Intergovernmental Committee
on Political Refugees
Corres: Oct. 1939 - 1941

OCT 1939

Copy for Mr. J. P. Moffat.

October 2 1939

Dear Mr. President:

With respect to the meeting of the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee for Political Refugees on October 16th and 17th, the invitation which you asked me to convey in London was for a conference with you at the White House--those dates being given and widely publicized, at the instance of the British. Earl Winterton is the possessor of an old title, and for term of service ranks next to Lloyd George as the longest in the House of Commons. He is and has been in a social and political sense closely associated with the Royal Family and the leaders of the Conservative party, and in general with the aristocracy of Great Britain. He has traveled widely, and served in the last war in His Majesty's army.

Sir Herbert Emerson, who accompanies Earl Winterton, is a former army officer, for many years has been commissioner of a great district in the Punjab, and among other things was active and successful in reclamation and migration projects on a large scale in that province.

Paul Van Zeeland is already known to you personally.

The other attending officers or vice chairmen (other than myself) are the special representative of Brazil, Mr. Helio Lobo, and resident Ambassadors in Washington of France, the

Argentine, and Holland.

May I be permitted to suggest that in view of the above facts and the necessity for proceeding in a way that will be most helpful to the cause and complimentary to the visitors, the opening proceeding on Monday, October 16th, take place at the White House, at which, to comply with definite anticipations on the part of the visitors, I think it most important that you should preside, and be accompanied of course by the Secretary of State, Mr. Sumner Welles, and such others of the Department of State as the Secretary might consider helpful or desirable?

It was indicated to me by Lord Winterton that the British Ambassador would give a luncheon or a dinner for those attending, and my judgment would be that such luncheon or dinner would best be held on Monday, October 16th.

A further suggestion would be that the second session of the meeting be held at the Department of State on Tuesday, and I earnestly hope that you will be able to receive the group at dinner on Tuesday evening, October 17th, so that, in concluding the conference, the visitors from abroad will receive your blessing at the end of their deliberations and leave Washington at midnight at the high spot of their visit!

When I left London it was arranged that Lord Winterton and Sir Herbert Emerson would be the guests of Mrs. Taylor and myself in New York for a few days before the Washington

conference. As this would be a purely social visit, avoiding all publicity if possible, it was our thought that they might at that time be introduced to some of the leaders of the private organizations here, and we have planned to have some other entertainment of a purely social character which will make them better acquainted with New York and some of our friends.

I hope you will understand my purpose in these suggestions as being primarily to make as favorable an impression as possible upon the visitors and to trespass to the minimum upon your time. The invitation which you instructed me to extend built high hopes in the minds of those who are, under greatly changed conditions, nevertheless coming to America. I do hope that you will find it possible to adopt the principal suggestions in the program outlined.

With kind personal regards, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

To The President,
Washington, D. C.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**
**WASHINGTON**

In reply refer to
Eu

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am enclosing copies of two telegrams received from London. They refer to telegrams which the Department sent upon receiving your approval to the drafts enclosed in my letter to you of September 30.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen V. C. Morris

Stephen V. C. Morris

Enclosures:

2 Telegrams

The Honorable Myron C. Taylor,
71 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

**Department of State**

BUREAU / DIVISION: Eu

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted 10/5/39

ADDRESSED TO

Myron C. Taylor

LONDON

Dated October 4, 1939

Rec'd 3:38 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1927, October 4, 7 p.m.

Department's 1140 October 2, midnight.

The British are gratified to learn that our position is in such substantial accord with theirs. In view of this agreement on the question of substance they see no (repeat no) need for a public declaration of their position. With respect to part one of the committee's mandate they assume in this connection that our Government will refrain from making any statement on emigration from Germany of a character which would embarrass them. They believe that statements in the privacy of the committee of the positions of the respective Governments should suffice and that it should not be difficult to draft a suitable public communique. They consider, however, that a subsequent decision during the war either to resume conversations with the German authorities or actively to promote emigration direct from Germany would probably force them to withdraw.

KENNEDY

CSB:NPL

LONDON

Dated October 4, 1939

Rec'd 4:25 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1928, October 4, 8 p.m.

Your 1141, October 2, midnight.

Emerson appreciates the Department's consideration and agrees that it would be advantageous to have as assistant director a national of one of the neutral countries of refuge. He is making inquiries as to suitable persons.

KENNEDY

NPL

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**
**WASHINGTON**

October 4, 1939

In reply refer to
Eu

Dear Mr. Taylor:

There is enclosed a copy of a telegram received from London this morning. It is in reply to one that the Department sent on September 29 to Achilles requesting that he give us his impressions as to (a) whether Winterton would want to continue as Chairman of the Committee after the Washington meeting; and (b) whether in the event of Winterton's resignation the British Government would wish to keep the Chairmanship of the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen V. C. Morris

Stephen V. C. Morris

Enclosure:

Copy of telegram

The Honorable Myron C. Taylor,
71 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

# Department of State

BUREAU / DIVISION: Eu

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted 10/4/39

ADDRESSED TO

Myron C. Taylor, Esquire

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1922

London

Dated October 4, 1939

Rec'd 10:05 a.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1916, October 4, 3 p.m.

Department's 1118, September 29, 9 p.m.

FROM ACHILLES.

Since the first few days of the war I have had no (repeat no) indication that Winterton seriously contemplated resigning. His governmental responsibilities have not been increased as a result of the war and his position appears to be unchanged, namely, that he sees certain advantages in being chairman.

It seems likely that any eventual decision to resign would be determined more by the attitude of the British Government than by personal considerations. The Government's main interest in the committee still appears to support anything in which the President is actively interested so long as it does not in any way interfere with British policy. If Winterton should resign I believe that the British would not object to an American or other neutral becoming chairman but that

his

his resignation would both indicate and contribute toward reduced British interest in the committee.

KENNEDY

WWC

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**
**WASHINGTON**

October 6, 1939.

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I enclose a copy of a telegram just received from London. I understand that Mr. Warren has already telephoned you the contents of the message.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen V. C. Morris

Stephen V. C. Morris

Enclosure:

From London
October 6, 1939.

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
71 Broadway,
New York, New York.

London

Dated October 6, 1939

Rec'd 10:30 a.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1948. October 6, 4 p.m.

Winterton and Emerson have been advised that their ship will not reach New York before October 15.

The PRESIDENT HARDING on which Van Zeeland is sailing has been delayed and will not reach New York until the 16th possibly the 17th.

A letter for Mr. Taylor from Lobo states that present difficulties of travel and an important meeting of the ILO on October 10th will prevent him from attending. A personal letter from him to the Brazilian Counselor also indicates apprehension lest he be transferred to a post in the new world should he leave Europe. Efforts to persuade him by telephone to reconsider have been unsuccessful. He has suggested to his Government that the Brazilian Ambassador in Washington act as substitute.

It is understood that the French, Argentine and Netherlands Governments will be represented by their chiefs of mission in Washington.

KENNEDY

RR

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
Eu

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Referring to our telephone conversation this morning I enclose a copy of the memorandum of my conversation with Mr. Christopher Bramwell, First Secretary of the British Embassy, who has been designated by the Foreign Office as Adviser to Lord Winterton for the session in Washington and has received informal directions.

I am to have a further conversation with him in the first part of this week. I also enclose a first, very rough draft of the speech for the consideration of the President.

Devotedly yours,

Robert T. Pell
Assistant Chief, Division
of European Affairs

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum of Conversation
2. Draft of Statement

The Honorable Myron C. Taylor,

71 Broadway,

New York, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE: October 7, 1939

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Christopher Bramwell, First Secretary, British Embassy

Mr. Robert T. Pell, European Division

COPIES TO:

Mr. Bramwell telephoned to say that he had been designated Adviser to Lord Winterton for the Intergovernmental meeting and asked me to lunch in order that he might go over with me the plans and the program.

Mr. Bramwell, at luncheon, read me a telegram which had been received by the British Embassy from London saying that Lord Winterton and Sir Herbert Emerson would sail on a ship which should reach the United States on October 15 but that there might be a day's delay. It was hoped in this circumstance that the White House meeting might be postponed at least a day. It was almost certain that Lord Winterton would be available for October 17.

Mr.

Mr. Bramwell said that he had received an enormous amount of material bearing upon the Intergovernmental Committee from the Foreign Office and informal directions from Randall as to how to proceed. He said that the chief concern of his Government was that there would be a demand on our part that active negotiations with the German Government continue. He said that if this was the case, his Government together with other belligerents would be obliged to withdraw from the Committee.

I said that there had been an exchange of telegrams with London and I thought this point had been clarified. Wohlthat, by his own statement, had made it clear that the bases of conversation between the Committee and the German Government no longer exist. The Germans have reverted to their original position, namely, that the involuntary emigrants can and should leave, but without property and with nothing but the clothes on their backs. I said that this would seem to indicate that there was no further basis of conversation with the German authorities.

At the same time, I continued, this Government would not wish to associate itself with any formal statement to the effect that the conversations with the Germans were discontinued or that Part 1, Paragraph 8, was cancelled. It was the intention of this Government to continue to accept people under the quota who could fulfill our requirements.

Bramwell

Bramwell said that his Government fully appreciated our position, and it was his impression that Winterton would not ask for a formal statement. As far as the British Government was concerned Paragraph 8, Part I, would not be applicable in wartime. Bramwell said that it was his impression that the matter could be glossed over very lightly in a communiqué which would issue from the meeting.

Mr. Bramwell continued that the next point which troubled his Government was the suggestion that the scope of the Committee might be widened to include other refugees such as the Spanish refugees. He said that the French Ambassador had talked with his Ambassador about this and had expressed grave concern lest France was placed in an embarrassing position at the meeting.

I pointed out that the sixth point of the Agenda which had invited a discussion of refugee problems other than the German refugees had been dropped. I said that I thought there might be some general discussion of the broader refugee problem, but obviously the officers could not commit the full Committee and any recommendation which was made would have to take the form of a circular requesting the views of the other Governments.

Bramwell agreed that this was the fact and said that he believed his Government might not object to a circular

circular of this nature.

Bramwell then raised the question of financing. He said that it was his impression that the British Government would not, in view of the outbreak of war, press on with its suggestion that the principle of governmental financing be accepted by the Committee. He did not believe that his Government would be in a position to give practical effect to their proposal. I said that we fully appreciated their position, and I did not think, although I did not like to say so positively, that we would wish to raise this question.

Bramwell then questioned me with regard to the Present status of the various settlement projects. I told him briefly about the Dominican and Phillipine projects, and then questioned him with regard to the present status of the British Guiana project. He said that of course his Government had laid down a general rule that no aliens would be admitted to the British Empire during the course of the war. This general rule would include British Guiana. He felt, however, although he hesitated to say very much about this, that Lord Winterton if personally pressed by the President might be in a position to agree that work on the trial settlement in British Guiana could go forward, on condition, of course, that it was financed by an American Corporation.

In conclusion, I outlined to Bramwell in a general way the proposed program of the meeting and agreed to inform him as soon as possible of any fresh developments.

DRAFT

**Statement of the President on Opening the Meeting of the Officers of the Intergovernmental Committee.**

**The White House, Washington**

**October 16, 1939**

It is a very great pleasure to greet at the White House Lord Winterton, the Chairman; Sir Herbert Emerson, the Director; and the Vice-Chairmen of the Intergovernmental Committee representing the United States of America, the Argentine Republic, Brazil, France and the Netherlands. It is likewise a great pleasure to have at this meeting Monsieur Paul van Zeeland, the President of the Coordinating Foundation, and Mr. James G. McDonald, the Chairman of my Advisory Committee on Political Refugees. Gentlemen, I bid you welcome and extend through you to the 32 Governments participating in the Intergovernmental Committee and to the private refugee organizations, whose collaboration is invaluable, a message of appreciation for what has been accomplished in assistance to refugees in the period since the meeting at Evian and an expression of hope that the good work will be carried on with increased vigor and will be marked by even more positive results, in the months immediately ahead.

When, in March, 1938, I took the initiative of calling upon thirty-two Governments to cooperate with the Government of the United States of America in seeking a basic, long-range solution of the refugee problem, it was clear to me that a point had been reached where private agencies alone could no longer deal with the masses of unfortunate people who, driven from their homes, were beating at the gates of all countries which seemed to offer a haven. It was evident that there was an urgent need for governmental action if new homes were to be found, in time, for

the

the thousands of our fellow human beings, of different races and creeds and all walks of life, who were being cast adrift to find refuge as and where they could.

There was chaos in the flight of these unwanted people from their countries of origin. There was little order in their resettlement overseas. They were faced with barriers everywhere, qualitative and quantitative restrictions, economic impediments and just the hard fact that those portions of the world which previously had provided reservoirs for immigration were filled to a point where the gradient of remaining economic opportunity was slight.

When I appealed to the Governments the feeling was strong in this country, to which the forefathers of most of us had come as refugees, that something should be done. The community as a whole could not sit by idly and see these pathetic exiles perish. Our people, for whom respect of the human individual is a first principle, could not avert their eyes and pass by on the other side of the road. I am happy to record that the delegates of the Governments which met at Evian not only appreciated the urgency and magnitude of the problem and the spirit in which it was presented by my representative, Mr. Myron C. Taylor, but immediately took positive steps to prepare a practical solution. The Intergovernmental Committee was made permanent. An executive office was set up with a Director and Vice-Director. The Director was mandated to negotiate with the German Government to improve the conditions of disorderly exodus of the unwanted and to replace them by conditions of orderly emigration. He was instructed to approach the Governments of the countries

of

of refuge and settlement with a view to developing opportunities of permanent resettlement.

I shall not review in detail the negotiations which have taken place since Evian, first under Mr. George Rublee's direction, subsequently under the direction of Sir Herbert Emerson. Let me note briefly, however, that very great progress was made in the conversations with the German authorities towards formulating policies which would alleviate the situation at its origin. Very substantial progress was made in the countries of temporary refuge where the efforts to maintain the refugees in suitable conditions while they were in temporary asylum were coordinated. An effective beginning was made in the work of opening up new places of final settlement and in keeping open doors to the regular flow of infiltration. I need only cite in this connection that Commissions of Inquiry have visited, investigated and reported on opportunities for settlement in the Dominican Republic, British Guiana, Northern Rhodesia and the Phillipines, and I am sure that you will be interested to hear today from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that active steps have been taken to begin the work on the settlement projects which have been made possible by the generous attitude of the Dominican Government and the Government of the Phillipine Commonwealth. I may add that, before the outbreak of the conflict in Europe, the British Guiana project was well on the way to organization, and I sincerely hope that the work thus auspiciously begun will not be long interrupted.

There was another and a very notable achievement in this past year to which I wish to call particular attention. This was the establishment by a distinguished

Anglo-

Anglo-American group of the Coordinating Foundation which, working in conjunction with the Intergovernmental Committee, will, among other things, cooperate with individuals and organizations in the investigation of the facilities and suitability of places of settlement for involuntary emigrants and conduct negotiations and arrangements for furthering resettlement plans. I attach great importance to the Foundation and am confident that it will play an important role in bringing about a solution of the refugee problem.

So far I have dealt with what has been done. Now I must look with you into the future and determine what is to be done. The paramount factor in the situation is the outbreak of war. This has interrupted the regular course of the refugee work and created a new situation which calls urgently for a fresh approach to the problem. The basic principle must remain that the important task on which the Intergovernmental Committee has been engaged for more than one year should be not abandoned but redirected. It should be kept clearly in mind that the refugee problem is a continuing one, not a temporary emergency, and one which concerns the community as a whole. It must be solved, and its solution requires the execution by the participating Governments, which accepted the principle at Evian, of a program, adequately financed, within the framework of the existing migration laws and practices of these Governments.

I should go beyond this. I should say that at the present time the solution of the problem calls for, first, a short-range program for dealing with the persons who are now in countries of refuge; second, a long-range program

for

for dealing with the broader problem of resettling not only the victims of persecution but the victims of war and civil conflict.

The short-range program, as I see it, involves the resettlement of somewhat more than 100,000 persons who are now in countries of temporary refuge yearning for an opportunity to resume a useful life. Many of these people will have opportunities of establishing themselves, by the normal processes of infiltration, in new homes such as this country which, under its quota laws, offers a haven to a substantial number of refugees each year. Others will have to be established in the special places of settlement which are being opened up for them. I believe that it is especially urgent that the respective Corporations should be set up for each particular settlement project as rapidly as possible and that the preparatory work in each instance of engineering and colonizing in trial settlements should actually be begun.

I do not believe, however, that the work should stop there. These settlements will be useful in alleviating the immediate situation and opening the dam to at least a reasonable flow to resettlement. Ultimately, I believe, a place will have to be found for large-scale settlement where the elements of substantial territory, generous financing and human ingenuity will be combined to forge a new homeland for the exiles who have started out on what must seem to them to be a hopeless trek.

Turning to the long-range program, I wish to emphasize at the outset that the Committee is not dealing with a passing phenomenon but with a broad problem of population pressure which manifests itself with ever-increasing

intensity

intensity in a world which still is unevenly populated. I believe that the Committee should consider the possibility of widening its mandate to include other categories of exiles who wish to start their life over again in some new land. I realize that the Committee is a Committee of Governments and that all the participating Governments must be consulted before there can be any fundamental change in the Committee's Constitution. It is my conviction, however, that at least the broader lines of the problem should be presented to the Governments, and they should be invited to notify the Chairman whether in their view the scope of the Committee's activity should be extended and to what extent.

Omit

I cannot close without stressing once more the poignancy of the refugee problem which is a challenge to the Western civilized world. We are put squarely to the test and it is for us to demonstrate conclusively that we have the vision and intellectual capacity for finding a rational cure. It is not enough to indulge in horrified humanitarianism. We have a reality to face which has added alarmingly to world unrest and to economic disequilibrium. It must be faced realistically if the democratic principle, which is based on respect for human dignity, is to survive.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR WASHINGTON MEETING OF OFFICERS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

(1) Report on the present position of the refugee problem and a review of the work of the Intergovernmental Committee.

(2) Present status of plans for settlement, including present indications as to the practicable extent of settlement in areas so far investigated.

(3) The question of whether or not the possibilities for individual immigration and either group or mass settlements so far developed are adequate to meet the problem.

(4) Possibilities of large-scale settlement in areas already considered or in other areas.

(5) The problem of financing immigration and settlement, including the possibilities of governmental participation.

(6) Consideration and continuing study of the problems of emigration particularly those arising as a result of the European war.

## AGENDA (First Day)

1) The Secretary of State will open the meeting.

2) Lord Winterton will reply for the Committee.

3) Mr. Taylor will make his remarks.

4) The other Vice-Chairman, of the Argentine, Brazil, France, and the Netherlands in that order, will perhaps wish to speak.

5) Sir Herbert Emerson will make his report.

6) Mr. McDonald will make a statement.

7) A request of the Swiss Minister to be received by the meeting will be considered.

NOTE: At the end of the first session the photographers will detain the Committee for a few minutes.

I don't quite see how we are going to get thro' the Agenda in a day + a half the President in his speech raised problems of great magnitude + importance. My Government would be very sympathetic to many of his ideas — indeed I don't think we should disagree with any.

But ought we to try and rush the matter thro' by to-morrow evening? Ought we not to adjourn the meeting after to-morrow's session until say Monday or Tuesday of next week if you can spare the time to get back to Washington. That would give delegates to get further instructions if need be from their Govts.

If you will think the matter over + tell me your views afterwards

E.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

OCTOBER 18, 1939
No. 526

Upon the invitation of President Roosevelt the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee met at the White House on October 17, 1939. The Secretary of State opened the second meeting at the Department of State on the afternoon of October 17 and a third meeting was held on the morning of October 18 when the Committee adjourned until Thursday, October 26, 1939. Those who attended the meeting included Lord Winterton, Chairman and Paymaster General in the British Government; Sir Herbert Emerson, Director; the Honorable Myron C. Taylor, Vice-Chairman representing the United States of America; His Excellency Felipe Espil, the Argentine Ambassador; His Excellency Count de Saint-Quentin, the French Ambassador; His Excellency Mr. Carlos Martins, the Brazilian Ambassador; Dr. A. Loudon, the Netherlands Minister; and Mr. James G. McDonald, Chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees.

The meeting, at the second session, heard a report on the current refugee situation by the Director and discussed the various ways in which the refugee problem might be met. Particular attention was given to the new aspects of the situation due to the outbreak of war.

At the third session, the officers discussed what President Roosevelt had described in his opening statement as the "short-range problem", including the problem of emigrating those individuals and families who are at this moment in countries of temporary refuge and who, for the sake of the world and themselves, should be placed in permanent domiciles as rapidly as possible.

The meeting was of the opinion that this problem could still best be solved partly by infiltration, that is individual immigration, and partly by an initiation of settlement projects. The meeting took note, with particular satisfaction, of the fact that the Dominican Government, with great foresight and generosity, had responded to the appeal of the Intergovernmental Committee for opportunities of settlement. The meeting also heard with satisfaction that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines had responded in a similar manner. Mr. McDonald reported that engineering and economic studies had recently been completed and that practical steps, including financing, in the initiation of settlement were being taken.

The meeting was informed that similar studies in other areas would be undertaken promptly.

The Committee also took note of the fact that the Coordinating Foundation, whose Executive President, Mr. Paul van Zeeland, will be present at the meeting next week, is mandated to work with individuals and organizations to investigate the suitability of places of settlement and future resettlement plans.

A tribute was paid by the meeting to the unstinted generosity over a period of years of the private organizations.

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TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR WASHINGTON MEETING OF OFFICERS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

(1) Report on the present position of the refugee problem and a review of the work of the Intergovernmental Committee.

(2) Present status of plans for settlement, including present indications as to the practicable extent of settlement in areas so far investigated.

(3) The question of whether or not the possibilities for individual immigration and either group or mass settlements so far developed are adequate to meet the problem.

(4) Possibilities of large-scale settlement in areas already considered or in other areas.

(5) The problem of financing immigration and settlement, including the possibilities of governmental participation.

(6) Consideration and continuing study of the problems of emigration particularly those arising as a result of the European war.

tachated ~~[illegible]~~ committee to be named - to report Thursday next

3
5

## Draft Communiqué

The officers of the Intergovernmental Committee concluded their present session today. Further meetings will be held at such time and place as may be designated by the Chairman.

The officers recognize that there was an urgent need for further openings for the permanent settlement of refugees included in the present mandate of the Committee. They considered that survey should be continued of all possible openings for the permanent settlement of involuntary migrants in various parts of the world, special regard being paid to the necessity for the development of natural resources by engineering, irrigation and similar schemes.

The officers expressed the highest appreciation to President Roosevelt for his courtesy in inviting them to meet at Washington and for his great humanitarian interest in the solution of the harrowing problem of political refugees.

FOR THE PRESS HOLD FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 17, 1939

The following statement of the President on opening the meeting of the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee, at the White House, is for release in editions of all newspapers appearing on the street NOT EARLIER than 1:00 P. M., E.S.T., October 17, 1939.

PLEASE SAFEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

I am glad to welcome at the White House Lord Winterton, the Chairman; Sir Herbert Emerson, the Director; Mr. Myron Taylor, the Vice-Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee representing the United States of America, the heads of missions of the Argentine Republic, Brazil, France and the Netherlands; and Mr. James G. McDonald, the Chairman of my Advisory Committee on Political Refugees.

I extend through you to the thirty-two Governments participating in the Intergovernmental Committee and to the private refugee organizations my appreciation for the assistance which has been given to refugees in the period since the meeting at Evian. I hope the work will be carried on with redoubled vigor, and with more positive results.

In March, 1938 it became clear to the world that a point had been reached where private agencies alone could no longer deal with the masses of unfortunate people who had been driven from their homes. These men, women and children were beating at the gate of any nation which seemed to offer them a haven.

Most of these fellow human beings belonged to the Jewish Race, though many thousands of them belonged to other races and other creeds. The flight from their countries of origin meant chaos for them and great difficulties for other nations which for other reasons -- chiefly economic -- had erected barriers against immigration. Many portions of the world which in earlier years provided areas for immigration had found it necessary to close the doors.

Therefore, a year and a half ago I took the initiative by asking thirty-two governments to cooperate with the Government of the United States in seeking a long range solution of the refugee problem. Because the United States through more than three centuries has been built in great measure by people whose dreams in other lands had been thwarted, it seemed appropriate for us to make possible the meeting at Evian, which was attended by Mr. Myron C. Taylor as my personal representative.

That meeting made permanent the present Intergovernmental Committee, and since that time this Intergovernmental Committee has greatly helped in the settling of many refugees, in providing temporary refuge for thousands of others and in making important studies toward opening up new places of final settlement in many parts of the world.

I am glad to be able to announce today that active steps have been taken to begin actual settlement, made possible by the generous attitude of the Dominican Government and the Government of the Philippine Commonwealth. This is, I hope, the forerunner of many other similar projects in other nations.

Furthermore, I am glad to note the establishment of a distinguished Anglo-American group of the Coordinating Foundation, which with the help of your Committee will investigate the suitability of other places of settlement for immigrants.

Things were going well, although I must confess slowly, up to the outbreak of the war in Europe. Today we must recognize that the regular and planned course of refugee work has been of necessity seriously interrupted.

The war means two things.

First, the current work must not be abandoned: It must be redirected. We have with us the problem of helping those individuals and families who are at this moment in countries of refuge and who for the sake of the world and themselves can best be placed in permanent domiciles during the actual course of the war without confusing their lot with the lot of those who in increasing numbers will suffer as a result of the war itself.

That I may call the short range program, and it presents a problem of comparatively small magnitude. In a moment you will see why I say, "comparatively small magnitude." At this moment there are probably not more than two or three hundred thousand refugees who are in dire need and who must as quickly as possible be given opportunity to settle in other countries where they can make permanent homes.

This is by no means an insoluble task, but it means hard work for all of us from now on -- and not only hard work but a conscientious effort to clear the decks of an old problem -- an existing problem, before the world as a whole is confronted with the new problem involving infinitely more human beings, which will confront us when the present war is over. This last is not a cheerful prospect, but it will be the almost inevitable result of present conflicts.

That is why I specifically urge that this Intergovernmental Committee redouble its efforts. I realize, of course, that Great Britain and France, engaged as they are in a major war, can be asked by those nations which are neutral to do little more than to give a continuance of their sympathy and interest in these days which are so difficult for them. That means that upon the neutral nations there lies an obligation to humanity to carry on the work.

I have suggested that the current task is small in comparison with the future task. The war will come to an end some day; and those of us who are realists know that in its wake the world will face a refugee problem of different character and of infinitely greater magnitude.

Nearly every great war leaves behind it vast numbers of human beings whose roots have been literally torn up. Inevitably there are great numbers of individuals who have lost all family ties -- individuals who find no home to return to, no occupation to resume -- individuals who for many different reasons must seek to rebuild their lives under new environments.

Every war leaves behind it tens of thousands of families who for very many different reasons are compelled to start life anew in other lands.

Economic considerations may affect thousands of families and individuals.

All we can do is to estimate on the reasonable doctrine of chances, that when this ghastly war ends there may be not one million but ten million or twenty million men, women and children belonging to many races and many religions, living in many countries and possibly on several continents, who will enter into the wide picture -- the problem of the human refugee.

I ask, therefore, that as the second great task that lies before this Committee, it start at this time a serious and probably a fairly expansive effort to survey and study definitely and scientifically this geographical and economic problem of resettling several million people in new areas of the earth's surface.

We have been working, up to now, on too small a scale, and we have failed to apply modern engineering to our task. We know already that there are many comparatively vacant spaces on the earth's surface where from the point of view of climate and natural resources European settlers can live permanently.

Some of these lands have no means of access; some of them require irrigation; most of them require soil and health surveys; all of them present in the process of settlement, economic problems which must be tied in with the economy of existing settled areas.

The possible field of new settlements covers many portions of the African, American and Australasian portions of the globe. It covers millions of square miles situated in comparatively young republics and in colonial possessions or dominions of older nations.

Most of these territories which are inherently susceptible of colonization by those who perforce seek new homes, cannot be developed without at least two or three years of engineering and economic studies. It is neither wise nor fair to send any colonists to them until the engineering and economic surveys have resulted in practical and definite plans.

We hope and we trust that existing wars will terminate quickly; and if that is our hope there is all the more reason for all of us to make ready, beginning today, for the solution of the problem of the refugee. The quicker we begin the undertaking and the quicker we bring it to a reasonable decision, the quicker will we be able to say that we can contribute something to the establishment of world peace.

Gentlemen, that is a challenge to the Intergovernmental Committee -- it is a duty because of the pressure of need -- it is an opportunity because it gives a chance to take part in the building of new communities for those who need them. Out of the dregs of present disaster we can distill some real achievements in human progress.

This problem involves no one race group -- no one religious faith. It is the problem of all groups and all faiths. It is not enough to indulge in horrified humanitarianism, empty resolutions, golden rhetoric and pious words. We must face it actively if the democratic principle based on respect and human dignity is to survive -- if world order, which rests on security of the individual, is to be restored.

Remembering the words written on the Statue of Liberty, let us lift a lamp beside new golden doors and build new refuges for the tired, for the poor, for the huddled masses yearning to be free.

**********

The officers of the Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees, after a week of executive conferences in Washington and New York, reassembled for a final executive session in the State Department at Washington today.

The officers again expressed their appreciation of the humanitarian impulse which prompted President Roosevelt to summon the meeting of the full Committee at Evian in July 1938, at which the permanent organization was set up. The President's invitation to the officers to confer with him in Washington last week and his statement to them led to further discussion of the future work of the Committee. His suggestions are being given fullest consideration. The work of the Committee, although affected by the serious conditions confronting Europe at the present time, will go forward with renewed zeal.

The meeting adjourned today and the visiting members, including Lord Winterton, the Chairman, and Sir Herbert Emerson, the Director, will return to London promptly.

This meeting of officers, recognizing that there is urgent need for further openings for the permanent settlement of refugees included within the present mandate of the intergovernmental committee and further recognizing that as a result of the war the problem of involuntary migration may be greatly increased, considers it necessary that surveys should continue of all possible openings for the permanent settlement of involuntary migrants in various parts of the world, special regard being paid to the scope for the development of natural resources by engineering, irrigation and similar schemes. While such surveys would have reference to the existing mandate of the intergovernmental committee, the meeting observes that the collection of material of this character will be of general value in contributing towards the solution of refugee problems arising out of the war, and would be of particular value to the committee should it at any future time wish to extend the categories of involuntary migrants within its mandate. The meeting considers that the results of all surveys should be communicated by the Secretary to all members of the committee.

A 10/30/39

The officers of the Intergovernmental Committee meeting at Washington on October 26, 1939, recognizing that there is an urgent need for further openings for the permanent settlement of refugees included within the present mandate of the Committee, and further recognizing that, as the President of the United States of America pointed out in his statement of October 17th, the problem of involuntary migration may be greatly increased ~~as a result of the war,~~ considers it necessary that surveys should continue of all possible openings for the permanent settlement of involuntary migrants in various parts of the world, special regard being paid to the scope for the development of natural resources by engineering, irrigation, and similar schemes. While such surveys would have reference to the existing mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee, the meeting observes that the collection of material of this character will be of general value in contributing towards the solution of refugee problems in the future ~~arising out of the war,~~ and would be of particular value to the Committee should it at any future time wish to increase the categories of involuntary migrants within its mandate.

The meeting considers that the results of all surveys made by private organizations either under the aegis of the International Co-Ordinating Foundation or by private organizations, should be communicated to the Director, and, at his discretion, to the participating Governments.

(10-20-39)

## Agenda for Meeting

Thursday, October 26

(1) The letter from the Dominican Government to the Dominican Corporation might be placed on the record. (Mr. Warren has copies of the letter for distribution)

(2) Report of the Technical Committee.

(3) Discussion of Point Six of the Agenda.

(4) Monsieur van Zeeland may wish to make a statement.

(5) Designation of a Vice-Director to replace Mr. Joseph Harsch, resigned. (Sir Herbert Emerson will have certain remarks to make with regard to this appointment)

(6) Designation of a Secretary.

(7) Financial position of the Committee. (Sir Herbert will have certain facts to report.

## REMARKS BY MR. TAYLOR

I have listened with great interest to the explanation by the Minister of Switzerland of the difficulties encountered by his country in maintaining a large number of refugees. I am sure that the representatives of the other countries of refuge have similar stories to tell. May I say here that these countries deserve high commendation for their generous attitude in the reception of refugees and their hospitality to them in a period of immediate necessity.

I think that the meeting will agree with President Roosevelt that our short-range program should be the emigration of people from these countries as soon as practicable to places of final settlement. No time should be lost in attacking this problem and intensifying efforts to relieve this acute situation.

I believe that the meeting will agree with me that the cure will have to be found partly by an acceleration of the process of infiltration and in part by the implementing of settlement projects which are ready to go forward and the opening up of new areas of settlement.

I am sure that I voice the unanimous opinion of the meeting when I say how deeply impressed we were to hear from Mr. McDonald that the technical preparation has been completed with regard to the Dominican and Philippine projects, that financing is being undertaken and that trial settlements will be set in motion in both these places in the immediate future.

5. XI. '39

Cunard White Star
"Georgic"

My dear Myron.
We are within a hundred
miles or so of Liverpool
and may now, I think, consider
ourselves safe from
submarine, so I am taking
up my pen to indite you
a letter.
I cannot sufficiently
thank you & Annabel
for all your kindness,
hospitality, and I must
add affection shown to me
on my American visit. I shall

remember it as long as I live. I am going to have a little silver box engraved & sent to you to use as a stamp box to be kept on your writing desk as a very slender little remembrance of my visit and gratitude to you.

I am keener than ever about our work and I much hope that the Foreign Secretary will allow me to continue to be Chairman even if I resign from the Govt.

A most comfortable ship and I have had a charming little flat in it with bedroom, bath, sitting-room, lobby etc. On the whole we have had a good crossing and it has been nice having my breakfast in my sitting-room with the porthole open & the sea flowing by outside. — Very restful.

Sincerely Yours.

Edith

The Technical Committee appointed by the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee for the purpose of preparing a draft communiqué to be issued after the fourth meeting of the officers scheduled to take place on October 26, 1939, respectfully submits the following text:

Communiqué

"The officers of the Intergovernmental Committee, at their fourth meeting at Washington, on October 26, 1939, recognized that there was an urgent need for further openings for the permanent settlement of refugees included within the present mandate of the Committee, and further recognized that, as the President of the United States of America pointed out in his inspiring statement of October 17, the problem of involuntary migration might be greatly increased. They considered it necessary that surveys should continue of all possible openings for the permanent settlement of involuntary migrants in various parts of the world, special regard being paid to the scope for the development of natural resources by engineering, irrigation, and similar schemes. While such surveys would have reference to the existing mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee, the meeting observed that the collection of material of this character would be of general value in contributing towards the solution of the refugee problem in its wider aspects, and would be of particular value to the Committee should it at any future time wish to increase the categories of involuntary migrants within its mandate.

"The meeting considered that the results of all surveys made either under the aegis of the Coordinating Foundation or by private organizations should be communicated to the Director, and, at his discretion, to the participating governments."

Lord Winterton had invited the American delegation to prepare a draft of the American proposals. These proposals should then be considered by a Committee of experts which would report to various delegations which might then consult their respective Governments before a recommendation could be made to the whole Committee.

Mr. Pell then proposed the following draft to the Technical Committee:

"The officers of the Intergovernmental Committee meeting at Washington on October 26, 1939, welcomed the suggestion of President Roosevelt that there be undertaken a serious effort to survey and study definitely and scientifically the geographical and economic problem of resettling several million people in new areas of the world's surface.

The officers of the Intergovernmental Committee are in agreement with the President of the United States of America that in the wake of the present war the world will undoubtedly be faced with a vast refugee problem and that a beginning should be made now to assess the possible fields of large-scale settlement.

The officers urge upon the private organizations, notably the International Coordinating Foundation, to take steps towards surveying areas of large-scale settlement and to keep the Director of the Committee, who will report to the participating Governments, informed of the progress of such surveys.

The texts of letters exchanged between the Director and the President of the Coordinating Foundation follow".

(Texts)

Mr. Bramwell

IS THE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD LONDON OR BERCHTESGADEN?

Address given by Thomas Stockham Baker, President Emeritus,
Carnegie Institute of Technology, before Hungry Club
October 10, 1938. Broadcast over WWSW 12:30 P.M.

I was in Germany during the months of January and February 1933. I was in Berlin January 30th, a day pregnant with meaning for the future of the world. On that day, Hitler was made Chancellor.

The chief correspondent of the New York Times in Berlin, Mr. Guido Ernst Enderis, asked me to give my impressions of the momentous events of that day, and I quote the following excerpts from my article which was sent by wireless and published in the Times on February 4th:

"Berlin, Feb. 3 (1933) - Germany is passing through a period of inflation. I do not mean financial inflation, but inflation of the nationalistic spirit.

"This wave, I might almost say this storm, of nationalism, has carried Hitler from obscurity to the Chancellorship...." (It should be noted in passing that when Hitler became Chancellor of the German Republic on this thirtieth of January - it was then still a republic - he received probably the first full-time job he had ever held in his life).

"I watched with great interest a torchlight procession last Monday, in the evening of the day on which Hitler was named Chancellor. Hitler's friends said it was a demonstration in his honor; members of other parties said it was a tribute to President von Hindenburg.

"Next day the Hitler newspapers described the event as the turning point in German history - an event that marked the welding together of all Germans, so the nation could now present a solid united front against the rest of the world. Other newspapers dealt with the occasion as just one more change in government -

a little more hazardous, a little more sensational, a little more unexpected than some others.

"The procession itself seemed somewhat tame - as drab as the brown uniforms of the Nazis; it was supervised anxiously by the police; it moved slowly, chiefly because it was held up by demonstrations in front of the President's Palace and the residence of the Chancellor.

"The aged President von Hindenburg received the ovation with friendly, calm dignity. Further down the street his new Chancellor showed as great a contrast in his attitude toward the crowd before the windows, as was the contrast between his birth, breeding and upbringing and that of the rugged soldier-President. Hitler was pleased; he radiated happiness; he had 'arrived' and his joy in his success spoke in every gesture, in every expression of his face.

"As I stood before the window from which Hitler bowed his acknowledgments to the crowd, returning the Fascist salute, I thought of the legend ascribed to the old President. On a previous occasion, when it was being urged that Hitler be made Chancellor, the story goes that he replied:

'I won't be bothered with that little sergeant!'

"Now the little sergeant is Chancellor and one wonders whether the 'Little Sergeant' will become a 'Little Corporal' - will the Austro-German soldier become a Napoleon?

"The procession continued its slow course from the Tiergarten to the Brandenburg Gate, into the Wilhelmstrasse. As it crossed the Pariser Platz I turned to the palace of the French Embassy. Not a light to be seen. The building was in total darkness...."

"If the procession itself seemed dull and the crowd lifeless, the Hitlerite troops - once the procession ended - were full of color and animation as they passed through the streets to their several headquarters in the various parts of the city. Their ranks were closed, they moved forward without interruption.

Their tread was heavy and their songs and cheers ominous. As one watched them, one felt they expressed a spirit of intense nationalism that could not be matched in any other country in the world."

As I lay in bed, listening to the brutal-sounding noises of the marching Nazi troops, I felt like a scared child who pulls the covers over his head to shut out the terrifying world.

Now, in a little more than five years and a half since that night, we are able to begin to answer my rhetorical question: "Will the 'Little Sergeant' become a 'Little Corporal'?" We do not know what Hitler's stature will be in the ultimate verdict of history, but I now realize that as I looked at the "Little Sergeant" and his brown-shirted troops bearing their torch lights on that gloomy evening at the end of January, I was witnessing the beginning of an era - an era so unbelievably new and strange that it is by no means inappropriate to ask whether the capital of the world is today at London, the capital of the British Empire, or at Berchtesgaden, the mountain retreat of the new Napoleon.

The events of the last month have been so strange, so overwhelming, that they have left the world gasping for its breath. The high suspense of the developments during a few days of September, which carried with them throughout the world the terror of impending war, has been succeeded by a relief wrought by the promise of peace, a peace which we pray will be as real and lasting as the fears of the last week of September were poignant.

There can be no doubt that there is something Napoleonic about the Austrian sergeant. There is this difference, however, between the two men. Hitler has achieved some of the greatest victories of all history without firing a gun. He has forced the Prime Minister of the British Empire to come to Germany three times in an effort to prevent war. He has been able to convince the German people that mighty Albion is afraid to fight.

These are accomplishments of Napoleonic proportions which are so

dazzling and which have been carried out with such rapidity that we are at a loss to explain them. If I had been asked to attempt to outline or set forth the characteristics of the man whom Hindenburg elevated to the Chancellorship five and a half years ago, I would have said his most striking trait appeared to be a complete lack of a sense of humor. What a fatuous and unintelligent observation in the light of what has happened since that night! But still I have found no one to interpret the magic of what he has done. No dictator can ever have a sense of humor. The tyrant must be so buoyed up with the sense of his stupendous self-importance - so sustained by his boundless vanity - that a sense of humor woulc cause the would-be dictator to burst out laughing at his own imaginings.

The following traits have revealed themselves since Hitler called himself "Fuehrer": audacity beyond all conceivable bounds; an instinct for taking full advantage of the physical weaknesses of his opponents and the moral and spiritual weaknesses of his compatriots.

As we discuss the present crisis, it will be necessary to refer again and again to the unbelievable weaknesses of his opponents and to his genius for understanding the German mind, and to his skill in turning its deficiencies into aids for his national program.

Hitler may be riding forward on a wave of change that cannot be explained by his Napoleonic qualities. For if we try to forecast the future of the British Empire by attempting a long look ahead, we are arrested by two considerations which may explain in part the palsied diplomacy of England since the War. They are England's population and England's economic position. I quote from a recent book by Aldous Huxley:

"It is about as certain as any future contingency can be that, half a century from now, the population of the industrialized countries of Western Europe will have declined, both absolutely and in relation to that of the countries of Eastern Europe. Thus, when Great Britain has only thirty-five million inhabitants, of whom less than a tenth will be under fifteen and more than a sixth over sixty,

Russia will have about three hundred millions. Will a country so (relatively speaking) sparsely inhabited as the Britain of 1990 be able to keep up its position as a "First-class, Imperial Power"? In the past, Sweden, Portugal, and Holland attempted to keep up the status of a Great Power on the basis of a population that was absolutely and relatively small. All of them failed in the attempt. If for only demographical reasons, Britain should take all possible steps to avoid a struggle for imperial power which, if not immediately fatal, will almost certainly prove fatal a couple of generations hence. In a militaristic world, relatively under-populated countries cannot hope (unless protected by more powerful neighbors) to retain exclusive possession of large empires. British imperialism was all very well when Britain was, relatively, highly populous and, thanks to being an island, invulnerable."

And as there is some question of continued British leadership because of these population changes, there is also some question of her future position in the realm of economics. England is in a bad situation economically. The British are very much in debt. Their trade seemingly cannot be greatly increased because of changes incidental to the war, which broke up their trade customs. There has been in recent years an unwillingness of the people to support any government which shows the least intention of entering into negotiations which might lead to war. This mood has changed, at least superficially, in the last few months. The newspapers recorded some time ago, the inability of the English nation to recruit its navy, army and air forces up to the desired number, and it has been intimated that conscription is the only means for filling the ranks. These factors are probably the underlying determining causes of English movements, and explain the fall in English domination of European affairs.

Great Britain has seemed to be the nation that in the eyes of most Americans embodied more completely than any other nation the principles of liberty, religion, the church - in short, the essentials of civilization. Now, along with

the wave of unbelief that is sweeping over the world and engulfing our most cherished ideals, we find our faith and confidence in Great Britain shrinking. The empire is faced not only by the most alarming dangers from without, but also by conditions within which readily can become very menacing. There has been talk during the past year of the Cliveden set, which, as I understand it, represents the most extreme views of the English tories and capitalists. It is charged with the responsibility for the weak, inconsistent, and selfish foreign policy of England. Should this policy, or I might say, lack of policy, result in a further serious decline in British prestige, one may well fear that the Empire and its most cherished institutions may be endangered. Royalty itself may go by the board, and the fabric of the English aristocracy and capitalism, not to speak of the Church of England along with it.

Since Hitler came into power, he has been faced by opposition from within his country and with opposition from without. At the beginning of his career as Chancellor, it seemed that his German enemies were so numerous and so powerful that a prolonged career as a ruler was unthinkable. Arrayed against him were the intellectuals, the liberals, the republicans, the Jews, most of the royalists, and soon both the Roman Catholic and the Protestant Churches. He has never had the complete confidence of the army, which has been uniformly more conservative than the Leader. If its opposition had been stronger, and if it had united itself with other conservative forces, under a capable and energetic man, Hitler's star would have set beofre this. These many and powerful enemies have never had a common leader to direct their efforts. Hitler was able to overawe his German enemies by overawing his foreign enemies. His repeated diplomatic successes increased his authority at home.

As he has proceeded in his campaign of conquest, he has been directed by two basic principles. At home, he will endure no one who might grow to be a possible rival leader. We shall not say he was jealous; rather, he was cautious.

In June, 1934, he divested himself of a group of possible competitors by a wholesale murderous purge that did away with his former friends and early compansions in the organization of the Nazi party. In this campaign of slaughter, the talented General von Schleicher was assassinated. Since that time, we do not know how many more or less prominent men have fallen a prey to his suspicions, and to fall under suspicion is to fall a victim to his methods. No amount of influence will save the marked man.

After the unsuccessful protest of the German generals of last February, there was a far-reaching reorganization of army leaders. We do not know what has become of some of the high officers of a year ago. Complete silence has closed over the name of von Blomberg, who at the beginning of the year 1938 was chief in command. Hitler moves into Austria and the foremost politicians in that country are immediately disposed of. Some are invited to commit suicide; some commit suicide, knowing in advance what is likely to happen to them; some are killed outright; some, like Schussnig, are locked up somewhere and may never be seen outside of prison or a concentration camp. We shall find that this keynote policy of Hitler will be maintained as he moves along his career of conquest; he will not overlook a possible focus of rival leadership. If these were normal times, we might be assured that such brutalities would enkindle some unified world-wide opposition. But it seems only to provoke the question, pronounced in cynical tones, "Who will be next?"

It if unfortunate for the cause of peace that the nations of the world that have been defied and insulted by Hitler have not been able to profit by the opposition to the policies of the Nazi government within Germany. If England and France could have opposed successfully the movement of the German tropps into the Rhineland, it would have strengthened the conservatism of the German generals and would have weakened the authority of the German leader in the eyes of his fellow-Germans. The same is true, with greater force, in respect to the

annexation of Austria. If this union could have been blocked by Germany's foreign opponents, it would have encouraged the friends of conservatism and enlightenment within the country. The opponents of Germany have forfeited, through their weakness, the best ally they have - namely, the enlightened Germans themselves. This is true with even greater force concerning the events of September, although we may say with grateful hearts, "Thank God, we still have peace."

As far as one can see, Hitler will not be conquered by forces from outside Germany. If he is overthrown, it will be as a result of forces either political or economic working from within, joined with forces at work from without. A tyrant, as ruthless as Hitler, has aroused secret and intense bitterness and caused boundless suffering, which may some day find an opportunity to express itself openly.

What will be the nature of Hitler's foreign policy in the immediate future? I believe the guiding principles will be determined by food, petroleum, and money. Even sensational triumphs abroad will not satisfy Germany at home unless the masses are supplied with more and cheaper food. The army cannot be expected to carry on a successful war unless it has cheaper sources of materials for its internal combustion engines. Oil from coal is an entirely feasible process, but it will remain for a long time expensive. It is, therefore, safe to assume that Hitler will rush to capture those lands that will supply Germany with cheaper food-stuffs and cheaper fuel for her army and navy. More food will reduce discontent at home, and diminish potential opposition from within. Cheap and ample supplies of petroleum will create a more efficient, dangerous and threatening army. With these new conditions Germany will be in a position to make demands of her opponents, I might say to exact tribute of other countries, that will help her to replenish her empty coffers.

I am wondering whether Hitler is not a master politician with limitless audacity, and with an inexplicable intuition concerning men and their motives,

who has been able to secure very competent assistants, who are working for immense rewards. The prizes of conquest are, however, so great that they may cause, ultimately, treachery among the Leader's associates.

Hitler is the leader of a race of efficient individuals who apparently enjoy being drilled and coordinated by a ruthless master. As for a Hitler philosophy, I suspect it has been improvised as he has gone from stage to stage towards ever increasing power.

An explanation of the unparalleled efficiency of the German nation and how Hitler has been able to secure so many competent underleaders to carry out his stupendous plans would be very much in order. Presumably it is the military system applied not only to the military establishment, but also to every phase of industrial and political life. It is noteworthy that while other nations seem to do things, including good things, that their governments undertake, badly, because of the incompetency of the men who are at the head of these undertakings, the Germans seem to be able to do well bad things.

The German compares the purposefulness of his life - his desire for knowledge and his ability to utilize knowledge, his laboriousness - with the less earnest manner of living and thinking of other peoples, and he is chagrined that he is not always able to overcome a sense of inferiority. He is annoyed at other nations - bitter toward them - which are not so concerned about learning and organizing and planning and getting results as he is. He observes the inefficiency of the French in many of their affairs, and yet he is forced to admire their intellectual and artistic accomplishments, and to envy their political successes. He is baffled by the "muddling through" methods of the British, and yet he is forced to a grudging acknowledgment that the British do well many things in which he thinks himself pre-eminent.

The World War brought not only national humiliation, but also brought defeat to the German's philosophy of life. The German Empire illustrated,

glorified, the high standard of individual training and the collective ability of the Germans. The Empire fell, a monument of governmental efficiency, toppled by a lack of statesmanship....

Germany's mass attacks in the field of propaganda appear most impressive. It organizes its optimism, its pessimism, its friendships, its enmities, its rancours, its sorrows, its grievances, its hopes; and in propaganda it has discovered a priceless instrument for indoctrinating the world and itself. Hitler, the greatest propagandist of all time, is the product of propaganda. It is noteworthy that one of his first acts as Chancellor was the establishment of a Ministry of "propaganda and enlightenment."....

Hitler's success at first sight is a phenomenon which would seem inexplicable. How has it been possible for him to overawe a nation of thinkers - one might say, of philosophers? The answer is found in the simplicity of his mind and the firmness of his will. He has achieved the high art of the advertiser who has the courage to utter the commonplace and the popular and by continuous reiteration to convince by his simplicity and his insistence.

In my opinion, the present military activities of the Germans are a prolongation of the war which began in 1914. The termination of hostilities merely brought to an end an outward show of force. Very soon after 1918, the German propaganda machine was established and has worked with increasing fury until the present. No matter who was Chancellor under the Republic, the propaganda efforts were maintained with a singleness of purpose. The Republic was weak and fell a prey to the ambitions of Hitler, but, in spite of the failure of the Republic, it succeeded in getting rid of reparations and went a long way towards excusing the German nation from all stigma of war guilt.

Hitler and his man, Goebbels, doubtless the greatest master and controller of public opinion who has ever lived, took over the machine where the republicans had left it and increased its speed and power to a point undreamed of before.

Hitler, the master of mob psychology, lends himself perfectly to the arts and methods of propaganda. We are not yet ready to define the limits of the part that the radio has played in the activities of the modern dictators. It does seem as though they were created for the radio and that the radio had been created for them. As masters of mob psychology, they are masters of the masses, or if you please, of the mob, and no device is conceivable that could give to one individual an audience of such size as wireless. It is a sad commentary on human intelligence that this creation of modern science - this creature of profound theoretical knowledge - can be utilized to debase and to degrade human intelligence. Theoretically, the radio should have become the chief ally of democracy, because it is an instrument which may be used by every individual for his enlightenment, education, and amusement. In the dictator countries, the masses have allowed it to become the greatest instrument of self-delusion that can be thought of. It is not impossible that the radio may become, under certain conditions, an aid in the movement of the world back to the dark ages. It may become an aid in the world's self-destruction.

In the speech of Hitler of September 26th, we observe the fate of nations being determined, not by a group of calm, temperate diplomats, negotiating around a green table; but rather, by an audience made up of all peoples of all the world to whom the radio has penetrated, and there were few countries so remote that they did not have their radios tuned in on that day.

The dramatic changes that wireless has made in the political philosophy of today and in the methods that it has forced upon statesmen makes one believe that he who controls the radio will control the masses. We may go a step further and say that the masses do not know what they want and may fall a prey to the man who is able to surround himself with the semblance of authority, and who is able to express in words the unexpressed and groping ideas of the mob....

My impression is that however effective Hitler's radio speaking may

be within his own country, outside its boundaries, he is more likely to strike terror than to create sympathy. His pretensions as a dictator, as the final authority to determine peace or war for his country, or any other question that affects it, is so daring as to appear unbelievable to the non-German mind. The effect of his recent speaking has been to reduce the number of sympathizers with the Germans. His speaking produces upon the calm, unprejudiced, non-German observer the effect of something morbid and unnatural - of something in the highest degree dangerous to the world's peace. Hitler's radio-speaking seems to make war sooner or later inevitable. It arouses people to a frenzy of excitement and the people outside his country to a dread of the future state of the world, should he and his philosophy and his methods prevail.

Hitler's speech of September 26th was a speech that was literally heard around the world. One could not walk down the street in Pittsburgh, or probably in any American city, without hearing the violent, intense, over-strained voice of the Leader with a somewhat un-German accent, booming forth in barber shops and all kinds of shops, poolrooms, eating places, motor cars, etc. I ask myself, what was the philosophy of the speech and the reasons for its delivery? It displayed primarily the pathological vanity of the Fuehrer. It was characteristic in that no appeal was made to reason. It was intended to stir the emotions of his hearers.

Hitler does no arguing. He repeats his statements again and again regardless of whether they are true or false. It is hard to determine hos much of his speech was intended as defiance and a threat to the foreign nations, and how much was intended to raise the spirits of the people of his country. It might have been what a football coach would call "a pep talk." I should think it would have been more impressive to Germans than to foreigners. To the latter, who were able to listen in a calm, critical manner, Hitler appears to be a firebrand. He has a genius for the commonplace. He has the high intelligence of a man who

recognizes the futility of much that is regarded as intelligent. Without apparently being cynical, he recognizes the stupidity of the masses and makes no assumption that they are not ruled entirely by their emotions. He feels no shame in filling hours with the utterance of the emptiest of platitudes.

We are hoping that the liberal governments of western Europe and America may not find it necessary to fight the German armies, but they will be forced to defend in some way their countries as the seat of liberalism and liberty and reason and justice. The triumph of the German armies would bring with it the defeat of what Americans regard as the principles of civilization....

War with Germany will be not only a war of guns and ships and airplanes, but also a war of ideas. We dare not believe that Nazism is a mere temporary phenomenon or a national aberration prompted by a pervading sense of injustice or a menace which western powers can successfully meet whenever they choose to exercise their physical might....

I shall not attempt a final answer to the question which I have placed at the head of this little paper, "Is the capital of the world London or Berchtesgaden?" I dare make no claim to a gift of prophesy, but each of us will be able to answer the question for himself and through his own observations in the next few months, or at the most, the next few years. If we observe an increase in political and economic disorders in Great Britain, France, and the United States, it will mean increased power for the master of Berchtesgaden. If we observe increased truculence on the part of Hitler towards these nations, this will mean a still further growth in his confidence in himself. I anticipate a demand on the part of the Fuehrer that the foreign press moderate its attacks on him. If we of the United States observe a growing antagonism toward us on the part of the Central and South American countries as a result of German propaganda, we may conclude that Germany is trying to create to the south, a situation similar to the one she has manufactured in Spain with respect to France and Great Britain. If we discover increasing misunderstandings between

the British and the French, we may be confident they will redound to the advantage of Berchtesgaden and to the disadvantage of London. We may expect to see Hitler, in view of his strong military forces and because of the lack of a unified policy among his opponents, attempt to exact tribute. He may demand that whatever has been paid by Germany to the Allies in the Great War by way of reparations shall be returned. Hitler is not only planning a war of conquest, but the idea of revenge may not be altogether absent from his mind.

I have made no reference to the future role that Russia will play. Germany will certainly try to keep a wedge fixed between England and France. She may not be completely successful in this, but since 1933, she has achieved more in promoting disunion that most of us Americans realize. We may be confident that Hitler will attempt to block with all the resources at his command the growth of intimate relations between Russia and any other country. It is not inconceivable that rather than allow England, France, and Russia to create a firm alliance he would make an effort to secure for his own country the cooperation of the Soviets. This seems ludicrous, because Hitler owes a great deal of his success to his skill in utilizing the alleged menace to the world of Bolshevism. He will continue to emphasize this threat, as long as it falls in with the plans for his international campaign, but he would not hesitate to join with Russia if he thought that by such a union, his great objectives would be reached.

It looks as though all the preliminary diplomatic skirmishes - they have been indeed great diplomatic battles - have been won by Berchtesgaden. The present mood of London is a defeatist mood, but the appearance of a great statesman might change overnight the British temper, and if England regains her composure and self-assurance and her power to lead, the authority of Berchtesgaden will diminish rapidly.

TELEPHONE VICTORIA 6270.

61, ECCLESTON SQUARE,
S.W.1.

24th November 1939.

My dear Stylem.

I am so sorry not to have written to you before to tell you of things this side.

Just after I returned, I saw the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, and a little later Sir Samuel Hoare; all of them were most interested in the work which we did at Washington, and the Prime Minister was good enough to say that he had heard that I had got on well with all of you on the other side.

As you have been so very kind about my part in our co-operation, I know that you will be glad to learn that the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have requested me to continue as Chairman of the Committee, though I am resigning my small post in the Government from to-day. I enclose, which of course is only for your confidential information, a very nice letter which I received from the Prime Minister.

Emerson has done some useful work and made some further valuable contacts since he has returned; one difficulty here which he is endeavouring to overcome is the fact that the refugee organisations here say that they can no longer find the money to keep the refugees in this country, and they are anxious to have a Treasury grant.

Emerson's own view is that they could find the money if they put their hearts into it, especially as it is hoped that eventually all of the able-bodied refugees of good character will be absorbed in war work; indeed, I understand that preparations are in hand for enlisting a non-combatant corps from among the young

TELEPHONE:
VICTORIA 6276



61, ECCLESTON SQUARE,
S.W.1.

men at present in the very well-managed camp at Richborough; Lord Reading has been designated as Colonel of this Corps.

I am sending you, I hope in time for Christmas, if the very intricate regulations regarding the export of silver, even in so small a quantity, permit a little silver box for stamps, which you can keep on your writing table as a memento of my visit and some small sign of the respect and affection in which I hold you.

I would have liked to have sent you something of a much more striking character, but the war makes this very difficult.

With very kind regards from Monica to you and Annabelle,

Yours sincerely,

Myron Taylor Esq.,
71 Broadway,
New York City,
U.S.A.

C O P Y.

10 Downing Street,
Whitehall.

21st November 1939.

My dear Eddie,

Thank you for your letter of to-day's date telling me of your wish to resign the office of Paymaster-General. In view of the reasons which you gave me when you saw me, I feel that I must, with much regret, accept your resignation. I want, however, to thank you most warmly, not only for the help which you have given to me and to the Government but also for consenting to continue your important work as Chairman of the London Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN.

The Rt. Hon. Earl Winterton, M.P.

DEC 1939

FOUNDED 1881 UNDER THE TREATY OF GENEVA

Rome Pott

# AMERICAN RED CROSS

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James H. Perkins
John W. Hanes
Corcoran Thom

December 20, 1939.

12/28 acks

Mr. Myron C. Taylor
71 Broadway
New York, New York

My dear Mr. Taylor:

I am enclosing a copy of the Report of Red Cross activity during the last twelve months presented at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Incorporators on December 13th by Chairman Norman H. Davis.

You will also be interested, I believe, in the attached copy of a letter recently addressed to chapters reporting our accomplishments to date through the production by chapters of clothing for the relief of war refugees in Europe.

Best wishes of the Season.

Sincerely,

James L. Fieser

James L. Fieser
Vice Chairman in Charge
of Domestic Operations

Report by Chairman Norman H. Davis
to Board of Incorporators
December 13, 1939

The twelve months which have elapsed since I met with you last December have been exceedingly active ones for the American Red Cross. It has been a year marked by greatly increased activity both at home and abroad. There is every reason to believe that this increased need for our services will continue for some time to come.

In response to the greater needs, the annual membership Roll Call which ended two weeks ago, - and it is the membership dues paid at the time of the Roll Call which largely finance Red Cross work local, national and international - has been productive of a gratifying and material increase. An analysis of returns already received indicates a Red Cross membership for 1940 of 7,047,251, an increase of 1,378,571 members.

In the domestic field of operations our 3,700 Chapters have been extremely busy. There has been renewed interest in the field of nursing and the teaching of Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick. In our safety work we have increased very materially the numbers of those trained in First Aid and Life Saving. Our campaign to lessen the number of accidents in the home, in industry, on the highway and on the farm, is showing most encouraging results.

Due to the increase in our armed forces, the Red Cross has had to make a corresponding increase in the number of personnel assigned to work with the men of the regular Army, Navy, Marine Corp and Coast Guard. Our work for ex-service men and their families continues at about the same pace.

There has been no large disaster operation during the last year. As against this, however, there has been an unusual number of small disasters in which the Red Cross has seen service. When I use the word "small" in relation to disaster, I do so in a strictly comparative manner. For instance, the floods which caused such havoc in eastern Kentucky last July involved Red Cross relief for 13,750 persons and the expenditure of approximately eighty-five thousand dollars. As a matter of fact, no disaster, no matter how it may be classified in Red Cross statistics, is small from the point of view of those families who have lost their homes and all they possess and are completely dependent upon the Red Cross for emergency relief and rehabilitation.

During the last year there have been 128 disasters within the United States involving a total expenditure by the Red Cross of $508,000 for relief work. No one can forecast a trend in the number of disasters, but the fact remains that each of the last few years has seen a marked increase in the number of such catastrophes, with, of course, a corresponding drain on Red Cross man-power and on Red Cross funds.

Since the outbreak of war in Europe on September 1st, we have all been actively engaged, Chapters and National Organization alike, in meeting the responsibilities placed upon us by the Treaty of Geneva in giving aid to the victims of war. In the case of war between foreign nations in which the United States is not involved, as in the case of some great disaster on foreign soil, the obligations of the American Red Cross are limited. In such a case we do not and should not assume full responsibility as we would do in a domestic disaster or in a war in which our own nation might be taking part. Our assistance is usually limited to collaborating with sister Societies. And since, in extending such aid, we are representing the American people, our work can only go as far as the American people, through their contributions, indicate that they wish to have their Red Cross go.

We must always remember however, that the American Red Cross is the largest and most powerful Red Cross organization in the world, and that it represents the people of the wealthiest and most powerful nation. It is but natural, therefore, that the contribution which we should make in behalf of the victims of war and disasters abroad should be in proportion to the needs and our ability to help meet them. I think that would be the wish of the American people and we have acted accordingly. I believe I am safe in saying that we have so far met our full share of emergency needs and we are continuing to do so without neglecting our important duties in the field of relief within our own country.

It is but natural that in a time like this when there is so much human suffering, a great many men and women of goodwill should wish to extend help. As a result, many special committees and groups have been formed with the express object of doing some kind of war relief work in Europe. While the American Red Cross has been doing all that was practicable and possible to supply the most critical needs for medicines, hospital supplies, and warm clothing, it is quite evident that if, and as, the war progresses, there will be increasing needs which do not fall within the scope of Red Cross responsibility. It is in meeting such additional needs that these other relief agencies can render valuable aid. In order to eliminate any possible waste or duplication of effort, I have, from time to time, brought together representatives of these other agencies in order that the relief work might be coordinated.

There is a tendency to compare our war relief work today with that which we undertook at the outbreak of the World War in 1914. Such a comparison is not practical. Just as the methods of warfare have changed during the last 25 years, so have the relief needs. For these reasons the Central Committee has had to give most careful consideration to the policies which will guide our relief work during the present European conflict.

Two principles remain the same for us today as they were 25 years ago. First, that we must be strictly neutral in all that we do, and second, that in the distribution of relief in the countries involved there must be absolute impartiality, with no discrimination because of race or religion. We are adhering steadfastly to these two outstanding Red Cross principles.

We find that there is no present need for sending operating units of American personnel to the warring countries, as was done at the outset of the World War. We find too, that there is no necessity for setting up elaborate relief machinery of our own in the warring countries. The last two decades have seen great strengthening of Red Cross Societies everywhere due largely to the active influence of the League of Red Cross Societies founded in 1919 under the guidance of the American Red Cross. These Societies in many of the countries are equipped today, as they were not during the last war, to administer relief to civilians as well as to members of their respective military establishments. For this reason, the American Red Cross, in extending war relief, is working with and through the Red Cross Societies of the various nations and is working in close collaboration with the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies, both of which are now established on neutral ground in Geneva.

Twenty-five years ago the great need in Europe was for medicines, hospital equipment and medical and nursing attention for the men of the fighting forces. The greatest need for relief is thus far among the civilian victims of war particularly in Poland and Finland and in those adjacent countries which are harboring refugees.

There is also acute need in England and France on the part of civilians - particularly women and children and the aged - who have had to be evacuated from the large cities or from their homes adjacent to the war zones in France. The Red Cross Societies of the world meeting in conference in London in the summer of 1938 adopted a resolution urging that there be no further bombing of defenseless women and children. This resolution has not as yet been embodied in an international convention. If civilians in the warring countries are to receive the same treatment accorded to them in Spain and China in recent years, then perhaps it will develop that the greatest relief needs will be for civilians rather than for the men actually engaged in the fighting.

At the outset of hostilities in Europe the International Committee of the Red Cross at our request asked the Red Cross Societies of the belligerent nations if we could be of assistance. The French, British and Polish Red Cross Societies responded in the affirmative. The German Red Cross replied that it needed nothing at that time, but later requested medicines and hospital equipment for use for sick and wounded Polish people. In response to these replies we have made donations of cash, medicines, and hospital supplies and a score of our large city Chapters have been engaged in the past three months in making surgical dressings for France and England from 900,000 yards of gauze which we purchased for that purpose. These surgical dressings are now going forward on every ship on which we can find cargo space. We are also shipping bedding and warm clothing for civilians evacuated from their homes in parts of France and England.

After the German occupation of Poland the adjacent countries of Hungary, Rumania, Lithuania, and Latvia, found themselves harboring large numbers of civilian Polish refugees and appealed to us for help. We cabled twenty-five thousand dollars to the League of Red Cross Societies for immediate expenditure by the Red Cross Societies of these countries for needed emergency relief for the refugees. We followed this by sending an American Red Cross delegation of three men, headed by Ernest J. Swift, Vice Chairman in Charge of Foreign Operations, and including Wayne Chatfield Taylor, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and a former member of our Central Committee, and James T. Nicholson, one of our executives who has had extensive experience in relief work. They have surveyed relief needs and recommended to us ways in which the American people acting through their Red Cross, could most effectively aid in meeting the needs.

We found that for the most part the food situation both within Poland and in those countries harboring Polish refugees, was adequate. The great need seemed to be for medical and hospital supplies, blankets, shoes and warm garments. Accordingly, we asked all of our Chapters to embark upon an emergency garment production program. I am glad to be able to report to you now that as a result of the prompt and loyal response of volunteers to this Red Cross appeal, we have already commenced shipment of thousands of warm garments with which the war victims may meet the approaching winter season. By January 1st we expect that more than 200,000 sweaters and dresses will have been produced by our Chapter volunteers.

In addition to these Chapter produced garments we have purchased bedding, blankets, shoes and underwear for distribution to Polish refugees in adjoining countries and for shipment into Poland proper.

Also, we have made cash grants for the purchase of medical supplies and hospital equipment for the Polish refugees and for use in German occupied Poland.

With the recent invasion of Finland by armed forces of Russia, the base of our war relif operations has been extended. In response to urgent requests form the Finnish Red Cross we cabled funds which were used for the purchase in London of medicines emergently needed in Finland. These supplies were sent by airplane to the

Finnish Red Cross and are now being used in Finnish hospitals. I asked one of our delegation in Europe, Wayne Taylor, to go to Finland at once and to report to me on the existing needs in that country. As soon as he has completed his initial survey and cabled his recommendations, additional supplies will be purchased either here or in England and forwarded promptly. We are also sending a shipment of 50,000 surgical dressings together with quantities of warm clothing and knitted garments. In order that additional aid may be forthcoming to meet the suffering and hardships among the victims of warfare on this newest bettlefront, I have notified each of our 3,700 Chapters to invite contributions for relief for the people of Finland. I feel sure the American people will want to do everything possible to alleviate the suffering among the war wounded and the civilians who have been forced by the threat of air bombings and marching armies hastily to evacuate their homes in cities and villages.

As Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, comprising the Societies of all nations, I have asked the Secretary General of the League in Geneva to inform the Red Cross organizations of all neutral nations of the needs of the sister society in Finland as I had done previously in the case of Poland, so that they might help in these situations.

At the very outset of the war in Europe we authorized Red Cross Chapters at the various ports of entry in this country to give aid to returning American citizens driven out of Europe by the war and who found themselves upon arrival here, without any resources of their own. We also allotted twenty thousand dollars to aid the stranded American survivors of the Athenia.

We have established here at National Headquarters an Inquiry and Information Service to aid Americans in locating friends and relatives located in the belligerent nations, clearing such information requests through the International Red Cross which in turn is clearing with member Societies throughout Europe.

Shortly after the start of hostilities we advised all Chapters that they should notify their respective communities that they would gladly accept contributions for war relief work. The public was notified that contributions could be restricted for expenditure in any one country or could be made to the general war relief fund which would be used in accordance with the needs in any of the belligerent nations.

In response to this we have received to date approximately $273,000 of which amount all but about $15,000 has been designated for use for the Polish sufferers. The Central Committee has made available one million dollars additional of which amount two hundred and fifty thousand dollars has been allocated for relief within Poland.

It has been our hope that it would not be necessary to conduct a war relief fund campaign. We had hoped that increased receipts from the Roll Call and continued gifts to the war relief fund, would for a reasonable time take care of the necessary work. Obviously much depends upon the future course of hostilities and the developing needs. I have every confidence that if overwhelming needs should develop, the American people will wish to carry our full share of the relief burden and that if and when it is necessary for us to make a major campaign for funds the response will be as generous and spontaneous as that which has enabled the American Red Cross to meet the great emergencies of the past.

\# \# \#

December 6, 1939

Mrs. Thomas B. Wheeler
Chairman, Albany County Chapter
American Red Cross
Room 410 - County Court House
Albany, New York

My dear Mrs. Wheeler:

We are pleased to inform you that the Chapter produced garments you sent us early in October have now been shipped to the Hungarian Red Cross for relief of Polish refugees, and to the French Red Cross to assist them in meeting the needs of civilians, mostly women and children who were evacuated from the danger area, in northern France.

About the middle of November, 26,961 garments went forward. These garments included men's and children's sweaters, women's and girls' dresses, boys' suits, men's socks, layettes, operating gowns, convalescent robes, hospital bed shirts and some miscellaneous garments, also a quantity of surgical dressings. To supplement these Chapter produced articles the National Organization purchased 8,000 pairs of shoes, 69,700 suits of underwear, 14,000 blankets, 233,000 yards of sheeting and 20,000 yards of ticking which are being shipped to Lithuania, Roumania, Hungary and France.

From reports which we have received from Chapters on their present production program, we estimate that the following additional garments will be ready for shipment abroad about January 1st:

20,000 heavy weight sweaters for men
10,000 heavy weight sweaters for women
20,000 heavy weight sweaters for boys and girls
14,000 heavier weight dresses for women
24,000 heavier weight dresses for girls
7,000 hospital bed shirts
1,700 operating gowns
1,900 convalescent robes
2,400 boys' shirts
1,800 layettes
20,000 miscellaneous garments, including children's stockings, men's socks, mufflers, beanies, boys' suits, sleeveless sweaters and lighter weight dresses for women and children.

59354

The sample garments which Chapters have sent to us are of a uniformly good quality and of most attractive patterns and fabrics. These garments, made by the women of America for the unfortunate victims of war, will give a maximum of comfort and usefulness and are a very substantial expression of the kindly, sympathetic interest of the American people.

The garments which are now being produced by Chapters will be allocated to the countries where the need is most urgent. It is contemplated that shipments of Chapter produced garments and surgical dressings will be made to that part of Poland occupied by Germany, to Lithuania, to Finland, to France and to England, and it is hoped that most of these shipments can go forward by January 1st.

We will write you within a few days concerning the production program after January 1st, but in the meantime we want you to know that the garments which your Chapter has produced have been a real factor in the ability of the American Red Cross to assist the Red Cross societies abroad in meeting the tremendous need which they face.

We are sure that you and all of those who have helped the Chapter will be pleased to know that the combined efforts of the Red Cross volunteers throughout America have resulted in such a splendid accomplishment. With the spread of the war in Europe additional urgent needs have been created and I have confidence that the women of America will wish to continue to assist the American Red Cross in fulfilling our responsibility. I suggest that you take appropriate steps to give the information in this letter to all of those who have helped.

Sincerely yours,

Richard F. Allen
Manager, Eastern Area

RFA/flg

59354

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE
FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS

10, Oorsprongpark, Utrecht.

212 EKB/HVB

December 27 1939

His Excellency
Mr. Myron Taylor
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Vice Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee,
71 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

Mr. Ambassador:

We feel very happy that you have been appointed Ambassador with the Holy See. We should be most grateful if you would be so kind as to remain in touch with this office in spite of the important work awaiting you in Rome.

With regard to our activities I should like to inform you that Mr. Van Zeeland had the kindness to invite Professor Schmutzer and myself to pay him a visit in January at Boitsfort, Belgium.

Thanking you very much for your courtesy, I have the honour to remain, Mr. Ambassador,

Yours most respectfully,

(Sd) E.K.L.M. BAUMGARTEN.
General Secretary.

BELLE ORCHARD
SEVENOAKS.

December 31 1939

My dear Mr. Myron Taylor:

Many thanks from my wife and myself for your telegram of good wishes, but we were very sorry to hear that you have had another operation - but we hope not a serious one. I imagine that it is not - or at any rate that it will not interfere with your appointment to the Vatican which I was delighted to see, and for which there could not have been a better choice. But I wish it had been London instead of Rome.

When you take over I shall write to you about current refugee questions in Italy, but I am not going to trouble you now. I expect to be busy about refugees in England. Government has had to finance them up to 50% of all expenses - maintenance, administration, emigration &c - and I may take in the Chairmanship of the Central Committee, which, among other things, will administer the first grants.

Van Zeeland is back in Europe and I hope will come to London shortly.

The League of Nations made no trouble about keeping my headquarters in London and accepted at once the necessity of the closest cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee.

I hope you are taking things easy and are having a really good rest at Killingworth, that very delightful home of which I have the best memories of Mrs. Myron Taylor's and your hospitality. I am afraid she must have had an anxious time, but that is now over and I hope that 1940 is going to be a happy year for you both.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) H. W. EMERSON.

P.S.:
The film reel arrived a few days ago for which many thanks.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Refugees

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 22, 1939

Dear Mr. Taylor:

It was a great joy to hear your voice on the telephone last night and to know that you are home and getting back your strength. I can imagine how happy Mrs. Taylor must be to have you safely under your own roof for Christmas.

I have been giving much thought to our Intergovernmental Committee problem of late and have jotted down a few rough notes, the essence of which I shall give you here.

In the first place, it seems to me that, for reasons which it is difficult to comprehend, the original directives which were laid down for you when you agreed to do this work have been lost from sight and more and more the highest here tend to go off on a tangent which, I must confess, seems to me to be dangerous indeed. I believe that I am correct in saying that when you were drafted for this work the basic thought was that there should be some manifestation by the western nations of the growing conviction that the

assault

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
16 East 70th Street,
New York, N. Y.

assault on minorities in Europe was merely the opening wedge for an assault on the basic standards of western civilization generally. It was considered right and proper that the United States, under the lead of the President, should take the van in a movement in support of principles for which we, in common with other western nations, stand and it was hoped that either (a) a bridge might be built to the Germans which would enable them to save face and find the road back to the comity of the West or (b) if the Germans should prove adamant in their determination to break away from the West, the western nations might be brought together in a constructive action along positive humanitarian lines which might form the nucleus of common action on a broader basis in other fields. In short, you were asked to engage in a diplomatic mission of great importance and real significance and you undertook the task in that spirit; at Evian, and subsequently at London, you directed the construction of the bridge to Germany which the Germans, though hesitant, were showing some inclination to use until they ran completely amok and brought on the war.

From a domestic standpoint we were given to understand that our job was to set up machinery which would relieve the pressure on the President to "do something" about the refugee situation, and this we certainly succeeded in doing. In fact, looking back, all was in perfect order until sometime

just

just before your departure for Europe this spring. At that juncture, however, for reasons which have not been satisfactorily explained, the President decided to come back into the picture and launch his idea of a vast settlement scheme involving the expenditure of vast sums on money. Since then, the work has been completely out of focus, and I hear nothing here except criticism of our "failure"--criticism which is in large part based on ignorance of what we were attempting to do.

It seems to me that the time has come when you are entitled to remind the highest here of the original purpose of the Committee and of the basis on which you accepted to direct the work and inquire whether it is still the intention of this Government to continue along these lines. If it is intended to abandon the original line, which to my mind is the only practical one from the standpoint of ~~our~~ a Government which is prepared to donate neither land nor money to the refugee cause, you might wish to ask some pertinent questions. In a word, Is the Committee to continue in existence as the nucleus of international collaboration? or, Is it to be lost in a welter of relief and refugee politics and intrigue? This is just thinking out loud, but certainly you and those working with you are entitled to know where the matter stands.

This

This is exclusively a refugee letter and I shall follow it with a letter on general questions immediately after Christmas.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Taylor for a Merry Christmas and extremely Happy New Year.

Ever devotedly,

Robert T. Pell

1940

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Personal
Reference

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 2, 1940

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Please excuse me; I forgot to return Lord Winterton's letters with my letter of this morning. Here they are.

Faithfully yours,

Robert T. Pell

Enclosures:
Letters from
Lord Winterton.

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
16 East 70th Street,
New York, N. Y.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Balliol College, Oxford.

January 2 1940

Dear Mr. Taylor:

You may imagine with what interest I heard of your appointment as personal representative of the President at the Vatican. I would congratulate, very heartily, not only yourself to whom it is an outstanding honour and distinction, but also your country and this stricken Europe, on that appointment. And I pray that God may be with you and may prosper your activities.

The Refugee Survey has inevitably suspended active operation. I have been appointed to the charge of the Peace Aims Section of Chatham House. The work is largely confidential. Its object is to collect facts bearing on the problems which must inevitably come up for decision at the Peace Conference, when it takes place, and to record those facts in the form of memoranda which will be available for reference. There is no question of framing or recommending policy. To do so would be contrary to the principles of Chatham House. The facts which we collect and record will be available for those who have to frame the policy.

The action of your President in placing the question of international order in its right setting is most heartening. It is in fact a question of the maintenance of Christian civilization. That is the reason why those who think, realise that our present conflict is indeed a Crusade. As Christians we could do no other.

Forgive me for taking a few moments of your time, but I could not let your appointment pass without a word of congratulation.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sd) J. HOPE SIMPSON.

February 1 1940

Sir John Hope Simpson,
Balliol College,
Oxford, England.

Dear Sir John:

I am very much interested in your friendly letter of the 2d of January, which has just reached me, and appreciate your observations most highly.

I am also particularly interested in the part in which you refer to the work that you are to undertake as Chairman to take in charge the Peace Aims Section of Chatham House. I wish I might have access as time goes on to your findings. Perhaps that will not be impossible.

In any event, when I get established in Florence, where we have a villa, and have made my earlier contacts at the Vatican in Rome, perhaps you will be good enough to run over and spend a few days with me there-when we might discuss the general situation in a confidential and useful way. I shall bear that in mind, and when the time seems to have arrived, will communicate with you again.

Sincerely yours,

(Sd) MYRON C. TAYLOR.

120 Broadway

February 7 1940

Hon. Myron C. Taylor,
71 Broadway, New York.

My dear Mr. Taylor:

We have a cable from Morris Troper this morning from Budapest. On his way there he had spent a couple of days in Milan and talked to the Committee there. He cables:

> "HAD LONG SESSION WITH COMMITTEE MILAN stop THREATS EXPULSIONS GERMAN REFUGEES AGAIN MOST SERIOUS WITH STRONG POSSIBILITIES BEING ESCORTED BORDER stop COMMITTEE FEELS MYRON COULD BE HELPFUL QUIETLY INFLUENCE OUR AMBASSADOR MAKES STRONG INTERVENTION SITUATION OTHER WISE LIVES TWOTHOUSAND SERIOUSLY THREATENED."

I wonder whether you are at all in touch with our Ambassador in Rome and whether it would be possible for you to do anything in this situation. I would like to say that at various meetings which I had in recent months in Washington with Mr. Norman Davis at the Red Cross office, Mr. Breckinridge Long sat in with us and I had a few pleasant minutes with him every time I met him. He told me that he would always be glad to be helpful and it occurred to me that in view of the fact that he used to be our Ambassador in Italy, I could without difficulty approach him, in case you would think it wise for me to handle the situation through him, or perhaps you yourself might want to use the good offices of Mr. Long.

Many, many thanks in anticipation.

Sincerely yours,

(Sd) PAUL BAERWALD.

February 9 1940

Paul Baerwald, Esq.,
120 Broadway, New York.

Dear Mr. Baerwald:

Replying to your letter of February 7th, I see no reason why you should not talk with Mr. Long, with a view to having him communicate with the Ambassador in Rome with respect to the Milan situation.

I will follow it up when I reach Rome. In that way you will be having all of the available facilities, which I think is the proper thing to do.

Sincerely yours,

(Sd) MYRON C. TAYLOR.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**
**WASHINGTON**

February 20, 1940

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I hope that by the time you receive this you will have had a pleasant crossing and will be well settled in your new and important office. Please do not hesitate to call on me if I can be of service. I am always yours to command.

Although you have moved on into other worlds I am afraid that the refugees are determined to dog your footsteps. We have just received a telegram from London to the effect that Winterton is anxious to hold ~~a~~ full meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee during the spring or early summer, that the French Government will be agreeable to holding the meeting at the Quai d'Orsay and that he, Winterton, has written you suggesting that the meeting be held at Paris at a time convenient to you.

I do not know how you will feel about this but our first reaction here is negative. The higher command here is not enthusiastic about a meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee at all; it does not feel that the recent French behavior

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
Care of American Embassy,
Rome, Italy

behavior with regard to the refugees who had the misfortune to find themselves in France upon the outbreak of war warrants the holding of a meeting in Paris; finally, it is believed that this is hardly the time to stress the refugee question by means of a full meeting of the Committee.

There would be no objection to a meeting of the officers if this idea should appeal to you. It is emphatically the view here, however, that the meeting should take place in a neutral capital. However, we shall naturally welcome your views and be guided as much as possible by your better judgment.

Ever devotedly,

Robert T. Pell

Refugees

EXCERPTS FROM COPY OF LETTER FROM
HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO PRIVATE RELIEF
ORGANIZATIONS IN LONDON, DATED January 11, 1940.

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Subject: Government Assistance to Relief Agencies

In view of the consideration that it has become impracticable to raise sufficient funds from charitable sources to maintain the refugees in this country, and that unless some measure of financial assistance were rendered by the Exchequer large numbers of refugees would have to resort to Public Assistance, His Majesty's Government is prepared to render financial assistance in accordance with the following scheme.

1. The Unemployment Assistance Board will under existing powers grant maintenance allowances to domestic servants and others who have lost their employment and fulfill the necessary qualifications and conditions.

2. The voluntary organisations should appoint a committee which will be responsible for receiving the Government grant mentioned in paragraph 3 below and for distributing it to the bodies which are or may be represented on it or recognised by it, and which are or may be engaged in the relief of those refugees from Greater Germany who do not come under the administration of the Czech Trust Fund or the Movement for the Care of Children from Germany.

3. It would be the duty of this Committee to exercise a general oversight over the use by the voluntary organisations of the grants made to them with a view to seeing that the money is spent economically and efficiently. The Government will pay to such Committee a contribution equal to half the expenditure incurred by the voluntary organisations in the maintenance and care of refugees in this country (including the administrative expenditure) provided (a) that such expenditure is approved by the said Committee
(b) that the total Government grant does not exceed £27,000 per month,
and (c) that the voluntary organisations will give an assurance that they will do their utmost to ensure that the refugees shall not become a charge on Public Assistance.

The intention of the Government is that the assistance it is giving should be a stimulus to the continuation of voluntary aid in money, kind and hospitality, and, not least, in service, and that the Committee should do what it can to secure this object.

The basis of the allocations made by the Committee to an organisation will be the actual expenditure out of the funds of that organisation, arising after December 31st, 1939.

This scheme would operate for six months starting as from January 1st, 1940, but the maximum of £27,000 would be subject to review after the expiration of three months, in order that consideration may be given in the light of the numbers being maintained to the question whether so large a grant is still justified.

4. In respect of the expenditure incurred by the voluntary organisations during the four months since the beginning of the war the Government will pay to the refugee organisations a retrospective contribution of £100,000. This grant is intended primarily as a contribution towards the heavy expenses which the central organisations have had to meet since the beginning of the war.

5. As regards payment of grant for current expenses, the Government will pay a sum of £80,000 to the Committee as representing approximately one-half of the anticipated expenses of the Committee during the current quarter. The grant for the succeeding quarter would be based upon a review of expenditure during the current quarter, subject always to the maximum of £27,000 per month and to the other conditions laid down in this letter.

The Secretary of State would be glad to know if the Central Office for Refugees is prepared to accept this scheme.

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1941

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1941

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I have just written you a rather pompous letter for the record. The fact is that Mr. Long apparently made up his mind some months ago that he was not going to have any Intergovernmental Committee around this Department. He has since that time indulged in an unrelenting attack on the work and the officers, who had the misfortune, not of their own choice, to be connected with it. There is just no use going on. I did not tell you in the letter but it is unfortunately a fact, Mr. Long tried to make personal charges against Mr. Wagg which had to be withdrawn after I put up a fight.

I hate to bother you with these matters and don't wish you to do anything but reply formally to my formal letter that you regret that I can no longer continue in this work. That will complete the record. I do not know what the reason for it is but Mr. Long seems to have some special spite for anything with which you are associated. As you will recall he was the author of measures restricting the mechanical aspects of your office at The Vatican and there is no doubt that he has made up his mind to put an end to the Intergovernmental Committee as well.

The Mr. Maney mentioned in my letter is wholly unsuited for the work. He is a man about 45 who is still in Class 7 in the service, which is next to the last class. As Consul in London he made a bad reputation for himself for injustice to refugees and is not liked in the Department. He is being appointed merely because the newspaper men took up a hue and cry over Wagg's dismissal. I am sorry that all of our good work of the past three years has ended this way, but there it is.

My

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,

Vita Serena,

Palm Beach, Florida

My best wishes to Mrs. Taylor and very best wishes for your return to complete good health.

Ever devotedly,

Robert T. Pell

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 2, 1941

Dear Mr. Taylor:

It is my painful duty to have to inform you that I can no longer continue as your adviser and alternate on the American Delegation to the Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees. I have relectantly come to the conclusion that the cause of the poor refugee people whom we are trying to help--and the cause is of course the only thing that matters--can better be served by my withdrawal from the work of this Government in their behalf. I have come to this conclusion as the result of a series of unhappy incidents in the last six months which has proven to me, conclusively, that I no longer enjoy the confidence of some of my superiors in this task. Developments in the last week have finally convinced me that it would be unjust to the refugees, the Department and, what is of no importance at all, to myself for me to pretend to continue in this capacity.

As you know, on January 30, 1941 and the succeeding week I represented you at the meeting of the Committee called at Ciudad Trujillo, in the Dominican Republic. Nineteen Governments were represented, fifteen--not including our own--which sponsored Evian--with full powers. As you may have heard, the French Government sent a delegation of nine persons headed by M. Barois the French Minister to Cuba, with instructions to engage the American Governments, members of the Committee, to take 60,000 refugees in the current year. I shall not bore you with the details of the negotiations which will be covered in the Secretary's formal report but, briefly, we succeeded in persuading the French to refrain from making a demonstration at the conference and to circulate their request through the Secretary of the Committee to member Governments. The meeting otherwise was dignified and helpful and fully worthy of the best

traditions

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,

Vita Serena,

Palm Beach, Florida.

traditions of the Committee for which you set the precedent now three years back.

I was ably and loyally assisted at the meeting, as I have been for the last eight months, by Mr. Alfred Wagg, 3rd., who was, you will recall, named Acting Secretary of the Committee with your approval and with the consent of Lord Winterton and Sir Herbert Emerson. Mr. Wagg went to Ciudad Trujillo in advance of the meeting and it was largely through his efforts that the meeting was a success. He was voted the thanks of the conference and was offered the Order of Merit of the Dominican Republic in the highest rank, which he felt he had to refuse because he was associated in a remote way with the Department of State. Upon my return to Washington I found that the Honorable Breckinridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State in charge of these matters, had issued instructions terminating Mr. Wagg's services because "the work with which he had been associated was discontinued"--meaning Intergovernmental Committee matters because Mr. Wagg was associated with no other work while he was in this Department. Mr. Long furthermore had issued instructions which have so restricted my work that any effective service is impossible. In the circumstances I have no alternative but to request to be relieved of any further responsibility regarding the refugee question.

I understand that despite the fact that it was said that the work would be discontinued a Mr. E. S. Maney, a Foreign Service Officer, Class 7, who latterly has been one of the Consuls in London, is to be proposed to you and Lord Winterton and Sir Herbert Emerson as Secretary of the Intergovernmental Committee replacing Mr. Wagg and taking over the refugee work of the Department. I am sure that Mr. Maney will ably fulfill the demands of the office which he is assuming at possibly the most crucial juncture in the refugee work.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert T. Pell

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 7, 1941

Dear Mr. Taylor:

It was very pleasant to hear your voice yesterday and I was glad to have good news of you and Mrs. Taylor. I am sorry that I had to bring you into this business but since the Intergovernmental Committee is seriously affected I felt it my duty and Ray Atherton concurred. Let me say in the first place that I am not the least interested in personalities; my one concern is that this Government shall appear in an honorable light and that the refugee cause should not be injured.

It was clear from what you said that your distinguished friend now in Palm Beach has been completely misinformed as to the true facts of the situation. I give you these facts for your confidential information in order that you at least may know where matters stand.

As you know I have considered that I was under instructions since my return from Europe to keep the Intergovernmental Committee alive by maintaining contact with Lord Winterton, Sir Herbert Emerson, and such governments as communicated with this office in person or in writing. I have also considered it my duty to support and encourage the Dominican Republic Settlement Association to the best of my abilities in view of the fact that it was set up and the settlement in Sosua was organized on the specific recommendation of the Intergovernmental Committee and with the formal and written approval of the President and the Department of State. I have also believed it my duty to maintain pleasant relations with the President's Advisory Committee, the Coordinating Foundation and such other refugee activities as might seem to be related to our work.

I have

The Honorable Myron C. Taylor,

Vita Serena,

Palm Beach, Florida.

I have thoroughly understood that the refugee problem had to be approached with caution in this critical time, and that a maximum of safeguards should be taken with regard to the people who wish to proceed either to this country or to countries in the American hemisphere and that in short, pending the outcome of the war a moderate course should be followed. I have avoided at all times any trespass on the work of other divisions of this Department, particularly the Visa Division, and believed that I had a cordial relationship with them all.

My own organization was a happy one. Following Steve Morris' transfer ( I was informed at 9:00 o'clock one morning that he was leaving at 11:00 o'clock--this in the middle of one of our heaviest moments in the refugee activities ) I was assisted by Mr. Alfred Wagg, 3rd. and had two agreeable and efficient secretary-stenographers. We all worked together pleasantly and no one at any time suggested that there was any criticism of our work. I should add that Alfred Wagg was selected because for the previous six months he had had experience in the refugee work as an Economist with the Dominican Republic Settlement Association. He was chosen for the assignment here on my recommendation and I made my recommendation not only because I had known him all my life, and my family had known his family before him ( when my Mother died two years ago Alfred's Mother was holding her hand) but because he was given very excellent references by his previous employers. Alfred grew up on the place next to ours at Ticonderoga, and I know him to be a hard working conscientious, loyal and faithful young man. His only fault is that he is a little too enthusiastic and this, of course, irritates people who are not enthusiastic at all. Alfred worked in this office for eight months. I was the only person who had any direct knowledge of his work. I was more than satisfied with it and so were most of the people in the refugee work. He was courteous to all of the many people who came to our office and had created very good feeling in the other government departments with which we had to deal.

At the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee in the Dominican Republic, Alfred did a highly efficient job for which he received credit on all sides.

To make a long story short, when I arrived in New York

I had

I had to go to a nursing home because I had not only an attack of "flu", but an attack of dysentery. In spite of this I was extremely happy because I felt that a good job had been done at our meeting which I thought would please my Chiefs in Washington.

Thecla came on to New York to join me and was very worried because she had been told at the British Embassy that while I was away the "lads"--a term which the British use for the anti-British element in this country--had been busy and had completely blasted my work. I said that I was sure that it could not be so, but when I arrived in Washington at the end of the week friends in and out of the State Department came to see me and confirmed the story.

I went back to work Monday and on Wednesday I was told that during my absence certain decisions had been made with regard to the refugee work, as follows: (1) Alfred Wagg's services were to be terminated on March 1, 1941, and no successor as Secretary of the Intergovernmental Committee had been selected; (2) henceforth I was not to have any part in or knowledge of any individual cases of immigration, or cases including those of the President's Advisory Committee and the Dominican Republic Settlement Association; (3) from that time on I was to discontinue my liaison with organizations in New York, including the President's Advisory Committee, Dominican Republic Settlement Association and the Coordinating Foundation; in the event that a problem specifically affecting the Intergovernmental Committee should arise "an officer of the European Division would be consulted"; early this week an order was issued designating Avra Warren, Chief of the Visa Division, as the liaison between the Department of State and all committees whatsoever in New York; (4) I was furthermore informed that one stenographer should plan to leave immediately and the other should plan to leave May 1, 1941, since the department was not disposed to ask Congress for a renewal of the appropriation for the Intergovernmental Committee which, at the present time, stands at $26,000.

Taking these "decisions" in their order there was first of all the case of Mr. Wagg. I asked why Mr. Wagg was dismissed in this summary fashion. He was at that time, on my instructions, at Sosua in order to make a confidential

and

and detailed report for the Government on the Settlement. I was told that the secretary of a certain Senator had telephoned, at some time shortly after our departure, to an official in one of the police agencies of this Department and had made certain allegations against Mr. Wagg, including the charge that at one time in his early life he had passed a bad check. Without any inquiry or any opportunity for Mr. Wagg to defend himself, the order for the termination of his services had been issued on the basis of this charge. I immediately cabled Mr. Wagg to return by air to Washington. He came back and I asked him whether in thinking of his past life he could recall any basis for this charge. He said he could not and immediately telephoned for his family lawyer to come from Florida.

Mr. Wagg's family lawyer, who is, incidentally, lawyer for the railroad interests and some of the big hotel chains in Florida, flew here, went immediately to the Senator who called in his secretary, and directed him to telephone the same official in the Department and to withdraw the charges. The lawyer explained that in 1930, when Alfred was a first year law student, his father died suddenly and his vast holdings in real estate, insurance companies and banks crumbled. Alfred was called in to take over but of course being inexperienced he could do nothing. All outstanding obligations of the Corporation were in Alfred's name and he, by working hard has paid off every cent. The lawyer brought all the receipts and the Senator was most abject in his apologies and said that the inspiration for the demarche had not originated with his secretary. Since, however, this is a matter which will be aired in Court, I do not feel at liberty to go into detail here. Alfred was cleared but his resignation was demanded all the same, and he was instructed to resign because the work with which he had been associated had been discontinued. Alfred, while he was in the Department, was associated with no work except the work of the Intergovernmental Committee, Coordinating Foundation and The Dominican Republic Settlement Association.

With regard to the second "decision" that this office would no longer have access to individual cases, it did not much matter whether we had any further knowledge of the President's Advisory Committee cases, since we at no time intervened in these matters anyway. It did make a great difference, however, and struck at the heart of our work to be deprived of access to the Dominican Republic Settlement Association cases. I think I should explain. As

you

you can well imagine the heart of the Sosua problem is that of bringing the right sort of settlers from Europe to Sosua. In order that this may be done successfully the Association has sent to the continent of Europe a Mr. Trone, who was formerly Chief of Personnel of the General Electric Company. He makes a very careful selection, after investigating each case presented to him and consulting with local authorities as to the background and behavior of the candidates. In England Sir Herbert Emerson makes the selection. I am in constant contact with them, and with the office in New York regarding the people who are on the list.

Now it is not necessary in the least for Mr. Rosenberg to bring his settlers to the United States. He can bring them much more cheaply directly to Cuba, where they can be trans-shipped to the Dominican Republic. Mr. Rosenberg brings them to Ellis Island whence they are taken to the Puerto Rico steamship, because that gives our Government an opportunity to check on the people for whom transit visas must be asked. Mr. Rosenberg adopted this procedure at my request and it has been the custom of his office to send the names of prospective settlers in each group to me, and I have, in turn, presented them to the Visa Office here and to the Department of Justice for clearing. This machinery has worked very smoothly and there has been no hitch. The "decision" now taken has thrown everything out of gear and Mr. Rosenberg is making arrangements to take the people to Cuba and thence to the Dominican Republic, avoiding any action with this Government.

Mr. Rosenberg feels that the destruction of the existing machinery in such a light-hearted manner evinces a lack of confidence of this Government in his group, and he and his associates are deeply discouraged.

The third "decision" was that I should discontinue all liaison with the Committees in New York. As you know, the President's Advisory Committee is primarily concerned with the formulation of plans for re-settlement projects. I have gone periodically to New York, at their invitation, in order to discuss these projects with them and we have had a very pleasant relationship. I do not feel that Mr. Warren, who is now assuming these duties, has any knowledge whatsoever of what has taken place in the past, although I am certain that he will be able, in time, to educate himself as to what is taking place--that is if the President's

Advisory

Advisory Committee decides to continue.

Fourth, with regard to the organization of this office, the instructions which I have received are being carried out. Mr. Wagg has, of course, left; Miss Wilson is making plans to accompany my cousin, Herbert Pell, as his private secretary to Hungary; Mrs. Clarke has applied for a position outside of the Department and will leave as soon as she can make another arrangement--although I very much regret to see her go. Mr. R. S. Maney, presented himself for duty this morning and will take over all of the refugee work beginning tomorrow. He is, I am sure, a very nice fellow but he has never had any experience outside of visa work as a Consul, and is somewhat appalled himself at the idea of taking over work which is essentially diplomatic. However, that is as is wished and I shall give him, naturally, my full support and help him in every way. I am a little disturbed, however, because it is his understanding that he has been assigned here very temporarily, in fact, he said "only for a matter of weeks". It would seem rather silly to go to the trouble of educating a man in this subject only to have him taken away.

I can only conclude that it has been decided to discontinue the refugee work of the Department of State. I do not know the basis of the decision or the reason which lead to it, because I have not had an opportunity to discuss it with any superior officer; I have not been consulted about any phase of the change and I have been given no alternative but to withdraw. It is a very great blow to me because I had developed a real interest in this work during the past three years and was very proud of our Committee and what it had achieved.

Devotedly yours,

Robert Pell

P.S.

I have no objection if you wish to show this letter to anyone who might be interested.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1941

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I believe that your are familiar with recent developments here affecting the Intergovernmental Committee. That is of course past history and the important thing now is to determine the steps which will have to be taken in the immediate future in order to preserve the Committee. I shall make certain suggestions and of course these suggestions are predicated on the belief that the President wishes to preserve the Committee at least in skeleton form for use at the end of the war.

In the first place, as you know, this Government is formally bound to staff and maintain the Secretariat of the Committee. This is the quid pro quo which we gave for the British Government's agreement to continue in the Chairmanship and to staff and maintain the Director's office at London. Mr. Maney has been designated

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,
Vita Serena,
Palm Beach, Florida.

designated by this Government as Secretary and I am sure that you will agree that, as a first step, he should be continued in this office, now that he has been appointed, as long as practicable and that if he is withdrawn a suitable successor should be appointed in his place.

The immediate important problem is the appropriation. Twenty-six thousand dollars remains credited under the Intergovernmental Committee's appropriation but as you know it has to be renewed each year by Congress. Those who have matters of that kind in charge in the Department believe, as a result of informal inquiries in Congressional circles, that Congress will not wish to renew the appropriation this year and therefore this Department is not disposed to ask for the renewal. This means that at the beginning of the fiscal year there will be no money with which to pay this Government's share of the expenses of the Committee and no money for the running of the Secretary's office here (stenographer, travel, postage, et cetera, et cetera). In other words if the Department's present position is maintained the Secretary's office will not be able to function after May or June and this Government will be in the position of having to inform the British that we are no longer able to pay our share of the expenses

of

of Sir Herbert Emerson's office (which is being extensively used at present in connection with the Dominican settlement). As you know the British said that they would contribute to the financing of the Committee only as long as we continued to pay our share. If we both renege the other Governments (all of which -- including small Governments like Haiti and Costa Rica -- paid this year) will follow our example and Sir Herbert Emerson will have to close down (he now is assisted by Mrs. Latham for the Intergovernmental Committee and two stenographers). In short, there is danger that the Committee will fizzle out in an undignified manner which will not ~~do credit~~ redound to our credit and as a direct result of our failure to continue our support.

It would seem to me, in consequence, that a decision must be made, and made immediately because time is short, regarding policy. If the President wishes to preserve the Intergovernmental Committee, Congress will have to be asked to continue the appropriation. If the President and this Department do not wish to ask Congress to renew the appropriation then the Intergovernmental Committee will have to be discontinued because Sir Herbert

Emerson

Emerson will have to close his office and the Secretary's office here will have to be closed.

If the latter is to be the course followed by our Government I believe that you should be given an opportunity to work out a formula with Lord Winterton which will bring the work to an end in a dignified and honorable manner, possibly on the basis that it is not practical to continue the work during the war and after the war the problem, which may assume enormous proportions, will have to be approached in a different way.

I feel very strongly that the issue must be faced squarely and that at once. It is a matter I believe which lies between you and the President.

Sincerely yours,

Robert

Robert T. Pell
Assistant Chief, Division of
European Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 11 1941

Dear Mr. Taylor,

I regret to have to inform you that Mr. Alfred Wagg,3rd, terminated his services as Secretary of the Intergovernmental Committee on March 1, 1941.

I fully realize that this Government is bound to designate a successor to Mr. Wagg, under the terms of the agreement of July 19, 1939, between the American and British Delegations, which was subsequently ratified by the full Intergovernmental Committee ( that is the Committee of the whole of the continuing Evian Conference). Under the terms of this agreement the British Government undertook to continue in the Chairmanship of the Conference and to maintain the Director's office in London, on condition that the American Government should maintain the Secretariat.

I have accordingaly, designated Mr. E. S. Maney, Foreign Service Officer, to succeed Mr. Wagg as Secretary of the Committee. I should be grateful if you would inform Lord Winterton of his appointment.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) CORDELL HULL.

The Honorable Myron C. Taylor,
Vita Serena,
Palm Beach, Florida.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**
**WASHINGTON**

March 25, 1941

Dear Mr. Taylor:

A telegram was sent today as you requested instructing Achilles in London to inform Lord Winterton and Sir Herbert Emerson that the Secretary of State has designated Mr. Edward S. Maney, a Foreign Service officer, as Secretary of the Intergovernmental Committee succeeding Mr. Alfred Wagg.

I know that you will be interested to hear of a luncheon which I gave last Wednesday in honor of the outgoing and incoming Secretaries of the Intergovernmental Committee. I had intended to give a luncheon for Maney and I decided to broaden the scope after the Dominican Minister called at the Department to inquire whether it was true that this Government had abandoned the Intergovernmental Committee and stated that in this event the Dominican Government might be obliged to modify its policies with regard to the Sosua Settlement. Accordingly I had, in addition

to

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,
Vita Serena,
Palm Beach, Florida.

to Maney and Wagg, the Dominican Minister, the Dominican Counselor, the Chief of the Division of American Republics and the Assistant Chief, Mr. George Warren, Mr. James Rosenberg and Mr. Stephen Morris (as a former Secretary of the Committee). I made an address thanking the Dominican Government for its hospitality to the Committee at its recent meeting, expressing regret that Wagg had to leave us and greeting Maney. The Minister, Rosenberg, Wagg and Maney also spoke. I believe that we corrected any unfortunate impression which may have been created by the unnecessarily awkward handling of the change of Secretaries.

The British on instructions from London also made inquiries to ascertain whether we had modified our policies regarding the Committee. I told them that the fact that Maney had been designated Secretary was evidence that there had been no change. The French also inquired and I replied in similar vein.

However, as you realize, the basic question of the appropriation remains and there has been no modification of the decision with regard to that.

My respect to Mrs. Taylor.

Every devotedly,

Robert

Robert T. Pell

P.S. I thought that the enclosed editorial might interest you -

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1941

Dear Mr. Taylor:

You must have been somewhat bewildered by Mr. Rosenberg's telegram to you. The fact is that when his connection with the Department was severed so very suddenly, Alfred Wagg was in the midst of preparing a report on the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee in Ciudad Trujillo and the Sosua settlement. Alfred, upon his departure from the State Department, had no means of supporting himself so I contributed a part and Mr. Rosenberg contributed a part in order that he might complete his report which is going to be a very thorough and valuable document. Upon its completion it will be presented to the Secretary of State for the Department and technically to you for communication to Lord Winterton. Mr. Rosenberg suddenly got cold feet about his part of the payment to Alfred and decided that he could not

continue

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
Vita Serena,
Palm Beach, Florida.

continue unless he had formal approval from you. The result of this decision was his rather obscure telegram. I suggest that you instruct me to reply to Mr. Rosenberg that you are glad that he is helping Wagg in this situation and that you look forward to receiving the report. If you would do it he would of course be tremendously flattered if you would write him directly but I can see why that might be somewhat embarrassing to you.

With regard to the appropriation the following has taken place: Mr. Long has relinquished charge of budgetary matters which have been transferred to Mr. Shaw who has recently become an Assistant Secretary of State. Mr. Shaw is willing to reconsider the question of the Intergovernmental Committee budget if a case can be made out which will prove to him that it has some chance of success before the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives. Mr. Shaw's office points out that the problem is doubly difficult because we now not only have to prove that the Intergovernmental Committee appropriation should be renewed but have to prove also why it should be reinstated in the State Department budget since the

Congressional

Congressional Committee was notified by Mr. Long that it was withdrawn from the schedule. Mr. Shaw's office does not hide the fact that this will be almost a hopeless undertaking but they are willing to give those of us who wish it renewed a chance at making out a case. After we have prepared our brief it will be considered by the budget people of the Department and if they feel that we have made a convincing argument they will inform the Appropriations Committee that this item is reinstated.

With best personal regards.

Ever devotedly yours,

Robert

Robert T. Pell

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Form 16A

NA8 246 DL

1941 APR 2 PM 3 53

J NEWYORK NY 2 311P

HON MYRON C TAYLOR VITA SEREN

SO OCEAN BLVD PALM BEACH FLA

FOLLOWING IS COPY TELEGRAM SENT TODAY TO WAGG QUOTE REFERRING YOUR TELEPHONE CALL TO ME THIS MORNING MY UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR STATEMENTS IS AS FOLLOWS STOP STATE DEPARTMENT DESIRES YOU COMPLETE YOUR REPORT WHICH IS TO BE ADDRESSED TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE AND MYRON C TAYLOR STOP REPORT NOT TO BE OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF STATE

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1941 APR 2 PM 3 53

NA8/3 DL J NEWYORK NY TAYLOR PALMBEACH FLA

INFORMED US NEITHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE NOR ANY OTHER BODY HAS FUNDS FOR THESE EXPENSES STOP THEREFORE ON RECEIVING DIRECT ADVICES FROM TAYLOR AS ABOVE ALSO OFFICIAL ADVICES THAT STATE DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION WE ARE WILLING PROVIDE THESE EXPENSES TO ENABLE YOU COMPLETE REPORT WHICH WAS IN COURSE PREPARATION BY YOU WHILE YOU WERE STILL SECRETARY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL

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1941 APR 2 PM 3 55

NA8/2 DL J NEWYORK NY HON MYRON C TAYLOR PALM BEACH FLA

DEPARTMENT STOP THIS COURSE YOU STATE HAS BEEN EXPRESSLY APPROVED BY TAYLOR STOP TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT CORRECTING INACCURACIES AND SUPPLYING OMISSIONS WILL REQUIRE YOU WORK HERE WITH OUR DORSA FILES FOR ABOUT TWO OR AT MOST THREE WEEKS STOP THIS YOU HAVE STATED WILL NECESSITATE PAYMENT TO YOU BY DORSA OF FROM TWO TO THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR LIVING AND WORKING EXPENSES IN NEWYORK STOP YOU HAVE

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# Postal Telegraph

Mackay Radio · All America Cables

Commercial Cables · Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

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NA8/4 DL J NEW[illegible]

1941 APR 2 PM 3 53

COMMITTEE REGARDS ENDQUOTE WAGG INFORMS US PELL HAS SPOKEN TO YOU STOP DOMINICAN SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION HAS TO DATE PAID WAGG FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS SINCE MARCH 1ST FOR HIS WORK PREPARATION REPORT STOP WILL APPRECIATE WIRE FROM YOU ADVISING US YOUR VIEWS AND WISHES REGARDING COMPLETION OF SAME AND REGARDING DOMINICAN SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE PLEASE REPLY TO JAMES N ROSENBERG 165 BROADWAY NYC

GEORGE L WARREN JAMES N ROSENBERG.

(48)

CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

1201

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

(13)

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RXCH131 9=WASHINGTON DC 2 359P

HON MYRON C TAYLOR=

1941 APR 2 PM 4 21

:VITA SERENA=

:ROSENBERG HAS TELEGRAPHED YOU REGARDING WAGG REPORT WRITING DETAILS=

:ROBERT.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

# Department of State

BUREAU / DIVISION: Eu

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted 10-21-41

ADDRESSED TO

The Honorable

Myron C. Taylor

10/25 [illegible] 11/6/41

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1033

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

October 21, 1941

My dear Mr. Taylor:

Referring to your telegram of October 20, I hasten to return to you herewith the documents you left with me a fortnight ago. I am also enclosing additional copy of these documents, as requested by you. Copies have been made for the Department's files.

Sincerely yours,

Edward S. Maney

Edward S. Maney
Secretary, Intergovernmental
Committee on Political Refugees

Enclosure:

Documents.

The Honorable

Myron C. Taylor,

71 Broadway,

New York, New York.

11/6/41. A set of these papers sent me by McDonald
copies in Intergovernmental Com. folders

5 OA ✓

Abbey 6593.
xxxxxxxxx

Confirmation copy
~~Original~~ sent by air-mail via Atlantic and America.
Original
~~Confirmation copy~~ sent by air-mail via Africa.

11d Regent Street, S.W. 1.
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

no copy

Dear Mr. Menzies, May 19th, 1941.

All of us interested in the refugee question were very sorry that it was not possible for you, before you left England, to receive a deputation, but we realise how extremely busy you were, and that during the last few weeks of your stay you had the additional work and anxiety arising out of the Greek campaign. The main points which the deputation would have urged are contained in the memorandum enclosed with my letter of March 4th 1941 to Mr. Bruce. The object of this letter, which is written by me personally, and not on behalf of the deputation, is to ask for your kindly help and sympathy in the matters raised in the memorandum, and particularly in regard to one or two points to which I attach great importance.

It is my definite belief that the great majority of the refugees from Nazi oppression are not only safe, but genuinely anxious to do what they can to help. On the other hand, I realise the administrative and other difficulties that arise when there is the possibility that even a very small minority may not be safe. It is this possibility that does so much harm to the remainder, and for this reason, in the interest of refugees themselves, I have urged on the Home Office here an efficient intelligence system in the internment camps. Similarly, I have no doubt that your Intelligence Department, assisted by Major Layton, will be able very greatly to reduce any small risk there may be. In any case, there are two points arising out of this question.

First, the small element of uncertainty should not prevent the acceptance and treatment of the refugees as a whole as a

The Rt. Honble. R.G. Menzies, K.C., LL.B.,
Prime Minister of Australia.

body of friendly persons. They were so treated in this country until His Majesty's Government found it necessary, on precautionary grounds, to carry out measures of internment a year ago. Their position was then inevitably prejudiced, and although many declarations by Government have relieved the prejudice, they have not completely removed it. So far as the refugees sent to Australia are concerned, the position has been aggravated by the failure to give your Government sufficient information regarding the class and character of the persons who were being sent, and also by the general and natural ignorance of the public in Australia regarding the refugees. The latter have felt more keenly than anything else this misunderstanding about their position. That is why, in drafting the memorandum sent to Mr. Bruce, I laid so much stress on this aspect of the case. Since that memorandum was written, indeed only a few days ago, I have seen a letter from one of the internees, addressed to a friend and worker in this country. He had no idea that I was going to see it, and still less that I would send an extract to you, but I believe it represents correctly the feelings of the great majority, and illustrates what is said in the memorandum. Here is the extract:

"As you no doubt know our main trouble has been here from the start the complete ignorance as to our status, bona fide, etc. We were held to be Prisoners of War with the Swiss Consul appearing on the scene to assist. We politely but firmly refused any mediation on his part and started on that dreary up-hill fight for recognition as loyal refugees from Nazi oppression most of whom had volunteered to be evacuated from the English camps on the strength of definite promises about which nobody here knew anything. We had no papers or documents to prove our statements, the "Dunera" journey had left us stunned. However, the very severity of our grim experiences on the transport spoke in our favour. The military authorities soon realised that something had gone wrong, and our treatment throughout has been strict but thoroughly fair. Through patient waiting and maintaining discipline in view of the many severe cases of hardship of a nature only too familiar to you, we managed gradually to convince official visitors (mostly judges of Australian High Courts) and the various relief societies

(Jewish Welfare Society, European Emergency Committee, i.e. Society of Friends etc.) to take up our case with both the authorities here and at home. Since I acted as spokesman from the start I know the tremendous odds which we had and have to fight against, mostly based on suspicion and the idea that Britain must have had some good reason to intern us."

Incidentally this shows that there is a far better understanding of the position than there was at first. Anything you can do to help in this direction will be of the utmost value.

The second point which I wish to make is this. Both you and I have learnt from many years of experience that in administrative problems it is usually necessary to strike a balance after a review of the debit and credit items. In this refugee business, I find myself continually doing this. And of course the Government here have done it in their policy of releases, with which I was connected as a member of the Asquith Committee. On the debit side, there is the element of suspicion and uncertainty which it is difficult entirely to remove, but its size is being continually reduced by (a) greater knowledge of the individuals concerned, (b) intelligence information, (c) security tests, and (d) the conduct of those who are at liberty. On the debit side there may also be adverse public opinion, and I imagine that in Australia this may be serious. On the credit side, there are other factors, both intangible and material. Among the former, there is the political and psychological value of retaining and using the good will of a number of Germans and Austrians who know only too well from personal experience what the Nazi system means. On the material side is the contribution which the refugees can make. This, as you know, is of particular importance in England at the present time, when maximum production is a vital necessity and the supply of labour is inadequate.

Weighting the pros and cons, purely from the point of view of winning the war, there is to my mind no doubt that, on the balance, the policy now being pursued in this country of

releases under safeguards is definitely and strongly to the national advantage. I do not exclude the possibility of something quite unexpected happening which might disturb the balance, but on the present facts the above is my deliberate judgment.

It follows that the internment of these people in Australia and Canada is a waste of human material that ought to be used for the war effort. They ought to be back here doing their bit. But with shipping facilities as they are at present, months and even years may pass before they can be returned. Meanwhile, can you not find a use for them in Australia? I can visualise your difficulties — public opinion, the apprehension that they might establish claims for permanent residence, the fact that your Government is responsible for their custody only and the very clear understanding that there should be no question of their release in Australia, and so on. But these difficulties are not insuperable, once it is clear that there are among the refugees many men who can be safely and profitably used. Impose the most careful security tests, and lay down rigid safeguards against the creation of future claims, but for Heaven's sake make the best use you can of the men, thus helping the war effort at the same time that you restore their self-respect. If you are able to do this, I am sure that you will not regret it.

There is only one other point that I would like to mention, and that is the question of greater facilities to the internees of correspondence with their friends. Any relaxation of the present restrictions, especially on cables, would be very greatly appreciated.

May I say how much I admire the great work you did in England, and are doing in America, and wish you the best of luck for the future.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) H.W. EMERSON.

505 ✓

MEMORANDUM SENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

August 29th 1941.

M E M O R A N D U M.

1. On the outbreak of war, the policy followed by His Majesty's Government was to intern only those German and Austrian refugees in regard to whom there were grounds for holding that they were hostile or potentially dangerous. A very small number were interned at once. The remainder, numbering between sixty-five and seventy thousand, were classified by tribunals set up by Government for the purpose. The tribunals consisted of a single member, and more than one hundred of them were set up. The duty of a tribunal was to place each refugee appearing before it in one or other of three categories. Category "A" was to include those who were found to be hostile or whose conduct or character had been such as to make it undesirable to allow them to remain at large. These were interned. The "C" class was to include those who could be regarded as friendly and reliable, and who could safely be left with full liberty of movement and person, subject to very minor restrictions. Between these two classes there was the intermediate class "B", which was to include those whom the tribunals held to be sufficiently reliable to be allowed their liberty, but in regard to whom it was thought wise to impose more serious restrictions, e.g., permission of the police to move outside a certain radius. As a result of the proceedings of the tribunals, a very small percentage of the total number of refugees was interned, the majority were placed in class "C", and a relatively small number in class "B". Separate figures are not available for refugees, but for enemy aliens as a whole (Germans and Austrians), amounting to about seventy-five thousand, four hundred only were put in class "A", ten thousand in class "B", and the rest in class "C". Even so, Government recognised that, owing to the number of tribunals, there had been a lack of uniformity, especially in the classification of "B" cases. It therefore had a revision carried out by advisory committees, especially of the "B" cases. This was in progress when the whole situation was altered by the invasion of the Low Countries, and the collapse of France. But even so, the result up to that time was to reduce the number of "B" cases to approximately seven thousand five hundred, most of those reclassified being put in "C" instead of in "B".

2. The military and political situation was transformed for the worse by the events of May and June 1940. There was imminent danger of invasion, and Fifth-Column activities in Norway, Holland, Belgium and France caused widespread uneasiness. In these circumstances the British Government

decided that it was not possible to continue their liberal policy towards refugees, and from about the middle of May considerable measures of internment were carried out. These comprised the great majority of "B" class men and women, and a considerable proportion of the "C" class men. The emergency was regarded as so pressing that there was no time to carry out a new and exhaustive examination of individual cases. It was recognised by the British Government that the great majority of these interned were friendly towards this country, but it was claimed that, since it was not possible to identify the small minority which might not be loyal, measures of a general character had to be taken which inevitably involved inconvenience and hardship to the majority. The measures were thus essentially of a precautionary character. This was recognised by Government from the outset, and has been consistently admitted. It was accepted that the policy involved great hardship to many who were friendly to the Allied cause. Internment in itself, and apart from individual persons, did not and does not connote any disgrace or stigma on the person concerned. This principle was reaffirmed by His Majesty's Government as recently as January 22nd last, when the following question was put and answer given in the House of Commons:

> Sir I.Albery asked the Home Secretary whether he is aware that there is much anxiety among friendly aliens who are still in internment lest their continued internment should prejudice their reputation and future in the eyes of the authorities, the public and prospective employers; and whether His Majesty's Government can give any assurance which would allay this anxiety?
>
> Mr. Peake: It has been stated on several occasions that the general measures of internment which it has been necessary to take in the interests of national security were of a precautionary character and that they were not intended to make, and did not in fact make, any reflection on any loyal and friendly alien who was interned in pursuance of general directions. I gladly reaffirm that this is still the attitude and the considered view of His Majesty's Government. Under a scheme which involves scrutiny of each case individually some persons necessarily obtain their release earlier than others and the fact that one internee is released before another does not imply that he is more loyal or reliable than the man whose release is deferred. Except in the case of persons detained on security grounds personal to themselves, internees not yet released have no reason to fear that their reputation or future will be prejudiced by their continued internment.

3. In the early stages of the policy of internment, the British Government decided to send some of the internees to Canada and Australia. Those sent to Canada included most of the Germans and Austrians of "A" category, both refugees and

non-refugees. They also included many of categories "B" and "C". The selection of those was admittedly not based on any criterion of loyalty. Those sent to Australia were almost entirely of the "B" and "C" categories, the majority being of the "C" class. Here again, there was no criterion of loyalty. The overseas internees of the "B" and "C" class do not differ in any respect whatever, so far as friendliness and reliability are concerned, from those who were kept in internment in England. It is indeed no secret that it was the intention of the British Government to send many more overseas than those who were actually sent. The policy was, however, abandoned at a very early stage. The numbers of Germans and Austrians sent to Canada and Australia respectively were approximately

| | |
|---|---|
| Canada ..... | 4,400 |
| Australia.... | 2,150. |

So far as the "B" and "C" categories are concerned, therefore, the fact that some refugees were sent to Canada and Australia has no significance whatever from the point of view of their loyalty and reliability.

4. Within a few weeks of effect being given to the policy of internment, the examination of cases began with a view to the release of those who could safely be allowed their liberty. A Committee, known as the Asquith Committee, was set up for advisory purposes. The system adopted was to lay down certain categories, to which additions were made from time to time, which would qualify for release, subject to examination on security grounds being satisfactory in each and every case. After about six months, this system of release by categories was extended by measures in accordance with which persons were released, even though they did not come under any particular category, for whom useful employment could be found. This method was also subject to a strict security test.

5. As the following figures will show, the system described in the foregoing paragraph has resulted in the release of the great majority of those who were interned and who were not sent overseas. At the middle of August 1941 there were in internment in England 1,463 German and Austrian men, and 1,391 women. The former figure was swollen by the recent arrival of some four hundred men from Australia and Canada awaiting a security test before release. Moreover, the figure includes both refugees and non-refugees. Although exact figures are not available for refugees, it may be assumed that, excluding recent arrivals from Canada and Australia, there were at the middle of August only about five hundred male refugees in internment out of those who had been interned but not sent overseas. The number of the same class, but including also non-refugees, who had been released by August 15th, was just over 12,000. An approximate calculation gives the following results:

(1) German and Austrian males interned but not sent overseas (including refugees and non-refugees) . . . . . 13,000

(2) Number released by August 15th 1941 12,000 = 92%

The percentage of releases among non-refugees has of course been much lower than among refugees, and it is a safe assumption that, of the male refugees who remain interned in England, at least 95% have so far been released.

There are still some in internment who will be released when employment can be found for them, although the figures show that the process of release of males is now near completion.

The figures for women are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Originally interned . . . | 3,937 |
| Released by middle of August . | 2,546. |

The process of release in their case still continues. The proportion of releases to the total number interned is less in the case of women than of men for the following reasons:

(a) No "C" class women were interned.
(b) The proportion of non-refugees interned was therefore much higher in the case of women than of men.
(c) Release is not granted until there has been a re-classification from "B" to "C". This is done by tribunals and takes time.
(d) It is less easy to find employment for women than for men.

Although, here again, no separate figures are available for refugees and non-refugees, it is improbable that more than four hundred refugee women were in internment on August 15th 1941.

6. These figures are convincing evidence in support of the following propositions:

(a) That internment did not involve any moral stigma or any reflection on the loyalty of the individual refugee.

(b) That the percentage of the refugees whose reliability or friendliness is open to doubt is very small indeed.

(c) That with the exception of the "A" class there is no justification whatever for making any distinction on grounds of friendliness and loyalty between those who were interned and those who were not.

(d) That the facts and figures establish beyond doubt that the policy of the British Government, as repeatedly admitted by it, was of a precautionary character.

There is a further consideration which is very relevant to the question of security. It has already been stated that no person has been released from internment without undergoing a security test. The security authorities, in applying this test, have at their disposal the knowledge and experience gained by the intelligence staff in the internment camps, acting in close co-operation with the camp commandants. They

have thus more and better information than that on which the original tribunals and the revising bodies based their classification. In other words, those released from internment have undergone an additional, and in some respects a more efficient security test, than those who were never interned. Moreover, at least 95% of the refugees now at liberty in England are in the "C" category. The practical effect of this classification is that no distinction as regards restrictions is made between them and other aliens, whether of Allied or neutral nationality. Subject, of course, to necessary safeguards, a large number are now actually employed in munitions work. They are not only free, but are being freely employed, subject only to safeguards and restrictions in certain classes of war work which must be applied in times of war to all aliens.

7. The position in regard to Canada and Australia is less satisfactory. So far as Canada is concerned, there is, as already mentioned, a higher proportion of "A" class. As regards both Australia and Canada, the system of examination under the categories is more difficult to carry out, and in particular, the administrative system of placing men in employment, before release in England, has not yet been found possible. As regards both countries — and Australia in particular — shipping facilities are very difficult. Thus, although those interned in Canada and Australia are eligible for release under the Categories of the White Paper and return to England, they labour under great disabilities in comparison with those who were interned in this country and not sent overseas. In order to mitigate the difficulties, the British Government sent representatives to Canada and Australia, one of whose functions was provisionally to select persons who were prima facie eligible for release under one or other of the White Paper Categories, and who were willing to take the risks of the sea voyage to England. The representative in Canada (Mr. Alexander Paterson) has returned to this country after finishing this work. The representative in Australia (Major Layton) did not arrive there until a few months ago, and the same progress has not therefore been made. The figures for Canada and Australia are respectively

Total sent overseas . . . 6,550
(Canada . . 4,400
Australia . 2,150)

Number of releases authorised up to August 15th 1941

Canada . . 722
Australia . 493

Most, if not all, of those authorised for release in Canada have returned to England. Of those whose release has been authorised in Australia, only about 200 have returned, owing to shipping difficulties.

Other reasons why these figures cannot be compared with those of persons interned in England are the following:

(a) Some are not willing to undertake the sea voyage.

(b) There are in Canada and Australia a number of refugees who had definite expectations of emigration to other

countries, and in particular, to the United States of America. The number of those expecting to emigrate to the U.S.A. is roughly 1000 in each country. The great majority of these have so far not applied for release and return to England, because they still hope that they may be able to achieve their purpose of emigration. Many of them have, of course, relatives and connections in America.

8. The relative figures of releases as between England on the one hand and Canada and Australia on the other have no bearing on the question of reliability so far as refugees of the "B" and "C" class are concerned. It must again be repeated that no distinction whatever can be made on grounds of friendliness or reliability between those kept in England and those sent overseas. Had the latter not been sent to Canada and Australia, there is no doubt that the proportion who would now have been at liberty would have approximated to the same percentage as for men interned and kept in England, namely 95%. In fact, the propositions stated in paragraph 6 above apply equally to Canadian and Australian internees of "B" and "C" categories.

9. It is for consideration how far these facts and figures are relevant to the question of emigration to the U.S.A. It would be impertinent to make any suggestion regarding the policy of the Government of the United States. It is obvious that in present conditions this must be influenced by a number of considerations, of which great importance must be attached to public security. The object of this memorandum is to give facts and figures which may be of use to the Departments and authorities concerned, and which may assist towards an appreciation of the disabilities of many refugees arising from internment, and due to no fault of their own. The two features of the immigration policy of the U.S.A. to which the facts are relevant are

first, the reluctance, arising out of the fact of internment, to admit internees from Canada or Australia,

and second, the recent change in procedure applicable to immigration from territories occupied or controlled by the enemy, and in particular, the additional importance attached to the presence of close relatives in those countries of would-be immigrants residing outside them.

With regard to the first, the facts and figures above given are directly relevant, and knowing the passionate desire for justice which animates the American people, it is believed that, were the facts better known to the American people, much of the prejudice which now exists in the public mind would be removed.

With regard to the new procedure, it is understood, as was indeed to be expected, that this is not intended to preclude the sympathetic consideration of meritorious cases. It is therefore only necessary to ask that the facts given should be brought to the notice of the Interdepartmental

Committee which, it is believed, will in the first place examine applications for immigration, knowing that the Committee will weigh their relevance and attach to them such importance as they merit.

In regard to both the above matters, it may be observed that the British Government has given an undertaking that it will not authorise for release from internment for purposes of immigration to the U.S.A. any person whom, if he were in internment in England, it would not be prepared to release for residence as a free man in England itself.

10. Finally, while this does not affect the general relevance of the facts set out above, one would beg that special consideration be given to certain classes of cases, because of the additional hardship which they involve. These are:

(1) Those who desire to proceed to the United States of America in order to join very close relatives, e.g., a wife to join her husband, a husband to join his wife, a child to join his or her parents.

(2) Youths between the ages, say, of 17 and 25, who had definite expectations of immigration and to whose release from internment for this purpose there is no objection whatever on security grounds. All who are concerned with the welfare of refugees are particularly anxious that the careers and the future character and outlook of these young persons should be prejudiced as little as possible by circumstances outside their control and attributable to no fault or failing of their own.

---

(Signed) H.W.EMERSON.

29.8.41.

505

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

COPY.

Copy sent to Mr. Edward S. Maney.
Original sent by airmail, copy
by ordinary mail.

3rd September, 1941.

Dear Mr. Warren,

A small deputation, consisting of representatives of the Jewish Council and Christian Council for Refugees, and myself recently waited on Mr. Winant, with the object of placing before him certain facts relevant to the question of the emigration of refugees to the United States of America. Mr. Winant asked me to draw up a memorandum, of which I now enclose a copy. It is almost entirely factual, and brings up to date information which, early in the year, I supplied through the American Embassy to Mr. Fahy, Assistant Solicitor General. You no doubt have seen that memorandum. The facts relating to the policy of the British Government regarding release from internment are very striking. In particular, it is very significant that approximately 95% of the male Austrian and German refugees who were interned and not sent overseas have now been released. I cannot help feeling that if the facts and figures given in the memorandum were known in the U.S.A. a good deal of the prejudice and misunderstanding would be removed against the refugee insofar as it arises from and is connected with the fact of internment. I wonder if you could assist in getting the facts across? I am also sending a copy of the memorandum to Mr. Malin, whom I had the pleasure of meeting when he was in London. As stated in the memorandum, the facts would also appear to be relevant to the consideration of individual applications under the new procedure by the interdepartmental committee, but you will see that I have not presumed to suggest the degree of importance which should be given to them.

2. The deputation was concerned only with refugees in this country or in Canada and Australia, but both as High Commissioner and as Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, I am, of course, concerned with the case of Austrian and German refugees in general. My deputy, Dr. Kullmann, recently paid a visit to Portugal where he had full discussions with the Portuguese authorities and the refugee organisations, in particular, with the J.D.C. The operation of the new regulations for emigration into the United States of America was naturally an important question which was discussed.

Mr. George L. Warren,
President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees,
122, East 22nd Street, New York, N.Y.

As a result, Dr. Kullmann, in full agreement with the refugee organisations, has made certain suggestions regarding certain categories of refugees whose cases would appear to merit special consideration by the Intergovernmental Committee. A list of these categories is attached. I shall be very grateful if you will do what you can for cases of this kind.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Maney, asking that he should bring the suggestions to the notice of the Department of State.

Since Dr. Kullmann's visit, I have heard that a very liberal attitude has been taken in regard to two hundred and nineteen emigrants whose American visas had expired, and who were not able to make use of them owing to the postponement in the sailing of the s.s. "Navemar". This was to have left on July 10th, but actually left on August 15th. The action taken in this case encourages the hope that similar action may be possible in other cases.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) H. W. Emerson.

CATEGORIES FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

1. Cases of family reunion with members of family already established in the U.S.A., i.e. wife and husband, parents and children.

2. Freshly expired affixed visas on passports, let us say not more than three months old, whose holders were prevented from effecting departure from European ports before expiry owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. sudden cancellation of announced sailing, etc.,
In Portugal there are 35 persons in that position.

3. Intending immigrants who had completed formalities and passed final examination by Consulate immediately prior to the entry into force of the new regulations and in respect of whom U.S. Consulates issued letters certifying that visa would be affixed as soon as quota number would become available.
It is estimated that there are at present 100 such letter-holders in Portugal and 350 in Unoccupied France.

4. Persons having otherwise satisfied the U.S. Consular authorities who are able to give evidence that they have been incorporated and have served in the Allied Armed Forces. No estimate of the number could be given for either Unoccupied France or Portugal.

5. Holders of unexpired so-called emergency visas granted by Washington to outstanding or otherwise deserving persons prior to the entry into force of the new regulations. The number of such visas could not be ascertained, but it is understood to be extremely small.

Ender. Teleg.: HICEM

Telef. 5 2041

# COMISSÃO PORTUGUESA DE ASSISTÊNCIA AOS JUDEUS REFUGIADOS

## SECÇÃO DE EMIGRAÇÃO «HICEM»

RUA BRAAMCAMP, 12, 2.º E.

Lisboa, 21 de September de 1941

Dear Mr. Taylor:

As the Director of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association (HICEM), engaged in the evacuation of refugees for many years, I had the privilege of meeting you several times at Evian and later at Paris.

Since July, 1939, we have maintained our head office at Lisbon, the only free port left at our disposal, from which we are trying to rescue as many people as we can.

I shall be grateful to you for an opportunity to meet you during your visit here, to render a brief report of our activity, and to benefit by your viewpoint and and advice upon any aspect of our work.

Will you be good enough to have an appointment made for me at your convenience?

Cordially yours,

Dr. James Bernstein
Director

JB:AHS

Give two Refugee reports to including Herbert Emerson report to Maggie Emerson in State Dept who is to send me copies - ?

4 25

Ender. Teleg.: HICEM

Telef. 5 2041

ID/MG

# COMISSÃO PORTUGUESA DE ASSISTÊNCIA AOS JUDEUS REFUGIADOS

## SECÇÃO DE EMIGRAÇÃO «HICEM»

RUA BRAAMCAMP, 12, 2.º E.

Lisboa, 24 de September de 1941

Myron Taylor, Esquire,
Hotel Aviz,
Lisbon.

Dear Mr. Taylor,

We thank you for granting us an interview and we now beg to enclose herewith:-

1º - a brief report on Hicem activity from the date the Paris central office was transferred to Lisbon;

2º - the last report of Hicem Marseilles for the months of June and July 1941 containing interesting data on the concentration camps.

We trust these reports will be of interest to you in your capacity of Vice-President of the inter-governemental Committee.

Yours very truly,

Encl.

Dr. James Bernstein
Director

J. D'Jour
Secretary

Comissão Portuguesa de Assistência aos Judeus Refugiados
Secção de HICEM EMIGRAÇÃO
LISBOA

Ender. Teleg.: HICEM

Telef. 5 2041

ID/MG

COMISSÃO PORTUGUESA DE ASSISTÊNCIA
AOS JUDEUS REFUGIADOS

SECÇÃO DE EMIGRAÇÃO «HICEM»

RUA BRAAMCAMP, 12, 2.º E.

Lisboa, 24 de September de 1941

Myron Taylor, Esquire,
Hotel Aviz,
Lisbon.

Dear Sir,

With reference to our conversation of this morning, the following is to supplement the information already given to you.

According to our estimate, there only remains in Portugal now about 1000 refugees, 700/800 being Jewish refugees. Among the latter, the number of refugees relieved by the local Committee, subsidized itself by the Joint, does not exceed 500.

The greatest difficulty consists in that these refugees have not been able, up to the present, to get any visa for any overseas countries. This is the reason why the Police Authorities have assigned to 150 among them a forced residence in Caldas-da-Rainha whereas about thirty of them have been sent to prison for breach of regulations ruling the permits of stay of foreigners in Portugal.

A few groups of these refugees, i.e. 200 Polish, 50 Belgian, 20 Czechoslovakian, have succeeded in obtaining Canadian visas following an intervention of their respective Governments in that connection.

The Dutch have been able to evacuate almost all their fellow-countrymen to the Dutch West Indies but there still remains a great number of refugees of all nationalities, especially apatrides for whom special steps must be taken to get them a visa.

With the closing down of the American and Cuban Consulates in Germany, occupied countries and Italy emigration from all these countries is practically stopped.

It is difficult to state the number of Jews liable to emigrate from Holland and Belgium as none of them can get exit

visas and almost all of them would like to leave the country.

In Luxemburg, for example, there still remains 600 Jews, 40 of them being natives of the country, who would be ready to emigrate if they could obtain a visa.

With regard to the situation in France, we handed you a detailed report from Hicem Marseilles.

Thanking you on behalf of Dr. Bernstein for your hearty welcome, we remain,

Yours very truly,

J. Dyour

General Secretary.

4 05 ✓

Comissão Portuguesa de Assistência aos Judeus Refugiados
Secção de
HICEM
EMIGRAÇÃO
LISBOA

Report on HICEM activity in Portugal
for the year July 1940/June 1941.

The HIAS ICA IMMIGRATION ASSOCIATION (HICEM), created in 1927, was entrusted since 1933 (i.e. as from the date Hitler came into office) by the big Jewish organisations to facilitate emigration not only to emigrants proceeding from Eastern Europe but also to refugees turned out of Germany.

The following statement shows the number of refugees sent forward as from 1933 and the total expenditure for each year:-

| Year | Number of refugees sent forward | Total expenditure £ |
|---|---|---|
| 1933 | 5425 | 14.636 |
| 1934 | 4960 | 66.476 |
| 1935 | 3043 | 38.720 |
| 1936 | 2418 | 55.266 |
| 1937 | 1599 | 38.530 |
| 1938 | 4356 | 102.724 |
| 1939 | 10210 | 226.854 |
| | 32011 | 543.206 |

The aforementioned amounts were supplied by the Jewish Colonization Association, the American Joint Distribution Committee, the Hias New York and the Central Council for German Refugees, London.

Right from the beginning of the war a special organisation "Belhicem" was created in Belgium in order to continue in a neutral country the work connected with thansportation of refugees from Europe to overseas countries, the Central Office in Paris continuing to supervise the whole organisation and its activities.

During the first five months of the year 1940 our organisation sent forward 3487 emigrants and refugees distributed as follows:-

| | Refugees from Germany | Emigrants from Eastern Europe | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| United States & Canada | 1923 | 182 | 2105 |
| South America | 299 | 186 | 485 |
| Central America | 33 | 11 | 44 |
| Palestine | 223 | 354 | 577 |
| Other countries | 193 | 83 | 276 |
| | 2671 | 816 | 3487 |

The transportation cost of the aforementioned emigrants amounted to about $398.000.- being $352.000 for refugee transportation and $46.000 for emigrants from Central and Eastern Europe.

As from June 26, 1940, Hicem Central Office was transferred from Paris to Lisbon where our organisation continues to supervise, as much as we possibly can, all the Association activities.

The first year of our activity in Portugal can be divided into two different period:-

1º - June 26, 1940/December 31, 1940, i.e. the first six months following the collapse of France during which a considerable crowd of refugees invaded this small country, most of them not having had time or the possibility of getting valid visas for overseas countries.

During that period, our assistance was most useful in helping emigrants to get their visas; at the same time we were endeavouring to persuade the Portuguese Authorities - who are now raising more and more difficulties for issuing transit visas - to consider adopting a system which would enable emigrants who were out of Portugal but who had visas of destination to come to this country where they could embark.

About the middle of December, authorization to that effect was at last given by the Portuguese Authorities when emigrants in transit began to arrive regularly here.

During this first period of Hicem activity in Portugal, we were able to help and to send forward 1538 refugees distributed as follows:-

| | Refugees | Emigrants from Eastern Europe | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| United States and Canada | 900 | 56 | 956 |
| South america | 121 | 58 | 179 |
| Central America | 143 | 13 | 156 |
| Palestine | 108 | 63 | 171 |
| Other countries | 72 | 4 | 76 |
| | 1344 | 194 | 1538 |

The transportation cost of these emigrants amounted to $149.134.-

2º - During the second period running from January to June 1941, Hicem was able to send forward 2856 emigrants representing a total expenditure of $318.038.-

It results from the foregoing that during the first year of Hicem activity in Portugal we were able to send forward 4394 emigrants for a total expenditure of $832.069, of which $364.898.- (i.e. 43,85%) were supplied by the emigrants' relatives or the

emigrants themselves as participation towards transportation cost and $467.172.- (i.e. 56,15%) represented Hicem actual participation.

The participation of the various Funds to the above-mentioned amount is the following:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| REFUGEE FUND (supplied by the A.J.D.C.) | 3654 persons - | $365,175.01 |
| EAST EUROPEAN FUND (supplied by Hias) | 402 persons - | $ 55.484,29 |
| SPECIAL FUND (donations from private entities) | 338 perspns | $ 46,512,58 |
| | Total : | $467.171.88 |

The above-mentioned figures only refer to those of our proteges who required our financial help. However, thousands of Jewish emigrants have availed themselves of our moral assistance which was specially needed since the war.

Besides the direct assistance re transportation of refugees, Hicem Lisbon remained as much as they possibly could, in contact with their European and overseas affiliated Committees which resulted in a certain number of emigrants being able to proceed to their final destinations through the most fantastic itineraries. In this connection, Hicem was able to help emigrants proceeding from France, Switzerland and even Italy to go to the United States and to South America and also, in some cases, to Palestine via Mozambique. Other emigrants were able to go from Lithuania and Latvia either via Japan or in transit through Russia, Turkey, Syria, also to Palestine. Refugees who had been stuck in Sweden went to the United States through the Finnish port of Petsano and quite recently were obliged to transit through South America.

The above-mentioned itineraries will give an idea of the difficulties of present emigration and of the endeavours which have to be done to get good results.

Besides, to these usual difficulties are to be added others arising from special problems and in this connection we would mention the question of the refugees stranded in French Morocco due to the impossibility in which were three French steamers, i.e. the "Alsina", "Wyoming" and "Montviso" to continue their voyage, the first one to South America and the two others to La Martinique. As a result, 1200 emigrants were landed at Casablanca and distributed in the various concentration camps around the city. It was only due to our action in conjunction with the Joint, that we were able in July, August and beginning of September, to have three Portuguese steamers calling at Casablanca to pick up 500 of our proteges for the United States.

We are at present negotiating to charter another steamer sailing about the middle of October, to pick up the Jewish as well as the Spanish refugees still remaining in Casablanca and whose destinations are Cuba, Mexico, San Domingo and the United States. After this sailing French Morocco will be entirely cleared of refugees.

All our work is now running the risk of being greatly jeopardize by the application of the new American ragulations and we are wondering whether it will be possible for us, in the course of the following months, to alleviate the sufferings of our coreligionists, at least in the same proportion as we were able to do it up to the present.

Comissão Portuguesa de Assistência aos Judeus Refugiados
Secção de
HICEM
EMIGRAÇÃO
LISBOA

Lisbon, September 24, 1941.

TRANSLATION

Report on HICEM's activities
for the months of June and July 1941

| | | | June | | July | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Letters received | | | 5429 | | 5032 | |
| Cables received | | | 368 | 5797 | 315 | 5347 |
| Letters sent | | | 4134 | | 6745 | |
| Cables sent: | Abroad | 695 | | | | |
| | France | 379 | 1074 | 5208 | 885 | 7630 |
| Visits received | | | | 5751 | | 5345 |
| INTERVENTIONS: | | | | | | |
| Researches of relatives and inquiries about documents | | | | 1367 | | 1438 |
| Government Departments:- | | | | | | |
| Ministries and "Prefectures" | | | | 145 | | 60 |
| Embassies and Consulates:- | | | | | | |
| Argentine | | | 7 | | 12 | |
| Brazil | | | - | | 3 | |
| Chili | | | - | | - | |
| Cuba | | | 3 | | 5 | |
| Spain | | | 310 | | 6 | |
| Ecuador | | | - | | 3 | |
| United States | | | 740 | | 204 | |
| Mexico | | | - | | 18 | |
| Paraguay | | | - | | 1 | |
| Portugal | | | 30 | | 9 | |
| San Domingo | | | - | | 4 | |
| Uruguay | | | - | 1090 | | 267 |
| Camps:- | | | | | | |
| Constitution of dossiers:- Miscellaneous | | | | 260 | | 220 |
| Persons sent forward with our financial help | | | 60 | | 167 | |
| Persons sent forward with our technical help | | | 72 | 132 | 167 | 334 |

distributed as follows:-

| | June | | July | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brazil | 5 | | 3 | |
| China | 1 | | 2 | |
| Cuba | - | | 6 | |
| United States | 120 | | 313 | |
| Greece | 1 | | - | |
| Mexico | - | | 1 | |
| Paraguay | 1 | | - | |
| Thailand | 4 | | - | |
| San Domingo | - | | 4 | |
| Tunisia | - | | 1 | |
| Uruguay | - | | 3 | |
| Soviet Union | - | 132 | 1 | 334 |
| Payment of visas fees and documents for | | 105 | | 22 persons |
| | Total: | 237 | | 356 |

The expenditure re emigration from Marseilles totalled:-

Frs. 248,230,35 in Jube

Frs. 609,281,90 in July.

The following statement gives an idea of HICEM's activities during the first seven months of the year 1941:-

| | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | May | June | July |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Exchange of letters | 5462 | 7641 | 7803 | 10160 | 12493 | 11005 | 12977 |
| Visits received | 1878 | 2521 | 3013 | 3936 | 4896 | 5751 | 5345 |
| Interventions:- | 653 | 796 | 1140 | 1086 | 1132 | 1090 | 257 |
| Emigrants sent forward | 152 | 110 | 190 | 196 | 413 | 122 | 334 |

We comment as follows the above figures:-

The application of the new American regulations put a check upon the arrival in Marseilles of the crowd of refugees; although in June a great number of them had been able to reach Marseilles, most of them having letters from the Consulates requesting them to call (on June 16th we received about 450 persons only in the morning), their number somewhat decreased in July.

On the other hand, the number of letters and telegrams exchanged in July is greater than that registered in any other month of the year as we had to advise our proteges of the new situation resulting of the new regulations. During that month, we were already able to request HIAS, on various occasions, kindly to place themselves at the disposal of the affiants in the United States to assist them in the steps to be taken with the State Department.

The number of departures was very reduced in June on account of the Portuguese Authorities being desirous first of all to channel the crowd of refugees out of Lisbon and, consequently, there were very few Portuguese transit visas delivered in May.

In June emigration steps started again in full and thanks to the arrangements made to send forward emigrants via Spain, forwardings in July reach a figure which places that month as the second in importance with regard to the number of people forwarded. We would also mention that as from June forwardings via La Martinique ceased altogether; otherwise we would have reached much higher figures as a great number of persons who were ready to sail had to postpone their departure and to make new arrangements.

From the above figures, it results that our work far from getting slack as a consequence of the new American regulations, only develops in a somewhat different way.

A striking proof of the interest always shown by American people to the emigration of Israelites who are refugees in France is to be found in the deposits effected to Hias as participation in the passage expenses which reached in June and July the considerable amount of $386.000.-

CAMPS.-

We consider it advisable also to give a brief resume of Hicem's activities in favour of interned emigrants as the situation resulting from the number of Jews interned, the conditions under which they are living in camps as also all the difficulties to be overcome to provide them adequate help is of such a serious nature that it cannot escape anybody's attention. We had to use our earnest endeavours, to be energetic, tenacious and at the same time patient, prudent and discreet to be able to get concrete results in the present circumstances which are well known to you. Without stressing upon the painful data of this complicated and really tragic problem from a human point of view, we shall limit ourselves to state that we had to help people who are looked upon as suspicious, both because they are Jews and foreigners and that the help had to come from a Jewish organisation who is also looked upon as suspicious both as a Jewish entity and organisation.

The number of Israelites interned in non-occupied France can be estimated to 26.500 according to a distribution to which we will refer later. What must be known are the conditions under which these people are obliged to live.

We are sorry not to be able to give you the full text and not even extracts of a detailed and extremely striking report which was handed to the French Authorities dealing with various matters of lodging, sanitary conditions, clothing, supplies, medical supervision, instruction and the moral of people interned in camps. Besides other matters, this report refers to preservation of health, children's diseases, food shortage and various other points which it would be advisable to know in detail so as to be able to appreciate the problem our Organisations have to fight against and the urgency there is, more particularly for interned people, to emigrate. Although some measures have been taken by the Organisations of help, the report mentions that "The funds which would be necessary to give satisfaction to the most urgent requests exceed the total amounts put together all the private organisations have available". Still, emigration remains for all

these wretched people the only alleviation of their fate and the hope to be able to leave is the only moral strenght which keeps them alive.

Among the difficulties we met in the beginning in connection with the camps, we would mention first of all the suspicion of the camp Manager. It was only after having taken many steps with the Central Authorities and "Prefectures" under which supervision the camps are as also after contacting many times with the managers themselves that the situation altered altogether.

We explained in detail how our Organisation was working and the manner in which we intended to manage in connection with interned people. We were able actually to undertake the work but it is strictly controlled in all its developments.

Since November 1940, the Gurs camp, the most important of them all, lodging over 20.000 interned people (among which are the 7500 natives of Baden and Wurtemberg turned out of their country as well as refugees from Belgium) was visited unceasingly and thousands of questionnaires collected; these first steps were taken mostly with a view to having a great number of American consular dossiers transferred from the Consulate of origin to Marseilles.

From the beginning of 1941, visits to the camps were systematically continued and besides others the camps of Vernet, Brens (closed down in the meantime), Argelès, Rivesaltes, Noé, Recébédou and again on several occasions Gurs were visited.

In order to facilitate our work and in agreement with the competent Authorities (Home Office, Prefectures, Managements of the camps), we organised in all these camps emigration offices, connected with official Departments, and whose work consisted in informing the prospective emigrants about the manner in which to proceed to be able to emigrate as also to supply us with all information enabling us to get in touch with our overseas offices in connection with documents to be supplied and transportation charges to cover. We are contacting daily with these offices for the settlement of all matters on hand and about 10.000 dossiers were constituted in our offices.

Thousands of letters were exchanged and are still exchanged every month with people interned in various camps or with the emigration offices, as also with Hicem Lisbon, Hias New York, and our Committees and correspondents in South American countries (June 2.900 letters sent, July 2.800).

Besides the so called "camp d'internement" the Government created transit camp, like the Milles camp (near Marseilles) for men and those of the Hotel Terminus, Bompard, Atlantique and du Levant in Marseilles for women. The Hotel du Levant was specially affected to this end following our intervention to the "Prefecture des Bouches-du-Rhône), this in order to meet the shortage of accommodation verified in other centres and which prevented the transfer to Marseilles, from various camps, of women ready to leave; this hotel is under the supervision of the

Committee of help to Refugees who put 50 beds at the disposal of women proceeding from other camps.

People interned in all these hotels may call at our offices when required.

Two of our Assistants, each in their turn, are paying daily visits to the Milles camp. The number of visits registered in June and July amounted to about 2000.

It is difficult to give any definite information as to the number of Jews interned in the various camps of non-occupied France. However, basing ourselves on information supplied by the "Commission des Camps" (organisation created by the organisations of help in non-occupied territory), our estimate of the Jews interned in June 1941 is approximately 26.500 distributed as follows:-

CAMPS IN FRANCE:-

Repression Camps: Le Vernet 1.500 (men)
Rieucros 200 (women)

Ordinary concentration camps:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Gurs | 5.000 | (men and women) |
| Argelès | 400 | (men) |
| Noé | 1.550 | (men, women, old men, women and children) |
| Recébedou | 1.300 | do |
| Rivesaltes | 6.000 | (families with about 2.500 children) |

Labour camps (prestation)

(Agen, Septfonds, etc) 2.000

Transit camps:-

(Les Milles, Terminus, Bompard, etc) 1.200

CAMPS IN ALGERIA.-

Djelfa 1.000
(Coming from Vernet and Argelès)
Bogbari (repression camp)
and Colomb-Béchar (demobilised) 5.000

CAMPS IN MOROCCO.-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kasbah-Tadla (passengers from s/s Wyoming, Montviso and Alsina) | 500 | |
| Oued-Zem | 200 | |
| Azenmour | 200 | |
| Bou-Arfa (demobilised) | 400 | 1.300 |

making a total of 26.450.

We give you a few precisions on some of these camps:-

Le Vernet.- A certain number of letters we had sent to people interned in that camp were returned with the mention "left for Germany".

We were then informed that some workers had been recruited in the Vernet and in other camps by the "Commission Todt" and that they had been sent to Germany or to occupied territories as "prestataires" (statute-labour arrangement).

Kasbah-Tadla, Oued-Zem and Azenmour.- A special paragraph below deals with Hicem's activities in favour of the passengers of the Alsina, Wyoming and Mont-Viso interned in the three above-mentioned camps of the Casablanca area.

Les Milles, Terminus, Bompard, Atlantique, Levant (transit camps) If in spite of our endeavours the number of persons interned sent forward to overseas countries was small, this is explained by the considerable difficulties we have to meet in carrying out our work.

It was only last February that transfers from concentration camps, etc. to transit camps began on a large scale although in the beginning these transfers were not made in a very judicious way due to lack of experience of the camps Authorities; some people were transferred who had no real chance of emigrating whithin a short delay; others, on the contrary, who were in the required conditions, were not transferred. To prove the right of the latter to a special treatment was not easy matter.

To the foregoing is to be added the slackening registered in the issuance of American visas resulting from the new regulations.

It is obvious that our activity in favour of interned people will depend upon the manner in which the new regulations ruling admission of foreigners in the United States will be applied. Our work will either get slack if they are applied too strictly or too slowly or, on the contrary, there will be a new increase of our activity if they are applied in a lenient way.

Washington decision is all the more important as the number of 26.500 persons now interned will go on increasing as a result of the new dispositions recently taken by the French Authorities and by this we mean the stipulations of the law of October 1st 1940 ruling the incorporation into groups of Foreign Workers of refugees who are a burden on national economy, i.e. refugees from 18 to 55 years old who live at the expense of Organisations of help and who fit for working. The families of refugees thus embodied may be placed in lodging centres, i.e. in camps. It results that emigration of non-interned persons has become a problem just as urgent and serious as that relative to interned people of whom they will, before long, share the same treatment.

In view of the foregoing, we have done the needful so as to enable interned people desirous to go to the United States to get in touch with their affiants in order that the latter could fill in the required biographical forms and make out the affidavits in the shortest possible delay.

We already have had printed and distributed to the various camps and local Committees, at their request, 5000 forms B. and they have requested us to send them again an equal number of forms so great and urgent is the wish to emigrate of Jews residing in France.

Consequently, our present work consist first of all in constituting adequate emigration dossiers as letters emanating from the American Consulate requesting people to call are only beginning to be sent now. When the crowd of emigrants calling at the Consulate will be more or less proportionate to the endeavours made by them to get the required documents, we presume we shall be able to manage so that the consular steps be taken immediately after transfer being effected of the emigrants to transit camps. These formalities being completed, the emigrants will then be sent forward immediately to the ports of sailing.

We consider it is only fair to acknowledge here that the French Authorities are doing now everything possible to facilitate the departure of emigrants being in transit camps and that all Government Departments are always ready to accept any suggestion we might be able to make based on our experience.

Intercourse with French Government Departments.-

During the period under review, our Organisation remained in close connection with the French Authorities and more particularly with the various Departments of the Préfecture des Bouches-du-Rhône. In a few difficult cases, our intervention and the confidence we enjoy from the Authorities who appreciate our endeavours have enable us to get very satisfactory results.

We would mention as an example that at the beginning of July 1941 the French Government having prescribed control measures against all Russians residing in France, the Police Authorities in Marseilles apprehended all Russian natives or subjects of Russian origin for verification of their papers. Among them were some of our Assistants as also a group of about 30 emigrants for whom we were making sailing arrangements on board s/s "Navemar" whose sailing was scheduled for the 10th July from Cadix. The verification of Russian identities taking several days, the emigrants were running the risk, if they were detained too long, not to be freed in time to be able to sail on the fixed date. Through our intervention to the competent Authorities, we were able to obtain that one of our Assistants be authorised to group all our emigrants of Russian origin bound to sail by such steamer and to lead them to the control office. Their dossiers, together with those of our employees were given the priority on all cases submitted to the Marseilles Police Authorities and thanks to the comprehension shown by the Police Departments they were released and were all ready in time for the fixed sailing date.

The sailing of the Navemar also gave rise to another very serious problem which, fortunately, we were able to settle. One of our proteges (Ernst Rotschild) working under statute labour arrangement in a group of foreign workers was informed

on July 5th that passages were reserved for him, his wife and child on that steamer. The sailing date being originally fixed to the 10th July, Mr. Rotschild had to come urgently to Marseilles for his visas, getting to that effect a temporary authorisation from his Chief of group; however, he had not obtained his release certificate from the labour group, document which is absolutely necessary to people working under statute labour arrangement to receive the French exit visa. Called back by cable by his group, he was accused of having attempted to escape and was sent for three months in a repression camp by way of reprisal. Having heard of this severe decision, we made all endeavours in our power to prove the emigrant's good faith and obtained that his punishment be reconsidered and his release granted. Fortunately for Rotschild the Navemar sailing was postponed; therefore, it was still possible for him to consider joining his wife and his one year's old child who were already on board s/s Navemar should we be successfull in obtaining his release in due time. As a result of our firm and earnest interventions to the management of the repression camp on July 11th and to the management of the labour group in which he was incorporated, these being followed by exchange of telegrams and telephone calls, we were pleased to hear, on July 20th, that in view of our well grounded remarks, the Government departments had given favourable consideration to our request. The emigrant in question was freed from the repression camp where he only remained 10 days instead of three months as a result of our endeavours and obtained his definite discharge from the labour services. This enabled us to send him forward to Sevilla where he arrived in due time to join his family on board s/s Navemar. The Prefecture de Marseille, on our earnest request, had accepted to cable to the Chief of the group in which Rotschild was enlisted official confirmation that our steps were well grounded, confirmation claimed as a guarantee by the Authorities of the repression camp.

Besides the above-mentionedd typical example, we have, on several occasion, taken steps in favour of persons who were about to emigrate and who were suddenly sent back from Marseilles to a forced residence in far-distant provinces or were driven out of the limits of the "département". In most cases, we were able to have the carrying out of these measures postponed in supplying evidence of our endeavours in facilitating emigration out of France of the people concerned.

Intercourse with the Consulates.-

United States.- Communications between the Consulate and Hicem remained very satisfactory. This is all the more important as new regulations issued at the end of June altered altogether the former system of obtaining visas.

This modification provided the following:-

1º - Cancellation of emergency visas;

2º - Refusal from the Consulate to deliver immigration visas other than to French people born in France.

The situation was still aggravated by the fact that the new regulations put into force on July 1st provided that special authorisation from Washington was necessary to obtain a visa. In so doing the United States have introduced a procedure which, so far, had been applied only by South American States, i.e. interdiction to the Consuls to issue visas which can only be delivered by the Central Government. However, dossiers could continue being prepared by the Consulates.

In that transitory period during which emigration to the only country which still remained open was partially blocked, our good relations with the Consular Authorities were most valuable. We may state without exaggeration that, thanks to them, we were informed daily of any development in the situation and ready to act at the first favourable opportunity. This occurred about the middle of July when the American Consulate was authorised by Washington to validate the special visas (emergency visas) issued by the State Dept. prior to July 1st. The Consulate made a special arrangement with us according to which the emigrants in possession of such visas had to hand us all documents required, we, in turn, passing on these documents to the Consulate for them to advise the emigrants concerned to call at the Consulate. This procedure enabled us to be of some help to our proteges and at the same time to verify their dossiers and to support their application through our representative who was always present at the final consular examination.

As a result of this examination and when the dossier is complete, the Consul send a cable to Washington to obtain a quota number as all emergency visas are converted into emigration visas.

It goes without saying that, as in the past, we continue to register new candidates to emigration (a few hundred of cases for the expired period) to transfer dossiers from one locality to another and, generally, to obtain all information required.

We would stress the point that, generally speaking, the American Consulate -and not only the visa section - is making use of Hicem's cooperation with the utmost courtesy. The following examples will illustrate our statement:-

A rather important group of emigrants having applied direct to the Consulate for intervention to Washington, the Vice-Consul concerned sent them back to us stating he would not start any steps without our cooperation.

Another time the Consul General applied to us to obtain figures on possible emigration to the United States, which he wanted to communicate to his Government.

The American Consulate in Lyons having raised difficulties to our proteges requesting them to submit first of all and prior to obtaining the American visa, transit visas and in lieu of our letter certifying that passages were reserved, authentic passage tickets, the Consul in Marseilles telephoned to his colleague in Lyons explaining there was no reason justifying his requiring the above and he availed himself of the opportunity to state that the Marseilles Consul General had never had any reason to complain

of Hicem cooperation and that this organisation had rendered great services to emigration.

The result of this intervention was quite satisfactory.

We would add that the new regulations authorising the Consulate to extend the validity of expired visas delivered prior to July 1st were brought to our knowledge by the Consulate two weeks prior to the publication of the new regulations in the New York newspapers.

We were able to obtain a few extensions of visas prior to receiving advice from the Hias re the new regulations.

The first authorisations to deliver usual immigration visas have been received from Washington. The candidates will be requested to call at the Consulate through our care.

We have no doubt that in these cases we shall albo be able to help efficiently our proteges.

We are generally under the impression that immigration to the States is starting again although in a moderate way for the time being but it is to be hoped that it will go on increasing and that the beneficiaries of special visas, who are in great number among our proteges, will soon be afforded a possibility to go to the States. The steps we have taken in favour of the emigrants of the Miles camp and their families have this aim in view.

Other Consulates.-

Portugal.- The Portuguese Consulate continues showing us every courtesy. We would mention for your private information that in a few urgent cases the Consul delivered transit visas without waiting for the authorisation of the International Police Lisbon.

Unfortunately, this Consulate does not deliver any more transit visas to persons going to the Dominions or the Belgian Congo.

Spain.- We would also mention our good relations with the Spanish Consulate whose help was very much appreciated, especially on the occasion of the departure of the s/s Navemar when he exceptionally kept his offices open the days they are usually closed to the public.

South America.- Our contacts with the various Consulates of South America are satisfactory. But ~~xxx~~ general difficulties for immigration to South America are growing every day.

Argentine.- The instructions given to the Argentine Consulate, by the Immigration Dept. Buenos-Aires, only to deliver visas on valid national passports (excluding identity certificates for apatrides, safe-conduct, travel document, etc.) deprive of visas a great number of our candidates who had already landing permits for that country.

We have been advised by SOPROTIMIS that these instructions result from a misunderstanding between the Foreign Office and the Immigration Dept. which is under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Buenos-Aires. Nobody can state as yet when this misunderstanding will be settled in favour of our emigrants.

It is also impossible to obtain transit visas through that country to go to Chile, Bolivia, etc.

Brazil.- A certain number of diplomatic visas were delivered by the Brazilian Embassy in Vichy which enabled a few hundreds emigrants to leave for that country.

However, candidates provided with such visas and who have not left yet cannot proceed to Brazil now, diplomatic visas being no more valid.

As far as transit visas are concerned, the Consulate here agreed to send applications to Rio de Janeiro which, from time to time, were successful. However, the Consulate has now received formal instructions not to send any more transit applications.

Brazil is virtually closed to emigration and transit.

Cuba.- A certain number of tourist visas valid 6 months, renewable for the same period, were delivered.

Cuba is the only transit country for emigrants proceeding to Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Peru, Mexico, considering that transit through the United States requires now the same steps to be made to the State Dept. Washington as for immigration visas.

At the request of relatives or friends residing abroad a certain number of Cuban transit visas were delivered.

Shanghai.- We have a certain number of emigrants for Shanghai who might transit through Indochina. We hope to be able to send them forward shortly when the traffic with the Far East will begin again. In the meantime we have obtained a very important modification of the formalities to be complied with by which the emigrants gain from 6 to 8 weeks in preparing their emigration. In fact, up to the present, it was necessary to present to Marseilles the permit delivered in Shanghai to be able to book a passage on a steamer sailing for the Far East. The forwarding of such document used to require about two months, not to mention the risks of forwarding. On our earnest request, the Messageries Maritimes have accepted to content themselves only with the telegraphic confirmation of their Shanghai offices to the effect that Hicem had presented them the authentic landing permit.

In short, we would stress the fact that if the new regulations re issuance of American visas reduced to a certain extent the number of visas delivered last month by the American Consulate, the new authorisations and validations of emergency visas already improved the situation and we hope this improvement will continue.

Besides, outlets such as Shanghai, Cuba, Mexico, San Domingo, will afford to our candidates immigration possibilities which are not to be overlooked.

OUR ACTION IN MOROCCO.-

We would just mention here Hicem action in Morocco about which our delegate who is still in Casablanca made out a special report. We would just state that in June one of our Assistants was sent to Casablanca to organise the sailing of emigrants who had arrived in Casablanca on board s/s "Wyoming", "Mont-viso" and "Alsina" and who were stranded in Morocco due to the traffic with La Martinique being stopped.

On the 950 persons who were interned in camps in Morocco, 390 passengers having immigration visas for the United States were sent forward on board s/s "Nyassa" and "Guine" having called at Casablanca on their way Lisbon/New York.

Our delegate is still endeavouring to find a solution by which the emigrants who are still in Morocco and whose destination is Central or South America could be sent forward. On the other hand, the American Consul in Casablanca will have to renew all expired visas in order that a steamer of the line Lisbon/New York could call again exceptionally at Casablanca to pick up such emigrants.

We would conclude this brief report on our action stating that we consider only fair to mention how proud we feel to be able to verify that all the difficulties which, it would appear, were making of this emigration scheme a too daring if not impossible achievement have been overcome only due to Hicem standing.

The Central Authorities in Vichy, as well as those of the "Residence", the Managers of the "Banque d'Etat du Maroc" and the Steamship Companies' representatives in Marseilles and Casablanca all joined together in their efforts to enable our delegate to carry out his action successfully.

This unquestionable success is the result of Hicem long and patient endeavours made in extremely difficult conditions in the course of this terrible year of exile July 1940/ July 1941.

Comissão Portuguesa de Assistência aos Judeus Refugiados
Secção de HICEM EMIGRAÇÃO
LISBOA

505✓

Telephone: ~~[illegible]~~ Abbey 6593.

# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE.

Director:
Sir HERBERT EMERSON,
G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., C.B.E.

~~56, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE~~
~~LONDON, W.C.2~~

11D, Regent Street,
London, S.W. 1.

29th September, 1941.

Dear Mr. Myron Taylor.

I return, after taking a copy, the letter addressed to you by the Comissao Portuguesa de Assistencia aos Judeus Refugiados. In this connection, I may say that the Deputy High Commissioner, Dr. Kullmann, visited Lisbon a few weeks ago, and, as a result of his enquiry there, and of his discussions with representatives of the various refugee organisations including the J.D.C., I wrote to Mr. George Warren on 3rd September 1941. I enclose a copy of this letter and of its second enclosure. As you will see, the first paragraph of my letter to him relates to the deputation which waited on Mr. Winant on the 26th August 1941. In response to his invitation, I drew up a memorandum dated 29th August 1941, giving facts and figures relating to internment. I enclose a copy of this. I also enclose a copy of a personal letter I wrote to Mr. Menzies on 19th May 1941, and I made similar verbal representations to Mr. Norman Robertson, the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs in Canada, who accompanied Mr. Mackenzie King when he visited this country.

I realise the difficulties in the way of removing the apprehensions felt regarding the refugees who have been interned, and which have been expressed particularly by the American Legion, but I am sure that these have arisen largely through incomplete knowledge of the facts, and my memorandum to the Ambassador was intended mainly as a presentation of the facts. The case is one of genuine hardship arising through a combination of circumstances for which the internee himself was in no way responsible. I feel therefore that I can wholeheartedly ask for your sympathy and assistance, which I am sure you will give.

The Honourable Myron C. Taylor,
Claridges Hotel,
Brook Street, W. 1.

May I say what great pleasure it gave me to see Mrs. Myron Taylor and yourself again, and to find you looking so well in spite of your very strenuous journeys. I found our talk last night most valuable.

With every good wish to you both for a safe and pleasant journey.

Yrs. sincerely,

R. M. Jackson.

Airmail

Original
for

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Madrid, September 30, 1941.

Refugees

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I enclose a copy of a letter I have just written to Mrs. Schauffler of the Quakers who was here and visited the concentration camp at Miranda with my secretary. She was eager to help me in my refugee work and expressed great regret when I had to inform her I was compelled to give it up. But as you see by my letter to her, that last just couldn't be done, and now that we face the suffering of another winter I am back in the harness.

The wretched refugee men and women in concentration camps and prisons in Spain are held for no further fault than illegal entry and lack of papers; and Spain's concentration camps are not Ellis Island! The refugees who are fortunate enough to find themselves free are not allowed to work and any money with which they entered having been confiscated, so many would starve or be again imprisoned if I did not help. The number I am able to reach or who are able to reach me is, compared with Europe's other miseries, not large, but I need $5000 at least, over and above what I receive from the Jews, for the other refugees I want to help this winter. Can you help the Quaker Committee for Refugees raise it for me? There are no overhead expenses in my distributions, - I personally meet all that.

It was such a joy seeing you both, - and my husband joins me in warmest greetings to you both.

Yours very sincerely,

Virginia Chase Weddell.

The Honorable
Myron C. Taylor,
Care Department of State,
Washington.

P.S. my husband considers it safer that funds for my distribution be deposited to my account Guaranty Trust Co. 140 Broadway
V.C.W.

COPY

2 letters just received -

Miranda de Ebro,
Sept. 24th 1941.

Mrs. Weddell,
Madrid.

Dear Madam:

I just got to know from my friend Mr. Wolff to whom you kindly agreed a long conversation in the beginning of last week that you were so good as to grant a monthly support to my wife at Palma de Mallorca. I cant express my thankfulness being not skilful enough in writing English. But you can imagine what I am feeling when I tell you, that my wife would have been forced by the German Consul to go back to Germany in the very moment her money was finished. And a woman faithful to her jewish husband quite alone in Germany?

Saying to you once more my deepest thank,

I beg to remain, dear Madam,

Yours sincerely,

Hans MAISON.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Miranda de Ebro,
Sept. 24th 1941.

Mrs. V.C.Weddell,
Madrid.

Dear Madam:

I hardly know how to express to you my thankfulness for the great kindness that you have shown me and my family and which has deeply touched me. The news which my friend, Mr. Julius Wolff has communicated to me that you have so kindly agreed to help my family in Mallorca has so elated me that I am regaining confidence in our ability to puàl through these hard times, and I am sure that it will be the same with my wife and my bay whose life has become increasingly difficult. My various attempts at obtaining a cancellation of the order of expulsion has been without success, equally as those of emigration, and your generosity presents the first ray of sunshine in a night of nothing but disappointments.

I was glad to hear that the small picture which I sent you some time ago has met with your approval and to tell you that thanks to the encouragement given me by the Officier-command of this Camp I can carry on my profession here. But this is the only pleasant feature of my captivity.

Again be assured Madam, of my heart felt gratitude for your generous help, and believe me to be,

Yours very sincerely,

Ernest CURIEL.

Airmail Copy for Mr. Taylor

Copy

Madrid, September 30, 1941.

Dear Mrs. Schauffler:

I am like the man who said, "Yes, I have caught the bear, but I can't let go of it." I have not been able to give up, - there is so much suffering and would be so much more if I closed my heart and doors! So I have been carrying on, but in a very quiet way, giving enough money to the refugees who come to me to keep body and soul together and helping the American Red Cross in their distribution of flour and milk. They have gone now but left me two big trucks and some milk and flour for my own distribution among needy Spaniards, so "my office" goes on with Matilde, Emma Ratin, and Louisa working overtime.

Now winter is upon us, - nights are already cold and my thoughts once more turn to the concentration camp at Miranda. Julius Wolff came through here the other day, released from there to go to Cuba with the hope that he may soon join his Uncle Professor Einstein in the United States. He tells me that the Commandant is humane and honest, but that the food is barely enough to keep body and soul together, while the air is wonderfully healthy, that any illness is hard on people so under-nourished. He told me the Poles give their nationals there 50 pesetas a week, with which they buy supplementary food at the canteen, and the Belgians and Dutch are also helped by their countries' relief funds; but there are between 260 and 300 who have no countries left to help them and their condition is pitiable.!

I want money to give these last a food allowance, And clothes, shoes, and blankets for as many of the other inmates as is possible. I had help from various sources

last

Mrs. Marjorie Page Schauffler,
American Friends Service Committee,
20 South 12th Street,
Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania.

Copy for Mr. Taylor



last year, the Red Cross sending me $5000, but the latter who have done a superb work here, apparently feel they are now finished in Spain. I telephoned Mr. Schwartz of the Joint Committee this morning and from what he said I hope the 60 to 75 Jews in camp will be provided for by him, so I shall say I want blankets and clothes for 700 and money for food the approximately 300 not otherwise pensioned. Of course anything that you would send would be gratefully received by me and distributed to the best of my ability. From my meager funds remaining I have carried on with helping the same people in Madrid that you knew of, with a few added. My secretary carries them on my books under "Quakers" but the funds were exhausted some three months ago when I gave a statement to Mrs. Florence Wainwright, a copy of which I enclose, and hoped something more might be coming for me. Those disbursements average, as you see by the enclosed memo, just under 3000 a month. I have never heard from the Russian aid in America.

Florence Wainwright and I have had a long talk this morning and she suggests I write to you as being especially interested in the refugee problem. Her baby is about due; but that does not close her heart. She is a grand person.

Any clothes or blankets you might be able to send should come to Bilbao if possible and addressed to the American Ambassador, Madrid. Money, as usual, to my account in Guaranty Trust, New York. When you have news I would appreciate a telegram telling what to expect because I must act fast to help immediate suffering.

Yours very sincerely,

Virginia Chase Weddell

Ender. Teleg.: HICEM
Telef. 5 2041

ID/MG

# COMISSÃO PORTUGUESA DE ASSISTÊNCIA AOS JUDEUS REFUGIADOS

SECÇÃO DE EMIGRAÇÃO «HICEM»
RUA BRAAMCAMP, 12, 2.º E.

Lisboa, 9 de October de 1941

BY AIR MAIL

The Hon. Myron C. Taylor,
New York.

Sir,

Complementing our letter of yesterday, we now have pleasure in enclosing herewith translation of a report from Mr. Raphael SPANIEN, our special delegate to Casablanca, which, we trust, will be of interest to you.

Yours very truly,

Encl.

Dr. James Bernstein
Director

J. D'Yoir
Secretary

Report on the living conditions of the refugees at present residing in Morocco

Apart from the emigrants proceeding from the s/s "Montviso", "Wyoming" and "Alsina" whose re-immigration will shortly be arranged as a result of the Joint and Hicem joint endeavours, there are still in Morocco a certain number of refugees whom we may divide into two categories:-

1º - During the disturbed period following the armistice, about 3500/4000 emigrants proceeding from the Biscayan shores arrived in Morocco in June/July 1940 on board various cargos.

Since that date, about 1000/1500 refugees were able to sail, either by their own means, or with the help of the Jewish organisations. However, there still remains about 2000/2500 refugees of this kind whose situation and residence in Morocco are very unsettled.

Immediately after their arrival in Morocco, the greater number of these emigrants were interned; latter on, thanks to the steps taken by the various organisations they were set free. However, the problem of overcrowded cities having arisen in Morocco just like in France, most of them were compelled to reside in up-country towns. These refugees have now gathered in Casablanca, Mogador, Safi and Marrakech. Some of them are still interned and the same threat is on all those who are free.

2º - There is also in Morocco another category of emigrants who are in a rather awkward situation and by this we mean foreign volunteers, natives of countries who were at war with France during last war and who had been incorporated in the Army in North Africa. We will leave out, for the time being, the question of refugees residing in Algeria about whom my documentation is incomplete. The demobilisation of these foreigners raised difficulties owing to the fact that most of them were proceeding from French occupied territory and as they were not able to show any working contract and the required lodging certificate, they could not be demobilised. The Authorities decided to incorporate them, as civilians, in groups of workers like those existing in France (prestataires - statute labour). In Morocco these labour groups are working to the building of the transsaharian railway and we still have about 400 emigrants in the Bou-Arfa camp whose climate is very trying, this in spite of all the steps taken re their liberation. Besides there are other labour camps in Morocco and our estimate of the number of these "prestataires" totals about 600. Most of them are used to that kind of work either because they have served in the Foreign Legion or because they have been interned in civil camps.

The threat of being transferred to these labour camps still remains for men fit for work coming under the first category above-mentioned. Emigrants working in particular in the Bou-Arfa camp are within a short time quite exhausted and the Morocco Authorities themselves realise that it is impossible to rely upon this

kind of workers. However, for the time being, the only possibilities of getting out of this camp are the following:-

1) - Liberation, extremely difficult to obtain;

2) - Working permit which is only granted to specialised workers who are able to find work in trades where there is a shortage of specialists;

3) - Emigration about which we have been promised certain facilities as a result of the steps taken during my stay which tended to clear Morocco from emigrants landed from the various ships above-mentioned.

In fact, whenever interned emigrants will require going to Casablanca to prepare their emigration, special permission will be granted them. Besides, we would mention that taking advantage of the through route Morocco/United States we were able to send forward some of these unfortunate people to the United States. We also sent forward all the emigrants who were free in Morocco and who had valid visas.

Considering the conditions under which these emigrants are living, we feel it our duty to transmit their wish to sail for countries where they could expect a better fate. We have had prepared a list of all the emigrants having even remote possibilities of emigrating. But it is advisable urgently to consider the case of those who have no oversea relatives, giving them some hope of emigrating and we trust a solution will be found. Anyhow a financial help should be given them to enable them to improve their commons and to get the necessary kit for the almost tropical climate in which they are working.

To conclude this short report, we would mention that the Morocco Jewish Committees who have among them wealthy people cannot provide any assistance to our proteges. In fact the Jewish Committee is very busy looking after the Morocco Jews they have to help. French legislation now in force against the Jews is beginning to be felt in the Protectorate and certain classes of Morocco Jews have already been reached by the measure taken. I would mention, for example, that the recent local decr (Dahir) compelled the Morocco Jews having left the "Mellah" (Jewish district) after the 1st September 1939 to go back to the Mellah within a month's delay. On the other hand, certain professions will be forbidden them and the Morocco Committee will have to do their duty vis-à-vis their coreligionists. This is why it is difficult to request them to participate to the expens involved through the assistance to be given to the emigrants mentioned in this report.

On my return to Morocco, I shall not fail to supply you all statistical information enabling you to organise the assistance to be given to these emigrants whose situation is get worse every day and whose only hope is in the big Jewish organisations.

Signed: Raphael SPANIEN,
HICEM special delegate to Casablanca.

HIAS-JCA EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION
(HICEM)
12, RUA BRAAMCAMP - LISBOA
CABLE ADDRESS: HICEM - LISBOA

LISBOA, December 16th 1941
TELEPHONE 5 2041

ID/MG

BY AIR MAIL

The Hon. Myron C. Taylor,
71, Broadway,
New York.

2/3/42
copies to list

Sir,

We are in receipt of your letter of November 21st and very much regret that through an oversight of our Mailing Dept. the translation of Mr. Spanien's report on the situation in Morocco was not enclosed in our letter of October 9th. We now have much pleasure in enclosing a copy herewith.

As we are now called back to New York by the Hias and expect to leave any moment, we should be glad if you would kindly grant us an interview as soon as we arrive in New York in order that we may be able to supply you with any information of interest re immigration matters.

We take this opportunity to thank you for the interest you so kindly showed us and beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Encl.

Dr. James Bernstein
Director

J. Wyon
Secretary

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(oct 9 1941)