Allied Prisoners of War - Supplied For
SECRETARY OF STATE;
Washington.

1804, Fourth.

CONFIDENTIAL. LIMITED DISTRIBUTION ONLY FOR DEPARTMENT AND FEA.

Reference Department's A252, February 16.

Proposed shipment of American Red Cross medical kits and comfort articles to French prisoners of war as suggested in Airgram under reference approved by Relief Subcommittee, March 3.

WINANT.

HM.
AMBASSADY,
LONDON.
1612, 3rd
FROM STONE, FEA, TO ECONOMIC WARFARE DIVISION.
YOUR 1397, FEBRUARY 15.
WE HAVE ISSUED SPECIAL PROJECT LICENSE 1348, CONTROL
NUMBER 78903, VALID FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 21, 1944 TO FEBRUARY 23, 1945, COVERING CLOTHING FOR ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR AS
PER LIST IN OUR A-181, JANUARY 31, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:
(1) SAID LICENSE INCLUDES 20,000 JACKETS WHICH BY AN OVER-
SIGHT ON OUR PART WERE NOT LISTED IN OUR AIRGRAM UNDER
REFERENCE, ALTHOUGH THE LATTER CONTAINED AN EXPLANATION
OF SUCH ITEM UNDER PARAGRAPH 1 (2).
(2) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUMIERS IS 187,000 NOT 186,000
AS ERRONEOUSLY LISTED IN OUR REFERENCE AIRGRAM.

[Signature]
Acting
(GHK)

[Signature]
March 8, 1944

[Signature]
UPSTONE
LI/KSON
DL-113-HSKIÆRIRK
2/18/44
From Department and FEA for EUD for RST.

A request has been submitted to the Department and FEA by the American Red Cross on behalf of the French Committee of National Liberation for authorization to furnish and ship for distribution through the International Red Cross Committee to French prisoners of war (1) 30,000 standard American Red Cross medical kits in March and 30,000 additional in June, and (2) comfort articles (such as are provided for other Allied prisoners) for 30,000 prisoners to complement the clothing outfits for that number which have been approved.

Department and FEA feel that an affirmative reply in respect of both items should be returned subject, of course, to supply considerations.

Other Allied prisoners receive both items and, therefore, a reply other than in the affirmative would seem to be discriminatory. The kits referred to under item (1) are designed to cover the average medical needs of 100 men for one month.
Since the total number of kits requested are expected to last for the rest of this year, the number would not appear to be excessive. The comfort articles mentioned under item (2) are intended to complement the clothing outfits already authorized and are the same or those which other nationalities are receiving.

Please support this request before the Relief Subcommittee and communicate decision to Department by telegraph as soon as possible.

Stettinus, acting
edk
SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON,

Y

1324, 16th

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FOR DEPARTMENT AND PEA

Reference Department's 850, February 3.

MEW has at EWD's request, as suggested in your

telegram under reference, reconsidered the question of

shipment of surgical dressings through the blockade.

MEW is still opposed to treating bandages and surgical
dressings in some way as surgical instruments and many

medicines. Cotton is extremely scarce in German Europe

and much desired by Germans. Unlike the amount of steel

used in surgical instruments, the amount of cotton used

in surgical dressings is quite substantial relative
to total requirements of a country for that raw material.

Inasmuch as Germans are very short of and have an

increasing demand for bandages MEW feels that if dressings

were admitted

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State Dept. Letter, 111-JJ

By M. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1842

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were admitted freely through the blockade Germans would be strongly tempted to appropriate them. If Germans did not actually steal them outright it is feared that German wounded soldiers would be put in the well supplied hospitals to detriment of civilian population for which supplies are intended. Apart from danger of misuse by Germans, MEW feels that free admission of bandages and dressings would be certain to release a substantial quantity of textile material now being used for bandages in the occupied areas for use by Germans in other ways. MEW has no positive evidence on which to base this last statement but argues that amount of material for making bandages and dressings which Germans still allow the occupied countries to retain out of their own production or to receive from other German territory must be considerable since otherwise the complaints received would be more numerous and insistent, judging from requests received for other medical supplies.

Although not willing to consider surgical dressings as comparable to those medical products which are freely admitted through the blockade for relief purposes, MEW suggests that consignment in question be allowed to go forward
go forward on understanding that it is dispatched experimentally and that no further application will be considered until really satisfactory proof is received that consignment has been safely delivered to proper recipients and used exclusively for benefit of Allied civilians, without preference being given to those Allied civilians who are cooperating with the Germans. New feels that a really valid proof of proper use would be the testimony of a neutral observer based on his own direct experience, but that merely a signed receipt of delivery from some organization in occupied territory should not suffice. It is proposed that, if this suggestion is adopted, amounts of the same general order of magnitude be permitted to go forward, when requested, to other occupied territories on the same conditions and provided that no (repeat no) additional shipments are approved for any country until adequate evidence is received concerning the distribution of initial consignment.

With reference to question of to which organization in Poland medical supplies should be consigned, please see Embassy's despatch number 13524 of January 27, 1944, Economic Warfare Blockade Series Number 760.

EWD would appreciate being informed of action taken.

EJH

WINANT
Sincerely,

WINANT

IMSc

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State Dept. Letter: 1-11-50
By B. E. Parks Date 5-0

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