Ira Hirschmann Papers
Box 1
Dispatches from War Refugee Bd. to U.S. Embassy, Ankara, 2/12/1944 - 6/13/1944

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Extra

COPY

TELEGRAM SENT

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

February 12, 1944
6 p.m.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

ANKARA

120

Please refer to the Department's 68 January 25 in regard to the establishment of the War Refugee Board. The Acting Executive Director of the Board, John W. Pehle, has informed the Department that in conformity with the President's order of January 22, the Board proposes to appoint Mr. Ira Hirschmann, who is now in Turkey in a private capacity, as the Acting Special Representative of the Board with the designation by the Department as Special Attache to the Embassy on war refugee matters. The President's order provides that the State Department shall appoint such Special Attaches on the recommendation of the Board, that they shall have diplomatic status, and that their duties and responsibilities shall be defined by the Board in consultation with the State Department.

If this meets with your approval, you should immediately advise Hirschmann that he is so designated and that he is to have diplomatic status. It is assumed that there will be no objection on the part of the Turkish Government to this designation, although you may in your discretion approach the Turkish authorities informally if you consider it necessary or advisable to do so. You are requested to confirm by telegram Hirschmann's designation or to

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advise us promptly if there is any reason why the designation should not be effective at once.

You should advise Hirschmann that:

(a) He is charged with the duty and responsibility of carrying out the Board's policies and programs in Turkey;

(b) He is responsible to the Ambassador and should discuss his activities and problems with him regularly and fully;

(c) The Embassy will provide him with the necessary communications facilities in carrying on his official duties.

(d) He shall extend all possible assistance to the Ambassador in carrying out the instructions contained in the Department's reference telegram;

(e) He shall work with and give all possible assistance to public and private agencies operating in Turkey in this field regardless of whether such organizations are American, foreign or international;

(f) He shall develop and assist in the development of programs and implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees;

(g) He shall forward to the Board recommendations and frequent reports on progress of work and difficulties encountered;

(h) In so far as the Trading with the Enemy Act is concerned, the Secretary of the Treasury has vested in the War Refugee Board and its representatives in the field full authority to communicate with enemy territory

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to carry out the purposes to the Order. The Secretary of the Treasury has also delegated to the War Refugee Board and its representatives the power to authorize any public or private agencies, who may be subject to the provisions of our Trading with the Enemy Act, to communicate with enemy territory for the purpose of carrying out the Order. Hirschmann is authorized to act accordingly.

After receipt of confirmation of approval of Hirschmann's designation further detailed instructions will follow from time to time, including instructions concerning fiscal and administrative matters.

STETTINIUS
Acting

U:HW:W A-S NEA A-S/3 FA

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PARAPHRASE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: SECSTATE WASHINGTON

Date: February 12, 1944.

No : 120.

Code:

Received: February 14, 1 p.m.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

ANKARA

120 - February 12, 8 p.m.

With reference to the Department's 68 of January 25th concerning the establishment of the War Refugee Board, the Acting Director of the Board, John W. Pehle, has informed the Department that in accordance with the order of the President of January 22nd the Board contemplates the appointment of an acting Special Representative to be designated as a Special Attache to the Embassy in connection with war refugee matters. The order of the President provides that the State Department may appoint such Special Attaches when recommended by the Board, that they shall have a diplomatic status and that their responsibilities and duties shall be defined by the Board in consultation with the Department of State.

If you approve of his appointment, please advise Hirschmann at once that he is so designated and that he will have diplomatic status. The Department assumes that the Turkish Government will raise no objection and you may in your discretion take the matter up with the Turkish authorities informally if you think it advisable or necessary to do so. Please telegraph your approval of Hirschmann's designation or advise us promptly if you see any reason why the designation should not be at once effective.

Thereafter advise Hirschmann that he will be:

1. Charged with the responsibility and duty of carrying out the Board's program and policies in Turkey.

2. That he will be responsible to you and should discuss his problems and activities with you fully and regularly.

3.

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3. That the Embassy will provide him with facilities for necessary communication to carry on his official duties.

4. That he is expected to extend all possible assistance to you in carrying out the instructions received by you from the Department on the subject.

5. That he is to work with and give every possible assistance to all private and public agencies operating in this field in Turkey irrespective of whether these organizations are foreign, international or American.

6. That he is to assist and develop programs and implementations of measures for the transportation, rescue, relief and maintenance of refugees.

7. That he shall send to the Board frequent reports and recommendations concerning the progress of his work and any difficulties encountered.

8. Insofar as concerns the Trading With the Enemy Act, the Treasury Department has vested in the Refugee Board and its representatives full authority to communicate with enemy territory in carrying out the purpose of the order. The Treasury has also delegated to the Board and its representatives authority to empower any public or private agencies subject to the provisions of the Act to communicate with enemy territory to carry out the order. Hirschmann will enjoy such authority.

After the receipt of your approval of Hirschmann's designation and confirmation of the foregoing additional instructions will follow from time to time including instructing concerning financial and administrative matters.

STETTINIUS ACTING.

Copy for Mr. Hirschmann.
Typed: PE

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TELEGRAM SENT

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

February 16, 1944

7 p.m.

AMERICAN EMBASSY.

ANKARA

124

FOR IRA A. HIRSCHMANN FROM LEAVITT OF AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

QUOTE Please consult Barlas, Istanbul, regarding possibility utilizing his boat for evacuation Jews from Constanta. Berlas requested Nyass proceed Constanta,but difficulties securing navicerts almost insuperable. Please cable also what shipping facilities available, possibilities of evacuatin, and any need of additional funds. War Refugee Board very interested this matter. UNQUOTE.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

VD:GF 2/10/44

NEA

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This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (SO-00)

February 24, 1944

5 p.m.

AMEMBASSY.

ANKARA.
142
TO STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMAN FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

It is reported here in the papers that a high government official in Turkey told the Associated Press on February 13 that Turkey was willing to cooperate with the Palestine Commission and Allied diplomats in assisting Jewish refugees to leave the Balkans. We would appreciate immediate confirmation of this report. Please give us full information at once on the present position of the Turkish Government on this matter.

The War Refugee Board is desirous of making public the cooperative attitude of neutral countries on this matter, and unless you perceive some objection, we would like to be in a position to publicize at once the attitude of Turkey.

It is extremely important that we be kept currently informed of all developments in Turkey relating to the activities of the Board. We have received numerous inquiries from private agencies concerning the above mentioned press report and have been awaiting advice from you as to its accuracy.

STETTINIUS
Acting

EA:GL:KG
2/18/44

EUR EH SWP U

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This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a governmental agency. (SO-OO)

February 25, 1944

4 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA.

144

FOR STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Refer your 288, February 18, and your 299, February 19.

The United States Government through the War Shipping Administration and the Foreign Economic Administration guarantees to replace the vessel referred to in your 282 if the same is lost. Although we can not furnish you with an exact description at this time of any specific vessel which will be used as a replacement, the Turkish Government may be assured that this vessel will be as good or better than the S.S. VATAN and that it will be obtained from as nearby waters as possible.

It is assumed that the S.S. VATAN will be insured against loss thus enabling the proceeds of the insurance to be used in connection with the replacement. For your information, the War Refugee Board can, if necessary, arrange for the insurance of the S. S. VATAN.

The Foreign Economic Administration has advised us that their representative in Ankara, Michel Cardoza, can be of assistance to you in effecting necessary arrangements with the Turkish Government.

For your information and the information of Cardoza, we have been advised that if the S.S.VATAN is actually replaced, the replacement will be done under lend lease authority and could be done in one of two ways. Either the replacing vessel could be turned over as a normal lend lease transaction or could be sold to the Turkish Government for cash.

It is expected that you will take this opportunity to emphasize to the Turkish Government the significance of the concrete offers which this Government has already made to them in connection with the program of the War Refugee Board. In addition to the present guaranty to replace the S.S.VATAN if lost in connection with the carrying out of this program, we have previously offered to arrange for financing the support and maintenance of refugees coming into Turkey. We hope that the Turkish Government will accordingly make the S.S.VATAN immediately available for this mission of mercy.

WRB:GIM:KG ME NEA EH SWP U STETTINIUS (Acting)(GLW) Acting
2/25/44

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For Mr. Hirschmann

PARAPHRASE OF

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: SECSTATE
WASHINGTON

Date: Feb. 25, 4 P.M. 1944

No. : 144

Code:

Received: Feb. 26, 2:15 P.M.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

ANKARA

144 - February 25, 4 P.M.

Reference is made to Embassy's 282, February 18, and Embassy's 299, February 19, this message being from the War Refugee Board for Steinhardt and Hirschmann.

Referring to the vessel mentioned in your 282, if the same is lost, the Government of the United States, through the FEA and WSA, guarantees to replace same. At present we cannot furnish you with a description which would be exact, but the Turkish Government may rest assured that the vessel so furnished will be as good or better than the SS VATAN referred to, and it will be obtained for them from as nearby waters as it is possible to do so.

The assumption is that the said SS VATAN will be covered with insurance against loss, which would enable the proceeds of such insurance to be used in connection with the replacement, if necessary. Also, if necessary, the War Refugee Board can arrange for insurance coverage on the above-mentioned vessel.

We are advised if the SS VATAN is actually replaced, for your information and also for the information of Mr. Cardozo, this can be accomplished in one of two ways under the Lend Lease authority. The vessel for replacement could be sold to the Government of Turkey for cash or it could be turned over to them as a normal Lend Lease transaction.

We hope that this opportunity will be taken by you to emphasize to the Turks the significance of the offers, which are concrete in nature, which the United States Government has already made to their Government in connection with the War Refugee Board program. We have heretofore offered to arrange for the financing of the support and maintenance of refugees coming into Turkey in addition to the present guaranty on our part to replace the SS VATAN, if it should be lost while carrying out this program. In order that this mission of mercy may be accomplished it is hoped that the Turkish Government will make this vessel, the SS VATAN, immediately available.

STETTINIUS, Acting.

rr

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TELEGRAM SENT

To: AMEMBASSY

Date: February 25, 7 p.m.

No : 146

Code: Paraphrase

Charged to:

Rec'd. Feb. 27, 8:30 a.m.

For Ambassador Steinhardt ~~for~~ and Hirschmann.

Reference is made to the Department telegram No. 68 of January 25 concerning the War Refugee Board and to i's telegram No. 120 of February 12, 8 p.m., concerning the appointment of Hirschamman as special attaché.

It is requested that the following matter be given special attention:

With reference to efforts to facilitate the evacuation to Turkey from occupied areas of as many refugees as possible, the War Refugee Board has resolved that this matter is one of the projects which should be pushed with the greatest speed.

The most feasible way to accomplish this extremely urgent task, the Board feels, is to obtain from the Turkish Government effective measures to encourage the entry of more refugees. The Turkish Government should be requested concretely:

(a) To take such action, including the relaxation of border and other controls as will faciliate the entry from Rumania, Bulgaria and other areas adjacent to the Black Sea of the largest possible number of refugees; and

(b) to announce in as nearly an official manner as possible what is being done and above all that the entry into the country of refugees is permitted.

The program of the Board, as outlined above, is supported by the Department, which requests that, with a view to obtaining its agreement to the plan and immediate action on its part, you approach the Turkish Government at the earliest possible moment. In addition to making clear the determination of the United States Government to do everything within its power to rescue refugees and the hope of the United States Government for full cooperation from the Turkish Government, should you deem it advisable, you may indicate that:

(a) The Board is prepared to take all possible measures (financial and otherwise) to assist in the evacuation of refugees to Turkey;

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TELEGRAM

To: Date:

No :

Code: Charged to:

(b) It (the Board) is prepared to accord full assistance in the maintenance of refugees in Turkey;

(c) In the event the Government of Turkey takes the necessary steps to facilitate the entry into Turkey of a substantial number of refugees, the Board will, if such action becomes desirable make every effort to move the refugees from Turkey to other places.

You may wish to discuss specifically the possibility of setting up in Turkey camps in which could live refugees who may enter the country. If necessary, the Board would make arrangements for the support of the refugees in such camps and for financing the establishment and maintenance ~~thereof~~ of such camps.

(more to follow)

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TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: SECSTATE

Date: February 25, 7 p.m.

No. : 146

Code: Paraphrase

Received:

For the Ambassador and Hirschmann

Continuation -

It is thought that the above described plan may facilitate the removal (on a compulsory basis if necessary) of refugees from Turkey to other places should such action become desirable, in order to permit the entry into Turkey from occupied areas of more refugees.

Of course you are aware (in connection with the above) of the fact that the refugees remaining in Transnistria are in imminent danger of extermination by the retreating German armies and that the problem is very urgent of arranging for the evacuation of these refugees. You should accordingly take every possible step to assit in the development and execution of measures to effect the evacuation to Turkey of these people. There are various private organizations which are deeply interested in this problem and which are anxious to assist in financing and otherwise carrying out the plan. At least some of these organizations have representatives in Turkey and some of these representatives have been requested to get in touch with Mr. Hirschmann immediately with a view to formulating a plan of action. The basic difficulty of evacuation is, as you have already indicated, one of transport. You should give every assistance to the private organizations mentioned which are making all efforts to secure ships. You should, in addition, advise us promptly of any measures which the United States Government may take to see that the necessary shipping is available, neutral or otherwise. You should attempt, above all, to secure the full cooperation in this matter of the Government of Turkey.

You should also, of course, endeavor to increase the flow of refugees to Turkey from Rumania as soon as possible.

* It is of course appreciated by the Department that your own activities regarding this matter may be somewhat restricted by the terms of the Department's telegram to you

of

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of February 7, 7 p.m.,No. 103, and that you may have to arrange for the principal initiatives to be taken by Hirschmann. In this regard you should of course use your best judgment. It will be realized by you, the Department appreciates, that these negotiations are on a level entirely different than those relative to Turkey's role in the war, and that the Government of the United States is simply addressing to the Government of Turkey, as to other governments, a humanitarian appeal, rather than a request that they take certain action favorable to us at some sacrifice to themselves.x The progress that is being made in this matter should be reported to the Department with an indication as to the practical measures that will be required to give effect to the plan, the obstacles encountered and such action as you think should be taken to facilitate the operation by the American Government.

STETTINIUS ACTING

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EWE
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February 25, 1944

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA
146
For the Ambassador and Hirschman

Department's 68, January 25, concerning War Refugee Board and 120 of February 12, 8 p.m., concerning appointment Special Attache Hirschmann.

Special attention should be given to the following matter.

The War Refugee Board has resolved that one of the projects which should be pushed with greatest speed is an effort to facilitate the evacuation of as many refugees as possible from occupied areas to Turkey.

The Borad feels that the most feasible way of aacomplishing this extremely urgent task is to obtain from the Turkish Government effective measures to encourage the entry of more refugees. Concretely that government should be requested (a) To relax border and other controls and take such other action as will facilitate the entry of the largest possible number of refugees from Bulgaria, Rumania, and other areas adjacent to the Black Sea, and (b) To make an announcement in as nearly an official manner as possible indicating what is being done, and above,all, that entry of refugees into the country is permitted.

The Department desires to support this above program of the Board and you are requested at the earliest possible moment to approach the Turkish Government with a view to obtaining their agreement to the plan and immediate action on their part. In addition to making clear this Government's determination to do everything within its power to resuce refugees and its hope for full cooperation from the Turkish Government you may, if you deem it advisable, indicate that (a) The War Refugee Board is prepared to take all possible measures, financial and otherwise, to aid the evacuation of refugees to Turkey;

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(b) The Board is prepared to render full assistance in the maintenance of refugees in Turkey; and (c) If the Turkish Government takes necessary steps to facilitate the entry of a substantial number of refugees the Board will make all efforts to move refugees from Turkey to other places if such acti n becomes desirable. You may wish to discuss specifically the possibility of setting up camps in Turkey in which refugees entering the country could live. The Board would, if necessary, make arrangements fro financing the establishment and maintenance of these camps and the support of the refugees in them. This plan may facilitate the removal, on a compulsory basis if necessary, of refugees from Turkey to tother places if such action becomes desirable in order to permit the entry of more refugees into Turkey from occupied areas.

In connection with the foregoing, you are, of course, aware of the fact that the refugees remaining in Transnistria are in imminent danger of extermination by the retreating German armies, and that the evacuation of these refugees is a problem of the greates urgency. According, you should do everything possible to aid in the development and execution of measures to effect the evacuation of these people to Turkey. Various private organizations are deeply interested in this problem and are anxious to assist in financing and otherwise carrying out the project. Representatives of at least some of such organizationsin Turkey have been requested to get in touch at once with Mr. Hirschmann for the purpose of formulating a plan of action. You have previously indicated that the basic difficulty of evacuation is one of transportation. The private organizations interested in this project are making all efforts to secure ships and you should give them every assistance. In addition, you should advise us promptly of any measures which can be taken by the United States Government to see that necessary shipping, neutral or otherwise, is available. Above all, yo should attempt to secure the full cooperation of the Turkish Government in this matter.

Efforts should, of course, also be made as soon as possible to increase the flow of refugees from Rumania to Turkey.

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The Department appreciates that your own activities regarding this matter may be somewhat restricted by the terms of the Dpeartment's 103, February 7, 7 p.m., and that it may be necessary for you to arrange for Hirschmann to take the principal initiatives. You should use your best judgement in this regard. You will realize, however, that these negotiations are on an entirely different level than those relative to Turkey's role in the war; and that this Governement is simply addressing a humanitarian appeal to the Turkish Government, as to other governments, rather than a request that they take certan action favorable to us at some sacrifice to them.

Please report to the Department the progress that is being made in this matter, indicating the practical measures that will be necessary to put the plan in operation, obstacles encountered, and such action as you think the Government of the United States should take to facilitate the operation.

STETTINIUS
ACTING

(GLW)

WRB:GLW:KG
2/22/44

EH SWP U NEA NE

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TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: February 26, 1944 3 p.m.

No : 147

Code: Paraphrase

Received: February 27, 3 p.m.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

ANKARA

No. 147, February 26, 1944, 3 p.m.

From Pehle, War Refugee Board, for Hirschmann.

The following, which is a paraphrase of a letter sent to the Secretary of State on September 9th, 1943 by the British Embassy in Washington, is sent for your information and guidance. Recently the British Embassy transmitted to me a copy of this letter.

"Recently it was decided by the Government of Great Britain that in the future all Jews, whether children or adults, who, since the closing last spring of the border between Turkey and Bulgaria, managed to leave Axis dominated territory and entered Turkey, will, after a check in Turkey for security purposes, be permitted to go to Palestine where camps will be provided for them and where for security reasons a further check will be made. If found satisfactory as legal immigrants, they will gradually be released and permitted to enter Palestine against the semi-annual current immigration quotas. As may be decided upon by cooperation between the Government of Great Britain and the diplomatic mission involved, these Jews will be transported either by rail or by sea.

"Jewish persons who are able to enter other countries which are neutral will also be in this category but under normal circumstances those persons who escaped to territories where they find a refuge of safety will not leave such territories. Under these arrangements Jews who at the present time are in Spain (garble) would not leave the (garble) of Spain, plans may be made to transport them to territory in North Africa of the Allied governments, as is hoped, for such time as hostilities shall continue and only for most particular reasons and in cases deserving special consideration would onward passage to Palestine be considered.

"It

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"It is not intended that the number of persons admitted to Palestine, for the period ending March 31, 1944, shall, under the proposals above outlined, increase the total number of immigrants allowable, for that period.

"It is most essential that these proposals be considered absolutely secret. No public announcement thereof by his Majesty's Government is contemplated. The Palestinian Jewish Agency will however be advised of the plans in strict confidence.

"Mr. Myron C. Taylor in Washington is being sent a letter similar to this one."

In view of the policy indicated in the letter, the Turkish Government, it is assumed, now has sufficient assurances that refugees entering Turkey will have an ultimate destination opened for them and will consequently be willing to lend full cooperation to measures designed to increase the flow through Turkey of refugees. If, however, such is not the case, the Board should be advised by you to that effect.

The British request that this policy be kept confidential in the interest of the Refugees themselves should be respected.

STETTINIUS

ELP/mgl

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February 26, 1944

U.S. URGENT

7 p.m.

To: AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

148

FOR HIRSCHMANN FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

We recognize fully the importance and urgency of the shipping problem and are doing what we can here to solve it.

We have discussed with the Swedish Minister here the possibility of using Swedish vessels to evacuate refugees from Black Sea ports. The Swedish Minister is cabling his Government immediately requesting that consideration be given to this matter.

With respect to the guarantee which this Government has now given to replace the S.S. Vatan if lost, we would like immediate advice from you as to the possibilities of obtaining other Turkish vessels if similar guarantees were given to replace those vessels.

STETTINIUS

Acting

(GLW)

WRB:GLW:VHJ NOE NEA SWP

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TELEGRAM SENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD PLAIN

March 1, 1944

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

155, First
f
FOR HIRSCHMANN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Refer your 344 of February 26 greatly encouraged your news on transportation Jewish refugee children from Bulgaria to Palestine via Turkey. Congratulations and keep up the good work. Trust this is only the beginning.

STETTINIUS
ACTING

(GLW)

WRB:GLW:KG
3/1/44

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TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: SECSTATE

WASHINGTON

Code: EN CLAIR

Date: March 2, 1944

No : 158

Received: March 3, 1944

AMERICAN EMBASSY

ANKARA

SECOND -158

To Hirschmann from the War Refugee Board.

Bergson suggests that you contact Joseph Klarmen Pera Palace Hotel Istanbul as soon as possible.

STETTINIUS, Acting.

Typed rr

CC: Mr. Hirschmann

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TELEGRAM SENT

PLAIN

March 2, 1944

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA
158 Second
TO HIRSCHMANN FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Ferguson suggests that you contact Joseph Klarmen, Pira Palace Hotel, Istanbul, as soon as possible.

STETTINIUS
(ACTING)
(GLW)

WRB:GLM:KG
3/1/44

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DMH
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other thana Governmental agency. (SOPOO)

March 2, 1944

2 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA
159
FOR IRA A. HIRSCHMANN FROM MR. PEHLE, ACTING DRECTOR, WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Arrangements are being made to have two thousand gold sovereigns for your use flown to the American Embassy at Ankara from Cairo. Acceptance of the shipment should be made by you as the War Refugee Board's special representative. Your ordinary administrative requirements will be taken care of in a different manner. The gold sovereigns are not repeat not being sent for that purpose. Cash payments therefrom are hereby authorized without receipts where receipts are not obtainable for the purpose of administering the policy set forth in the Executive Order and in carrying out your instructions. Under any circumstances keep careful record of expenditures and where possible obtain receipts therefor. You will be responsible for expenditures from these funds to me alone as they are confidential funds from the Emergency Fund of the President and may be disbursed without following the procedure usually required for Government disbursements. If you encounter any obstacles let me know immediately.

STETTINIUS
ACTING (GLW)

The following initialed the telegram before it was paraphrased. See attached cancelled green copy. (WRB/MCC)
WRB/GLW/KG 3/2/44 NE EH

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TELEGRAM SENT

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

March 6, 1944

3 p.m. RESTRICTED CODE

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.
168
FOR HIRSCHMANN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

An applicant has indicated interest in being employed by the War Refugee Board. He is thirty-seven years old, Jewish, born in Jerusalem, and has been a naturalized American citizen for a number of years. Besides English, he says he speaks Turkish, Arabic, French, German, Hebrew, Yiddish, and some Greek. Professes to be familiar with Turkey, Palestine and similar areas and to have carried on a shipping business in the area of Rumania and Palestine for about 5 years ending with the outbreak of war in 1939. He has indicated familiarity with shipping and refugee problems in these areas since part of his business consisted in carrying refugees to Palestine from Rumania and elsewhere. He has been employed by the United States Government for about 2 years.

Subject to your approval we propose to employ him with the thought that he might be sent to Turkey to work there or elsewhere under your direction. From our talks with him he seems to be type of person who could be of value to you on operating level. Please advise as soon as possible.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:KG NE FSA NEA A-S/3 FA
3/1/44

cc: Miss Chauncey (Sec'y), Abrahamson, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois(2) Friedman, Gaston, Hedel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Standish, Stewart, H.D.White, Files

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

TO: AMEMBASSY, ANKARA

DATED: March 9, 1944

NUMBER: 180

[redacted]

War Refugee Board sends the following for Hirschmann.

We have requested Myron Black, the field director of War Shipping Administration's Foreign Service Division, who is now in Cairo, to proceed immediately to Ankara to survey with you the entire shipping situation. Although Mr. Black can remain in Turkey only a few weeks, he will arrange to have someone detailed permanently to Ankara from the Cairo office if it is deemed necessary.

Please inform us at once of any and all developments regarding shipping problems. This problem is a most important one and it is hoped that we can solve it with the assistance of the War Shipping Administration which has been most helpful.

STETTINIUS

This is WRB Ankara Cable No. 2

CC: Sec'y. (orig.), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Lunford, Mr. Mann, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Rains, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr. H. D. White, Files.

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

[redacted]

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: March 11, 1944

NUMBER: 189

[redacted]

ATTENTION OF HIRSCHMANN FROM PEHLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference is made to our cable of March 2, no. 159.

We are ready to send you whatever funds for effective operation you may require. You should not hesitate to keep us advised of your needs at all times. We will transmit at once to you up to $50,000 if this would assist in any way. Kindly advise us in regard to this matter.

The foregoing message is Ankara cable no. 4, War Refugee Board.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

DCR:MAS:EA
3-14-44

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Messrs. Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Smith, Standish, Stewart, H.D.White, Pehle, Misses Hodel, Laughlin and Mrs. Cohn

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

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TRUE READING

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

AMB
CNSL
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FEB 1944
LE

From: SECSTATE WASHINGTON Date: March 11, 7 p.m.

No.: 190

Code: BROWN Received: March 13, 5:30p.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

190 - March 11, 7 p.m.

For the Ambassador from the War Refugee Board:

Our circular airgram of January 26 described the functions of the War Refugee Board composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. This Board has been established by the President to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jewish people of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.

The Board is actively engaged in carrying out the policy of this government as announced by the President and is seeking the cooperation of all members of the United Nations in this tremendous task.

The Board is fully conscious of the great work which the Soviet Government has done to date in saving the lives of untold numbers of refugees including Jews from Hitler who were rescued in the midst of battle from the jaws of the German Army. At the same time the Board is convinced that if it could secure the cooperation of the Soviet Government in some of the projects on which this government is working the chances of saving many people from death would be greatly increased. In view of the outstanding record of the Soviet Government in this whole matter we are not suggesting that pressure be put on them to do more than they are now doing. We feel, however, that if the Soviet Government can be convinced of the fact that we are sincerely determined to do what we can to prevent the murder of the Jews and other persecuted peoples by Hitler they may be prepared to cooperate in some of the programs which we have under consideration.

There are many ways in which the Soviet Government might be of assistance in connection with these programs. The representative of the War Refugee Board in Turkey, Iva Hirschman, at the suggestion of Ambassador Steinhardt has already discussed two specific problems with Soviet

Ambassador

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Ambassador Vinogradov in Turkey. Vinogradov was informed of our intention to exert pressure on Bulgaria and other satellite countries and was requested to take parallel action. Vinogradov was also informed of our efforts to get the Turkish Government to give permission for the use of a ship for evacuating refugees and was asked to support our request. Although Vinogradov agreed to speak to the Bulgarian Minister informally he pointed out that on * would aggravate matters he could not act formally through Moscow. Vinogradov suggested that you should request the assistance of his Government on these two problems and he agreed to do likewise.

We feel that it is very important that you discuss this whole matter with the Soviet Government immediately. You should make clear the policy of this government and discuss frankly the problems with which we are faced.

The following information concerning some of the things we are working on and some of the obstacles we have encountered is furnished for your information and use in connection with your discussions with the Soviet Government:

> The War Refugee Board is convinced that it is of utmost importance to undertake at once an organized and concentrated effort to make clear by all appropriate means to all Axis satellites that the Allied governments view in a most serious light their assistance in any form to Hitler's program to exterminate the Jews and other similar groups regarding all such action as criminal organized murder. The board also believes it necessary to make clear to satellites by all possible means its intention to do everything in its power to rescue such unfortunates who are in danger of death in order not only to give the satellites a clear view of the attitude of this country in the matter but also of the opportunities which exist for assisting in the execution of . The board feels that a campaign of this kind must be made through all possible channels and be constantly repeated at every available opportunity. The board believes that parallel action on the part of other Allied governments would do a great deal to assure the success of this endeavor. At the moment it is important that pressure be brought to bear particularly on Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary because in those areas there are many refugees in imminent danger of death who can be evacuated to Turkey and other places if those governments permit it.
>
> In addition to bringing pressure to bear through channels on the governments of the satellite governments the board feels that there should be employed in this campaign all available means for

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_____ _____ we consider this matter to be of paramount importance and _____ vigorously to pursue all possible means of accomplishing our _____. This cable has been repeated to Ambassador Steinhardt at Ankara.

The above is the Department's 554 of March 11 to Moscow. Please transmit the substance of the foregoing to Hirschman.

HULL

Decoded: Mgl:pgw:pmb:rs:rr:bw
Typed : bw

_____garbles

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: March 13, 1944

NUMBER: 194

[redacted]

The following to Hirschmann from War Refugee Board.

Davila suggested that an investigation be made by you of the report that administration of Transniestria has been turned over to the Germans by Rumania, in which event it is indispensable that the Jews be evacuated to Rumania or elsewhere immediately. You are also requested to investigate the report that the Germans halted the earlier evacuation from Transniestria to Rumania. Our insistence that this Germand demand, if made, be resisted by Rumania is a matter of importance. This Government is making appropriate representations to Rumania, Hungary, and Bulgaria through various channels. You should immediately cable to us any information you can secure regarding the present situation in Transniestria.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

C.C. Sec'y. (orig.), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Luxford, Mr. Mann, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Rains, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr. H. D. White, Files.

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

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

TO: AMEMBASSY, Ankara

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: March 13, 1944, 4 p.m.

NUMBER: 195

[redacted]

War Refugee Boards sends the following for Hirschmann:

Please inform us whether it is possible for you to send us pictures of evacuated refugees coming through or into Turkey from the Balkans. This is requested because an article on War Refugee Board is being prepared for Victory Magazine, an OWI publication.

HULL

cc: Sec'y. (orig.), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Luxford, Mr. Mann, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Rains, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr. H. D. White, Files.

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State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By R. M. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Ankara
DATED: March 13, 1944
NUMBER: 198

[redacted]

ATTENTION OF STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN.

It is stated by you that the Department's 142, February 24, was transmitted when the press story referred to was the Board's only information on the situation in Turkey and before reports were received from you. The Board has greatly appreciated your suggestions for action and your full reports have received immediate attention. We advised you of steps taken by the Board in our cable numbers 144 and 148. General instructions to Hirschmann were contained in cable no. 120 and suggestions for the approach to the Turkish Government were contained in cable no. 146. Information from the British for Hirschmann's attention with reference to refugees who may escape to Turkey was contained in our cable no.147 of February 26. At the Board's suggestion, the British Foreign Office has instructed its missions abroad to work with members of American missions in carrying out the program of the Board.

The Board is actively engaged in following up other suggestions which you have made. Strong representations are being made through various channels to Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania on the subject of their treatment of Jewish and other refugees and to bring pressure on these Governments other methods will be utilized. A cable has been prepared for transmission to our mission in Moscow and is now being cleared with the War and State Departments, which outlines the Board's activities and details the problems which have to be solved. Harriman is requested in this cable to advise the Soviet Union at once of the Board's activities and to obtain its assistance not only in specific matters suggested by you but in the program generally. This cable will be repeated for your information to Ankara when it is actually transmitted.

The Board is in agreement that no publicity which interferes with the rescue of refugees or in any way impedes such rescue, should be employed. There is no intention on the part of the Board to publicize any expected actions of cooperation by the Turkish Government until it is convinced that the Turkish Government has taken effective steps in support of the program and in this matter the Board will naturally take into consideration the advice of yourself and Hirschmann. However, the Board desires to restate its view that appropriate publicity in certain features of the program can be of enormous help.

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By R. M. Parks Date AUG 1 1979

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We cite one instance. At the Board's request, the OWI has initiated a campaign directed specifically towards the satellite governments in order to press home to them and their people the serious view which we take of their collaboration with Hitler in the persecution of the Jews and other minorities and our determination through every possible effort to rescue these unfortunates. In connection with other features of the program publicity may also prove helpful, particularly that of rescue itself. To illustrate, appropriate publicity given to sincere acts of cooperation by neutral and other Governments may be extremely helpful in certain cases in securing assistance from other Governments. It will be appreciated by the Board if you will keep it advised of developments which conceivably might be properly publicized in your area.

In its desire to avoid confusion with respect to its cables to its representatives in the field, the Board intends to number its cables to each representative consecutively commencing with this cable. Kindly refer to these Board numbers in your replies to Board cables. Also, please number consecutively all of your cables to the Board.

The foregoing message is War Refugee Board's no. 1 to Ankara and is in reply to your cable of February 26, no. 345.

HULL

cc: Miss Chauncey (Sec'y), Mrs. Cohn, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Messrs. Mr. Pehle, Abrahamson, Bernstein, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Akzin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Stewart, H. D. White, Files.

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PARAPHRASE OF

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: SEC STATE
WASHINGTON

Code:

Date: March 16, 1944 A. P.M.

No : 213

Received: March 20, 8:40 A.M.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

ANKARA

213 - March 15, 8 P.M.

For Hirschmann from the War Refugee Board.

Israel Mereminski sends the following message to Shaul Meyeroff who is in Istanbul:

Yours of February second was submitted to the WRB. It is suggested that you immediately contact Ira A. Hirschmann in Ankara at the American Embassy. Concerning your proposal as to Swedish ships it is requested that you cable more details. If advisable and possible also arrange to contact Swedish Transport Association - in addition to or without Red Cross - through their clients of twenty years' standing in Palestine. Wish to have by cable further details your progress and most recent activities of Hechalutzlochem. Has you statement to me of February 2 been cabled to Locker at London? If so what has been the reaction in London of British and other United Nations and in Turkey of the representatives thereof? Leave requested* myself to do same cable more information. I received in August from Bader photo copy of letter to Spassof of June 19, 1943; is it possible to repeat this letter to same or larger extent.

HULL

ELP.rr

CC: Mr. Hirschmann, Istanbul.

[redacted] FROM BOOKS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

TELEGRAM SENT

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

March 16, 1944

8 p.m.

[redacted]

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.
213
FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO HIRSCHMANN

Following for Shaul Meyeroff at Istanbul from Israel Mereminski.

QUOTE Submitted yours February 2 to War Refugee Board. Contact immediately Ira Hirschmann, Ankara. Cable more details your proposal Swedish ships. Also ifpossible and advisable contact Swedish Transport Associations through their Palestine clients twenty years standing without or in addition Red Cross. Also cable further details most recent activities Hechaluts Lochem and your progress. Have you cabled Locker, London, your statement to me February 2. If so, what reaction British and other United Nations, London, and their representatives, Turkey. If advisable myself do same cable more information. Is it possible to repeat to same or larger extent letter to Spassof of June 19, 1943, photo copy of which I received in August from Bader. UNQUOTE

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:KG NE NOE SHP
3/11/44

cc: Miss Chauncey (Sec'y), Cohn, Hodel, Laughlin, Pehle, Abrahamson, Akzin Bernstein, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Leesor, Luxford, Manna, McCormack Paul, Pollak, Rains, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Files

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

TO: AMEMBASSY, ANKARA

DATED: MARCH 17, 1944

NUMBER: 214

[redacted]

Following is War Refugee Board's cable no. 5 to Ankara for Hirschmann's attention.

Your cable of March 3, 1944, no. 80 is referred to herewith.

We greatly appreciate the splendid cooperation Ambassador Steinhardt has given you. Also we appreciate your suggestions for action, your reports and the steps being taken by you and the Ambassador. We willkeep you currently informed of our progress in following up the points made by you.

1. Negotiations are being continued by us with the Government of Sweden in an attempt to obtain its agreement to make vessels for this project available. The immediate prospects in this connection are not encouraging abut you will be informed of the developments as they take place.

We still believe that all possible steps should be taken to obtain Turkish vessels. Tentative consideration is being given to a plan whereby the United States Government would make a vessel available to the Government of Turkey at once if, in your opinion, the Government of Turkey would immediately make available an equal amount of tonnage for the purpose of evacuating refugees in accordance with the program which the Board

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

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Board has formulated. It is requested that you inform us whether such an offer from this Government would, in your opinion, make a Turkish vessel for refugee work available quickly. As soon as we receive from you a positive indication that such an arrangement as suggested above would be of substantial help, we will take this matter up with the appropriate authorities. Your reply will be awaited before approaching the War Shipping Administration or other appropriate government agencies. We request your urgent advice.

2. If arrangements which are satisfactory to you and Ambassador Steinhardt can be made, the necessary funds will be forthcoming to buy the Turkish vessel SS NECAT for about $400,000, it being understood that the vessel will be donated to the Turkish Red Crescent. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has indicated an interest in furnishing the purchase price of the ship if it appears reasonably certain that the vessel will be able to transport from Rumania to Palestine the 5,000 Jewish children as indicated in your reference cable. The JDC has inquired whether they will have to bear the additional expenses involved in transporting the children, such as wages, cost of fuel, et cetera. We concur with your suggestion that it would be most desirable to try to obtain the Turkish Government's consent to continue the ship in operation for the purpose of transporting additional refugees after the 5,000 children have been transported as planned.

It is

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It is further suggested by us that you get in touch with Mr. Resnick, representative in Turkey for J.D.C., in connection with this project.

HULL

CC: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Pehle, Files

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

TO: AMEMBASSY, ANKARA

DATED: MARCH 20, 1944

NUMBER: 221

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

[redacted]

War Refugee Board sends the following for Hirschmann's attention.

War Refugee Board has received a report considered authentic which indicates that Jews who can prove that Palestine is their ultimate destination are allowed to leave Bulgaria to go to Turkey under present Bulgarian policy. Apparently, the Rumanian position is the same. At the same time the Board has received information that no entrance certificates to Palestine are available or being allotted for persons in enemy controlled areas. The case of Stephen Holczer is an illustration. Holczer while residing at Timisoara in Rumania received both a transit visa to Turkey and an exit visa from Rumania which were arranged for by the Swedish authorities, but he was not able to use them as he was refused an allotment of a Palestine entry permit while in Rumania and consequently was not able to give the Rumanian authorities assurances that Palestine was actually his ultimate destination.

It is evident that there is an urgent need to break the impasse which this situation has created.
The solution of the problem possibly may be to find a way of meeting the conditions imposed upon the exit of Jews from Bulgaria and Rumania if the information we have regarding the positions of those countries is correct.

It is requested that you ascertain the authenticity of the reports received by us concerning the attitudes of the two governments. We suggest that Shaul Meyeroff at Istanbul be contacted by you in connection with the above, especially with reference to an official letter dated June 19, 1943, addressed to Spassof, a photo copy of which was sent to Mereminski by Bader in August. If it appears that our information is correct you should use every possible means to avail yourselves of this avenue. You should keep us informed of the developments as they take place.

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, White, Files

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

TO: AMEMBASSY, ANKARA

DATED: MARCH 22, 1944

NUMBER: 230

[redacted]

Following for Hirschmann from War Refugee Board.

War Refugee Board cable no. 7

It is stated in a letter dated February 25, from Intercross that the "Bellacitta", a Bulgarian vessel, is available to transfer refugees at the rate of 150 per week to Istanbul presumably from Mangalia. Red Cross also informed us that two Bulgarian vessels, "Milka" and "Maritza", are also available to Jewish organizations for this purpose but since Turkey is not allowing more than 150 a week to go to Palestine by rail, it is presumed that the last two mentioned boats will not be usable since the "Bellacitta" can fill the limit imposed. Red Cross as intermediary will give notification of sailings you are requested to do everything possible without lessening efforts concerning Swedish and Turkish boats. RedCross has requested and the United States has granted safe conducts for the "Bellacitta" and cable is being sent to the American Embassy at Moscow requesting that the Soviet Government take prompt action on the British Government's safe conduct requests.

HULL

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

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

TO: AMEMBASSY, ANKARA

DATED: MARCH 23, 1944

NUMBER: 243

[redacted]

The following is War Refugee Board's no. 10 for Hirschmann and concerns the matter of obtaining shipping for evacuating refugees from the Balkans referred to in your cables no. 455, 458, 471 and 472.

A request is being made of the Swiss Government to support in its own name the efforts which the International Red Cross is making to obtain safe conduct for the SS TARI which has been placed at your disposal to evacuate Jewish refugees from Constanza. Also the Swiss Government and International Red Cross have been informed by us that this Government agrees to whatever safeconduct the British grants.

We have had discussions with War Shipping Administration with respect to the proposal that a substitute vessel be made available by this Government so that repeated voyages to evacuate refugees may be made by the SS TARI. War Shipping Administration has cabled Myron Black requesting further information as to one, the type of vessel needed and where it will trade; two, information as to whether the vessel will be considered by the enemy as a Turkish vessel if it is to trade in enemy controlled areas and also whether safe conduct will be needed. Information has been received by us to the effect that sympathetic consideration will be given by War Shipping Administration to such recommendations as Black may make even if they involve practical difficulties. However, War Shipping Administration believes that the situation could be best handled by treating it as a problem of allocation by which an attempt could be made to work out an arrangement by which the use of Turkish ships would be conserved through making equivalent space available on an Allied vessel proceeding to a port in the Eastern Mediterranean. War Shipping Administration is also sending a cable to Kallock, their representative in Algiers, asking that they be informed whether there is available in the Mediterranean any small freighter which could be used under charter by the Government of Turkey.

In cooperation

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

[redacted]

In cooperation with Black you should investigate all the possibilities of this situation. Whatever plan is finally proposed must be one involving the least delay since time is most essential in view of the military situation. War Shipping Administration has pointed out the practical difficulties regarding the obtaining, without delay, of a ship now available in the Mediterranean which could be chartered to the Turkish Government for the abovementioned purpose.

We will be glad to do whatever we can to carry out whatever recommendation you may make after all the difficulties involved have been considered by you and Black. Should the first voyage of the SS TARI be completed within a short period of time, you will realize that an attempt actually to supply the Turkish Government with a vessel by that time would encounter considerable difficulties. Taking into consideration the shipping situation, we believe that a much more feasible arrangement would be to reach an agreement, if possible, with the Government of Turkey whereby this Government would give assurances that should the SS TARI would be used.

With respect to the suggested purchase of the SS NECAT for donation to the Turkish RedCrescent, it has been indicated by the Government of Turkey that it would not be possible to withdraw a second vessel from those at the disposal of that Government. If it develops that it is not possible to arrange for repeated voyages by the SS TARI, please advise us if you have investigated the possibility of making the SS NECAT available immediately after the first voyage of the SS TARI has been completed.

HULL

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Pehle, Files

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Extra

CABLE TO STEINHARDT AND HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, TURKEY,
FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

WRB Cable Ankara No. 10

Refer your 455, 468, 471 and 472 concerning the matter of obtaining shipping for the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans.

We are requesting the Swiss Government to support the efforts of the International Red Cross to obtain safe conduct for the SS TARI which has been placed at your disposal for a trip to Constansa to evacuate Jewish refugees.

The matter of this Government making available a substitute vessel in order that the S. S. TARI may make repeated voyages to evacuate refugees has been discussed with the War Shipping Administration. The War Shipping Administration is cabling Myron Black requesting further information as to (1) the type of vessel desired and where it is intended that the vessel trade; (2) if vessel is to trade in enemy controlled areas, advice as to whether enemy will treat vessel as Turkish vessel, including question as to whether safe conduct is necessary. The War Shipping Administration has made clear that any recommendation submitted by Black will be sympathetically considered even if practical difficulties are involved. They feel however that most practical way of handling situation would be to treat it as problem of allocation and attempt to work out arrangement whereby equivalent space on Allied vessel proceeding to Eastern Mediterranean port would be made available for Turkish requirements thereby conserving use of Turkish vessels. The War Shipping Administration is also cabling Kalloch, their representative in Algiers, requesting advice as to whether any small freighter is available in the Mediterranean which could be chartered to the Turks.

You should explore all possibilities in this situation with Black. Since time is of the essence in view of military situation whatever proposal is submitted must of course be one which will involve least delays. The War Shipping Administration has pointed out the practical difficulties in obtaining without delay a ship now available in the Mediterranean which could be chartered to the Turks for this purpose.

We will do whatever we can to carry out any recommendation that you and Black may make after considering all of the difficulties involved. However, you will bear in mind that an effort to actually

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put a vessel into the hands of the Turks by the time that the S.S. TARI completes the first voyage may be fraught with considerable difficulties if the voyage were completed in a short period of time. On the other hand, if you could reach an understanding with the Turks whereby the S.S. TARI would be made available any for three months on the assurance that this Government would see to it that an equivalent space on an Allied vessel was made available for Turkish requirements for a three months period, not necessarily concurrent with the period during which the S. S. TARI will be used, such an arrangement would be much more feasible from the standpoint of the shipping situation.

With respect to the purchase of the S. S. NECAT for donation to the Turkish Red Crescent, it is noted that the Turkish Government has indicated that to withdraw a second vessel from the ships at the disposal of the Turkish Government would be impossible. Have you explored the possibility of making the S. S. NECAT available to the Turkish Red Crescent as soon as the S.S. TARI completes its first voyage, in the event that arrangements can not be made to have the S.S. TARI make repeated voyages.

JEDuBois:ecr
3/22/44

cc: Miss Chauncey(Sec'y), Cohn, Hodel, Laughlin, Pehle, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Files.

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FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

TO: AMEMBASSY, ANKARA

DATED: MARCH 23, 1944

NUMBER: 243

CORRECTION

Page 2, Second Paragraph.....(last sentence)

We will be glad to do whatever we can to carry out whatever recommendation you may make after all the difficulties involved have been considered by you and Black. Should the first voyage of the SS TARI be completed within a short period of time, you will realize that an attempt actually to supply the Turkish Government with a vessel by that time would encounter considerable difficulties. Taking into consideration the shipping situation, we believe that a much more feasible arrangement would be to reach an agreement, if possible, with the Government of Turkey whereby this Government would give assurances that should the SS TARI be made available say for a period of three months, there would be made available to the Turkish Government equivalent space on an Allied vessel for a comparable length of time not however necessarily concurrent with the period during which the SS TARI would be used.

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

[redacted] FROM THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: March 24, 1944

NUMBER: 250

[redacted]

FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND HIRSCHMANN.

Refer your No. 50. March 21. You are authorised to enter into charter party for SS TARI at price indicated. Place insurance in Turkey. Advise us total amount of funds needed for charter and insurance and form in which such funds should be remitted.

Although the price indicated seems to be almost double that at which other neutral vessels have been chartered, it is assumed that you have consulted with Myron Black who has had much experience in similar negotiations and that you feel that we cannot do better under the circumstances.

You are also authorised to confirm to the Turkish Government that the guarantee of replacement given in the case of SS VATAN is applicable to SS TARI. That is if the SS TARI if lost on the projected voyage the United States Government will replace her with a cargo vessel of comparable tonnage and age.

It is assumed that there is some assurance that when the voyage is undertaken there will be refugees available for evacuatinn. In view of your estimate as to possible duration of voyage, it is also assumed that the Board's liability under the charter will not be unlimited as to time.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 11

DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter JUL 15 1975

By R. H. Parks Date AUG. 1 1979

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CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AND IRA HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, TURKEY

Refer your No. 501 March 21. You are authorized to enter into charter party for SS TARI at price indicated. Place insurance in Turkey. Advise us total amount of funds needed for charter and insurance and form in which such funds should be remitted.

Although the price indicated seems to be almost double that at which other neutral vessels have been chartered, it is assumed that you have consulted with Myron Black who has had much experience in similar negotiations and that you feel that we cannot do better under the circumstances.

You are also authorized to confirm to the Turkish Government thatthe guarantee of replacement given in the case of SS VATAN is applicable to SS TARI. That is if the SS TARI is lost on the projected voyage the United States Government will replace her with a cargo vessel of comparable tonnage and age.

It is assumed that there is some assurance that when the voyage is undertaken there will be refugees available for evacuation. In view of your estimate as to possible duration of voyage, it is also assumed that the Board's liability under the charter will not be unlimited as to time

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 11

JBF:bbk - 3/23/44
Delivered by Mr. Mann

****

March 24, 1944

9:15 a.m.

Please transmit the attached urgent cable from the War Refugee Board to Ambassador Steinhardt and Hirschmann. The commitment to replace the Turkish vessel has the approval of Admiral Land, Administrator of the War Shipping Administration, and Lee T. Crowley, Administrator of the Foreign Economic Administration.

cc: Miss Chauncey(Secty), Cohn, Bodel, Laughlin, Pehle, Abrahamson, Akzin, Seymstein, DuBois, Friedsam, Gaston, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Rane, Standish, Stewart, H.D. White, Wiles.

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TELEGRAM SENT

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (SC-00)
Treasury

March 25, 1944

6 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA, TURKEY

260

FOR STEINHARDT FROM TREASURY

Two thousand sovereigns were delivered by British Treasury to Legation in Cairo, for delivery to Ambassador, Ankara, for Hirschmann. Please advise Treasury if delivery has been made.

HULL
(GL)

FHA:GL:Hb
3/25/44

sh:copy
3-29-44

Distributed to: Mr. Bell (Mr. Dietrich); Mr.Paul; Mr.White(Mr.Glendinning-Orig.) Mr.Luxford; Mr.Glendinning; Mr.Stewart; Mr.Bernstein; Mr.Taylor; Mr.Ness.

From Mrs. Fontaine - Room 225

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: Amembassy, Ankara

DATED: March 27, 1944

NUMBER: 264

[redacted]

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 14. Refer your No. 465 of March 16, 1944.

Notwithstanding delay in transmission to Washington, Board desires to have pictures of evacuated refugees coming from Balkans through Turkey. Board appreciates your caution against publicity in the United States at this time regarding your efforts in Turkey. Pictures will not be used until you agree to their publication.

HULL
(GLW)

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

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

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TELEGRAM SENT

2 copies Central File

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

March 23, 1944

7 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Vaad Hahatzalah Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

271

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

THIS IS WRB NO. 12.

Following for Jacob Griful, Hotel Continental, Beyuglu, from the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE Our Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee ready transmit financial aid for your rescue work. Consult Louis Kastner other Orthodox leaders in Turkey and organize strong Committee. Give us constructive plan of proposed rescue operations and we will supply necessary funds. Contact Isaac Sternbuch and Switzerland committee we have cabled him money and instructions. They ready give you fullest cooperation. Contact Embassy's American ~~Legation~~ receive and follow ~~instructions~~ Embassy's instructions and advise us through ~~Legation~~.

Rabbis

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Rabbis Israel Rosenberg, Al Silver, Jacob Levinson, Aron Kotler and Abraham Kalmanowitz

UNQUOTE

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:AKK NE SKP

3/27/44

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MORNING

Mr Hirschmann

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: SECSTATE WASHINGTON

Date: March 24, 1944.

No : 253

Code: ENCLAIR

Received: March 26, 7:30 a.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

253 - March 24, 1944.

For the Ambassador and Hirschmann:

War Refugee Board's No. 12.

The War Refugee Board is organized and is concentrating its effort to make clear by all appropriate means to all Axis satellites that the Allied Governments view in a most serious light their assistance in any form to Hitler's program to exterminate the Jews and other similar groups regarding all such action as criminal participation in organized murder. The Board also believes it necessary to make clear to the satellites by all possible means its intention to do everything in its power to rescue such unfortunates who are in danger of death. In order not only to give the satellites a clear view of the attitude of this country in the matter but also of the opportunities which exist for assisting in the execution of our policy, the Board feels very strongly that a campaign of this kind must be made through all possible channels and be constantly repeated at every available opportunity. You are requested to see that the utmost publicity is immediately given to the President's statement in local newspapers, radio, and in any other manner feasible. Please make every endeavor to have this publicity included on such radio broadcasts for foreign consumption as may emanate from the country to which you are accredited. It would be extremely helpful if you could obtain favorable comment from prominent governmental or other personages with respect to the statement for use in connection with the publicity program. For your information, in view of the importance of the

/statement

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From: SECSTATE WASHINGTON No. 253 March 24, 1944.

statement and the program which it implements, the Office of War Information expects to employ its full facilities in calling this matter and appropriate comment thereon to the attention of Axis satellites and other countries. You are requested to report by cable as soon as possible the measure you have taken to comply with these instructions together with the results thereof. Significant clippings and official comment should be sent by airmail. It must be borne in mind that the effectiveness of this statement will depend in large measure upon the extent to which adequate publicity can be obtained for it, particularly in German controlled Europe. This cable has been cleared with the Office of War Information.

HULL

Typed: eb

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: March 28, 1944

NUMBER: 272

[redacted]

The following is War Refugee Board's no. 8, for Hirschmann.

The information given below which the Board received, may merit investigation relative to the situation generally as well as the particular case concerned:

Attempts are being made by a father and son with name of Frankl to reach Palestine after having escaped from Slovakia to Hungary. Having received Palestine immigration certificates in Hungary, they have all transit visas required except Turkish, which they have been unable to obtain.

As you know, projects involving the rescue or locating of specific individual refugees are not undertaken by the Board, but we believe that this case may be a typical situation which can be taken up with the Government of Turkey

HULL

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

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

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CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, TURKEY FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your Nos. 547 of March 27, 564 of March 29 and 578 of March 30.

With respect to terms and conditions of charter of SS TARI the Board recognizes that you have made the best deal possible under the circumstances, and as previously indicated you are authorized to charter the boat on the terms offered.

The Board is deeply concerned with the turn which the negotiations for a Turkish vessel have taken. For more than two months you and Mr. Hirschmann have been carrying on painstaking negotiations with the Turkish Government in order to obtain boats for the evacuation of refugees from Rumania. In these long drawn out negotiations the Turkish Government has submitted many proposals and counter proposals. Upon your recommendation the War Refugee Board has immediately acceded to practically every condition imposed by the Turkish Government even though neither you nor ourselves considered some of them entirely reasonable. However up to now the Turkish Government has failed to make a boat available. Accordingly the Board finds it extremely difficu t to understand why the Turkish Government which continuously has expressed its desire to cooperate in the refugee program and which must be aware that the United States in view of military necessities is not in a position to guarantee the replacement of the SS TARI with a passenger vessel is further delaying this highly urgent matter.

In the circumstances the Board believes, if you are in accord, that the Board's views in the matter should be brought to the attention of the Turkish Government in a frank manner and the issue should be squarely put whether that Government is prepared to cooperate by chartering the TARI without further delay and upon the basis of the guarantee already offered.

According to a press report from Ankara dated April 1 two hundred thirty nine Jewish refugees from Rumania who arrived illegally in Istanbul have been taken by rail to Palestine. We assume that these are the refugees who arrived on the SS MILKA and were referred to in your 564. The Board was surprised at the attitude of the Turkish Government reported in your cable and isgratified to learn that as a result of your intervention these refugees have been permitted transit through Turkey to Palestine. Your efforts deserve the highest commendation.

If the impression were created in this country that the Turkish Government is not fully cooperating in the refugee rescue program there would undoubtedly be a reaction here quite unfavorable to Turkey. In view of the fact that several private organizations have been active in the boat negotiations and are fully cognizant of the situation it is not improbable that unfavorable publicity here may result if the Turkish Government continues to maintain its present position.

These matters have been discussed with the Turkish Ambassador in Washington.

The Board and the Department are taking all possible measures to support the request of the International Red Cross for a German safe conduct for the TARI. Similar steps will also be taken in the case of the SS BELLACITTA mentioned in your No. 578.

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 18

JBF:bbk - 4/3/44
April 3, 1944
12:08 p.m.
cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Fiels, Cable Control Files

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HULL

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: April 4, 1944

NUMBER: 294

[redacted]

Following is for Steinhardt and Hirschmann from War Refugee Board.

Please inform Alice Sturdza Cantacuzene through available channels that if she, Pussy, his mother and close friends are able to proceed to Istanbul from Bucharest, all necessary financial and other arrangements will be made by Louise Gunther.

HULL

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

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

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TELEGRAM SENT

April 4, 1944

3 p.m.

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

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

395

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO STEINHARDT

Board considers it important that David J. Schweitzer, American citizen, presently in Palestine as a representative of Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society proceed to Ankara.

Any assistance which you can give in facilitating the issuance of his Turkish visa, which has been delayed will be appreciated.

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:OMH NE

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

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: Amembassy, Ankara

DATED: April 4, 1944

NUMBER: 286

CONFIDENTIAL

FOLLOWING IS FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION.

WSB CABLE 16.

It is understood by us that you and Hirschmann have been informed by Joseph Schwartz, Lisbon JDC representative, that there is a good possibility that a Portuguese vessel may be obtained for the purpose of evacuating refugees from Constantza. We have also been informed by Schwartz that Hirschmann has advised him to suspend negotiations with the Portuguese Shipping Company until the possibilities of evacuation are definitely decided and until the question of using a Turkish vessel has been determined.

We assume that you will bear in mind the suggestion made by Schwartz and that if an occasion should develop wherein a Portuguese vessel could be used you will inform Schwartz and us.

HULL
(SLW)

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y.), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannen, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Rains, Sargent, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H.D.White, Files.

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: April 5, 1944

NUMBER: 298

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

[redacted]

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, TURKEY.

Reference your Nos. 547 of March 27, 564 of March 29 and 578 of March 30.

With respect to terms and conditions of charter of SS TARI the Board recognized that you have made the best deal possible under the circumstances, and as previously indicated you are authorized to charter the boat on the terms offered

The Board is deeply concerned with the turn which the negotiations for a Turkish vessel have taken. For more that two months you and Mr. Hirschmann have been carrying on painstaking negotiations with the Turkish Government in order to obtain boats for the evacuation of refugees from Rumania. In these long drawn out negotiations the Turkish Government has submitted many proposals and counter proposals. Upon your recommendation the War Refugee Board has immediately acceded to practically every condition imposed by the Turkish Government even though neither you nor ourselves considered some of them entirely reasonable. However up to now the Turkish Government has failed to make a boat available. Accordingly the Board finds it extremely difficult to understand why the Turkish Government which continuously has expressed its desire to cooperate in the refugee program and which must be aware that the United States in view of military necessities is not in a position to guarantee the replacement of the SS TARI with a passenger vessel is further delaying this highly urgent matter.

In the circumstances the Board believes, if you are in accord, that the Board's views in the matter should be brought to the attention of the Turkish Government is a frank manner and the issue should be squarely put whether that Government is prepared to cooperate by chartering the TARI without further delay and upon the basis of the guarantee already offered.

According to a press report from Ankara dated April 1

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two hundred thirty nine Jewish refugees from Rumania who arrived illegally in Istanbul have been taken by rail to Palestine. We assume that these are the refugees who arrived on the SS MILKA and were referred to in your No. 564. The Board was surprised at the attitude of the Turkish Government reported in your cable and is gratified to learn that as a result of your intervention these refugees have been permitted transit through Turkey to Palestine. Your efforts deserve the highest commendation.

If the impression were created in this country that the Turkish Government is not fully cooperating in the refugee rescue program there would undoubtedly be a reaction here quite unfavorable to Turkey. In view of the fact that several private organizations have been active in the boat negotiations and are fully cognizant of the situation it is not improble that unfavorable publicity here may result if the Turkish Government continues to maintain its present position.

These matters have been discussed with the Turkish Ambassador in Washington.

The Board and the Department are taking all possible measures to support the request of the International Red Cross for a German safe conduct for the TARI. Similar steps will also be taken in the case of the SS BELLACITTA mentioned in your No. 578.

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 18.

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

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington.

TO: AMEMBASSY, Ankara

DATED: April 8, 1944

NUMBER: 306

[redacted]

The following message is War Refugee Board No 19.

From War Refugee Board to the Ambassador

We refer to your telegram of April 3, 1944, no 590

If SS Tari is chartered to War Refugee Board, war risk will be insured through War Shipping Administration at the rate of seven and one-half per cent. You should notify us at once when insurance is to be placed so that arrangements can be made here. We will need the following information: We will have to know that the vessel will depart within fifteen days of the time we obtain the insurance and also know that the vessel is safely in port. You are requested to inform us of the final value placed upon the boat so that the value in dollars may be computed in determining the premium and insurance.

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

HULL

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

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TELEGRAM SENT

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

April 8, 1944

5 p.m.

[redacted]

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
132 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK, 7, N.Y.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

[redacted]

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR THE AMBASSADOR WRB No. 17

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR JACOB GRIFFEL, HOTEL CONTINENTAL, BEYOGLU, FROM THE VAAD H AHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE:

QUOTE: Please arrange rescue for as many people possible. We are ready with money, sending $25,000. Immediately contact American Embassy, cable us every week. Form with Kastner and others a rescue committee. Contact also Sternbuch. Answer immediately to Vaad Israel Rosenberg, El Silver, Jacob Levinson, Aaron Kotler and Abraham Kalmanowitz. UNQUOTE.

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:OMH NE SWP WT

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

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington.

TO: AMERICAN EMBASSY, Ankara.

DATED: April 8, 1944, 7 p.m.

NUMBER: 311

[redacted]

Given below is the substance of a license (no. W-2166) which the Treasury Department has issued to Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, 132 Nassau Street, New York City. It is requested that you deliver to the representative of Vaad Hahatzala in Turkey, Mr. Jacob Griffel, Hotel Continental, Beyoglu, the substance of this license.

(A) Notwithstanding General Ruling Number 11, we herewith authorize your representatives in Turkey, together with such agents as may be appointed by them, to communicate with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, by any means which they may deem necessary or expedient, for the purpose of arranging the evacuation, to such areas of safety or relative safety as may be selected by such representatives or their agents, of those persons in such territory in imminent danger of their lives, and to arrange for the safeguard and sustenance thereof until such evacuation is possible, the representatives being authorized hereby to pursue any other action which may be appropriate for said purposes, including the payment of funds to persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory who may have provided either goods or services in connection with the foregoing.

In order to acquire the necessary local currency for financing the operations referred to, we authorize the following three methods, provided that method number three shall not be used if it is feasible to use either of the first two methods to obtain the local currency or exchange: (1) The currency or exchange of the country or countries in which operations are to take place may be purchased in Turkey if your representatives are reasonably satisfied that the sellers have held such exchange or currency from a date prior to the date as of which the United States Government froze such country or countries, or if it was acquired subsequently, that such currency or exchange was procured by the seller under circumstances not of benefit to the enemy. Your representatives are to consult with the United States Embassy in Ankara when possible in each such case. The sellers of such local currency

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

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or exchange may be reimbursed in Turkish pounds at the prevailing unofficial rate of exchange in Turkey; (2) local currency or exchange of the country or countries in which the operations are to take place may be purchased in enemy or enemy-occupied territory provided that reimbursement is not made until the war has been terminated. Blocked accounts may be established on your books in the United States or in a bank either in Turkey or in the United States in order to insure reimbursement to the seller of such currency or exchange subsequent to the war, provided that no assignment of any interest in such blocked account or payment therefrom will be permitted unless specifically approved by the Treasury Department in each case; (3) the necessary local exchange, funds, or goods or services may be acquired in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free currency notes or free foreign exchange provided that your representatives shall take such reasonable steps as may be possible to prevent such free currency notes or free foreign exchange from being acquired by any person who will make the same available to the enemy, either directly or indirectly.

(B) Individual licenses authorizing the specific amounts pursuant to this license will be issued by Treasury and the total amounts represented by claims against any blocked account established in accordance with this license, plus the sums paid out or otherwise blocked pursuant hereto, shall not exceed the total amount in dollars (or the foreign currency equivalent) so specifically authorized by the Treasury.

(C) Your representatives should insure to whatever extent is possible that the sellers of exchange or local currency are persons acceptable to the United States Embassy at Ankara and a full report should be made to the United States Embassy concerning the financial transactions completed in accordance with this license.

(D) Periodic reports with respect to the operations carried into effect pursuant to this license should be given to the United States Embassy in Ankara by your representatives.

You should inform Mr. Jacob Griffel that the Vaad Hahatzala is making an initial remittance of $25,000 to begin the operations.

You should note that the foregoing license is substantially the same as licenses issued previously to this and other private agencies for the purpose of carrying out similar operations from Spain, Sweden, Portugal and Switzerland.

These

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These operations have been approved by the Treasury, the Department, and the War Refugee Board, and you are requested to facilitate carrying them into effect in so far as may be possible. Furthermore, you are requested to report to the Department at once any difficulties which may be encountered, especially in connection with the financial operations, and a statement as to progress toward the objectives envisaged should be included in your report. All reports filed in accordance with paragraph (C) of the license should be promptly forwarded to the Department. In matters of this kind, time is frequently of the essence, as you are aware, and therefore you should avoid delays. Therefore, you are requested to give liberal interpretation to the license and the authority which it grants, as and when the occasion arises, reporting to the Department any such interpretations. You are informed that paragraph (A-1) already has been construed as allowing the purchase from persons in Turkey of local currency or exchange irrespective of where the currency or exchange may in fact be located. Furthermore, you should note that while under paragraph (A-3) foreign exchange may be made available in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, you should use this method if under the circumstances, the relief operations and evacuation which the license authorizes can thereby be carried into immediate execution most effectively. On the other hand, either (1) or (2) should be used inpreference to the third method if the operations will not be prejudiced in any way.

From previous communications from the War Refugee Board you will have recognized that the saving of lives is felt to be of paramount importance and it follows that while we are still vitally concerned with preventing the acquisition of foreign exhange by the enemy, this factor is to be subordinated to the maximum realization of the rescue objectives of which the license discussed above is an important factor, being undertaken at the present time.

HULL

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

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CABLE CONTROL FILES ROOM 3871/2

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, TURKEY FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 20

Please refer to your Nos. 585 and 594 of April 4.

1. We talked last week with Turkish Ambassador in Washington regarding impossibility of replacing TARI with passenger ship and Ambassador cabled his government accordingly. Turkish Ambassador here now understands that the Turkish Government is no longer insisting on guarantee to replace TARI with passenger boat but will accept guarantee of cargo vessel. Ambassador is asking confirmation of this from his government. As we advised in No. of the United States Government, in view of military necessities is not (repeat not) in a position to replace the SS TARI with a passenger vessel. It was accordingly suggested that you put the issue squarely to the Turkish Government whether it is prepared to cooperate by chartering the SS TARI without further delay and upon the basis of the guarantee already offered, namely a cargo vessel of comparable age and tonnage.

2. Transfer of $160,000 to Kelley as requested in your No. 594 has been arranged. These are confidential funds from the Emergency Fund of the President and may be disbursed without following the procedure usually required in government disbursements. Kelley will be responsible to Mr. Pehle, Executive Director of the Board, alone for expenditures but should keep careful records and obtain receipts.

3. The charter party should be signed in the name of the War Refugee Board. Ambassador Steinhardt or any member of his staff designated by him is hereby authorized to sign the charter party in the name of the War Refugee Board.

4. With reference to German and Russian safe conduct the following steps have been taken by the Board. The Governments of Switzerland and Sweden have been asked to support the request of the International Red Cross for a German safe conduct. The Apostolic Delegate in Washington has been requested to ask similar action by the Holy See. The Swedish Government has already indicated its willingness to approach the German Government. Minister Harrison is awaiting a reply from the Swiss Foreign Office. As you know, the Board requested Ambassador Harriman to approach the Russian Government with respect to obtaining safe conduct from that government. No reply has as yet been received in Washington. Some of your cables with respect to the TARI indicate clearly the exact nature of the safe conduct that has been requested from the Germans. However, we have been advised by Minister Harrison in Bern that the International Red Cross has requested a safe conduct for the TARI on a voyage from Istanbul to Constanza and return. Accordingly our requests to the Swiss and the Swedes have been couched in the same terms. In view of the one indication contained in your No. 501 of March 21 that the voyage may be from Constanza to Haifa it is suggested that you check immediately with the International Red Cross delegate with a view to seeing whether the safe conduct request has been properly couched and advise the Board.

5. The Board fully concurs that the signing of the charter party should be delayed as long as possible pending more definite news about German safe conduct. However you are given full authority to act as in your judgment circumstances dictate. We realize the difficulty of the situation and that risks must be taken

JBP:bbk - 4/10/44

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and you are fully authorized to charter the TARI when and if you deem it desirable. We feel that you are in a better position than we to make a judgment on the matter and we accept and have full confidence in whatever decisions you reach.

****

April 10, 1944

3:50 P.M.

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y.), Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

JEF:bbk - 4/10/44

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CABLE CONTROL FILES ROOM 387½

CABLE TO ANKARA

Please deliver the following message to Ambassador Steinhardt, Ankara, from J. W. Pehle, War Refugee Board.

QUOTE Re your 544. Suggest sovereigns be placed in bank safe deposit box pending discussions with Hirschmann and issuance of further instructions. UNQUOTE

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 21.

****

April 12, 1944

11:00 A.M.

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y.), Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

Stewart: pdk 4/7/44

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

To: Mr. Warren

From: Mr. Pehle

It will be appreciated if you will have the attached cable dispatched as soon as possible.

Attachment.

4-17-44

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Hirschmann arrived Saturday. We are gratified to receive his personal report on the difficult situation in Turkey which you and he faced and which you are now facing. We are convinced that his report in person was indispensable to the Board's continued program in Turkey.

Hirschmann is working here with us on the pending situations and you will hear from us concretely as soon as possible.

The Board desires ~~again~~ to express to you its great appreciation for the unremitting and wholehearted support which Hirschmann has reported that you have given to all of the efforts of this Government to save the lives of victims of Nazi oppression.

4-17-44

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

The following refers to your No. 657 of April 12 from Ankara to the War Refugee Board.

With respect to the replacement of a passenger vessel of QUOTE an equivalent vessel of similar age, size and general characteristics UNQUOTE for the SS TARI as designated in Article 4 of the proposed charter with the Turkish Government for the aforesaid ship, Hirschmann is in full agreement with the position you have taken in your telegram abovementioned.

Hirschmann and I conferred with Admiral Land of the War Shipping Administration today. The War Shipping Administration and the Foreign Economic Administration have authorized you to commit this Government to the replacement of the SS TARI in the event of loss with a passenger repeat passenger vessel as requested by the Turkish Government.

At this point every recommendation submitted by you and Hirschmann to complete the negotiations for you to sign the charter agreement for the War Refugee Board with the Turkish Government for the SS TARI has been authorized. Please refer to War Refugee Board cable to Ankara No. 20 relating to all the conditions mentioned in your numbers 585 and 594. The single obstacle remaining is the granting of safe conduct by the German Government. We have taken every available measure to expedite this safe conduct in Washington as reported in our War Refugee Board cable No. 20.

Hirschmann informs me that Simond has expressed to him unequivocally, unreserved confidence that von Papen would arrange to obtain this safe conduct without delay. He also informs me that Simond agreed personally to see von Papen within a few days after his first meeting with him in Ankara on this subject. Assuming that the German safe conduct has not been obtained Hirschmann urges that both Simond and the Apostolic Delegate from Istanbul arrange to see von Papen in person in order to again urge granting of safe conduct without delay. Hirschmann reports that Simond expressed the view that he can succeed in securing the safe conduct and he suggests that you personally confer with Simond along the above lines without delay.

4-17-44

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CABLE CONTROL FILES ROOM 3872

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, TURKEY FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 22.

Reference your Nos. 625 and 626 of April 8.

Schwartz being advised of your recommendation regarding Portuguese boat with which we concur.

Your efforts in arranging transit for refugees arriving on SS MARITZA are greatly appreciated. In view of recent voyages of MILKA, MARITZA and BELLACITTA Board would be interested to know if there is possibility that such boats can continue evacuation operations.

April 13, 1944
12:00 p.m.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

JBF:bbk - 4/13/44

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

CABLE CONTROL FILES ROOM 3872

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STRINGHAM, ANKARA, TURKEY FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 23.

Please refer to your No. 642 of April 10.

In February, immediately upon receiving your suggestion that Greek relief ships be diverted to refugee evacuation from Rumania (your Nos. 282, 299, 306) we addressed such a request to the Swedish Government through the Swedish Ambassador here. In reply the Swedish Government indicated that certain obstacles such as obtaining the consent of the German, British and Canadian Governments would have to be overcome before a Greek relief ship could be used for evacuation of refugees. The Swedish Government indicated however that if these conditions and certain others could be met one ship, the SS BARBALANDA, arriving in Salonika about March 15, might be used.

The British Government apparently did not desire to have any Greek relief ships diverted for refugee evacuation. It is understood that the British Legation in Stockholm felt that any extraneous delay in the shipping schedule for Greek relief would have serious and deplorable effects. The Board has been advised by the Washington representative of the Ministry of Economic Warfare in a letter dated April 5 that even a small loss of tonnage in the Greek relief schedule might leave a serious gap in deliveries. The Ministry of Economic Warfare suggested that it may be possible to reopen the question when four ships which are to be added to the Greek relief fleet have actually left the Baltic. The Ministry added however that even so it would be difficult to use a relief ship for this purpose and expressed the hope that ships can be obtained for this purpose in other quarters.

The contents of your No. 642 have now been cabled to Ambassador Winant with the request that he take up with the British Government as soon as possible the question of the use of the SS BARBALANDA. Ambassador Winant has been requested to emphasize to the British Government the great importance of obtaining the use of the ship at once for refugee evacuation. If approval is obtained from the British Government, Ambassador Winant is to take up the matter with the Swedish Ambassador in London, asking the latter to communicate to the Swedish Government our urgent request and further asking the Swedish Government to obtain a German safe conduct. You will be kept advised of any further developments.

****

April 14, 1944
9:55 A.M.

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y.), Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

JBF:bbk - 4/13/44

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer to our No. 2516 of March 31.

Ambassador Steinhardt has just advised that there are a number of refugees who can be evacuated from Rumania in addition to those who can be carried in the one Turkish vessel for which charter negotiations are still continuing. Within the last few weeks approximately 500 refugees have been brought to Turkey on small Bulgarian boats. It is therefore extremely urgent that additional shipping be obtained without delay.

During the course of negotiations for a Turkish boat Ambassador Steinhardt suggested that we undertake to obtain from the Swedish Government permission to divert one or more of the ships carrying relief supplies to Greece for use in evacuation operations from Constanza to Turkey. Ambassador Steinhardt felt that this procedure was desirable in view of the delay in obtaining a Turkish ship and in view of the fact that the Greek relief ships of which there are twelve or thirteen in service were the closest to Turkey and could most easily be sent to Constanza. A request along these lines was addressed to the Swedish Government through the Ambassador here. In reply the Swedish Government indicated that certain obstacles such as obtaining the consent of the German, British and Canadian Governments would have to be overcome before a Greek relief ship could be used for evacuation of refugees. The Swedish Government indicated however that if these conditions and certain others could be met one ship, the SS BARDALANDA, arriving in Saloniki about March 15, might be used.

The British Government apparently did not desire to have any Greek relief ships diverted for refugee evacuation. It is understood that the British Legation in Stockholm felt that any extraneous delay in the shipping schedule for Greek relief would have serious and deplorable effects. Moreover, the Board has been advised by the Washington representative of the Ministry of Economic Warfare that even a small loss of tonnage in the Greek relief schedule might leave a serious gap in deliveries. The Ministry of Economic Warfare suggested that it may be possible to reopen the question when four ships which are to be added to the Greek relief fleet have actually left the Baltic. The Ministry added however that even so it would be difficult to use a relief ship for this purpose and expressed the hope that ships can be obtained for this purpose in other quarters.

We have now received from Ambassador Steinhardt the following cable with respect to the necessity of obtaining one of the Greek relief ships for evacuation purposes:

QUOTE. Baron de Platen, Second Secretary of the Swedish Legation in Ankara, still offers hopes for the availability a Swedish vessel to transport refugees from Constanza to Haifa. This would be in addition to the TARI or any others, the SS BARDALANDA now in Istanbul is not fitted with equipment or life saving devices for refugee conveyance. Platen will explore

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the possibilities of reequipping the vessel for this purpose. The BARDALANDA is scheduled to sail today to arrive in Piraeus (Athens) on April 25 and scheduled thereafter to sail for Constanza. Platen believes that Stockholm could be induced to have this vessel return to Istanbul and thence to Constanza to embark refugees to Haifa. I have not been informed except indirectly through the State Department radio bulletin regarding the reply of the Swedish Government to our request through the Swedish [redacted] here and your request through Washington for a Swedish boat. In spite of any refusal by the Swedish Government I recommend that the Board urge Stockholm to give instructions to make the BARDALANDA available the latter part of April. This of course is not in lieu of the proposed trip of the SS TARI but in addition thereto. UNQUOTE

In view of the urgency of the situation the Board would appreciate it if you would immediately discuss this matter with appropriate officials of the British Government with a view to obtaining that Government's consent to the use of the SS BARDALANDA for the purpose indicated in Ambassador Steinhardt's cable. As soon as such approval is obtained you should also discuss the matter with the Swedish Ambassador in London asking him to communicate to his Government this Government's request for the use of the BARDALANDA, and asking them to approach the German Government to obtain the necessary safe conduct. In your discussions with the British you may wish to make clear that time is of the essence and that the rescue of additional refugees in imminent danger of death depends upon this boat being made available to the War Refugee Board .

****

April 14, 1944
9:55 A.M.

JBF

JBF:bbk - 4/13/44

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BLE CONTROL FILES ROOM 387½

CABLE TO ANKARA

From War Refugee Board to Steinhardt

Board has been advised from Spain that approximately 800 Jews in France claiming Turkish nationality are in danger of deportation. Turkish Consuls have forwarded lists to Ankara but have received no decision concerning status of these people. War Refugee Board has been asked to intervene with Turkish authorities. In view of negotiations reported in your number 299 of February 19, please advise if in your opinion Board should raise question with Turkish Ambassador here.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 24

April 15, 1944
2:15 p.m.

FH:lab 4/14/44

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files Cable Control Files

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To:
(1) Mr. Hirschmann 191
(Room) (Bldg.)

( ) .....
(Room) (Bldg.)

(3) .....
(Room) (Bldg.)

From: Mr. D. White 4/19
(Date)
387½
(Room) (Bldg.)

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CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

The following refers to your No. 657 of April 12 from Ankara to the War Refugee Board.

With respect to the replacement of a passenger vessel of QUOTE an equivalent vessel of similar age, size and general characteristics UNQUOTE for the SS TARI as designated in Article 4 of the proposed charter with the Turkish Government for the aforesaid ship, Hirschmann is in full agreement with the position you have taken in your telegram abovementioned.

Hirschmann and I conferred with Admiral Land of the War Shipping Administration today. The War Shipping Administration and the Foreign Economic Administration have authroized you to commit this Government to the replacement of the SS TARI in the event of loss with a passenger repeat passenger vessel as requested by the Turkish Government.

At this point every recommendation submitted by you and Hirschmann to complete the negotiations for you to sign the charter agreement for the War Refugee Board with the Turkish Government for the SS TARI has been authorized. Please refer to War Refugee Board cable to Ankara No. 20 relating to all the conditions mentioned in your numbers 585 and 594. The single obstacle remaining is the granting of safe conduct by the German Government. We have taken every available measure to expedite this safe conduct in Washington as reported in our War Refugee Board cable No. 20.

Hirschmann informs me that Simond has expressed to him unequivocally, unreserved confidence that von Papen would arrange to obtain this safe conduct without delay. He also informs me that Simond agreed personally to see von Papen within a few days after his first meeting with him in Ankara on this subject. Assuming that the German safe conduct has not been obtained Hirschmann urges that both Simond and the Apostolic Delegate from Istanbul arrange to see von Papen in person in order to again urge granting of safe conduct without delay. Hirschmann reports that Simond expressed the view that he can succeed in securing the safe conduct and he suggests that you personally confer with Simond along the above lines without delay.

~~THIS IS FOR~~ ANKARA CABLE NO. 26

April 17, 1944
6:10 p.m.

4-17-44
Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

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TELEGRAM SENT

h

This Telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (BR)

April 19, 1944

9 p.m.

✓

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.

351

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

WRB No. 27.

Hirschmann has informed us in detail of the enormous difficulties you over came in personally arranging with the Turkish authorities to allow the refugees from the SS MILKA and the SS MARITZA to land in Istanbul and to be supplied immediately with railroad transportation through Turkey to Palestine.

Hirschmann also informs us that there will in all probability be other boats approaching Istanbul, which are in the same category, and that these also would not be authorized to disembark their passengers in Turkey without your personal intervention.

Highest commendation is due you for the resourceful application of the goodwill you had built up with the Turkish officials in dealing successfully with this work of mercy in these crucial months.

HULL
(CLW)

NE

WRB:CLW:KG
4/19/44

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Akzin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Luxford, Mr. Mann, Mrs. Mannon, Mr. Marks Mr. MCormack, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Rains, Mr. Sargoy Mr. Smith, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Weinstein, Mr. H.D. White Files

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TELEGRAM SENT

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

April 19, 1944

8 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA
350
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WRB no. 24

Representative of Joint Distribution Committee in Spain has advised Board danger of deportation approximately 800 Jews in France who claim Turkish nationality. Lists of these people have been forwarded to Ankara by Turkish Consuls who await decision concerning their status. Your opinion is requested as to whether Board should raise question with Turkish Ambassador here in view of negotiations reported in Embassy cable 299 of February 19.

HULJ.
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:KG
4/19/44

WE NE

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

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TELEGRAM SENT

Dsh
This Telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (BR)

April 19, 1944

9 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.
351
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

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Hirschmann has informed us in detail of the enormous difficulties you overcame in personally arranging with the Turkish authorities to allow the refugees from the SS MILKA and the SS MARITZA to land in Istanbul and to be supplied immediately with railroad transportation wthrough Turkey to Palestine.

Hirschmann also informs us that there will in all probability be other boats approaching Istanbul, which are in the same category, and that these also would not be authorized to disembark their passengers in Turkey without your personal intervention.

Highest commendation is due you for the resourceful application of the goodwill you had built up with the Turkish officials in dealing successfully with this work of mercy in these crucial months.

HULL
(GLW)

NE

WRB:GLW:KG

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CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, TURKEY FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

This is WRB cable to Ankara No. 28

As previously advised, you should effect in Turkey all insurance required by charter for SS TARI except war risk on vessel. As indicated in our No. 306 of April 8 war risk on vessel will be placed here through War Shipping Administration. Advise us immediately when TARI is ready to depart in order that war risk insurance can be placed here. This matter has been discussed with Hirschmann who is in complete accord.

~~JBF:DDK 4/19/44~~
April 20, 1944
3:00 p.m.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, [illegible] Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

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TELEGRAM SENT

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

April 25, 1944

4 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

ANKARA.
363
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

WRB no. 29.

Following from Paul Baerwald of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE Deeply grateful your sympathetic understadding and cooperation in relief and rescue many unfortunates. Behalf Joint Distribution Committee wish extend to you our appreciation for your kind assistance UNQUOTE.

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:KG
4/22/44

S/CR

RB

SWP

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

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington.

TO: AMEMBASSY, Ankara

DATED: April 27, 1944

NUMBER: 377

[redacted]

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, TURKEY.

This is WRB Cable to Ankara No. 31.

Please refer to your No. 725 of April 22 with respect to safe conduct for SS TARI. Your action is approved. However, for your information, the Joint Distribution Committee here has advised us that Barlas of Jewish agency can probably arrange for coastal schooners to convey refugees from Iskenderun to Haifa if voyage of TARI were to terminate at Iskenderun. Accordingly it is suggested that you take this matter up at once with Barlas in order to see if he can arrange transportation of refugees from Iskenderun to Haifa. If this can be done it may be advisable to arrange with Turks and Intercross to change route of SS TARI in order that German safe conduct may be obtained promptly.

HULL

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

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

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May 13, 1944

To Steinhardt at Ankara

Following is personal for Ambassador Steinhardt from J. W. Pehle.

Your #828 of May 8, 1944 has been given the fullest consideration. The Board, nevertheless continues to believe that Hirschmann's return to Ankara as soon as practicable to continue to assist in the fine job which you and he have begun is most desirable, moreover his immediate return would appear particularly desirable in view of your contemplated departure from Turkey next month. Under the circumstances and because of Hirschmann's familiarity with conditions in Turkey to which you refer his failure to return there during this crucial period might with some justification result in serious criticism in informed relief circles. Consequently we continue to urge Hirschmann's prompt return to Ankara and would like to have your concurrence. In response to the penultimate sentence of your #828 arrangements are being made for the prompt departure for Ankara of Herbert Katzki, a member of the Board staff, who formerly served the JDC in Portugal and elsewhere. Hirschmann has seen this cable and is in agreement.

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Ankara

DATED: May 25, 1944

NUMBER: 468

[redacted]

Please represent to the Turkish government that, according to persistent and seemingly authentic reports, systematic mass-extermination of Jews in Hungary has begun. The lives of 800,000 human beings in Hungary may well depend on the restraint that may result from the presence in that country of the largest possible number of foreign observers. To this end, please urge appropriate authorities in the interest of most elementary humanity to take immediate steps to increase to the largest possible extent the numbers of Turkish diplomatic and consular personnel in Hungary and to distribute them as widely as possible throughout the country.

It is hoped, of course, that all such diplomatic and consular representatives will use all means available to them to persuade individuals and officials to desist from further barbarisms.

Please inform Department forthwith of extent to which Turkish government is cooperating in this matter.

THIS IS WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 43.

HULL

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

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

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Ankara
DATED: June 2, 1944
NUMBER: 803

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

[redacted]

From War Refugee Board to Ambassador Steinhardt, Ankara, Turkey.

Please refer to your 941 of May 23.

We appreciate your excellent handling of this difficult situation and accept your judgment as to the route of the voyage and the charter arrangements. The Board is anxious to retain the right to use the TARI as long as there is any reasonable hope that it may ultimately be permitted to sail. While we hope that it will not be necessary to do so, you are authorized, if you deem it desirable, to use the $160,000 already transmitted to you to hold the TARI. In any event please advise us before finally relinquishing the right to use the TARI.

For your confidential information, the Bulgarian Minister to Stockholm is said to be sympathetic with our refugee evacuation program. If at any point you deem it desirable, you may cable Minister Johnson in Stockholm asking him to enlist the support of the Bulgarian Minister there in connection with any project requiring the cooperation of the Bulgarian Government.

With respect to the general question of obtaining shipping for refugee operations across the Black Sea the following is for your information:

We have been advised by the State Department that the British are requesting the American Government's view concerning appropriate conditions to be proposed to the Turkish Government in consideration for the renewal of the charters of five British cargo ships now in Turkish service and known as the Adana ships. It is our understanding that these vessels were originally chartered to Turkey for the on-shipment of military supplies from Egyptian ports to Turkey and that the stoppage of military shipments to Turkey has nullified the purpose for which the ships were originally chartered to Turkey by the British Government. We understand from the State Department that the British authorities in London and Ambassador Hugessen are anxious to receive in return for the re-charter of the Adana ships a substantial quid pro quo from the Turkish Government. In addition to various political conditions proposed tentatively by the British Government as a condition to the re-charter of the Adana ships the British are apparently suggesting that a further condition might be added to the effect that a suitable Turkish vessel up to the tonnage of one Adana ship should be placed at the disposal of the British and American Governments for refugee evacuation operations. We understand that at the present time the charters of the Adana ships are being temporarily renewed for two month periods pending a final decision on this matter by the British and American Governments.

In order to strengthen your hand in future dealings with the Turkish.....

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Turkish Government concerning refugee matters and particularly in order to facilitate the obtaining of Turkish shipping for refugee purposes in the future, we have recommended to the State Department that it suggest the following among others as conditions to the re-charter of the Adana ships:

1. So long as any of the Adana ships are under charter to the Turkish Government, the Turkish Government should make available the TARI or a similar vessel for repeated refugee evacuation voyages across the Black Sea to a Turkish Black Sea port with a German safe conduct if it can be obtained or without such a safe conduct, whenever in the opinion of the British and American Ambassadors to Turkey such voyages become feasible. It shall be clearly understood that the re-charter of the five Adana ships will constitute fulfillment of any Turkish demand that a substitute passenger vessel be made available to the Turks while the TARI is engaged in refugee evacuation operations.

2. The Turkish Government should cooperate with the British and American Ambassadors in effecting arrangements whereby evacuation operations across the Black Sea without a German safe conduct by small boats carrying relatively small numbers of passengers such as the MARITZA, MILKA, and BELLACITTA will be continued and if possible intensified. Such cooperation would include not only permitting all refugees arriving in this manner to land in Turkish Black Sea ports and remain in Turkey until Turkish rail facilities permit them to be transported across Turkey to Palestine but also actively assisting the British and American Ambassadors in their efforts to find and put into service in Turkey small boats which can operate in the same manner as the three above-named ships.

The War Refugee Board would of course agree to arrange for the payment of a reasonable charter hire for the use of any Turkish vessel made available and to assume responsibility for the maintenance and support of refugees in transport or awaiting transportation in Turkey.

In view of the necessity of using for military purposes all passenger ships now available to us, the War Refugee Board is also recommending that if the Turkish Government insists upon a guarantee of replacement in kind in the case of loss of any Turkish vessel made available in the future for refugee evacuation operations, consideration should be given to using the re-chartering of the Adana ships as a basis for requesting the Turkish Government to waive such guarantee in the future unless the Turks are willing to make a similar guarantee to replace any of the Adana ships that are lost. However, if the giving of a guarantee in kind appears absolutely necessary in order to obtain the use of Turkish vessels the War Refugee Board will, despite all difficulties, seriously consider giving such a guarantee in connection with future voyages of the TARI or any other Turkish vessel because of the urgent humanitarian considerations involved and the strong interest of this Government in the refugee evacuation program. It should be clearly understood that the original guarantee to replace the TARI in the event of loss on its first voyage still stands and that the above refers to subsequent voyages of the TARI and any other Turkish vessels made available for refugee evacuation purposes.

The State.....

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The State Department is transmitting the Board's recommendations to the British.

This is War Refugee Board Cable to Ankara No. 46.

HULL

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

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Ankara
DATED: June 3, 1944
NUMBER: 602

[redacted]

The Governments of the United States and Great Britain have agreed that in furtherance of their joint policy to use every means available consistent with the successful prosecutions of the war to bring about the rescue of the victims of German persecution in imminent danger of death a joint approach should be made to the Turkish Government in the sense of the following:

QUOTE The Governments of the United States and Great Britain are appreciative of the assistance already rendered by the Turkish Government to refugees who have fled from German-controlled Europe as the result of persecution on account of race, religion, or political belief. The Governments of the United States and Great Britain believe, however, that is the persecuted minority groups still remaining in German-controlled Europe have further assurances that, if they are able to make their way to neutral territory, they will be received and their minimum material needs provided for until such time as they can be moved onward to other havens of refuge or repatriated to their homeland, the rescue of still greater numbers from inhuman oppression might be effected. If such assurances are not forthcoming, it is feared that the death toll among the persecuted minority groups will continue to increase.

The Governments of the United States and Great Britain in furtherance of their joint policy to use every available means consistent with the successful prosecution of the war to bring about the rescue of victims of German oppression in imminent danger of death, appeal to the humanitarianism of the Turkish Government in behalf of these persecuted persons in the hope that the Turkish Government will find it possible to adopt an even more liberal policy than heretofore as regards the reception and temporary care of refugees from German-controlled Europe.

The Governments of the United States and Great Britain wish to assure the Turkish Government that for their part they will be glad to arrange for the provision of such additional food and other supplies as may be required to meet the added burden on Turkish resources resulting from the temporary care of refugees, as well as funds if needed. The Governments of the United States and Great Britain wish further to assure the Turkish Government that they will make every effort to arrange for the onward movement to other havens of refuge of such refugees as may be received by Turkey. UNQUOTE

You are.....

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

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You are requested to concert with your British colleague who is expected shortly to receive instructions substantially in the sense of the above.

Similar joint approaches are being made to the Swedish, Spanish, Portuguese, and Swiss Governments.

HULL

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, Pehle, Files.