AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
(ITALY)
INDEX


2. Letter, 9/2/43 from JDC NY, drafts of cable and memo Paul to Secretary 9/8/43 - message from JDC to Mayer re funds for Valobra.


4. Bern's cable 6255, 10/6/43, re investigation of conditions in Italy by Mayer.

5. London cable 9021, 12/28/43 re Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees - suggestion regarding relief work in Italy.


7. Memo 1/5/44, Paul to Secretary and proposed cable to Bern for Tittman re relief for Jewish Community in Rome; copies of Bern's cable 8182, cable 62 to London and 9021 from London attached to Mr. Long, Cable 11156 from London to State, Memo of 2/17/44.

8. Memo 1/6/44 requesting despatch of cable to Bern and repeat to London.

9. Letter 1/6/44 from State in reply to memo to Mr. Long 1/3/44, confirming despatch of cable in reply to 9021 from London.

10. Memo 1/6/44, Pehle to Hotel requesting preparation of memo to Secretary re Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees.

11. Letter 2/21/44 to American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, from FFO.

12. Letter of 11/8/43 from American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, to FFO, FFO reply dated 11/19/43.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS
In reply please refer to 59960

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 8, 1943, enclosing a copy of a cable received by you from Dr. Schwartz, concerning the possibility of sending remittances to Southern Italy for the relief of refugees.

As you know, financial facilities are not yet open to permit such remittances. However, as soon as financial channels are open, the Treasury Department will have no objection to the use of such channels for the type of remittance in question. Of course, before the remittances may be affected, it will be necessary to clear the matter with the military authorities in that particular area.

As soon as we have definite information concerning the opening up of financial channels with Southern Italy, we shall be glad to take up this matter with the military authorities and will advise you further.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. R. Fehle

J. R. Fehle
Assistant to the Secretary

Mr. Jonas A. Leavitt
Secretary, The American
Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee, Inc.
270 Madison Avenue,
November 8, 1943

Miss Frances Hodel,
Foreign Funds Control
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

I enclose copy of a cable which we have today received from Dr. Schwartz, with respect to the possibility of sending remittances to Southern Italy for the relief of refugees who have been liberated from camps. We would greatly appreciate your advising us as to the form in which our application should be made for this purpose.

In this connection you may be interested to know that we had received from the National Jewish Welfare Board excerpts from a letter from one of the Jewish chaplains who we gather, is in Sicily. This chaplain states that he has met Jews who are in great need and that he has, out of his personal funds, made grants to them. He raises the question whether the Joint Distribution Committee could make a small fund available to some of the Jewish chaplains for such relief purposes, but here again the question of a transmission channel would be involved. We prefer, of course, to deal with a recognized, responsible Jewish local committee, but I merely cite this other possibility as indicating the need for meeting requests for help.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

encl.

[These initials are crossed out with the word "SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES"]
E. P. ADLER, Davenport, Iowa
SIDNEY J. ALLEN, Des Moines
BERNARD H. ALFIERI, Holyoke
CARRI J. AUSTIN, New York
GEORGE BACARR, New York
PAUL BADERWALD, New York
EDWARD H. BAKER, Cleveland
JOSEPH BASKE, New York
*WILLIE H. BECKER, Chicago
*JOSEPH M. BERKE, Cleveland
MAURICE BENHOM, Cleveland
DAVID BENZREIN, New York
ISRAEL BENZREIN, Portland, Me.
JOHN L. BERNOIS, New York
IRVING BERTMAN, St. Louis
JACOB BILLIKOFF, Philadelphia
NEWTON BISSINGER, San Francisco
JACOB BLAUSTEIN, Baltimore
HERBERT B. BLOCK, Cincinnati
L. E. BLOCH, Chicago
LOUIS L. BORSTEIN, Indianapolis
JASPER BRENNAN, New York
*LOUIS BROWN, New York
ARE BRONFMAN, Montreal
FRED M. BUTLER, Detroit
EDGAR CANTOR, Los Angeles
LOUIS CAPLAN, Pittsburgh
AVERY CARR, Granite City, Ill.
JONATHAN CHAMIN, New York
MORRIS R. COHEN, New York
ALFRED E. COHN, New York
RALPH F. COLES, New York
AMOS S. DEINARD, Minneapolis
*DAVID DUBINSKY, New York
C. A. EROEHLING, Indianapolis
LOUIS H. ERLICH, Kansas City, Mo.
ABRAM I. EKUS, New York
MORRIS EISENMAN, New York
M. K. EISEN, Chicago
LEON FALK, Jr., Philadelphia
MRS. MYRON S. FALK, Jr., New York
JOSEPH L. FINK, Buffalo
*LOUIS FINKELSTEIN, New York
*HARRY FISCHEL, New York
AARON FLUSGELMAN, New York
PHILIP FODIAN, Trenton
AARON W. FRANK, Portland, Ore.
A. RICHARD FRANK, Chicago
MAX FREEMAN, Chicago
*JOHN J. GOLDBERG, New York
*EDWIN GOLDWASSER, New York
*ROGER GOLDWATER, New York
*J. J. GOLDEN, New York
WILLIAM H. GOODNIGHT, Memphis
D. SAMUEL GOTTLIEB, New York
*JOEL GRUSS, New York
REUBEN GUSH, New York
*MORRIS W. HADLER, New York
SALOMON A. HALL, Cleveland
*Member of Executive Committee

DAVID E. HABREIN, Denver
LEO H. HEBERLING, Philadelphia
*TODD KENNY, New York
SHARCO P. HILDEMAN, New York
SIDNEY L. HIRSD, St. Louis
WALTER S. HOKINS, Beverly Hills, Calif.
*WALTER L. HIRSCH, New York
HARRY A. HOLLIS, Los Angeles
ABRAHAM MOKNIK, New York
ALBERT D. HURST, Baltimore
STANLEY M. ISAAC, New York
LESLIE L. JACOBS, Dallas
MORRIS E. JACOBS, Omaha
LEO JUNG, New York
*ALEXANDER KAHN, New York
MILTON KANN, Boston
*E. I. KAUFMANN, Washington
MILTON W. KINS, Washington
JOSEPH J. KLEIN, New York
*JEROME M. KUHN, Hartford
MARTHA K. KRAMER, New York
H. LUDWIG, New York
H. LUDWIG, New York
LUDWIG A. LANDOZO, New York
SIDNEY LANSBURGH, Baltimore
*ALBERT D. LASKER, New York
*EDWARD LAZERNY, Brooklyn
MORRIS S. LAZARUS, Baltimore
*AL. PAUL LEFFER, Philadelphia
LEO LEHMAN, Pittsburgh
ROBERT LEHMAN, New York
*SAMUEL D. LEIDER, New York
EMIL W. LEFRAUD, New Orleans
MAX LEIBERMAN, New York
*HAROLD D. LEIBS, New York
MAX LEIBSCH, New York
CARL M. LEIBER, New York
JOSEPH P. LEIBER, Los Angeles
HIRSCH MANISCHWEITZ, New York
*JAMES MARRS, New York
*ARMIN HARRIS, Atlanta
*GEORGE Z. HERSHEL, New York
JAMES H. HIRSCH, New York
ABRAHAM NILSTER, New York
HENRY MONKEY, Omaha
CHARLES W. HOMER, Louisville
PAUL HUNTER, Los Angeles
STANLEY C. HYERS, Miami
MARCUS N. NADLER, New York
EDWARD A. NORMAN, New York
MAX ODOM, New York
NATHAN M. ONISHACH, New York
HARRIS PERLMAN, Chicago
DAVID ASCHOL TOUL, New York
JACOB POHOSKY, New York
HEYER L. PRINCE, Detroit
JOSEPH M. PROKESHER, New York
BENJAMIN J. RABIN, New York
AARON S. RAHNI, St. Louis
*A. H. RABIN, New York
*JAMES H. ROSENBERG, New York
LESLIE J. ROSENWALD, Philadelphia
*WILLIAM ROSENWALD, Greensboro, N.C.
*MARSH ROSENBERG, Harrisburg
BERNARD SACHS, New York
BEN SADDLEWORTH, Pawtucket
SIMON SADOFF, Houson
A. L. SALZSTEIN, Milwaukee
E. I. SCHAEFFER, Columbus
ULYSSES S. SCHMIDT, Chicago
*WILLIAM H. SCHWABE, Richmond
MURRAY SEASONGOOD, Cincinnati
BUSTACE SELIGMAN, New York
BERNARD SERES, New York
ALFRED SHERMAN, Seattle
*Y. I. SHERMAN, New York
S. I. SHORE, New York
WILLIAM J. SHEDD, Cincinnati
MENDOL S. SILBERBERG, Los Angeles
ARCHIBALD SILBERMAN, Providence
M. C. SLOAN, San Francisco
*ABRAHAM SHERER, Detroit
NATHAN M. SHERN, New York
JESSE H. STEINHAUSER, Jena
EDWARD B. STERN, New York
HENRY H. STERN, Rockville Centre
HORACE STERN, New York
HUGO GRANT STRASS, Brooklyn
*MRS. ROGER W. STRAUS, New York
*LEWIS L. STRAUSS, New York
FRANK S. STRAUSS, Chicago
LEON C. SUNSTEIN, Philadelphia
AARON VIALTBAUM, New York
*FRANCISCO DE TUR, New York
*JEROI M. TWEED, New York
*FRANK S. VORESBERG, Boston
*EDWARD M. WARE, New York
*MAX M. WARE, New York
W. FELIX WARE, New York
*MAX M. WARE, New York
*MAX W. WARE, New York
*JEROME W. WARE, Boston
*LEWIS L. WARE, New York
*MAX M. WARE, New York
*MAX W. WARE, New York
EUGENE WAXNER, Buffalo
*DAVID M. WATZKE, Austin
*DAVID J. WATT, New York
*ADOLPH WEIL, Montgomery
FRANK L. WEIL, New York
*HENRY WEINMAN, Dayton
WALTER WIESELSTEIN, Temple
*JOHN H. WISE, New York
DARREN F. WOHL, St. Louis
MORRIS WOL, Philadelphia

*Serving in the Armed Forces of the United States
INCOMING CABLE

LISBON

Received Nov. 6, 1943
Stencil Nov. 8, 1943

NLT LEAVITT JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
270 MADISON AVE N.Y

WE TRYING REACH JEWISH COMMUNITIES SOUTHERN ITALY PURPOSE SETTING UP
EFFECTIVE COMMITTEE DEAL WITH REFUGEES ESPECIALLY THOSE BEING LIBERATED FROM
CAMPS STOP WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ADVISING US WHETHER LICENSE FOR TRANSMITTING
FUNDS THESE AREAS OBTAINABLE CASE RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED

JOSEPH SCHWARTZ

100045
In reply please refer to 59280

Sirs:

This is to inform you that pursuant to the recommendation of the War Refugees Board, this Department has authorized the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to issue to you License No. NY609199, permitting you to remit the sum of £4,968 pounds 18 shillings 10 pence to the Finance Officer of the British Foreign Office, London, England, representing the equivalent of $20,000 made available in lire to the Jewish community in Rome, Italy, by His Britannic Majesty's Minister at the Vatican.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

[Signature]

Helga, 2/19/44
January 6, 1944

Miss Hodel
J. W. Fable

The Secretary today expressed interest in the Inter-
Governmental Committee on Refugees mentioned in the cable from
London, No. 9021 of December 26. Please prepare a memorandum
from Paul to the Secretary giving the background on this
Committee, its membership, etc.

[Initialled] J. W. F.

JWEhlerg 1-6-44
In reply refer to VD

My dear Mr. Pehle:

The receipt is acknowledged of your Memorandum to Mr. Long of January 3, 1944 containing a suggested reply to telegram 9021 of December 28, 1943 from London.

This is to inform you that a cable was sent to London on January 4, 1944 quoting the information contained in your Memorandum. The office of Miss Hodell, in your Division, was informed of this action by telephone on January 5, 1944. A copy of the telegram is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure:

Copy of telegram to London, January 4, 1944.

Mr. J. W. Pehle,  
Director, Foreign Funds Control,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington, D. C.
MEMORANDUM TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY LONG

Attention: Mr. Riegelman

It will be appreciated if you will have the attached cable despatched to the American Legation, Bern, Switzerland, and repeated to London.

Please advise this office when cable is despatched.

Sew to Breckinridge 129 - 11:25 a.m.

Cc: Bell, Hill, Selwood, Foy, Darby, Noell
Cable to Bern

Reference is made to your cable No. 8182, December 28, 1943, transmitting Tittman's cable of December 21, 1943, No. 224.

For your information there is repeated to you herewith London's cable of December 28, 1943, No. 9021, which relates to the same matter, and our reply No. 52 of January 4, 1944.

Please repeat above message to Tittman and transmit the following additional message to him:

"Re your December 21, No. 224, we have asked Bern to repeat to you London's 9021 of December 28 and our reply No. 52 of January 4, 1944. The Department and the Treasury agree that the necessary assurances may be given that funds up to $20,000 will be forthcoming in the future for these operations. Please advise if additional funds are needed. Repeated to London."
Reference is made to cable from London No. 1154, February 10, 1944, copy of which has been sent to you. The War Refugee Board has approved the program referred to therein and recommends that a license be issued immediately permitting the JDC to send 4,968 pounds 18 shillings tenpence to the Finance Officer of the British Foreign Office in London.

Appropriate cables to London and our representative in the Vatican will be prepared by us.
PLAIN
London
Dated February 10, 1944
Read 2:40 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington,

1154, Twelfth.

In note dated February 8, Foreign Office requests remittance for charitable relief at Vatican as follows (telegrams 23, January Fourth and 744, January Twenty-ninth):

"I am sorry there has been some delay in replying but the technical details of transfer present serious difficulties. These have, I hope, been overcome and we have authorized His Majesty's Minister at the Vatican to spend 50,000 dollars worth of lire for this charitable relief work. Would you please therefore send to the Finance Officer, Foreign Office, the sum of 4968 pounds eighteen shillings ten pence the equivalent of 50,000 dollars.

We should be grateful if you would seek the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, who have, I believe, provided the funds, to refrain from asking any public
any public disclosure of the fact that they are financing
relief in Rome until after Rome is occupied by the Allies.
If publicity were given to this scheme we should be
subjected to all sorts of demands from Allies and from
Jewish organizations to permit remittances to enemy
territories of a kind which we have always felt bound to
refuse. It might be very difficult for us to explain
the special circumstances of this case and that it cannot
be taken as a precedent and we trust therefore that the
Joint Distribution Committee will be discreet.

We have asked Osborne to let us know the names of
recipient organizations in Rome so that future remittances
might be made direct from the United States if
desirable. Would it be possible to transfer future
remittances through the machinery used by your government
to finance the United States representative at the Vatican
or to borrow line or obtain them from the Holy See so that
the latter and not the enemy would obtain the equivalent in
Swiss francs? I should be grateful for your comment on this
suggestion.

VINCENT

770
Secretary Morgenthau

Randolph Paul

JAN 5 1944

There is submitted to you for your approval a proposed
cable to the American Legation at Bern, Switzerland, for
transmission by the Legation to Titman, the American
representative at the Vatican. The cable deals with relief
operations involving the Jewish community in Rome.

Also attached are the cables referred to in the pro-
posed cable to Bern, which give the background information
on this matter.

(Initialed) E.N.P.

approved:

Philadelphial 1/4/44
Cable to Bern

Reference is made to your cable No. 4162, December 23, 1943, transmitting Tittman's cable of December 21, 1943, No. 224.

For your information there is repeated to you herewith London's cable of December 26, 1943, No. 3021, which relates to the same matter, and our reply No. 52 of January 4, 1944.

Please repeat above message to Tittman and transmit the following additional message to him:

"In your December 21, No. 224, we have asked Bern to repeat to you London's 3021 of December 26 and our reply No. 52 of January 4, 1944. The Department and the Treasury agree that the necessary assurances may be given that funds up to $35,000 will be forthcoming in the future for these operations. Please advise if additional funds are needed."
Secretary Morgenthau  
JAN 5 1944

Rudolph Paul

There is submitted to you for your approval a proposed cable to the American Legation at Bern, Switzerland, for transmission by the Legation to Tittman, the American representative at the Vatican. The cable deals with relief operations involving the Jewish community in Rome.

Also attached are the cables referred to in the proposed cable, which give the background information on this matter.

(Approved) R.B.P.

Filodelphiad 1/4/44
Cable to Bern

Reference is made to your cable No. 8162, December 28, 1943, transmitting Tittman's cable of December 21, 1943, No. 224.

For your information there is repeated to you herewith London's cable of December 28, 1943, No. 9021, which relates to the same matter, and our reply No. 52 of January 4, 1944.

Please repeat above message to Tittman and transmit the following additional message to him:

"Re your December 21, No. 224, we have asked Bern to repeat to you London's 9021 of December 28 and our reply No. 52 of January 4, 1944. The Department and the Treasury agree that the necessary assurances may be given that funds up to $20,000 will be forthcoming in the future for these operations. Please advise if additional funds are needed."
January 4, 1944

AMERICAN EMBASSY
LONDON
No. 52

Treasury Department requests following reply be sent to your

9021, December 28:

QUOTE This is with reference to your cable No. 9021,
December 28, 1943, concerning suggestion of Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees with regard to funds for
relief work on behalf of Jews in Italy.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has
been approached and is willing to provide up to $20,000
at present time and to consider reasonable additional
amounts if needed. United States Treasury is prepared
to license transaction and will appreciate prompt advice
as to whether remittance may be effected through London
and if so to whom in London funds should be remitted.
Please advise also as to identity of recipient organiza-
tions in Rome so that future remittances can be made
direct from United States if desirable. UNQUOTE

A-L/SGB/HSL  VD  PD  BU
January 4, 1944

AMERICAN EMBASSY

LONDON

No. 537

Treasury Department requests following reply be sent to your

5021, December 29:

SUBJ: This is with reference to your cable No. 5021,
December 29, 1943, concerning suggestion of Intergovern-
mental Committee on Refugees with regard to funds for
relief work on behalf of Jews in Italy.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has
been approached and is willing to provide up to $20,000
at present time and to consider reasonable additional
amounts if needed. United States Treasury is prepared
to license transaction and will appreciate prompt advice
as to whether remittance may be effected through London
and if so to whom in London funds should be remitted.
Please advise also as to identity of recipient organiza-
tions in Rome so that future remittances can be made
direct from United States if desirable. U/J/B/F.

A-1/55-54-281

FD ED
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED
FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: December 23, 1943
NUMBER: 8182

Following is Tittman's cable of December 21, no. 224.

I refer herewith to the cable regarding relief of Jews in Rome which my British colleague sent to London on November 23, 1943, no. 442, for repetition to Washington.

I have since been informed today by the representative of Jews in Rome that considerable funds will be needed urgently at the end of the month. It is suggested by him that if assurances could be given by us either in writing or orally that funds would be forthcoming sometime in the near future from England and the United States, it might be possible for him to negotiate a loan locally using our assurances as security.

Our reply was that such assurances could not be given without previous authorization, but we agreed to transmit the message and ask that consideration be given to the suggestion because of the special conditions prevailing here and likely transfer difficulties through usual channels. It is requested that you consult London and cable at the earliest possible moment.

MARIONTT

DECLASIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 111-72
By R. H. Parkes Date SEP 1 1972
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: December 28, 1943

Following is Mr. Tittman's cable of December 21, no. 224.

I refer herewith to the cable regarding relief of Jews in Rome which my British colleague sent to London on November 24, 1943, no. 442, for repetition to Washington.

We were informed today by the representative of Jews in Rome that considerable funds will be needed urgently at the end of the present month. It is suggested by him that if assurances could be given by Osborne and me either in writing or orally that funds would be forthcoming sometime in the near future from England and the United States, it might be possible for him to negotiate a loan locally using our assurances as security.

Our reply was that such assurances could not be given without previous authorization, but we agreed to transmit the message and ask that consideration be given to the suggestion because of the special conditions prevailing here and likely transfer difficulties through usual channels. It is requested that you consult London and cable at the earliest possible moment.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972
London
Dated December 28, 1943
Rec'd 4:07 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

9021, twenty-eighth.

Embassy has received from Director, Inter-
governmental Committee on Refugees, letter dated
December twenty-second containing suggestion that
Department may wish to approach refugee organizations
in United States as follows:

"The Foreign Office has just informed us that
the British Minister to the Vatican has reported
that the funds of charitable Italians in Rome, who
have been working on behalf of the Jews, especially
the children of those whom the Germans have seized
and probably deported to Germany, are very low and
in consequence they may not be able to continue with
their relief work. The Foreign Office is asking the
Treasury whether they will allow funds for this purpose
to be paid into the account of the British Minister
to the Vatican, and has asked us whether we would
consider
consider approaching some of the Jewish charitable organizations in this country in case they may be disposed to make a contribution.

We are therefore addressing a conditional enquiry to each of the following organizations in London:
World Jewish Congress, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Central Council for Jewish Refugees.

In addition it has occurred to us that you might wish to inform the State Department for whatever approach it might deem advisable to make to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee or other organizations in the United States, on condition that the United States Treasury are willing to allow transmission of funds for this purpose.

WINANT

WTD
London
Dated December 29, 1943
Read 4:07 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

SOMI, twenty-eighth.
Embassy has received from Director, Inter-
governmental Committee on Refugees, letter dated
December twenty-second containing suggestion that
Department may wish approach refugee organizations
in United States as follows:

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the British Minister to the Vatican, has reported
that the funds of charitable Italians in Rome, who
have been working on behalf of the Jews, especially
the children of those whom the Germans have seized
and probably deported to Germany, are very low and
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We are therefore addressing a conditional enquiry to each of the following organizations in London:
World Jewish Congress, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Central Council for Jewish Refugees.

In addition it has occurred to us that you might wish to inform the State Department for whatever approach it might seem advisable to make to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee or other organizations in the United States, on condition that the United States Treasury are willing to allow transmission of funds for this purpose.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
At 5:40 p.m. Mr. Brandt of the State Department telephoned Miss Hodel's office to say that the attached cable to London was being sent out.
January 3, 1944
4:25 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

I called Breckinridge Long's secretary regarding the attached. She advised me that Mr. Long is out of the city but action is being taken on the cable. She also stated that she would have someone telephone me as soon as a message was sent out and would arrange for a copy of such message to be sent to us.

F. Hodel
MEMORANDUM TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY LONG

Reference is made to cable No. 9021 of December 28, 1943, from London, a copy of which was forwarded to me by Mr. Travers.

It is suggested that a reply be promptly sent to London along the following lines:

"This is with reference to your cable No. 9021, December 28, 1943, concerning suggestion of Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees with regard to funds for relief work on behalf of Jews in Italy.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has been approached and is willing to provide up to $20,000 at present time and to consider reasonable additional amounts if needed. United States Treasury is prepared to license transaction and will appreciate prompt advice as to whether remittance may be affected through London and if so to whom in London funds should be remitted. Please advise also as to identity of recipient organizations in Rome so that future remittances can be made direct from United States if desirable."

It will be appreciated if this Department is furnished with a copy of the message sent.

(Signed) T.R. 1/2/43

Sent by special messenger
11:38 a.m.

Pho le 1/2/43
This is with reference to your cable No. 9021, December 28, 1943, concerning suggestion of Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees with regard to funds for relief work on behalf of Jews in Italy.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has been approached and is willing to provide up to $20,000 at present time and to consider reasonable additional amounts if needed. United States Treasury is prepared to license transaction and will appreciate prompt advice as to whether remittance may be effected through London and if so to whom in London funds should be remitted. Please advise also as to identity of recipient organizations in Rome so that future remittances can be made direct from United States if desirable.
Secretary of State,
Washington.

9021, twenty-eighth.

Embassy has received from Director, Inter-governamental Committee on Refugees, letter dated December twenty-second containing suggestion that Department may wish approach refugee organizations in United States as follows:

"The Foreign Office has just informed us that the British Minister to the Vatican has reported that the funds of charitable Italians in Rome, who have been working on behalf of the Jews, especially the children of those whom the Germans have seized and probably deported to Germany, are very low and in consequence they may not be able to continue with their relief work. The Foreign Office is asking the Treasury whether they will allow funds for this purpose to be paid into the account of the British Minister to the Vatican, and has asked us whether we would consider approaching some of the Jewish charitable organizations..."
organizations in this country in case they may be disposed to make a contribution.

We are therefore addressing a conditional enquiry to each of the following organizations in London:
World Jewish Congress, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Central Council for Jewish Refugees.

In addition it has occurred to us that you might wish to inform the State Department for whatever approach it might deem advisable to make to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee or other organizations in the United States, on condition that the United States Treasury are willing to allow transmission of funds for this purpose.

WINANT

WTD
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 6, 1943
NUMBER: 6255

Mayer requests that the joint distribution committee be informed that he is investigating conditions in Italy through recently arrived refugees and will very soon submit in detail suggestions for Italian relief.

The foregoing refers to the Department's no. 2371 of September 28 which transmitted a message to Saly Mayer, Jewish refugee fund, Saint Gallen.

HARRISON
Sept. 27, 1943

Mr. Stone
Mr. Pohle

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of today, it will be appreciated if you will have the attached cable dispatched immediately to the American Legation, Bern, Switzerland. Mr. Valobra who is referred to in the message is the Chairman of the Delegazione Assistenza Emigranti, the Italian Committee with which the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has been dealing in Italy. Valobra was last heard of in Milan, Italy.

cc: Hodel, Schwartz, DaBois, Taylor
Delivered via special messenger - 9/27/43 - 4:35 pm
to Mr. Stone, rm 214 State Dept.
CABLE TO BERN

The Treasury has authorized the Joint Distribution Committee to transmit the following message, notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11, to its representative in Switzerland, Selv. Mayer, Jewish Refugees Fund, St. Gall, Switzerland. Please see that this message is promptly delivered to Mayer:

*Please advise Valobra Delasa or other authorized representative of Delasa that Joint Distribution Committee authorizes Valobra or such other authorized representative to borrow locally lira equivalent of one hundred twenty thousand dollars for refugee relief needs for next six months.

LEAVITT

Joint Distribution Committee*

cc: Hotel, Shwartz, DaBois, Taylor
Delivered via special messenger - 9/27/43 - 4:35 pm
to Mr. Stone, rm 214 State Dept.
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO
Secretary Morgenthau

FROM
Ralph Paul

Now that the Chungking cable transmitting a message from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to its representative in Shanghai has been sent, we desire to raise with State a similar matter involving Italy.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has advised us that, prior to our entry into the war, they supported the Delegazione Assistanza Emigranti, a refugee assistance group, in Italy and that they desire to send the following message to their representative in Bern.

"Please advise Valobra that he is authorized by Joint Distribution Committee to borrow locally lira equivalent of one hundred twenty thousand dollars for refugee relief needs for next six months."

Mr. Valobra is the chairman of the Delegazione Assistanza Emigranti and was last heard of in Milan, Italy.

The considerations in this matter would seem to be primarily the same as those involved in connection with the sending of the Chungking cable. Of course, no direct aid will accrue to the enemy. If you agree we shall request State to send the above quoted message to Bern.

Approved: [Signature]

SEP 25 [1941]
CABLE TO BERN

The Treasury authorized the Joint Distribution Committee to transmit to its representative in Switzerland, Salo Mayer, Jewish Refugee Fund, St. Gall, Switzerland, the following message with utmost secrecy and urgency.

"The Joint Distribution Committee is prepared to authorize Salo Mayer, yourself, or any other responsible officer of the Delegazioni Assistenza Emigranti to borrow in Italy Italian lira up to the equivalent of one hundred twenty thousand dollars for a period of six months, commencing September, to alleviate the situation of Jewish refugees in Italy. If necessary and to insure reimbursement after the war to persons in Italy who furnish local currency or services in connection with these financial arrangements, a blocked account can be established under appropriate safeguards by deposit of funds by the Joint Distribution Committee.

"If it is not possible to obtain all or any part of the lira equivalent of the one hundred and twenty thousand dollars in Italy you are authorized to purchase Italian lira from persons in Switzerland provided sellers are checked by the Legation to ensure that lira have been held by sellers prior to June 10, 1940, or have since accrued to them through dividends or investments in Italy or through similar transactions.

"Inform us which of the two alternative methods outlined above you will adopt and whether the allowance of one hundred twenty thousand dollars for a period of six months, commencing September, will be adequate to meet the current relief problems respecting the refugees in Italy, so that further instructions with respect to the matter may be forwarded to you.

"Consult with Legation at Bern for purpose of working out and obtaining its approval of detailed arrangements for carrying out this program subject to conditions stipulated by Treasury Department."

Fisher: R. H. Shwartz, diw 9/14/43
SALTMAYER
ST. GALL SWITZERLAND

PLEASE ADVISE VALOBRA DELASER ME AUTHORIZED BY JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE TO BORROW LOCALLY EQUIVALENT OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR REFUGEE RELIEF NEEDS FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS STOP JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE GREATLY CONCERNED FATE MANY JEWISH REFUGEES IN ITALIAN OCCUPIED ZONE IN FRANCE STOP COULD VALOBRA MAKE URGENT REPRESENTATIONS TO HIS GOVERNMENT ON EVACUATING THESE REFUGEES TO ITALY AND ADVISE US PROMPTLY

LEAVITT
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
September 2, 1945

Mr. John V. Pehle, Assistant to Secretary
Foreign Funds Control
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We would greatly appreciate your good offices in arranging to have the following cable transmitted to Mr. Solly Mayer in St. Gall, Switzerland. Mr. Mayer is the head of the Jewish Refugee Fund and the committee which we subvention in Switzerland. Mr. Valobra, who is mentioned in the message, is the Chairman of the Delegazione Assistenza Emigranti, the Italian Committee which has dealt with the refugees in that country and to which we made subventions prior to our entry into the war.

"PLEASE ADVISE VALOBR a HE AUTHORIZED BY JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE TO BORROW LOCALLY LIRA EQUIVALENT OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR REFUGEE RELIEF NEEDS FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS LEAVITT JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE"

We are, at the same time, asking the State Department to send a cable through its facilities to Mr. Solly Mayer with reference to the fate of the refugees in Italian-occupied France, and making the suggestion that these refugees might be evacuated to Italy. I have been advised by Mr. Travers of the State Department, that our request will receive most sympathetic consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL/BK

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*Member of Executive Committee
In reply please refer to: 46690

My dear Mr. Acheson:

I have your letter of May 31, 1943, transmitting a copy of a letter and memorandum dated May 9, 1943, from Mr. Harold Tittmann, American Charge d'Affaires at Vatican City, regarding the desire of Delegazione Assistenza Emigranti Ebrei (Deleasen) to obtain a documentary guarantee from the Joint Distribution Committee in the United States stating that such Committee would undertake to make certain funds available to the Italian organization at such time as the exchange restrictions of this Government would permit.

This is to advise you that this Department has considered carefully the proposal outlined in the attachments to your letter under reference. Similar proposals which this Department has received have been consistently denied since it is felt that current prohibitions against financial or commercial arrangements with enemy territory cannot be relaxed.

This Department expresses the view, therefore, that it would be decidedly inconsistent with this Government's present position on such matters to allow the transmission of a document along the proposed lines to enemy territory.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle
J. W. Pehle
Assistant to the Secretary

Honorable Dean Acheson,
Assistant Secretary of State.

JA Eichman 6-10-43
FPC-13
(7-42)

FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL

TO: ) Mr. Bahn

(2) ......................................

(3) ......................................

Suggest you advise State that requests are
have not been denied
proposed for such amounts
in any territory, and
that the current proposal is
unusually objectionable.

FROM: )

(Signature)  
(Date)
In reply refer to SD May 31, 1943.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In Mr. Welles' absence I am transmitting herewith a copy of a letter and of an accompanying memorandum dated May 3, 1943, which have been received from Mr. Harold Tittmann, American Chargé d'Affaires at Vatican City, in regard to the desire of a member of the Delegazione Assistenza Emigranti Ebrei (Delgsam) in Italy to obtain a statement from the Joint Distribution Committee in the United States saying that it would authorize the payment of post-war refunds to cover advances made to "Delgsam" in Italy for the relief of Jewish refugees there.

Inasmuch as a transaction of this nature would appear to be governed by existing regulations relating to transfers of funds abroad, I should very much appreciate receiving whatever comments the Treasury Department may wish to make in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

As stated.

The Honorable

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,

Secretary of the Treasury.
AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE

Vatican City, May 3, 1943.

Dear Mr. Welles:

I received a call today from Avv. L. V. Valobra, an Italian citizen who is head of the organization in Italy which provides for the maintenance of Jewish refugees in Italy (Delegazione Assistenza Emigranti Ebrei, otherwise known as "Delsam").

Avv. Valobra informed me that before the outbreak of war between Italy and the United States the Joint Distribution Committee in the United States had made funds available to his organization for the maintenance of the refugees, but that since hostilities began he had received nothing from this source. Meanwhile, he said, the maintenance expenses were being borne by the Jewish Community in Italy, but owing to the increasing number of refugees and the progressive impoverishment of the Community, the problem of finding the necessary money was becoming acute.

In order to relieve the situation, he proposes that he be furnished, if possible, with some sort of document by the Joint Distribution Committee which, he understands, is continuing in spite of the war to assign dollar funds in the United States to the credit of his organization, stating that these funds would be available at some future date when the exchange restrictions of the United States have been lifted. With such a document he believes that he could borrow Italian lire against the funds in question and thus solve his problem. I enclose a memorandum of my conversation with Avv. Valobra describing the situation in more detail.

I explained to Avv. Valobra that I could promise nothing, not even a reply, but that I would endeavor nevertheless to acquaint the Joint Distribution Committee with this proposal. In case the latter should have any communication to make in regard to this matter to Avv. Valobra and if it can be forwarded to me, I shall be glad to endeavor to see that it reaches him.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Harold Tittmann

Under Secretary of State,

Department of State,

Washington, D. C.

Enclosure:

Copy of Memorandum of Conversation.

The Honorable

Sumner Welles,

Under Secretary of State,

Department of State,

Washington, D. C.
Enclosure to letter dated May 3, 1943, to Mr. Welles.

Memorandum of conversation with Avv. L. V. Valobra, Piazza Vittoria No. 4, Genoa, an Italian citizen who is head of the Delegazione Assistenza Emigranti Ebrei ("Delasem").

Avv. Valobra began by saying that, up to the outbreak of war between Italy and the United States, the Joint Distribution Committee in the United States regularly assigned to the "Delasem" monthly sums to be used for the relief of Jewish refugees in Italy. Since hostilities began, however, the "Delasem" has received nothing from the Joint Distribution Committee and has been unable to get in touch with the latter. However, Avv. Valobra received word through Switzerland that the Joint Distribution Committee was continuing, in spite of the war, to make dollar deposits in the United States to the credit of the "Delasem". Meanwhile, the "Delasem" is providing for the maintenance of the refugees with funds collected from the Jewish Community in Italy.

Avv. Valobra gave me the following information:

Since the last report of his organization to the Joint Distribution Committee the number of Jewish Refugees in Italy has increased from about 6,000 to about 10,000, made up as follows: 5,000 Yugoslav; 2,000 Polish; 750 Czechoslovak; and the remainder other nationalities, German, Austrian, etc. For these refugees in concentration camps and those interned the Italian Government provides the following daily subsidies: 8 lire per man, 4 lire per woman, and 3 lire per child. Since the subsidies are entirely inadequate for minimum maintenance, they must be supplemented with funds from the "Delasem". As to the 2,000 refugees in Italy and the 1,000 at Spalato and neighboring islands who are free and are therefore not entitled to government subsidies, the expense of their maintenance is fully borne by the "Delasem".

The budget of the "Delasem" for 1942 was 6,200,000 lire representing contributions from Italian Orthodox Jews. These contributions are voluntary, since the head of the Community may not impose taxes for charitable purposes. There are at present about 25,000 Orthodox Jews in Italy; in other words one refugee for every 2-1/2 Italian Jews. It is explained that official statistics place the number of Italian Jews at 35,000 but this number includes 10,000 converted Jews who, for political reasons, find it difficult to contribute.

The Jewish Community in Italy has been impoverished by the measures of the Italian Government restricting
the professional and other gainful activities of the Jews in Italy. The position of the Italian Government is that, while it agrees to protect the Jewish refugees, the Community itself must provide for their maintenance.

In view of the increasing financial burden which the maintenance of the refugees is imposing upon a Community which is progressively less able to bear it, Avv. Valobra suggests the following: Would it be possible for the Joint Distribution Committee in the United States to provide him with some sort of document stating that the assignment of dollar funds in the United States to the credit of the "Delasem" is continuing and that after the exchange restrictions of the United States Government now in force owing to the war have been lifted, these dollar funds will be made available to the "Delasem"? With such a document Avv. Valobra feels that he might be able to borrow Italian lire against these dollar funds and thus solve a financial problem that is causing anxiety to his organization in its efforts to provide for the maintenance of the Jewish refugees in Italy.

Vatican City, May 3, 1943.

Harold H. Tittmann