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Folder 1. MR 330 (2) American Prisoners of
War in Russia and Poland,
3-26 March 1945.

Map Room
Box 34

~~TOP SECRET~~
PRIORITY

26 March 1945

FROM: OPNAV
TO : ALJUNA, MOSCOW

262113Z NCR _____

NUMBER 216, PERSONAL AND ~~TOP SECRET~~, FOR AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Replying to your M-23408, it does not appear appropriate at the present time for me to send another message to Marshal Stalin regarding the treatment of liberated American prisoners in Poland.

At a later date there may be some prospect of results from a further message from me.

In the meantime you should make such approaches in Moscow as will in your opinion be of assistance to our intention to insure the best possible treatment of liberated Americans.

Your recommendation that General Eisenhower impose limitations on the movements of Russian contact officers in France has been referred to the War Department for appropriate action.

ROOSEVELT

Released from the Map Room at
262113Z March 1945:

OGDEN COLLINS, JR.,
Lieutenant, U.S.N.R.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date MAR 9 1972

~~TOP SECRET~~
- 1 -

FROM THE PRESIDENT TO AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN

SERIAL or FILE NO. #216, 26 March 1945
DATE

FOR MAP ROOM VIA

SUBJECT: American prisoners of war in Russia.

ACTION:

1. Answers HARRIMAN-PRES #M-23408, 24 Mar 45, which was taken to Hyde Park by the President, 24 Mar 45.
2. On 25 March, Mrs. Brady (The President's secretary) telegraphed following to the Map Room, "Admiral Leahy to prepare reply to M-23408 ...and have for President tomorrow."
3. Admiral Leahy's reply sent to the President as MR-OUT-294, 261825Z.
5. President approved in MR-IN-260, 262003Z. Dispatched 262113Z.

COPIES TO: INDEXED: PRES-HARRIMAN FILE	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:

~~TOP SECRET~~

WS
RB

~~SECRET~~ - TOT

24 March 1945

From: U. S. Military Mission, Moscow
To: The President of The United States
Nr: M-23408 Filed 241335Z

To The President from Harriman signed Deane. ~~TOP SECRET~~

Molotov has given me a copy of Stalin's answer to your message regarding American liberated prisoners of war in Poland. No doubt the Red Army has reported that on March 16th there were no more of our liberated prisoners in Poland except the seventeen sick to which he refers. On the other hand General Deane and I believe that there are a number of our ex-prisoners, including sick, still at large in Poland. Since February 26th we have had continual definite statements from the Foreign Office and the Red Army Staff to the effect that there are no prisoners left in Poland and each time these statements have been proved to be wrong. The American Red Cross representative recently returned from Poland tells me that on the day he left Praga, March 18th, he talked to one American officer in the street.

Stalin's statement that our liberated prisoners are in Soviet camps under good conditions is far from the truth. Soviet facilities in Odessa meet the barest minimum needs but are improved as a result of the work of our contact officers

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By RB Date MAR 9 1972

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

and the American food, clothing, and medical supplies that we have been able to furnish. Until arrival at Odessa the hardships undergone have been inexcusable. No effort whatsoever has been made by the Red Army to do anything until our men drifted into camps at Warsaw, Lodz, Lublin, or Wrzesnia which the Red Army advertised as point of assembly. These are some hundreds of miles from points of liberation and our men would have starved if it had not been for the generosity and hospitality of the Polish people. Individual headquarters of the Red Army have sometimes given a meal to our men. On the other hand reports indicate that in other places not only was nothing done but Red Army soldiers have taken wrist watches, clothing, and other articles at the point of a gun.

The unsatisfactory conditions existing in these camps have been ameliorated at several points by the activities of the Polish Red Cross. Conditions at the Rembertow camp at Warsaw were unbelievable. Our men were mixed with civilian refugees of all kinds, sleeping on floors, utterly no sanitary or washing facilities. Food was served twice a day at irregular intervals and consisted of barley soup, bread, potatoes, or kasha, and tea or coffee. There were no delousing facilities. I believe as a result of your cables to Stalin and

~~TOP SECRET~~

DEKULASSIFIED
State Dept. letter, 1-11-78
By *BRB* Date MAR 9 1972

~~TOP SECRET~~

General Deane's and my pressure our liberated prisoners have been moved to Odessa somewhat more rapidly than would otherwise have been the case. It may be there are only a relatively few of our men still in Poland, but on the other hand additional numbers may be liberated at any time and there is no reason to believe that their care will be any better than that experienced so far. Reports from our liberated prisoners when they arrive home will show that they have great gratitude for the Polish people and Polish Red Cross but nothing but resentment for the treatment received from the Russians, despite the fact that upon liberation they were deeply grateful to the Russians. The only exceptions to this are the dozen who had the good luck to get through to Moscow quickly.

Stalin's statement that the Red Army command cannot be bothered with a dozen American officers in Poland to look after the welfare of our liberated prisoners is preposterous when we think of what the American people have done in supplying the Red Army with vehicles and food. There was no thought of having our contact officers in the combat zone but I understand from General Eisenhower that he is giving Soviet contact officers complete freedom of movement to visit Russian citizens wherever they may be.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Instr. 1-11-70

By RM/PA Date MAR 9 1972

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

When the story of the treatment accorded our liberated prisoners by the Russians leaks out I cannot help but feel that there will be great and lasting resentment on the part of the American people.

I suggest that you reply again to Marshal Stalin, expressing thanks for his promise to fly out the seventeen sick but stating that you cannot accept his position, using such of the above or other material available in the War Department as you think appropriate. I further recommend that since the Russians cannot do less than they are now doing for our men, General Eisenhower be instructed to limit the movements of the Russian contact officers in France to several camps where Russian citizens are collected, far to the rear. We should, of course, continue to give the best treatment possible to liberated Soviet citizens and all reasonable courtesies and assistance to their contact officers at these camps in the rear.

END

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. letter, 1-11-72

By RAH/DR Date MAR 9 1972

Red 24 1810 Jo President via letters.

GAWK/dg

~~TOP SECRET~~

FROM AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN TO THE PRESIDENT

SERIAL or FILE NO.
DATE #M-23408, 24 March 1945

FOR MAP ROOM VIA

SUBJECT: American prisoners of war in Russia.

ACTION:

1. For "Stalin's answer to your [the President's] message" referred to in first paragraph, see BTALIN-PRES 22 March 1945.
2. To the President via ushers. President took copy with him when he went to Hyde Park on evening of 24 March.
3. On 25 March, Mrs. Brady (The President's secretary) telegraphed following to the Map Room: "Admiral Leahy to prepare reply to M-23408 ...and have for President tomorrow morning."
4. Admiral Leahy's reply sent to the President as MR-OUT-294, 261825Z.
5. President approved in MR-IN-260, 262003Z. Reply sent to Harriman as PRES #216, 26 Mar 45.

COPIES TO: INDEXED: PRES-HARRIMAN FILE DATE: BY DIRECTION OF:

URGENT

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~ - TOT

23 March 1945

From: U. S. Military Attache, London
To: The President of The United States
Nr: 922 Fld: 230932Z
Prime Minister to President Roosevelt. Personal and
TOP SECRET.

Your 725. I thank you.

ECH/cvl

End.

725 agrees to issuance of warning
statement re Prisoners of war
if Stalin agrees.

TOP SECRET
~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy

FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT

SERIAL or FILE NO. #922, 23 March 1945

FOR MAP ROOM 231238Z VIA Army Code Room

SUBJECT: Statement to Germans on American prisoners of war.

ACTION:

1. Acknowledges PRES-PM #725, 22 Mar 45.
2. To President via Admiral Brown.
3. No reply.

COPIES TO:
MR 330 (2)

DATE:

BY DIRECTION OF:

ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE

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~~TOP SECRET~~
PRIORITY

22 MARCH 1945

From: Opanav

To : Alusna, London

222021Z NCR 7199

NUMBER 725, ~~TOP SECRET~~ AND PERSONAL, FOR THE PRIME MINISTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT.

Your 920 and 921. If Marshal Stalin agrees, I will go forward
with you in our issuing the joint warning contained in your 921.

ROOSEVELT

Released 222021Z.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date MAR 9 1972

FROM The President TO The Prime Minister

SERIAL or FILE NO. #725, 22 March 1945
DATE

FOR MAP ROOM VIA

SUBJECT: Statement to Germans on American prisoners.

ACTION:

1. Answers PM-PRES #920 and #921, 22 March 45, copies of which were given to Admiral Leahy for action.
2. Draft dispatch written by Adm Leahy; approved by the President; dispatched 220212.
3. Acknowledged by PM-PRES #922, 23 Mar 45.

COPIES TO: DATE: BY DIRECTION OF:

MR 330 (2)

ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET - TOT

BS
WS

22d March 1945

From: The U.S. Military Attache, London, England

To : The President of The United States

Nr : 921

Filed 22/1104Z

Prime Minister to President Roosevelt. Personal and TOP SECRET. My immediately preceding telegram. Number 921.

Following is text of proposed warning:-

"The Governments of the United Kingdom, The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of all the United Nations at war with Germany, hereby issue a solemn warning to all commandants and guards in charge of Allied prisoners of war in Germany and German-occupied territory and to members of the Gestapo and all other persons of whatsoever service or rank in whose charge Allied prisoners of war have been placed, whether in the battle zones, on the lines of communication or in rear areas. They declare that they will hold all such persons, no less than the German High Command and the competent German military, naval and air authorities, individually

TOP SECRET

Recd 221455Z
Copy given to adm B. for transmission to Pres.

TOP SECRET

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responsible for the safety and welfare of all Allied prisoners of war in their charge.

"Any person guilty of maltreating or allowing any Allied prisoner of war to be maltreated, whether in the battle zone, on the lines of communication, in a camp, hospital, prison or elsewhere, will be ruthlessly pursued and brought to punishment.

"They give notice that they will regard this responsibility as binding in all circumstances and one which cannot be transferred to any other authorities or individuals whatsoever."

Prime

FXR/fxr

TOP SECRET

FROM The Prime Minister TO The President

SERIAL or FILE NO. #921, 22 Mar 45.
DATE

TOR MAP ROOM 221455Z VIA Army Code Room

SUBJECT: Statement to Germans re treatment of Allied prisoners.

ACTION:

1. Supplements PM-PRES #920, 22 Mar 45.
2. To the President by Admiral Brown.
3. To Adm Leahy for action.
4. Draft reply to PM #920 and #921 written by Adm Leahy; approved by the President without change; sent to PM as PRES #725, 22 Mar 45.

COPIES TO:

MR 330 (2)

DATE:

BY DIRECTION OF:

ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE

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TOP SECRET
TOP SECRET - TOT

WS

22d March 1945

From: The U.S. Military Attache, London, England

To : The President of The United States

Nr : 920 Filed 22/1020Z

Prime Minister to President Roosevelt. Personal and
TOP SECRET. Number 920.

I have seen your recent exchange of messages with Marshall Stalin on prisoners of war matters. As regards the general question of Allied prisoners in German hands, I entirely agree with you that we ought to arrange matters now so that we are in a position to do something quickly at the right time.

We have long foreseen danger to these prisoners arising either in consequence of chaotic conditions resulting from a German collapse or alternatively out of a deliberate threat by Hitler and his associates to murder some or all of the prisoners. The object of this manoeuvre might be either to avoid unconditional surrender or to save the lives of the more important Nazi gangsters and war criminals, using this threat as a bargaining counter, or

TOP SECRET

Copy

Real 2214 55Z
given to admin.
for transmission

TWS

TOP SECRET

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to cause dissention among the Allies in the final stages of the war. With this in mind we put to the United States and Soviet Governments last October through our diplomatic representatives at Washington and Moscow a proposal for an Anglo-American-Russian warning to the Germans (for text please see my immediately following telegram), but have so far received no reply.

On the 2d March last, the British Minister in Berne was informed by the Head of the Swiss Political Department that he had received reports from Berlin, which he could not confirm, that the Germans intended to liquidate, i.e. massacre, such prisoners of war as were held in camps in danger of being overrun by the advancing Allied forces rather than try to remove the prisoners or allow them to fall into Allied hands. In addition we have, in recent months, received various indications that the Nazis might in the last resort either murder Allied prisoners in their hands or hold them as hostages.

Various proposals of a practical nature for bringing immediate military aid and protection to prisoners of war camps in Germany have been under consideration by the British and United States military authorities. I believe that the

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

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issue at the appropriate moment of a joint warning on the lines we have proposed would be a powerful aid to such practical measures as it may be possible to take. An S/S General is now in charge of prisoners of war matters in the German Ministry of Defence and the S/S and Gestapo are believed to be taking over controls of camps. On such people a warning will have only limited effect, though at the worst it can do no harm. On the other hand it is by no means certain that the S/S have completed taking over from the Regular Army Officers and on the latter the warning might have real effect. We should surely miss no opportunity of exploiting any duality of control.

I would therefore earnestly invite you and Marshall Stalin, to whom I am repeating this message, to give this proposal your personal attention, and I very much hope you will agree to go forward with us in issuing it at the appropriate moment.

Prime

FXR/fxr

TOP SECRET

FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT
SERIAL or FILE NO. #920, 22 Mar 45.
DATE
FOR MAP ROOM 221455Z VIA Army Code Room
SUBJECT: Statement to Germans on treatment of Allied prisoners.

ACTION:

1. "Recent exchange of messages with Marshal Stalin" mentioned in first paragraph, see MR 330 (2).
2. To President by Admiral Brown.
3. To Admiral Leahy for action. See also PM #921, which supplements this message.
4. Answered by PRES-PM #725, 22 Mar 45, which was written by Admiral Leahy.

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ORIGINAL: PRES-PM FILE		

330; 000.7

SECRET

FROM: PREMIER J. V. STALIN

TO : PRESIDENT F. D. ROOSEVELT

22 March 1945

I have received your message concerning the evacuation from Poland of former American prisoners of war.

In regard to the information which you have about a seemingly great number of sick and wounded Americans who are in Poland, and also those who are waiting for departure for Odessa or who did not get in touch with Soviet authorities, I must say that that information is not exact. In reality, on the territory of Poland by March 16 there were only 17 sick Americans, except a number of Americans who are on the way to Odessa. Today I have received a report that very soon they (17 persons) will be taken to Odessa by planes.

In regard to a request contained in your message I must say that if that request concerned me personally I would readily agree even to the prejudice of my interests. But in this case the matter concerns the interests of the Soviet armies at the front and Soviet commanders, who do not want to have extra officers with them, having no relation to military operations but at the same time requiring care for their accomodation, for the organization of meetings and all kinds of connections for them, for their guard from possible diversions on the part of German agents who have not yet been caught, and other measures diverting commanders and officers under their command from their direct duties.

Our commanders pay with their lives for the state of matters at the front and in the immediate rear and I do not consider it possible to

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SECRET

limit their rights in any degree.

In addition to this I have to say that former American prisoners of war liberated by the Red Army are in Soviet prisoner-of-war camps in good conditions, at any rate in better conditions than former Soviet prisoners of war in American camps where they have been partially placed together with German prisoners of war and where some of them were subjected to unfair treatment and unlawful inconveniences up to beating as it was reported to the American Government more than once.

SECRET

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FROM MARSHAL STALIN TO THE PRESIDENT

SERIAL or FILE NO. 22 March 1945
DATE

FOR MAP ROOM VIA

SUBJECT: American prisoners of war in Russia.

ACTION:

1. Answers PRES-STALIN #209, 17 Mar 45.
2. To the President via Colonel Park.
3. By direction of the President, copy to Admiral Leahy for action.
4. See HARRIMAN-PRES #M-23408, 24 Mar 45, filed MR 330 (2).
5. In the President's reply to Harriman's #M-23408 (PRES #216) he stated: "It does not appear appropriate at the present time for me to send another message to Marshal Stalin."
6. This message removed from Status Report on 27 March since no reply was to be made.

COPIES TO: MR 330 (2) DATE: BY DIRECTION OF:

ORIGINAL: PRES-STALIN FILE

TOP-SECRET

17 MARCH 1945

~~TOP SECRET~~
PRIORITY

FROM: OPRAV
TO : ALUSNA, MOSCOW

NUMBER 209, PERSONAL AND ~~TOP SECRET~~, FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR
MARSHAL STALIN.

With reference to the question of evacuation of American prisoners from Poland I have been informed that the arrangement for General Deane with a Soviet Army officer to make a survey of the U.S. prisoners of war situation has been cancelled. In your last message to me you stated that there was no need to accede to my request that American aircraft be allowed to carry supplies to Poland and to evacuate the sick. I have information that I consider positive and reliable that there are a very considerable number of sick and injured Americans in hospitals in Poland and also numbers of liberated U.S. prisoners in good health who are awaiting entrainment in Poland to transit camps in Odessa, or are at large in small groups that have not yet made contact with Soviet authorities.

Frankly I cannot understand your reluctance to permit American officers and means to assist their own people in this matter. This Government has done everything to meet each of your requests. I now request you to meet mine in this particular matter. Please call Harriman to explain my desires in detail.

ROOSEVELT

Released 172007Z.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date MAR 9 1972

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~~TOP-SECRET~~

FROM MARSHAL STALIN TO THE PRESIDENT
SERIAL or FILE NO. #209, 17 Mar 45.
DATE
FOR MAP ROOM VIA
SUBJECT: American prisoners in Russia.

ACTION:

1. Answers STALIN-PRES 5 March 1945,
2. This message prepared by Secretary of State and Secretary of War. Brought to the Map Room by Miss Ball from Mr. Bohlen's office in the State Department. Miss Ball stated that the message had been approved by Stettinius and Stimson, and also by the President, but there was some doubt as to whether it had already been dispatched to Stalin. Checked with Colonel Park, who directed it be sent. Dispatched 172007Z.
3. Answered by STALIN-PRES 22 Mar 45.

COPIES TO: DATE: BY DIRECTION OF:
MR 330 (2)
ORIGINAL: PRES-STALIN FILE

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~ - TOT

12 March 1945

From: U. S. Military Mission, Moscow
To: The President of The United States
Nr: M-23174 Filed 112345Z

Personal and ~~TOP SECRET~~ for The President from Ambassador Harriman.

Supplementing my M-23119 March 8th, after 48 hours of continued pressure on the Foreign Office I finally received an answer last night disapproving General Deane's trip to Poland on the grounds that as there were no longer any American ex-prisoners of war in Poland the reasons for his trip fell away.

As I have had continued reports on the presence of American ex-prisoners of war including a substantial number hospitalized at various points confirmed by a direct message from our contact officer at Lublin that there were ten seriously sick left there on March 10th and more coming in and out every day, I wrote a strong letter to Molotov protesting and insisting that the Soviet Government grant the "small courtesy" to the United States Government of allowing General Deane to make a survey of the situation in Poland and visit our prisoners particularly our sick and wounded who we knew still remained in Poland.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By RWR Date MAR 9 1972

~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy to Col Keagy
Had Dept.

File Copy

~~TOP SECRET~~

Today I am informed by General Deane that the permission for our contact team to remain at Lublin has been withdrawn and that a plane scheduled to leave today from Poltava for Lublin with a load of supplies had been cancelled. This team at Lublin has been the only means by which we have been able to give help to our ex-prisoners in Poland and has been working day and night with those who have found their way to Lublin. I am therefore protesting to Molotov today that our contact team should be allowed to remain in Lublin.

It seems obvious that the Soviets have been attempting to stall us off by misinformation from day to day in order to hold up the sending in of more of our contact officers until they get all of our prisoners out of Poland. General Deane and I feel strongly that we should make an issue of the matter of having our much needed contact officers in Poland which is clearly within our rights under the prisoner of war agreement signed at Yalta, not only in order to take care of those who are still in Poland but also because of the probability that there will be substantial numbers liberated by the Red Army in the future.

I therefore recommend, with General Deane's concurrence, that you send another message along the following lines to Marshal Stalin:

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. letter, 1-11-78

By RWB Date MAR 9 1972

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

"There appears to be conflicting information emanating from Poland regarding the status and numbers of American prisoners of war in Poland who have been liberated by the advance of the Red Army. In reply to my last message you indicated that there was no need to accede to my request that American aircraft be allowed to carry supplies to Poland and evacuate the sick because according to your information all of our liberated prisoners, except a very few sick in hospitals, were either in Odessa or enroute there. On the other hand, I have had information that I consider positive and reliable that at the present time there are not only a considerable number of sick and injured Americans in hospitals in Poland, but also numbers of liberated prisoners of war in good health who are awaiting entrainment in Poland to the transit camp in Odessa or who are still at large in small groups and have not yet made contact with Soviet authorities.

In view of this conflicting information I ask that you agree to send General Deane with a Red Army officer to Poland to make a survey of the prisoner of war situation in order that we may work out a method of implementing our agreement signed at Yalta which will be mutually satisfactory both to care for those now in Poland and for those liberated in the future and which will convince the American people that

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
MAR 9 1972
By RAE Date

~~TOP SECRET~~

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everything possible is being done for their soldiers. In the meantime I also request that you allow our contact officers now in Lublin to remain in Poland and to receive emergency supplies."

END

Rec'd 12/06052
T.P.V.U. &

GANK/dg

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. letter, 1-11-72
By RAH Date MAR 9 1972

~~TOP SECRET~~

FROM AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN TO THE PRESIDENT

SERIAL or FILE NO.
DATE M-23174, 12 March 1945

TOR MAP ROOM VIA Army Code Room

SUBJECT:

American prisoners of war in Russia.

ACTION:

1. See HARRIMAN-PRES #M-23119, 8 Mar 45, which this message supplements.
2. To President via ushers.
3. Copy to Col Treacy, War Department, by direction Adm Brown and Col Park.
4. No reply directly to Harriman in view of PRES-STALIN #209, 17 Mar 45, which will be delivered to Stalin by Harriman.

COPIES TO:
MR 330 (2)

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URGENT

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOPSECRET - TOT~~

8 March 1945

WJG
5/3

From: U. S. Military Mission, Moscow
To: The President of The United States
Nr: M-23119 Filed 081930Z

Personal and ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ for The President from Harriman.

In light of Marshal Stalin's reply to your message regarding our liberated prisoners of war I feel you will be interested to have from me a brief review of the situation.

Our information received from our liberated prisoners indicates that there have been four or five thousand officers and enlisted men freed. The Russians today claim that there are only 2,100 of whom 1,350 have arrived at Odessa and the balance being enroute by train.

Russian information is based on reports from concentration points within Poland where our prisoners have been collected. Meantime there appear to be hundreds of our prisoners wandering about Poland trying to locate American contact officers for protection. I am told that our men don't like the idea of getting into a Russian camp. The Polish people and Polish Red Cross are being extremely hospitable, whereas food and living conditions in Russian camps are poor. In addition we have reports that there are a number of sick and wounded who are too ill to move. These Stalin does not mention in his cable. Only a small percentage

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. letter, 1-11-73
By *RW* Date MAR 9 1972

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P.V.U. " Pub

~~TOP SECRET~~

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of those reported sick or wounded have arrived at Odessa.

For the past ten days the Soviets have made the same statement to me that Stalin has made to you, namely, that all prisoners are in Odessa or entrained thereto, whereas I have now positive proof that this was not true on February 26th, the date on which the statement was first made. This supports my belief that Stalin's statement to you is inaccurate.

I am glad to say that the reports from our contact officers in Odessa indicate that the Russians have done a first rate job in providing quickly a reasonably adequate camp in Odessa and our prisoners are reasonably well provided with food, etc. Our officers there also are allowed to communicate with us daily. I have no present reason to complain about the situation in Odessa or about the speed with which our prisoners have been moved from Poland by train, considering the shortage of transportation.

I am outraged, however, that the Soviet Government has declined to carry out the agreement signed at Yalta in its other aspects, namely, that our contact officers be permitted to go immediately to points where our prisoners are first collected, to evacuate our prisoners, particularly the sick, in our own airplanes, or to send our supplies to

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By RAA
Date MAR 9 1972

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~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

points other than Odessa, which is 1,000 miles from point of liberation, where they are urgently needed.

Since the Yalta conference General Deane and I have been making constant efforts to get the Soviets to carry out this agreement in full. We have been baffled by promises which have not been fulfilled or have been subsequently withdrawn. We succeeded after considerable delay in getting one contact team of an officer and a doctor to Lublin but they have not been permitted to move to other points and our infrequent communications with them have been largely through the friendly intervention of the Polish Embassy here.

Ten days ago the Soviet Foreign Office finally authorized General Deane to go to Poland to review the situation but no action has been taken so far. Impressed it again last night and hope to hear today. I have proposed that he go with a Russian officer and report jointly to the Soviet authorities and myself as to whether their information or ours is correct.

I am not so worried about our prisoners who are well. These, I believe, will gradually be assembled and shipped to Odessa. I am extremely concerned, however, over the sick and wounded. I hope to get an answer today about Deane's

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. letter, 1-11-73
By EMW/RS Date MAR 9 1972

~~TOP SECRET~~

trip. If it is not satisfactory I will recommend that you
cable Stalin again.

END

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. letter, 1-11-72

By BAER Date MAR 9 1972

GANK/dg

-4-

~~TOP SECRET~~

FROM AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN TO THE PRESIDENT

SERIAL or FILE NO. M-23119, 8 March 1945

TOR MAP ROOM 08/2320Z VIA Army Code Room

SUBJECT: American prisoners of war in Russia

ACTION:

1. (For "Marshal Stalin's reply" mentioned in first para, see STALIN-PRES 5 Mar 45.)
2. To President via ushers.
3. See further HARRIMAN-PRES #M-23174, which supplements above message.
4. No reply directly to Harriman in view of PRES-STALIN #209, 17 Mar 45, which will be delivered to Stalin by Harriman.

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SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

OUTGOING MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

**TOP
SECRET**

Joint Chiefs of Staff
W.D. Ext. 77500
Col. C. R. Peck

7 March 1945

Commanding General
U S Military Mission to USSR
Moscow, Russia

Number: WAR 49052

TOPSEC to Deane from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Answering M 23089 following is exact English text of reply you requested.

"I received your message of March 4 concerning the question of prisoners of war. I, once again, consulted our local representatives who deal with these questions and have to inform you about the following:

The difficulties, which we had to meet on the first stages in the cause of speedy evacuation of American prisoners of war, when they were in the zone of active military operations, have now considerably decreased. At the present time the organization on the affairs of foreign prisoners of war, specially formed by the Soviet Government, has an appropriate number of people, transport facilities and food stuffs, and each time when new groups of American prisoners of war are found, measures are urgently taken to render help to these prisoners of war and for their evacuation to the gathering points for the subsequent repatriation. According to information which is at present at the disposal of the Soviet Government, on the territory of Poland and in other places liberated by the Red Army, there are no groups of American prisoners of war, as all of them, except the single sick persons who are in the hospitals, have been sent to the gathering point in Odessa, where 1,200 American prisoners of war have already arrived and the arrival of the rest is expected in the nearest future.

In view of this under the present conditions there is no necessity to carry on flights of American planes from Poltava

CM-OUT-49052

(Mar 45)

TOP SECRET

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SECRET**

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7 March 1945

Number: WAR 49052

to the territory of Poland on the matters of American prisoners of war. You may feel assured that the appropriate measures will be urgently taken also in respect to crews of American planes having a forced landing. This, however, does not exclude the cases when the help of American planes may become necessary. In these cases Soviet military authorities will apply to the American military representatives in Moscow on the subject of sending American planes from Poltava.

Having at the present moment no proposals on the question of condition of Allied prisoners of war who are in the hands of the Germans, I want to assure you that on our part we shall do everything possible for the creation of favorable conditions for them, as soon as they will be on the territory which will be taken by the Soviet troops. "

End

Footnote: M 23089 is CM-IN-7144 (7 Mar 45)

ORIGINATOR: Gen. McFarland

INFORMATION: Adm. Leahy
Gen. Arnold
Gen. Hull
Adm. King
Gen. Handy
Mr. Stimson
C of S

CM-OUT-49052

(Mar 45)

DTG

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~~TOP SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~ IVI

PRIORITY

From: US Military Mission, Moscow, Russia

To : War Department

Nr : M 23089 7 March 1945

Personal for General Hull from Deane, ~~SECRET~~
M 23089.

Request that you inform me of Stalin's reply to the President's message contained in WAR 47058 of 3 March 1945. The reply will be sent direct by Stalin to the Soviet Ambassador in Washington and we will not see it at this end.

End.

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FEB 20 1973

ACTION: GEN HULL

INFO : GEN McFARLAND
ADM LEAHY
GEN ARNOLD
ADM KING
GEN HANDY
MR STIMSON
C OF S

*See answer
attached*

CM-IN-7144 (7 Mar 45) DTG 0707507 mcs

~~SECRET~~

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SECRET

FROM: PREMIER J. V. STALIN

TO : PRESIDENT F. D. ROOSEVELT

DATE: 5 March 1945

I received your message of March 4 concerning the question of prisoners of war. I, once again, consulted our local representatives who deal with these questions and have to inform you about the following.

The difficulties, which we had to meet on the first stages in the cause of speedy evacuation of American prisoners of war, when they were in the zone of active military operations, have now considerably decreased. At the present time the organization on the affairs of foreign prisoners of war, specially formed by the Soviet Government, has an appropriate number of people, transport facilities and food stuffs, and each time when new groups of American prisoners of war are found, measures are urgently taken to render help to these prisoners of war and for their evacuation to the gathering points for the subsequent repatriation. According to information which is at present at the disposal of the Soviet Government, on the territory of Poland and in other places liberated by the Red Army, there are no groups of American prisoners of war, as all of them, except the single sick persons who are in the hospitals, have been sent to the gathering point in Odessa, where 1200 American prisoners of war have already arrived and the arrival of the rest is expected in the nearest future.

In view of this under the present conditions there is no necessity to carry on flights of American planes from Poltava to the territory of Poland on the matters of American prisoners of war. You may feel assured

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SECRET

that the appropriate measures will be urgently taken also in respect to crews of American planes having a forced landing. This, however, does not exclude the cases when the help of American planes may become necessary. In these cases Soviet military authorities will apply to the American military representatives in Moscow on the subject of sending American planes from Poltava.

Having at the present moment no proposals on the question of condition of Allied prisoners of war who are in the hands of the Germans, I want to assure you that on our part we shall do everything possible for the creation of favorable conditions for them, as soon as they will be on the territory which will be taken by the Soviet troops.

STALIN

SECRET

FROM MARSHAL STALIN TO THE PRESIDENT
 SERIAL or FILE NO.
 DATE 5 March 1945
 TOR MAP ROOM VIA Russian Embassy
 SUBJECT: American prisoners in Russia.

ACTION:

1. Answers PRES-STALIN, WAR #47058, 3 Mar 45.
2. To the President via ushers.
3. (See DEANE-HULL #23089, 7 Mar 45, which requests copy of Stalin's reply; and its reply, JCS-DEANE #WAR 49052, 7 Mar 45, quoting Stalin's msg of 5 Mar 45.)
4. (See also HARRIMAN-PRES M-23119, 8 Mar 45; and HARRIMAN-PRES M-23174, 12 Mar 45, on this subject.)
5. Draft reply prepared by Secretary of State and Secretary of War. Copy of reply, approved by the President, brought to the Map Room by Miss Ball from Mr. Bohlen's office in the State Department. Miss Ball stated that the message had been approved by Stettinius and Stimson, and also by the President, but there was some doubt as to whether it had already been dispatched to Stalin. After check with Colonel Park, sent to Moscow as PRES-STALIN #209, 17 Mar 45.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
MR 330 (2)		
ORIGINAL: PRES-STALIN FILE		

3 March 1945

Commanding General
U.S. Military Mission to USSR
Moscow, Russia.

Number: WAR 47058

~~TOP SECRET~~ to Deane from Marshall.

Please deliver the following message from the President to Marshal Stalin at once and also deliver a copy of it to Admiral Archer for transmission by him to Mister Churchill.

I have reliable information regarding the difficulties which are being encountered in collecting, supplying and evacuating American ex-prisoners of war and American aircraft crews who are stranded east of the Russian lines. It is urgently requested that instructions be issued authorizing ten American aircraft with American crews to operate between Poltava and places in Poland where American ex-prisoners of war and stranded airmen may be located. This authority is requested for the purpose of providing supplementary clothing, medical and food supplies for all American soldiers, to evacuate stranded aircraft crews and liberated prisoners of war, and especially to transfer the injured and sick to the American hospital at Poltava. I regard this request to be of the greatest importance not only for humanitarian reasons but also by reason of the intense interest of the American public in the welfare of our ex-prisoners of war and stranded aircraft crews. Secondly on the general matter of prisoners of war in Germany I feel that we ought to do something quickly. The number of these prisoners of war, Russian, British and U.S., is very large. In view of your disapproval of the plan we submitted what do you suggest in place of it?

End.

ORIGINATOR: Gen. Hull
INFORMATION: Gen. Handy, Gen McFarland, Adm. Leahy, Gen. Arnold, Adm. King,
Mr. Stimson, C of S.

CW-OUT-47058 (Mar 45) DTG: 032132Z mlm

[REDACTED]

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By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date MAR 9 1972

From: U. S. Military Mission, Moscow, Russia

To: War Department

No: M 23040 4 March 1945

TO AGWAR for General Marshall from Deane ~~TOP SECRET~~

M 23040.

Message contained in WAR 47058 was transmitted to Marshal Stalin by Harriman early today, and was given at the same time to Admiral Archer for transmission to Mr. Churchill.

End

ACTION: Gen Hull

INFO: Gen McFarland Adm Leahy Gen Arnold Gen Handy Adm King
Mr. Stimson C of S

CM-IN-4393 (4 Mar 45)

DTG 041925Z

bmf

~~TOP SECRET~~

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Date- MAR 9 1972

Signature- *AMAR*

FROM THE PRESIDENT TO MARSHAL STALIN (Copy-Churchill)

SERIAL or FILE NO. WAR 47058, 3 Mar 1945.

DATE

TOR MAP ROOM VIA

SUBJECT: American prisoners of war in Russia.

ACTION:

1. Originated and dispatched entirely through War Department. Map Room received copy only after it was dispatched.
2. Answered by STALIN-PRES 5 March 1945.

COPIES TO:	DATE:	BY DIRECTION OF:
MR 330 (2)		
ORIGINAL: PRES-STALIN FILE		
