

Sumner Welles Papers
Box 82 Folder 17
Office Correspondence, 1920-1943
Refugees, 1942

March 18, 1942.

Eu - Mr. Atherton:

I agree that Mr. Taylor should be requested to send some communication of this character.

Since the British Government is perfectly well aware, as we are, that Germany to all intents and purposes is in occupation of Rumania, Lord Winterton's answer, if along the lines you indicate, will be neither convincing nor expedient. In any event this is the proper line for us to take and the only one that will give any comfort to the unfortunate people involved.

U:SW:PRH

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1942
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

March 17, 1942.

I have discussed the attached memorandum with Mr. Pell of CI and we recommend that a letter be drafted for the signature of Mr. Myron Taylor as Chairman of the American Delegation to the Intergovernmental Committee to Lord Winterton who, as Chairman of the British Delegation, is Chairman of the Committee and its steering group. As you know, the Intergovernmental Committee is merely a continuation of the Evian meeting and exists today only in the persons of Sir Herbert Emerson, who is Director, and Mr. Edward Maney, of this Division, who is Acting Secretary.

I do not believe that anything will be accomplished by Mr. Taylor's letter to Lord Winterton, but in any event it will at least put us in the position of being able to say that we have referred the matter to the Committee of contact between the Governments concerned with the refugee problem.

I might add that technically the case like that of the Struma does not come within the scope of the

Intergovernmental

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Intergovernmental Committee, which under the resolution of Evian continuing the Evian meeting, has jurisdiction exclusively over refugees from Germany. You will recall that several efforts on our part or on the part of others to extend the scope of the Committee's activity even to refugees from Poland was opposed by the British Government and all the Governments of Latin America, which form the vast majority of the Committee. This case relates to refugees from Rumania on their way to Palestine. I am afraid that Lord Winterton's answer will be too easy: The Committee is specifically excluded from concerning itself with questions relating to Palestine and has no competence to deal with refugees from Rumania.

Su:Atherton:AMR

March 16, 1942

Eu - Mr. Atherton:

Please discuss with Mr. Pell, and let me have a joint recommendation thereon, the desirability of submitting the kind of problem created by the sinking of the Struma to the Executive Committee of the President's Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees.

I dare say the British Government may not like this at the present moment, but it seems to me that we are bound to suggest, at least informally and confidentially that the Committee take such tragedies as this under advisement. I cannot help but feel that if the British Government did not wish this shipload of refugees to go to Palestine some arrangement should have been made, purely from humanitarian considerations, to have found some shelter for them during the war among the East African colonies.

A storm of major proportions is, I am afraid, arising in this country in regard to this incident. I have to receive a large delegation of various members of Congress on Thursday who wish to ventilate the matter. I would like to be in a position to tell them when they

call

3-16-42
H to Atherton re refugees on the Struma

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call that I understand the matter is already under consideration by the Executive Committee of the President's Inter-Governmental Committee.

April 1, 1941.

MEMORANDUM

U - Miss Clarkson

Dear Miss Clarkson:

This is the brief note which I promised you regarding the present distribution of work relating to Jewish and refugee matters.

Mr. Murray and the Near Eastern Division handle all matters relating to Palestine, Zionists and New Zionists.

Mr. Avra Warren, in addition to handling all individual cases relating to visas, is charged with the liaison between the Department and all Committees in New York, including the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, the Coordinating Foundation, et cetera.

Mr. Maney, a Foreign Service Officer, is now assigned to this Division to handle all problems relating specifically to the Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees.

As you know, I withdrew from all connection with this activity on March 1.

Robert T. Pell

Eu:RFP:MDM