having instructions sent at once to Turkish Consular officers in Hungary to issue Turkish transit visas to such people without prior consultation with Ankara. In addition, I requested him to have like instructions dispatched to the Turkish Consular officers in Slovakia, Bulgaria and Rumania. The reply of the Secretary General was that he was sure his Government would be willing to take the measures requested immediately. It was his hope that the transportation of refugees from Hungary could be arranged for in such a manner that they would go to Istanbul by vessel, from Burgas or Varna preferably.

With respect to our assurance that the U.S. would be willing to arrange for the support and maintenance of refugees while in Turkey, he declared that it should be of the most aid to the Turkish Government at this time when a highly increased burden ~~xx~~ has been placed on the railroads of Turkey as a result of the halting of Turkish coastwise shipping services, if the U. S. could make arrangements to make available a few passenger cars to the Turkish railroads from one of the Near Eastern nations, in order to accelerate the transportation of refugees. It is my strong recommendation that WRB and the Department put forth every endeavor to comply with this very reasonable request of the Government of Turkey.

Referring to paragraph No. five, as reported in Embassy's cable 1365, dated July 25, 1944, Hirschmann has urged Cretzianu to persuade his Government to issue, without limit, Rumanian transit visas to Jewish refugees who are departing for Palestine from Hungary via Rumania.

KELLEY

DCR:MED  
 8/8/44

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
 State Dept. Letter

By E. R. Parks Date \_\_\_\_\_

C O P Y

Paraphrase of Telegram Received from  
Washington as No. 683 August 5 8 pm

- - - - -

Ambassador Harriman in Moscow is being sent the following cable by the War Refugee Board, which is repeating the information to Hirschmann as WRB cable No. 89.

"A representative of the WRB in Berne has sent the following telegram.

'An urgent appeal has been sent to me from the mixed Relief Commission of the I. C. R. C. based on the information received from the I. C. R. C. delegate in Bucharest, Desteiger, concerning the plight of several thousand Russian refugees whom the German Army have forced out of their homes as the Army retreats. There are in the Tatars Province of Dobrudjia 1,200 refugees; in Transylvania there are approximately 5,500 refugees; in other provinces of Rumania there are many more thousands in a similar situation. Because no relief has been organized for these refugees, and because they have no right to work, they are in an extremely precarious position. Funds have been asked by the I. C. R. C. to purchase clothing and medical supplies from Switzerland and to furnish money, for the purchase of fuel and foodstuffs, to the refugees' delegates. The Rumanian Government has already been approached by the delegates of the I. C. R. C. who are seeking permits which would allow these refugees to secure employment. This appeal is being forwarded to you in order that you might undertake any helpful action which appears feasible.' "

It would be appreciated if you will advise the Soviet Government, as a matter of interest and for their information, of the above report. Please notify the Soviet Authorities when you furnish this information that, if the Soviet Authorities desire, the War Refugee Board would be pleased to undertake any relief of these refugees which it is possible to arrange, or to assist in making any other arrangements which the Soviet Authorities might suggest for the relief of the persons mentioned in the Berne cable.

It will be appreciated if you will furnish to the Board any information which you may obtain after an investigation of this report.

RA-77  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████████)

Ankara  
Dated August 5, 1944  
Rec'd 11:12 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington.

1429, August 5, 1 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA NO. 116.

Three Turkish vessels the BULBUL, the MARINA and the MAFFURA arrived today Istanbul from Constanza carrying approximately 1100 Jewish refugees. This is the largest number of refugees which has ever arrived at one time from the Balkans. As soon as Mr. Kelley learned of the arrival of the vessels he informed the Turkish Foreign Office which made arrangements at once for the issue of transit visas and for special trains to transport the refugees to Syria.

Arrangements are also being made for food and medical attention for the refugees on their arrival.

As the Board has been informed these vessels chartered by the Jewish Agency have been subject to numerous difficulties as a result of which their departure from Rumania was considerably delayed.

It was only due to the prior arrangements made by Ambassador Steinhardt with the Turkish Foreign Office, the insistent pressure exercised on the Rumanians by the Board's representative and the repeated representations made by Mr. Kelley at the Foreign Office that this deadlock was finally broken and the vessel permitted to sail from Constanza during a time of important political events.

Data regarding the refugees, their sex, ages, organizational affiliations and other pertinent information will follow.

KELLEY

RB:WSB

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, File@.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By E. H. Parks Date 1 1979

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED]

TO BE SENT IN SECRET "W"  
August 5, 1944  
8 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,  
ANKARA,  
683

The cable below for Hirschmann is NRB 89.

The War Refugee Board is sending the following cable  
to Ambassador Harriman in Moscow:

QUOTE The War Refugee Board has received the following  
cable from its representative in Bern.

INNERQUOTE Recently received urgent appeal from  
Mixed Relief Commission of ICRC based on reports from  
de Steiger ICRC delegate Bucharest regarding plight several  
thousand Soviet refugees who have been forced leave their  
homes by retreating German Army. 5500 such refugees are in  
Transylvania 1200 Tatars Province of Dobrudjia and many more  
thousands in other provinces of Rumania. Their situation  
is extremely precarious they have no right to work and no  
relief for them has been organized. ICRC appeals for funds  
purchase pharmaceutical products clothing Switzerland and to  
supply their delegates on spot with money to purchase food-  
stuffs and fuel. ICRC delegates have already approached  
Rumanian Government in attempt to secure work permits for  
these people. I forward this appeal to you for any helpful  
action you feel might be undertaken END OF INNERQUOTE

Kindly transmit the above report as of interest and a  
matter of information to the Soviet Government. Kindly advise  
the Soviet authorities in submitting this information that the  
War Refugee Board will be pleased to do everything possible to  
arrange for the relief of the groups mentioned in the cable  
from Bern if the Soviet authorities so desire, or to take any  
other measures on the suggestion of the Soviet authorities.  
UNQUOTE

Please investigate and report to the Board any information  
which you may obtain concerning this situation.

STETTINIUS  
ACTING  
(GLW)

S/CR  
NRB:MMV:KG  
8/5/44

NE KE SE

nhh  
Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Akin, Borenstein,  
Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack,  
Fehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter

By E. H. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, Ankara  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: August 5, 1944  
NUMBER: 1430

[REDACTED]

With reference to Department's cable 665, dated July 28, 1944, following a consultation with my British colleague and after being advised that no instructions from London had been received by him on the subject, this morning I discussed the matter of issuance of Turkish transit visas to people in Hungary who hold Palestinian certificates or American immigration visas which were issued on or subsequent to the first of July, 1941, with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the conversation, I requested having instructions sent at once to Turkish Consular officers in Hungary to issue Turkish transit visas to such people without prior consultation with Ankara. In addition, I requested him to have like instructions dispatched to the Turkish Consular officers in Slovakia, Bulgaria and Rumania. The reply of the Secretary General was that he was sure his Government would be willing to take the measures requested immediately. It was his hope that the transportation of refugees from Hungary could be arranged for in such a manner that they would go to Istanbul by vessel, from Burgas or Varna preferably.

With respect to our assurance that the U. S. would be willing to arrange for the support and maintenance of refugees while in Turkey, he declared that it should be of the most aid to the Turkish Government at this time when a highly increased burden has been placed on the railroads of Turkey as a result of the halting of Turkish coastwise shipping services, if the U. S. could make arrangements to make available a few passenger cars to the Turkish railroads from one of the Near Eastern nations, in order to accelerate the transportation of refugees. It is my strong recommendation that TRB and the Department put forth every endeavor to comply with this very reasonable request of the Government of Turkey.

Referring to paragraph No. five, as reported in Embassy's cable 1365, dated July 25, 1944, Hirschmann has urged Cretzianu to persuade his Government to issue, without limit, Rumanian transit visas to Jewish refugees who are departing for Palestine from Hungary via Rumania.

KELLEY

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter

By E. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

DCR:MED  
8/8/44

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Geston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sergoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

NOB-214

PLAIN

Ankara

Dated August 6, 1944.

Rec'd 6:18 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

1434, Sixth.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN.

ANKARA No. 117.

It now appears that information furnished to me by the Jewish Agency from Istanbul with regard to the arrival of the three vessels in Istanbul was inaccurate. Only one vessel, the MARINA, with 340 refugees has actually arrived in the Port of Istanbul. A second vessel is reported to be outside the entrance to the Bosphorus.

KELLY

WTD

CC: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marka, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

200-100  
Distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement.  
(SACRE)

Ankara  
Dated August 7, 1944  
Rec'd 10:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1440, August 7, 3 P.M.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN, Ankara No. 121.

At a meeting on August 5 arranged through Simond, Cretzianu informed me that the Rumanian Government had agreed in principle to grant transit visas to Jews arriving from Hungary into Rumania provided that the Turks would grant transit visas to the same refugees. I strongly urged Cretzianu to request his Government to permit without delay the entrance of Hungarian Jewish refugees into Rumania and to allow them to remain temporarily in Rumania until such time as transportation and technical facilities were provided for their evacuation. I urged Cretzianu not to permit his Government to "construct a technical wall" against these refugees from Hungary at this time, reminding him that such action would result in increased pressure on the Rumanian Government and would be remembered to the detriment of that Government.

Cretzianu referred to the chaotic situation now existing in Rumania in regard to transit, housing, food etcetera and asserted that a sudden influx of foreign population into the country might create an acute problem which could not be solved overnight. I stated that in my opinion the Intercross would take all measures necessary to provide such facilities including funds for these purposes if required. The latter seemed to satisfy Cretzianu.

I also informed him that the Bulgarian Government had agreed to permit refugees arriving from Rumania to enter Bulgaria and that it was taking all possible steps to facilitate the transit of such refugees to Turkey.

In the course of our conversation, I advised him as suggested in Department's 669, July 31 and referred to contents of Department's 627, July 11. Cretzianu said that he was pleased to interpret the desire of the United States Government to evacuate the oppressed Hungarian citizens to Rumania as a temporary haven as a recognition of the part of our Government that Rumania in contrast to Hungary now constituted a safe country for persecuted peoples. To this I replied that the results in Rumania would speak for themselves.

- 2 - #1440, August 7, 3 p.m. from Ankara

In view of Mr. Kelley's successful intervention with the Turkish Foreign Office in securing the latter's authorization of the issue of Turkish transit visas to refugees with Palestine passports (REEMBS 1430, August 5) There would appear to be no obstacle now standing in the way of a large movement of Hungarian refugees through Rumania or into Rumania as a temporary haven.

I again promised Cretzianu that wide publicity would be given in America to the Rumanian Government's affirmative decision to provide the haven and facilities referred to above.

KELLEY

WMB

EEC

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Behle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

TOP SECRET

This program must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

Date: 8/7/45  
Rec'd 3:50 a.m. Bth

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

MOST IMMEDIATE

1445, August 7, 7 p.m.

FOR PEHLE, WRB. FROM HIRSCHMANN.

Ankara No. 122.

The Turkish Foreign Office has informed Embassy that both the BULBUL and the MEFKURA were attacked by an unknown submarine 5 miles from the Turkish shore; that the latter vessel which was also subjected to gunfire, was sunk by a torpedo and that only 5 of the 295 passengers were saved; of the Turkish crew of 8, 6 were saved. The BULBUL was not damaged and none of its 405 passengers injured. The Embassy has requested the Turkish Foreign Office to obtain permission for the landing of the passengers of the BULBUL and their transportation by automobile and train to Istanbul. The Foreign Office has informed the Embassy that all possible aid in the emergency will be furnished through the Turkish Red Crescent, the expenses for which I have promised will be paid by us.

With reference to an inquiry made by the Turkish Foreign Office regarding the carrying out of our plans with regard to the 2 Bulgarian boats VITA and PIRINE, I have stated that we desire to proceed without delay in carrying out the rescue program for refugees from Bulgaria. Your views on this point would be appreciated. As soon as further information is available you will be informed.

KELLEY

WMB

JJM

Miss Chauncy (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pohle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

LL-309

PLAIN  
Ankara  
Dated August 7, 1944  
Rec'd 2:14 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington.

MOST IMMEDIATE  
1437, Seventh.  
Reference Embassy 1434, August 6.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara number 118.

The Jewish agency Istanbul was informed last evening by the Turkish police that one of the three boats carrying refugees from Constanza to Istanbul, the *MAFKURA*, which had on board approximately 300 passengers, had been torpedoed by an unknown submarine near the port of Igneada on the Black Sea about 45 miles from the entrance to the Bosphorus. The *BULBUL* is standing by at Igneada and assisting in the rescue work.

The Turkish Foreign Office has been requested to expedite arrangements for the rescue, safety and comfort of the passengers. Additional information will be forwarded as soon as available.

As reported in telegram under reference the *MARINA 5* safe Istanbul with approximately 340 passengers including 190 children from Transnistria and its passengers are scheduled to proceed by rail from Istanbul to Syria on Tuesday August 8.

KELLEY

WSB

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files.

LL-309

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Ankara  
Dated August 7, 1944  
Rec'd 2:14 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington.

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WSB

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files.

LL-309

PLAIN  
Ankara  
Dated August 7, 1944  
Rec'd 2:14 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington.

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KELLEY

WSB

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files.

BJR-39  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET)

Ankara

Dated August 7, 1944  
Rec'd 5:25 p.m. 9th

Secretary of State,  
Washington  
1446, August 7, 11 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN. ANKARA'S NO. 123.

In a further interview with Balabanoff on August 5 the position of WRB relating to Bulgarian Jewish refugees as set forth in the Embassy's 1414, August 2 was presented to him. Balabanoff said that he would inform his government without delay of my requests and would warmly recommend them.

In the course of the discussion Balabanoff stated that:

One. The political situation in Bulgaria had eased considerably in recent weeks, and this circumstance should tend to assist his government in taking measures which heretofore were subject to strong Nazi influence and opposition.

Two. The relationship between the Bulgarian and Soviet Governments had improved in the last few weeks.

In this connection I informed Balabanoff that all of my discussions with him were reported by me to the Soviets.

Three. He was fully informed of the telegrams relating to refugee movements exchanged between the WRB and the Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm.

Four. He would gladly recommend the revocation of the anti-Jewish laws in return for the continuance of the "happy omission" of bombing of Sophia, to which I replied that I had no authority to speak on military matters to him or his Nazi partners who were the initial perpetrators of the bombing of civilians. *See also*

Five. Would be interested in the nature of the goodwill which Bulgaria might build up in the United States by taking the steps which I requested especially with regard to the post-war period. He expressed a special desire to know how long the United States Government would retain an interest in European and Balkan affairs after the war. Again I replied that this was not within my knowledge or jurisdiction but that the United States Government's basic concern with minorities and humanitarian rights was well known.

Balabanoff is being handed an informal memorandum written by me to Simond covering completely the points presented in the Embassy's 1414, August 2, he promised to inform me as soon as he had a reply from Sofia.

KELLEY

REP:WSB

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn,

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975

State Dept. Liaison  
By R. M. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

KEM-446  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement (S)

Ankara

Dated August 7, 1944  
Rec'd 9:35 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington.

1439, August 7, 2 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA NO. 120

In a conference today with Milhailov, First Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Ankara, I expressed the hope that his Government would make special efforts to distinguish between the victims of fascism and the Fascists themselves when the Red Army enters enemy territory. Milhailov assured me on behalf of the Soviet Government that all citizens in enemy territory would be treated alike as this was a fundamental principle of the Soviet regime and that the victims and those who were incarcerated would be treated with special solicitude.

KELLEY

WSB

C.C. Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

MS-449  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Ankara  
Dated August 7, 1944  
Rec'd 9:35 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1438, August 7, 1 p.m.

FOR PERLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA NO. 119

I have conferred with the Apostolic Delegate in Istanbul relative to the steps he in Turkey and his colleagues in Rumania and Hungary were taking in connection with the evacuation of the Jewish population from Hungary (REDEPTEL 670, July 31), I urged him to take further feasible steps.

The apostolic Delegate referred to a number of telegrams which he and his colleague in Hungary had sent on this subject and advised me that he was prepar(\*) in a series of questions and requests in writing which I have done and I expect a reply from him shortly. I took occasion to express to him the appreciation of the board for his initiative and assistance. You will be advised of his response to my written requests:

KELLEY

DU EH

(\*) Apparent omission correction to follow.

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel  
Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

KEM-446

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (S)

Ankara

Dated August 7, 1944  
Rec'd 9:35 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington.

1439, August 7, 2 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA NO. 120

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KELLEY

WSB

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By K. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

Ankara

BJR - 806  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET)

Dated August 8, 1944  
Rec'd 11:11 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington

1450, August 8, 4 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN. ANKARA NO. 125. *Reagan*

I strongly urge that you inform Harriman of my conversation with Balabanoff relative to the proposed abolition of the Bulgarian anti-Jewish laws and that you request him to ask the Soviet Government to instruct the Russian Charge d'Affaires in Bulgaria to urge upon the Bulgarians the abolition of the anti-Jewish laws. This action may be especially timely as Balabanoff states now that the Bagryanov Government is on excellent terms with the Soviet Government and that Bulgaria will now exert any reasonable efforts to please the Soviets. ✓

In view of the increasingly difficult conditions in regard to sea and rail transport for the emigration of refugees from the Balkans, I feel that we should place new and greater emphasis on our endeavors to obtain concessions from the satellite governments to abolish all anti-Jewish laws and reinstate the minorities and Jews as full fledged citizens in their own countries.

KELLEY

BB:WSB  
mhh

Miss Chauncey (For the sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Parks Date AUG. 1 1978

LC - 807

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency (██████████)

Ankara  
Dated August 8, 1944  
Rec'd 11:11 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington

1452, August 8, 5 p.m.

EMBASSY'S 1445, August 7, 7 p.m. FOR PEHLE WRB  
FROM HIRSCHMANN.

Ankara No. 126.

The Turkish Foreign Office has accepted our recommendation that the passengers from the BULBUL should be transported overland by auto and railway to Istanbul. The Turkish Red Crescent is supervising this movement and other steps are being taken in connection with the emergency. I have agreed that WRB will defray expenses incurred in these operations and I believe that this undertaking on our part has helped expedite relief work.

KELLEY

EEC WSB

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date ~~Aug~~ 1 1979

JT-815

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. [REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated August 8, 1944

Rec'd 11:18 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1453, August 8, 6 p.m.

FOR PEHLS, WRB, FROM KELLEY.

I have transferred to day to Hirschmann at his request the remaining \$5,000 which, as reported in the Embassy's 1313, July 19, I have been holding for him in my account.

KELLEY

RB  
WSB

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Boronstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodol, Laughlin, Lessor, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehlo, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstoin, Filos

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept Letter

JUL 15 1975  
By R. H. Paris Date: [REDACTED]

BE-71

PLAIN

Ankara

Dated August 8, 1944

Rqd'd 7:30 p.m., 9th

Secretary of State

Washington

1457, Eighth

Today's semi-official ULUS carried press following article: Because of humanitarian feeling for their plight, Turkish Government has been smoothing path and endeavoring assist in ever wider scope Jews of central Europe and Balkans, exposed to persecution there, who've been passing through country in transit. Numerous parties of Jewish children bearing transit visas came from Hungary Bulgaria and Rumania in 1943 and 44 crossing Turkey on way to Palestine. At present moment group of forty-three children is on route from Bulgaria bearing Turkish visas. Furthermore every week at least forty to fifty people have received visas from our Consulates at Bucharest, Budapest and Sofia for transit across country. Five groups totalling 1826 Jews having no time apply at our Consulates for visas and obliged depart immediately in order be saved left Constanza in motorboats and upon arrival Istanbul were given Turkish transit visas and departed for Syria by train.

KELLY

CAW

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, Dugois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

HIS-915  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement (██████████)

Ankara

Dated August 10, 1944

Rec'd 4:48 a.m., 12th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1469, August 10, 10 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara's No. 127

Having learned that Baron Thierry Counselor of the Hungarian Legation at Ankara was sympathetic to the cause of the minorities and interview with him was arranged for me through Simond on August 8 at Simond's home in Ankara.

Baron Thierry read a decree which he asserted had been issued by the Hungarian Government on July 18 relating to the amelioration of the conditions of some members of the Jewish community in Hungary. He said that the decree had been published in neutral countries. On the assumption that it has in the meanwhile become available to you I am not telegraphing but sending it by pouch as it was read to me.

Some statements made by Baron Thierry in addition to the decree follow:

- One. There have been no persecutions and no mal-treatment of Jews within Hungary (to which I took emphatic exception);
- Two. The Hungarian authorities only assisted in a routine way and not on their initiative in the former deportations (I again protested on the basis of authentic reports to the contrary obtained in Turkey);
- Three: Efforts should be made to determine the practicability of the steps provided in the decree before attempting to introduce broader measures;
- Four: Congestion of rail traffic now existing on the one railroad leading from Budapest to Istanbul would unquestionably delay the proposed refugee movement by this route.

In view of the above, I suggest that consideration be given to the proposal that the Americans supply railroad cars from those possibly available in the middle East for the purpose of transporting the Hungarian Jews from Budapest via Belgrade Sfilengrad and Istanbul. This journey circumvents Rumania and requires only three to four days. The cars might be made available to us through the Baurudagtb Syria and offered to the Turk Government for use in a round trip service between Budapest and Istanbul. As you are aware the Turk Government is requesting

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

1 1978

"1489, August 10, 10 p.m., from Ankara.

of us rolling stock for other purposes. These cars could operate under the supervision of the Inter-Cross and be painted white for alleged security across the borders. It may be considered desirable to make a gift of these cars to the Turk Red Crescent after the purpose of transporting refugees has been fulfilled. ✓

Baron Thierry also said that the present Hungarian Government is assuming more independence vis-a-vis the Germans and intending towards Conservatism; that the Government is planning a change in its Minister of Interior in favor of Conservative. He said there will also be a change in two of the Secretaries of State who will also be Conservative. He declared that Imredy, who is reported to be candidate for the new Prime Minister if pressure from the Nazis succeeds only mildly anti-semitic and is a brilliant Conservative. ✓

In response to my request that in view of the Hungarian Government's reported adoption of an independent political position vis-a-vis the Nazis the base of the July 18 decree be broadened with a view to ameliorating the condition of additional categories of Jews in Hungary, Baron Thierry suggested recommendations concerning this possibility should be presented by "official bodies" to the Hungarian Government. He said he was confident Hungarian Government would be sympathetic and open to any recommendations but reiterated it was important first to determine results of efforts to put into practice steps contained in July 19 decree.

Thierry requested of me that none of above be made public and his name should not be disclosed in connection with my interview. He said he had agreed to meet me only on his initiative without consulting his superior the Hungarian Minister to Ankara, Jean Vornle, who is notoriously pro-Nazi. ✓

RMK BB

KELLEY

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodol, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files.

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ( )

August 10, 1944

6 p.m.

AMBASSY

ANKARA

696

The following for Hirschmann is WRB 98.

Burkhardt of ICRC has communicated to our Legation  
in Bern a message, the substance of which follows:

QUOTE Some 40,000 persons comprising 8,700 Jewish  
families plus 1,000 children will be permitted to migrate  
to Palestine via Rumania and Turkey from Hungary. Within  
next 8 to 10 days a first group of about 2,000 persons  
will leave Budapest. Departure, transportation and care  
this convoy en route will be under charge of ICRC. Bern  
will accompany first group to Constantza. Ships are said  
to be available. UNQUOTE. This message was received  
by Burkhardt on July 31 from Dr. Schirmer (formerly in  
Berlin) and Born ICRC representative in Budapest.

Please examine into this report. If it proves  
accurate, it is hoped that the Rumanian Government will  
permit these Jews to enter Rumania even though it may not  
(repeat not) be possible to evacuate them immediately.  
(Our No. 669 of July 31, 1944).

STETTINIUS  
(Acting)

WRB:MMV:EG  
8/10/44

WE SE NE

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Borenstein,  
Cohn, DuBois, Freidman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann,  
Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein,  
Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

MJB -917

ANKARA

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (b)(7)(C)

Dated August 10, 1944

Rec'd 5:01 a.m., 13th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1471, August 10, midnight

FOR PEHLE WRE FROM HIRSCHMANN. Ankara's No. 129.

The 308 refugees who arrived Istanbul aboard vessel MORINA proceeded on August 9 by railroad from Istanbul to Syria. Included in this group were 177 children up to the age of 18, of whom 171 were orphans from Transnistria; the remainder were with their parents. Included also among the refugees were 31 young trainees for Palestine (Chalutzim) mostly Rumanian and 36 revisionists, the balance of the 308 comprised refugees who had arrived in Rumania (18 Polish and about 25 Hungarian) and Rumanians.

For your information we have learned that approximately 1300 orphans from Transnistria are still in Rumania and I am attempting to secure priority for them in whatever additional emigration from Rumania it may be possible to effectuate.

KELLY

BB RR

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter #11 15 1975

By E. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

FHM-836  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET)

Ankara  
Dated August 10, 1944.  
Rec'd 9:17 p.m., 11th.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1470, August 10, 11 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Contents of Department's 683, August 5 will be brought to attention of Cretzianu by me at my next meeting with him which I expect will be before August 15. I shall also discuss the matter at the Soviet Embassy.

KELLY

WMB JJM

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohen, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files.

FBM  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ~~(SECRET)~~

August 10, 1944

5:00 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

694

The following War Refugee Board 97 is for Hirschmann.

Please refer to your Nos. 1429, August 5, 1437, August 7, and 1445, August 7 (War Refugee Board Nos. 116, 118 and 122).

The Board deeply regrets the sinking of the refugee ship MEFKURA and the attendant loss of life. The Board is thankful that the ships BULBUL and MARINA arrived safely. The efforts of Kelley and Hirschmann in this connection are greatly appreciated.

The Board will appreciate such further information concerning the sinking of the MEFKURA as can be furnished consistently with security requirements.

With respect to possible future voyages of the Bulgarian or any other boats, as mentioned in your No. 1445, the Board will fully support a decision by you after consultation with the Embassy and the private organizations involved. We know that your decision will take into account the relative risk to the refugees if they remain in Bulgaria, Rumania or Hungary as the case may be as contrasted with the risks of sea voyages. We also assume that through the appropriate private organizations the refugees themselves have been fully informed of the risks involved in such voyages.

The foregoing has been discussed with the JDG here and it is in agreement.

STETTINIUS  
(Acting)  
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
8/10/44

NE

SE

S/CR

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By R. M. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

BAS-837

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. [REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated August 11, 1944

Rec'd 9:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1472, August 11, 1 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA NO. 130.

It has been reported to us through reliable sources out of Hungary that the warning transmitted by radio to the Hungarians emanating from the board has had a salutary effect. It is suggested that this and other warnings of a similar nature be repeated. It is reported that the Hungarians are beginning to show some signs of resistance to the Germans. These warnings should be continued and the Hungarians should be encouraged to resist.

KELLEY

BB

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By E. M. Packer Date AUG 1 1978

RA-262

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

Ankara

DATED August 12, 1944

Rec'd 1 a.m. 13th

Secretary of State

Washington.

1479, August 12, 5 p.m.

For your information (FOR PEHLE FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA'S NO. 132) the Governments of Rumania Bulgaria and Turkey have agreed in principle to grant transit visas to Jewish refugees from Hungary who have obtained Palestine entry certificates. The two thousand Hungarian Jews constituting the first group which had been ready to leave Hungary had been expected to arrive in Rumania some days ago. It is not understood in Istanbul why this emigration does not proceed since the Hungarian authorities in their announcement stated that exit facilities would be granted to Jews in Hungary for whom Palestine visas had been authorized and Turkish transit visas approved in principle.

Information received in Istanbul from reliable private sources indicates that although the Hungarian Government has agreed to provide the necessary exit facilities final authorization must be granted by the German military and political organizations in Budapest for the departure of each individual transport, and we are informed that such authorization has not until now been granted.

It is urgent that we know at the earliest possible moment what actually is causing the delay in the departure of this first group of 2000 Hungarian Jews in order that we may take such steps as may be possible from Istanbul to facilitate their emigration. We are exploring the situation from here but suggest that concurrently you request the Swiss Government and the International Red Cross to investigate the situation in Budapest. Please keep us advised of the results of your inquiry.

KELLEY

htm

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, McCormack, Cable Control Files.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By E. M. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

LFG-261  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated August 12, 1944

Rec'd 1 a.m., 13th.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1478, August 12, 2 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN.

Ankara's 131

For your information following was received  
by me in Istanbul from an authentic source.

The Catholic Church in Hungary has taken an active part in rescuing many Hungarian Jewish citizens by means of technical device on conversion of Jews to Christianity. Nazis have attempted in numerous ways to oppose these measures to which the church and especially the Dominicans, who have been most sympathetic, responded they have authority to baptize immediately any person who is in imminent danger of death. During air raids hundreds of Jews are baptized in air raid shelters. When religious classes for Jews were held in churches, groups of Hungarian Nazis entered and broke up the classes which resulted in most of the baptism now taking place in the shelters. It is reported that in the past month more Jews have been converted to Christianity than during the last 15 years.

KELLEY

WMB

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Boronstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Scov, Standish, Weinstein, Files

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State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By R. B. Parks Date 11/15/79

LFG-261  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (b)(7)(C)

Ankara

Dated August 12, 1944

Rec'd 1 a.m., 13th.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1478, August 12, 2 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN.

ANKARA'S 131

For your information following was received  
by me in Istanbul from an authentic source.

The Catholic Church in Hungary has taken an active part in rescuing many Hungarian Jewish citizens by means of technical device on conversion of Jews to Christianity. Nazis have attempted in numerous ways to oppose these measures to which the Church and especially the Dominicans, who have been most sympathetic, responded they have authority to baptize immediately any person who is in imminent danger of death. During air raids hundreds of Jews are baptized in air raid shelters. When religious classes for Jews were held in churches, groups of Hungarian Nazis entered and broke up the classes which resulted in most of the baptism now taking place in the shelters. It is reported that in the past month more Jews have been converted to Christianity than during the last 15 years .

KELLEY

WMB

c.c. Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By E. R. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

BAS

August 12, 1944

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement (██████████)

1 p.m. SECRET ✓

AMEMBASSY,  
ANKARA  
897  
FOR HIRSCHMANN.

With particular reference to your 1414 of August 2 your efforts to improve conditions of Jews in Bulgaria are appreciated by Board.

It is assumed that you are aware of the fact that any discussions with Bulgarian or Rumanian authorities must be strictly confined to questions of relief of refugees closely associated with their rescue and must not enter into the field of the domestic affairs of these countries. In view of the present situation and in view of information available here as to Balabanoff's aims the Board re-emphasizes that the utmost caution must be exercised to avoid any inferences which might be drawn from your discussions that any promises or commitments have been made with respect to peace terms or postwar settlements or assistance in economic rehabilitation or of any other kind.

It will be appreciated in connection with the foregoing if you will clarify paragraph six of the cable under reference. In its present drafting the Department believes that Balabanoff may easily construe this paragraph as including an offer of postwar economic rehabilitation for his country. Obviously such an offer cannot be made by this Government acting alone, by the War Refugee Board or by its representatives. Paragraph six is only in order provided it refers to an immediate program for the relief of Jews in Bulgaria associated with the Board's general rescue program.

STETTINIUS  
ACTING  
(GLH)

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedmann, Model, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files.

FBM  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangements. (circular)

August 12, 1944  
2 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

698

The cable below for Hirschmann is WRB 99.

On recommendation of Board, Treasury has licensed International Rescue and Relief Committee to remit 5,000 dollars per month for a period of 6 months to Leon P. Dennenberg, Ankara, provided such funds will be utilized only as authorized by the American Ambassador and/or Hirschmann.

STETTINIUS  
(ACTING)  
(GLW)

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

WR:MMV:ED  
8/11/44

NE

WT

SWP

S/CR

DECLASSIFIED  
Exec. Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By R. E. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

CH  
Distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement.  
(SECRET -W)

  
August 16, 1944  
8 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

708

The following for Hirschmann is WRB 100.

Please refer your No. 1423 of August 4 (Ankara No. 114)  
and 1449 of August 8.

Thank you for full report concerning Jabotinsky pro-  
posal. As previously indicated we rely entirely on your  
judgment concerning proposals submitted by private organiza-  
tions. Your cable is further indication that you are  
giving full and impartial consideration to all proposals  
submitted regardless of organization involved. This is  
in line with Board's policy. Substance of your message  
has been communicated to the Emergency Committee here.

HULL  
(GDF)

WRB:MMV:EG  
8/16/44

ME

S/CR

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel,  
Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept Letter JUL 15 1975

By E. H. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

CH  
Distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement

August 16, 1944  
9 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,  
ANKARA.  
709

The War Refugee Board cable 101 below is for Hirschmann.

The following cable has been sent to Harriman in this connection:

*Moscow* →

QUOTE In view of the increasing difficulties in arranging for the evacuation of Jews from the Balkans by rail and sea and in view of the increasingly favorable war outlook, the War Refugee Board feels that greater emphasis should now be placed on convincing the satellites that it is to their interest to halt anti-Jewish activities and thereby make unnecessary the evacuation of Jews under present difficult and dangerous war-time conditions. With this in mind Hirschmann, the War Refugee Board representative in Turkey recently conferred with Balabanoff, the Bulgarian Minister to Ankara, and requested, among other things, that the Bulgarian authorities take steps to cease persecution of the Jews in Bulgaria and to afford them protection in that country thus obviating the necessity of involuntary emigration. Balabanoff indicated his view that the Bulgarian authorities would be favorably disposed to taking such action.

In his conversation with Hirschmann, Balabanoff apparently indicated that the Bulgarian Government is on excellent terms with the Soviet Government and that Bulgaria would exert any reasonable effort to please the Soviets. If in your discretion you consider it desirable to do so, you may wish to approach the appropriate Soviet officials, informing them of the foregoing, and suggesting that they may wish to instruct their Charge d'Affaires in Bulgaria to urge the Bulgarians to take action of the nature indicated.

For your information, the Russian Embassy in Ankara has been advised of Hirschmann's talk with Balabanoff. UNQUOTE.

HULL  
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
8/16/44

NE SE EE S/CR

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'7), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files.

BJH  
 Distribution of true  
 reading only by special  
 arrangement. (██████████)

August 28, 1944  
 5 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,  
 ANKARA.  
 752

The cable below is WRB 105.

Reference is made to your 1514 of August 18 to Department and your 34 of August 8 to Anembassy, London.

In accordance with Department's 665 of July 28 paragraph numbered 3, 685 of August 7 last paragraph, and circular cable of August 18, you are requested to continue your efforts to persuade Turkish authorities to receive Jews of all categories released by Hungary, notwithstanding reports of Swedish Government's consent to receive Jewish children from Hungary.

With respect to statement in your 1430 of August 5 to Department regarding Turkish transit visas to refugees who QUOTE hold UNQUOTE American immigration visas and similar statements in your 1514 to Department and 34 to Anembassy, London, please note that persons intended as beneficiaries of procedure developed in paragraph numbered four of Department's 665 of July 28 are those whose American visas were authorized subsequent to July 1, 1941, as well as those to whom such visas were actually issued. Please explain this point to Turkish authorities and request that they instruct their consuls in Hungary and elsewhere in enemy-held territory to issue transit visas to persons to whom American visas were authorized as well as to those to whom American visas were actually issued. In cases where applicants will not be able to furnish evidence of authorization, such evidence will presumably be available at local Swiss legation or consulate. In addition, efforts will be made to send a list of visa authorizations to you for transmission to Turkish Foreign Office which, it is hoped, will forward it to various Turkish consulates in enemy-held territory.

HULL  
 (GLW)

DECLASSIFIED  
 State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

WRB:MMV:KG  
 8/24/44

VD

NE

SE

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control

RA-105  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated September 5, 1944

Rec'd 4:42 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1655, September 5, 5 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSHMANN ANKARA NO. 149.

The Present situation in Rumania suggests the desirability of my proceeding to Bucharest as soon as possible to organize the rescue of refugees from Hungary. I should appreciate telegraphic authority for Katzyi, or myself or for both of us to enter Rumania as soon as possible accompanied if desirable by Passman on behalf of the JDC for a temporary visit to survey the situation. Passman is requesting permission from the JDC. I have discussed the matter with Ambassador Steinhardt who has no objection to the proposed visit provided the WRB and the State Department do not object.

STEINHARDT

DU

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1978

**ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT**

**FROM:** Secretary of State, Washington  
**TO:** American Consulate General, Istanbul  
**DATED:** September 8, 1944  
**NUMBER:** 566



Please deliver the following message to Leon P. Dennenberg from the International Rescue and Relief Committee:

**QUOTE** Send names last known addresses of all persons known to be in enemy and enemy occupied territory and who are one husbands wives parents or minor unmarried children of American citizens two wives and minor children of aliens permanently admitted to the United States. Also send American addresses of such relatives. Efforts under way for rescue of such persons. **UNQUOTE**

**HULL**

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
By R. E. Pugh Date AUG. 1 1979

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ahrens, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gorton, Hadel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pable, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

BJR - 321  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated September 6, 1944

Rec'd 9:30 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1654, September 6, 1 p.m.

FROM AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN FOR WRB

Ankara's No. 148, reference your 74 of July 7,  
76 of July 8 and 99 of August 12,

For your information and for the record. Although the funds deposited to the credit of Messrs. Jabotinsky and Denenberg were to be expended subject only to authorization by the Ambassador and on Hirschmann, we are informed by Denenberg that withdrawals and expenditures have been made by him without or knowledge or authorization and continue in spite of Hirschmann's repeated requests of Denenberg to submit statements of the amounts withdrawn and the purposes for which they have been expended. Jabotinsky reports that he has been unwilling to avail himself of those funds under the conditions imposed and that to date he has not withdrawn any of the funds transferred from the United States.

STEINHARDT

EH:NPL

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files.  
Drury.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By R. M. Fuchs State, AUG 1 1979

MS-706  
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (██████████)

Ankara

Dated September 6, 1944

Rec'd 9 :50 a.m. 7th

Secretary of State

Washington.

1662, September 6, 1 p.m.

FROM AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN TO WRB.

Ankara's No. 150.

We are reliably informed that the new Bulgarian Government headed by Muraviev is by background sympathetic to the problems of its minorities and its Jewish citizens and that there is reason to expect this Government to carry out the policies initiated by the former Bagrianov Government with relation to the revocation of the anti-Jewish laws and the restoration of Jewish rights in Bulgaria.

STEINHARDT

BB

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By E. E. Parks Under AUG. 1 1979

BJR  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement.

September 7, 1944

4 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

Circular

The following WRB cable no. 106 is for Hirschmann

Several requests have already been received by the War Refugee Board for financial assistance in the relief of refugees in areas liberated by the Allied military forces

For your information and guidance War Refugee Board activities are to be strictly limited to the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death that is, who are still in enemy-occupied territory. Refugee problems in liberated areas are not (repeat not) regarded as being within the Board's functions. Accordingly, if you receive requests limited to the relief and assistance of refugees in areas liberated from the Germans, you should refer such problems to UNRRA, the appropriate military authorities, the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, private refugee organizations, or other national or international groups which are authorized to deal with matters of this nature.

The foregoing shall not be construed to limit the activities of the Board dealing with arrangements for the removal of refugees in liberated areas whose purpose serves to discourage and prevent the rescue of additional refugees from enemy-occupied areas.

This message has been repeated to the other WRB Special Representative abroad.

HULL  
(TW)

CODE ROOM: Please repeat, using following opening sentences, to the missions below.  
Stockholm - The following WRB cable is for Olsen  
Lisbon - The following WRB cable is for Dexter  
Caserta - The following WRB cable is for Ackermann.

WRB:MMV:KG NE NOB WE EE SWP  
9/7/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Conn. Drury, Dubois, Drury, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Marks.

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975

State Dept. Letter  
By R. H. Parks Date AUG 1 1975

## TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: SECSTATE WASHINGTON

Date: September 8, 1944, 5 p.m.

No : 772

Code: ██████████

Received: September 11, 7:45 a.m.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

ANKARA

772, September 8, 5 p.m.

The following for Steinhardt and Hirschmann from War Refugee Board is its 107.

The information contained in your 1593 and 1595 of August 30 is highly gratifying and the Board wishes once again to congratulate you for these latest successes due to your unremitting efforts on behalf of refugees.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter

JUL 15 1975

By R. E. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

DSH-634

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. ( [REDACTED] )

Ankara

September 9, 1944.

Rec'd 6:52 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington

1695, September 9, 4 p.m.

FROM AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN TO WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Ankara's 152

It is reported here that a royal decree issued by the Government of Rumania restores equal rights to all Rumanians without regard to race or religion. We are informed further that all royal decrees based on differentiation of race or religion have been abolished.

STEINHARDT

EMB

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein.

RECORDED JUL 15 1975

INDEXED AUG 1 1979

AMT-198

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. [REDACTED]

Ankara

Dated September 10, 1944

Rec'd 12:30 p.m., 12th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1700, September 10, 6 p.m.

FROM HIRSCHMANN TO WSB, ANKARA'S NO. 153.

Reference is made to Ankara's 148. I have had further talks with Donenberg regarding the relief activities his committee in Turkey. He has now agreed that the expenditures which have thus far been made by him will be financed from other sources. He now proposes that the entire \$5000 be transferred to a committee now resident in Istanbul for administration under a relief program to be conducted on behalf of the IRRC. We have approved this project as the committee appears to be reliable and have so advised Donenberg.

STEINLARDT

WSB

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 44 10 895

By R. H. Parks Date 10/1/78

Miss Chauncey (for the Soc'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hedel, Laughlin, Lessor, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pohl, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

TELETYPE UNIT

To: SACSTATS

Date: September 19, 1944

WAS-IERPON

No: 1767

Code: Brown

SACSTATS

WASHINGTON

1767 - September 19, 2 p.m.

PRIORITY.

Personal for Peble, WAB, from Hirschmann, Ankara No. 157.

My most recent survey of the conditions and developments since my telegram of September 5 (Ankara No. 149), particularly with respect to the situation in Transylvania has led me to the conclusion that the possibilities for rescue activities from Hungary through Turkey are now remote. All railroad communications and movement by civilians between Hungary and the Balkans, not to speak of Turkey, have come to an end. Since the Russian and Bulgarian declarations of war on Germany, the Russian front is now in Transylvania where sporadic fighting is taking place and where it would appear a major front is being created. Under these circumstances it appears most unlikely that further rescue activities from Hungary can be effected by way of the Balkans and Turkey. Over and above these considerations there is the added element that it is most unlikely that the Russians would permit us to conduct rescue activities through their field of military operations.

As the policy of the Board as set forth in its No. 106, September 7, makes it clear that my activities are limited to the rescue of refugees as distinguished from their relief. In view of the opinion that the future opportunities for the rescue of refugees from Hungary through Turkey are so limited as to no longer require or even justify my continued presence in Ankara, particularly as Katski is proposed to remain here indefinitely. In the light of the most recent developments, I see little advantage to be gained in my proceeding to Bucharest even were the necessary authorization to be granted. On the other hand, should it be deemed desirable for a representative of the Board to proceed to Bucharest Katski is well qualified to undertake the mission at the appropriate time under Ambassador Steinhardt's general supervision.

In view of the foregoing and unless for reasons unknown to me you desire my continued presence in Ankara, I request your consent to my immediate return to the United States for consultation.

particularly as there are aspects of the board's rescue program not necessarily connected with Arvey which I should like to discuss with you. The Ambassador concurs in the foregoing.

STANLEY

LS/ps

TRUE READING

# TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: SECSTATE WASHINGTON

Date: September 26, 1944, 7 p.m.

No : 829

Code: XXXXXXXXXX

Received: September 28, 8 a.m.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

ANKARA

829, September 26, 7 p.m.

The following for Hirschmann is WRB 113. Please refer to your 1767 of September 19.

In view of your analysis of the situation with respect to the rescue of refugees from Hungary by way of the Balkans and Turkey you are requested to return to the United States immediately for consultation.

With respect to your 1764 of September 19 I concur in your suggestion that no approach be made to the Turkish government at this time concerning the SS TARI.

HULL

Decoded and typed:HS

CC: Mr. Hirschmann.

Underscore indicates 5 letter omission. Letters supplied.

DECLASSIFIED JUL 15 1975  
State Dept. Letter  
AUG 1 1979

Department  
of  
State

Incoming Telegram

Jerusalem

MS-366

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a government agency. (██████████)

Dated October 11, 1944

Rec'd 5:42 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

149, October 11, 4 p.m.

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM JUDAH MAGNES, HENRIETTA SZOLD, CHARLES PASSMAN FOR JOHN PEHLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD:

"As members of Middle East Advisory Committee of AJJDC, we have been in intimate contact with activities of War Refugee Board in Turkey and Balkans through its representative Ira Hirschmann and two of us have spent sometime in Turkey at different periods.

We feel deep obligation to express our gratitude and we are sure gratitude of all people everywhere for magnificent efforts rescuing Jews and restoring Jewish political prestige in Bulgaria and Rumania. The action of the United States Government in initiating policy of rescuing persecuted and homeless in midst of war is historic step in long American humane tradition and we urge fervently that this institution now happily established be permitted to continue its rescue activities and to this end we plead that this term and conception of rescue be interpreted broadly and generally in accordance with the needs of the thousands requiring rescue."

RB

PINKERTON

LMS

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975  
by R. G. Parks Date AUG 1 1979