

Ira Hirschmann Papers

Box 3

Memorandum re. visit of Patrick Malin

Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees

Ankara,
March 28, 1944

MEMORANDUM

FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

On March 21 Mr. Patrick Malin, of the Intergovernment Committee for Refugees, spent three days at the Embassy in Ankara. He had several visits with me in which he made a broad and detailed inquiry into the work of the War Refugee Board in Ankara. He was interested in knowing what we were doing concretely and what I knew of the organization of the War Refugee Board in Washington and elsewhere. On the latter point I informed him that I had no information. In a general way I related the efforts of Ambassador Steinhardt and myself in the work connected with the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans by rail and ship.

In a conference which was attended by Ambassador Steinhardt, Mr. Packer, First Secretary of Embassy, Mr. Malin and myself, Mr. Malin among other questions put the query regarding the desirability and need of having a representative of the Governmental Committee in Turkey. He implied in the course of his questioning that he would prefer to have the work of his committee operated through the War Refugee Board's representative in Ankara. The Ambassador and I were of a like opinion in that an additional representative of an additional committee in the same field might cause confusion and overlapping and impede rather than aid progress in the direct action in this field already under way. Mr. Malin referred to the memorandum (attached) which he had written in December 1943 recommending that no representative was necessary in Ankara, Turkey, at this time. He stated that he would recommend to London that (a) in view of the work of the War Refugee Board's representative in Ankara it would not

- 2 -

be necessary at this time to add one from the committee he represented and that his committee would work through the War Refugee Board's representative; and (b) that he would recommend that the War Refugee Board's representatives attempt to meet in London in the near future.

Attached is a memorandum from Mr. Packer relating to a conversation resulting from a meeting which had been arranged by the Embassy with Mr. Zihni.

I understand that Mr. Malin spent some time while here with members of the British Embassy and had some conversations with the representative of the Jewish Agency in Turkey.

I.A.H.

(Initialed) I.A. H.

IC/218/60

29 December, 1945.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES IN
CERTAIN COUNTRIES

1. Attached is a copy of a letter dated December 21st, 1945 from the United States Embassy to the Chairman of the Committee. A similar letter has been addressed to him by the Government of the United Kingdom. The letters contain the suggestion that there be established small offices of the Intergovernmental Committee at Algiers, Naples, Lisbon, Madrid and Ankara, for the purpose of assisting refugees. The following considerations are relevant to the proposal.

(a) Generally the Intergovernmental Committee will not be able efficiently to carry out its functions unless it has accredited representatives in the various countries concerned with refugees. It is contemplated that representatives will be necessary in many European countries as circumstances allow.

(b) It is clear that so far as Allied and Neutral countries are concerned, the principle of representation must be accepted by the government concerned. It is suggested, therefore, that the representative should be a person acceptable to the Government of the country in which he is appointed; that he should maintain close and friendly relations with that Government, and that he should be a person of sufficient standing and influence to have ready access to and inspire the confidence of the Government departments and authorities concerned.

(c) The duties of the representative will vary according to local problems, the scope of the operations, if any, of UNRRA in that country, and the efficiency of the voluntary organizations dealing with refugees.

(d) Similarly, the size of the staff required is likely to vary greatly. It is suggested that in the absence of particular reasons to the contrary, the normal procedure should be to appoint a representative with a small office staff and that if necessity arises, he should be given an assistant or assistants, with such increases in office staff as the actual work may justify.

(e) The representatives should be directly responsible to the Director and, through him, to the Executive Committee.

2. With regard to the countries suggested for the early appointment of representatives, the following facts are relevant:

1 ALGIERS

The Executive Committee has the advantage of the advice, as a Member, of the representative of the French Committee of National Liberation. The French Committee has many refugee problems, some relating to French nationals, others to persons of non-French nationality. So far as the first are concerned, the Intergovernmental Committee is at the service of the French Committee for any help which it may be able to give. With regard to other refugees, the French Committee has followed a liberal policy and has recently given its consent to the opening of a camp in Morocco. Although that camp