Apostolic Delegate

FFC-76
(11-42)

CROSS REFERENCE ON APOSTOLIC DELEGATE

FOR:

Amendment to this License . . . . . ☐

Extension of this License . . . . . ☐

Renewal of this License . . . . . ☐

Correspondence concerning this application . ☐

Other (Specify)

1. FOR LETTERS:
   #861, 5/24/44 from Apostolic Delegate
   #611, 4/25/44 from Apostolic Delegate
   Reply 5/2/44

   FOR MEMO:
   3/21/44 from Mr. Lesser to Mr. Pehle

2. FOR LETTERS:
   #620, 4/27/44 from Apostolic Delegate
   #600, 4/21/44, from Apostolic Delegate

   FOR MEMO:
   4/6/44, from Mr. Friedman to Mr. Pehle

3. FOR LETTERS
   #624, 4/27/44 from Apostolic Delegate
   #638, 4/26/44 from Apostolic Delegate
   #670, 5/6/44 from Apostolic Delegate

SEE:

1. MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARD HALTING PERSECUTIONS (01)
2. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEE EVACUATION TO AND THRU' TURKEY
3. RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS (2)

Apostolic Delegate

New York World-Telegram
NOV 8 1944

Jews Assured Of Aid by Pope

Pope Pius XII will continue to intercede on behalf of the Jews in any European nation where they continue to be persecuted, the Apostolic Delegate at Washington yesterday assured Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, director of the rescue department of the World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway.

The assurance was in answer to an appeal by Dr. Kubowitzki for aid for Jews in Hungary where, under the Nazi-controlled regime, wholesale deportations of Jews are reported.

Nov. 2, 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

You may be interested in the attached cable (particularly the first paragraph) from Myron Taylor at the Vatican to the President and Secretary Hull.

(Initialed) J.W.P.

Attachment

JWPehle:lhh 11-2-44

COPY

EXCERPT OF
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Delegation, Vatican City

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: October 29, 1944

NUMBER: 359

[redacted]

Following is for the Secretary and the President.

This morning at an audience I reviewed with the Pope the general war situation with particular reference to Germany. Like similar audiences in the recent past, I have been conscious of a growing and developed realization on the part of the Pope of the cruel and inhuman practices which are now reaching a climax in various areas toward which the Pope feels that he had exerted continuing attempts to allay but which he feels are completely disregarded at this moment. This applies to both recent cables which you have directly or indirectly sent to me at the instance of the War Refugee Board (you 55 and 56 of October 25 and 26 respectively). However, the Pope will continue his efforts in which he displays a very real desire to help.

As is our weekly custom, we discussed at some length the question of relief supplies and activities and relationship between supply of clothing and food to the political future of the state. It has always been indicated in my previous cables that the first step towards stability here was to supply clothing and food. In any event the failure to supply them will hasten, if not create of itself consequences of political importance.

The Pope takes obvious satisfaction in the National Committee for distribution of relief, our first attempts at cooperative distribution with regard to atebrin (see note) having been most successful and with the receipt of the first shipments of donated relief from American Relief from America

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972

to put it to a second and more general test. We are forwarding today, on the basis of these experiences, a summary that we are making of the facilities of the three combined agencies for distribution that we hope of supporting our judgment that the activities of UNRRA should be administered through the same channels which allow of adequate supervision by its limited staff of UNRRA representatives along with those of our other supervisory and contributing groups.

Note: An acute malarial condition which last week was discovered to prevail to the extent of ninety percent of the population in the Cassino area. They had not distributed an adequate supply of atebrin and the death toll was great. We discovered and obtained one million and a quarter atebrin tablets and the situation is being dealt with by a medical group of national committee representative of the Government, the Vatican and the Italian Red Cross who are already in the area.

TAYLOR

CC - Mr. Pehle, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Akzin, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Abrahamson

NOV 2 1944

My dear Archbishop:

A report from Bern from private sources indicates that the Nunciature at Bern may present to the Holy See a proposal whereby the Vatican, together with certain neutral governments, would intercede with the German Government on behalf of civilian deportees in German-controlled territories. According to the report, the proposal envisages that Germany would be requested

(a) to liberate or allow to be interned in neutral countries those deportees who are elderly men, women, and children; and

(b) to apply to other deportees treatment similar to that accorded prisoners of war.

Without knowing whether this report is correct, I, nevertheless, wish to assure you that, in the opinion of the Board, a step of this kind might result in saving the lives of deported civilians in German-controlled territory.

I should, however, like to draw your attention to two particularly important circumstances. First, the Germans have often shown a tendency to exclude Jews from concessions made in response to foreign intercessions, and to assume that Jews are not among the persons on whose behalf any intercession is made unless express reference is made to them. Second, the value of any German concessions will be doubtful unless provision is made for effective supervision of their execution by competent neutral authorities.

Should you deem it appropriate, I would be very grateful if you could bring the foregoing comments to the attention of the Holy See.

Very truly yours,
(Signed J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director.

His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Amleto Giovanni Cicognani,
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia,
The Apostolic Delegate,
Washington.

BAkzint:LMLesser:hh 11-2-44 Y.S.L.

-14

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

No 581/42.

THIS NO. SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

October 17, 1944.

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of October 16, 1944, and to thank you for your kindness in forwarding the copy of your address in Boston. I appreciate having this impressive summary of the work of the War Refugee Board and I take this occasion to compliment you on your achievements as Executive Director.

With sentiments of esteem and every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours,

+A. G. Cicognani

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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October 16, 1944

My dear Archbishop Cicognani:

You may be interested in the attached copy of an address which I delivered on Sunday, October 15 in Boston, Massachusetts.

I was happy to be able to testify publicly to the generous assistance which the Catholic Church has rendered in rescuing and protecting refugees.

I would also like to express to you again our heart-felt thanks.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

His Excellency,
The Most Reverend
Amleto Giovanni Cicognani,
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia,
The Apostolic Delegate,
Washington, D. C.

Attachment.

JWP:dg 10/16/44

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Executive Office of the President

Washington

RELEASE NO. 15

(The following address by John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, before a dinner meeting of the Combined Jewish Appeal, at the Statler Hotel, Boston, is scheduled for delivery at 8 p. m., Eastern War Time, Sunday, October 15, 1944, and is for release at that time.)

Tonight I want to tell you something about the rescue program which the War Refugee Board has been carrying on for the past eight months with the help of the voluntary philanthropic agencies of America, the governments of the neutral countries, the underground of Europe, and men of good will everywhere. I cannot blueprint all the details of that program, but I can give you some examples taken from the files of the War Refugee Board of the work that has gone ahead. And these illustrations bear witness to the practical and ingenious humanitarianism of the American people during the grimmest war in all history.

In Gothenburg, Sweden, 15,000 food parcels from America were recently unloaded — destined for helpless inmates of internment camps . . . 285,000 more parcels are now on their way.

In a Balkan country a humanitarian volunteer arrives equipped with sufficient status, prestige and funds to aid the victims of enemy persecution. . . His first act is to furnish a shelter for Jewish refugees. . . He is currently using private funds that originated in America to provide food — especially for children.

Of many couriers who have entered the Baltic countries to rescue refugees, some have been reported missing immediately after their arrival and others have even lost their lives in the effort.

Over the Pyrenees groups of children tortuously made their escape from France, prior to its liberation, to Spain, with the blessing of the Maquis, and with the aid of guides paid by funds from America. . . A few weeks later some are on their way to Palestine.

Along the Black Sea coast of Rumania small ships gather groups of refugees for a hazardous trip to Turkey. . . In Turkey, two Americans persuade local authorities to cut red tape and to permit refugees arriving on foot and in small boats to cross the country on their way from the Balkans to Palestine.

In a neutral country a prominent personage writes a personal letter in longhand for delivery to Horthy, asking that there be a stop to the deportation and extermination of Jews from Hungary. . . As a result of this and other protests, the British and American governments accepted the offer of the Hungarian government to release Jews and agreed to care for those reaching United Nations or neutral territories.

All over Europe listeners to secret radios hear statements of protest and warning against persecution of Jews issued by President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Hull, and two Congressional committees of the United States. . . Pamphlets drop over Hungary warning of retribution for her inhuman conduct.

In Southern Italy an American helps arrange for the escape in fragile ships of the downtrodden from Yugoslavia across the Adriatic to Italy. . . Some of those escaping later appear in African refugee camps and in an American Refugee Shelter.

In a camp at Casablanca several hundred wondering Sephardics at last find a temporary haven. . .

In upper New York State an American soldier visits his parents who, with almost 1,000 others have been brought to Oswego.

In Lisbon a committee meets to facilitate the departure of refugees who have come from France. . . Some arrive in Palestine. . . Some in Canada.

In London high government officials, American and British, join officers of an international organization to expedite the rescue of refugees.

In Poland, as in other occupied countries in Europe, underground groups protect exposed refugees by hiding them, by disguising them, by moving them from place to place.

These items constitute part of the story of the current war effort. America has been using every imaginable device to contest the enemy's barbaric determination to wipe out complete sections of the world's non-combatant population.

This is not idle rhetoric. There can be no doubt that Hitler and his partners in barbarism have a deliberate plan to exterminate entire segments of the population of Europe, including particularly the Jews.

This effort, as we know from the evidence at Lublin and Kharkov and from much unpublished material, has not been confined to the Jews. In obvious preparation for another war, the Germans have killed large numbers of non-Jewish intellectual and cultural leaders of Poland. Huge segments of the Russian civilian population have been slaughtered. Entire groups in all the other occupied countries have fallen under the crushing heel of Hitler and his followers.

And there have been tens of thousands of individuals who have been selected for death simply because they kept on being themselves -- which meant being an anti-Nazi preacher, a true democrat, a courageous patriot, an honest journalist, or a humane citizen.

We have been shocked to the extreme by this war of extermination. The barbarity of the enemy has aroused the conscience of America. It has mobilized our sympathies, and it has inspired the Government of the United States to do all that can be done to rescue the intended victims of enemy slaughter.

Specifically, this revulsion in America has expressed itself in the creation of the War Refugee Board by President Roosevelt. It has been my privilege to serve as Executive Director of this Board, the members of which are Secretary Hull, Secretary Morgenthau, and Secretary Stimson.

In creating the War Refugee Board the President declared: "It is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war."

The creation of the Board and the statement of this goal are landmarks in the humanitarian history of America. The Government of the United States issued a solemn statement of policy in behalf of refugees, and it asked three members of the Cabinet to take all feasible steps to implement that policy.

As a result of my service with the Board, I have come to appreciate more than ever some typically American qualities in their true magnificence. I have learned that Americans are capable of heartfelt indignation when barbarities are committed during the course of a war. And I have learned that our American way permits indignation to be translated into action -- in time of war no less than in times of peace.

Without the widespread and insistent public interest in the perilous condition of European refugees, it would have been most difficult to establish the Board and to carry on its operations. Many of those who have been saved from Europe's deathtraps owe their lives to American sympathy and American effort.

There is evidence that the oppressed and endangered peoples of Europe are keenly aware of America's interest and America's activities. Ira A. Hirschmann, War Refugee Board representative in Ankara, has told us of a recent incident that illustrates this awareness.

Following the recent break in relations between Turkey and Germany, a number of individual Germans, Austrians and Czechs, known to be anti-Nazi, found themselves under a threat of expulsion from Turkey because they were technically Germans in the eyes of the Turkish authorities. Some approached the War Refugee Board representative for aid. They

received it and I am happy to say that the Turkish Government has dealt sympathetically with these cases. One of them was a woman who had lived in Turkey for 12 years and who was accompanied by a one-year old child. When asked why she had come to the United States officials, she replied: "Where else should I go? It seemed only natural to come here. Who else really cares?"

Another typically American institution whose importance has emerged clearer than ever is the voluntary philanthropic agency. A quick and effective program of the War Refugee Board was made possible by generous contributions of suggestions, personnel, and funds by private agencies that had already existed in the field of international rescue and relief work.

I want to pay my unqualified respects to these agencies for their generous support. As matters have developed, the War Refugee Board has served as a central enabling and expediting body for all agencies — Jewish and non-Jewish, new and old, reform and orthodox, soft-spoken and outspoken.

To catalog these agencies would be impossible. But I want to mention a few. The constituent agencies of the United Jewish Appeal — the United Palestine Appeal, the National Refugee Service, and particularly the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee — have contributed most of the funds that have carried on rescue and relief programs. Funds, ideas and unstinted cooperation have also come in varying amounts from other agencies, such as the World Jewish Congress and HIAS.

It is the purpose of the War Refugee Board to strengthen agencies like these by giving them the support of a clear-cut statement of sympathetic policy by this government and by using the diplomatic, licensing and communication facilities of the government to help them achieve their welfare ends.

I also want to pay tribute to many non-Jewish groups and individuals who have shown a true Christian spirit in their quick and friendly reaction in support of the helpless of Europe. This help has come from both Protestant and Catholic organizations. The American Friends Service Committee and the Unitarian Service Committee have made important contributions, as have other Protestant groups.

The record of the Catholic Church in this regard has been inspiring. All over Europe, Catholic priests have furnished hiding places and protection to the persecuted. His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, has interceded on many occasions in behalf of refugees in danger.

In this country, too, we have received help from Catholic leaders. At a most critical point in the Hungarian situation, Archbishop Spellman wrote a truly impressive supplication to the Catholics of that country to protect and help the Jews. This moving statement was broadcast in Hungarian, and reprints of it were dropped over Hungary.

Of great assistance, too, was a statement of protest against Hungarian atrocities prepared by the late Alfred E. Smith in conjunction with over 100 other non-Jewish leaders.

The net result of all the efforts I have mentioned has been a significant contribution in the rescue of helpless human beings. It is difficult to measure the results of the Board's efforts in figures. Actually thousands of persons were rescued from enemy territory. There is reason to believe that several hundreds of thousands escaped death in the occupied countries as the result of the psychological and diplomatic efforts of the Board.

Thus, in the American tradition, as the result of a partnership between private groups and a government agency, there has been affirmed -- in word and in action -- the principle of human fellowship.

In the matter of philanthropic effort, there is danger in confining ourselves to the recent past or to the present. The instruments of humanitarianism must be plastic. They must be fashioned for use in the challenging new days that lie ahead -- days of liberation, days of peace, days of reconstruction.

We know from recent experience in Italy, in France, and in Belgium that there is a prodigious task ahead in the field of post-liberation relief and rehabilitation. We know, also, that UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees have staked out certain areas of activity, and are hard at work. But we also know that important functions are even today being performed by voluntary agencies. And we have reason to believe that private groups will continue to play an important role. It is most important that voluntary agencies be supported fully during the period that lies before us.

This war has brought untold suffering and sorrow to the people of the world. It has been particularly severe on the Jewish population, which has been reduced nearly one-third by the atrocities of Hitler. Jews and Christians alike have shed dry, bitter tears at the unspeakable atrocities committed on the body and mind of man. The time for tears is almost over. The time for constructive action is near. Determined men and women must soon pick up the pieces of our civilization, reassemble them, and move forward into a world of peace, where human dignity and the brotherhood of man may once more prevail.

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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
3339 Massachusetts Avenue
WASHINGTON, D.C.

No. 581/42 June 26, 1944

My dear Mr. Stettinius:

I wish to acknowledge your esteemed communication of June 24, 1944, regarding the plight of Jews and other persons detained in camps by the German and satellite governments for reasons of race, religion or political belief.

Today I have communicated the substance of your communication to His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State, and it is a pleasure to assure you that the Holy See will do everything in its power to obtain for these unfortunates a treatment similar to that accorded to civilian internees.

As soon as a response is received from the Holy See it will be my pleasure to inform you of the content of the same.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, and of my deep personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) A. G. CICOGNANI
Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

The Honorable

Edward R. Stettinius

Under Secretary of State

June 24, 1944

My dear Archbishop:

In recent months, the Holy See, and Your Excellency personally have given the Government of the United States repeated indications of the concern with which you view the persecution of Jews in territories controlled by Germany and her satellites, and of your readiness to take measures intended to alleviate the sufferings of these victims of oppression. Consequently, this Government feels it appropriate to refer to you another aspect of the persecution of Jews in Axis-controlled areas in Europe.

As you are aware, the food situation is desperate for Jews and other persons detained in camps by the German and satellite governments for reasons of race, religion or political belief. These people are exposed to starvation and are in imminent danger of death. This Government feels strongly that steps should be taken at once to sustain their lives. Specifically, it is felt that the plight of these suffering people would be greatly alleviated if Germany and the satellite governments would permit them to receive treatment equal to that presently being accorded to assimilated civilian

His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Amleto Giovanni Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia,
The Apostolic Delegate
Washington, D. C.

civilian internees of American and British nationalities. It is the hope of this Government to secure this treatment in full or at least in part -- a hope undoubtedly shared by the Holy See and by you personally.

In view of the extremely critical condition of these people, this Government would greatly appreciate it if you would be so good as to present this matter to the urgent attention of the Holy See. It is hoped that the Holy See will find it feasible and appropriate to use its good offices with the German and satellite governments to bring about, with respect to Jews and other persons detained, interned or otherwise confined because of race, religion or political belief, (1) treatment equal to that accorded civilian internees to whom the Geneva Convention is currently applied by analogy, or (2) equal treatment of such persons to the extent at least that reception and distribution of packages under the International Red Cross supervision be permitted them under guarantees equal to those in effect with respect to the civilian internees referred to in (1) above.

We feel strongly that (1) above is preferable and suggest that (2) should be sought only if in the judgment of the Holy See (1) is unobtainable.

In view of the generous interest and sustained activity of the Holy See on behalf of all persecuted minorities, it is hoped that this matter may be given favorable consideration.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD R. STETTINIUS, JR.

JUN 15 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Edward R. Stettinius

FROM: Mr. J. W. Pehle

I am sending you herewith for your prompt consideration a draft of a proposed letter to the Apostolic Delegate from the Department of State.

The request contained in the letter is identical with that sent to the International Red Cross by State Department's Cable No. 1498 to Bern of April 29. As you may know, the issue and wording of that request received careful consideration by the Department of State and FEA previous to its despatch in April. The enclosed letter, therefore, does not raise any new question of policy.

In view of the recent refusal of the International Red Cross to transmit our request to the German and satellite governments, it becomes necessary to enlist the aid of the Vatican in transmitting and supporting the request, if it is to be made at all. You will appreciate that the Vatican's efforts might be especially valuable with respect to Hungary, where, at the moment, the largest number of Jews are being "detained."

In view of the Board's recent relations with Archbishop Cicognani, it is thought that a message routed through him would produce results more quickly than if it were sent directly to our representative at the Vatican. Of course, a copy of the enclosed letter might be sent to Mr. Tittman for his information and guidance.

Because of the broad scope of the issue, it is thought that the enclosed letter ought to come from the Department of State rather than from the War Refugee Board.

I shall be grateful for your cooperation in this most urgent matter.

Copies to: Abrahamson
Du Bois
McCormack
Shadel
Mr. Pehle

(Initialed) J. W. P.

Original initialed by Mr. Pehle

BAkzin:FH:AA/lr 6/12/44

L.S.L.

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My dear Archbishop Giesgmani:

In recent months, the Holy See, and Your Excellency personally, have given the Government of the United States repeated indications of the concern with which you view the persecution of Jews in territories controlled by Germany and her satellites, and of your readiness to take measures intended to alleviate the sufferings of these victims of oppression. Consequently, this Government feels it appropriate to refer to you another aspect of the persecution of Jews in Axis-controlled areas in Europe.

Your attention is called to the fact that the food situation is desperate for Jews and other persons detained in camps by the German and satellite governments for reasons of race, religion or political belief. These people are exposed to wholesale starvation and are in imminent danger of death. This Government feels strongly that steps should be taken at once to sustain their lives. Specifically, it is felt that the plight of these suffering people would be greatly alleviated if Germany and the satellite governments would permit them to receive treatment equal to that presently being accorded to assimilated civilian internees of American and British nationalities. It is the hope of this Government to secure this treatment in full or at least in part -- a hope undoubtedly shared by the Holy See and by you personally.

In view of the extremely critical condition of these people,

this Government respectfully requests that you present this matter to the urgent attention of the Holy See. This Government ~~further~~ hopes that the Holy See will find it appropriate to use its good offices with the German and satellite governments to bring about, with respect to Jews and other persons detained, interned or otherwise confined because of race, religion, or political belief, (1) treatment equal to that accorded civilian internees to whom the Geneva Convention is currently applied by analogy, or (2) equal treatment of such persons to the extent at least that reception and distribution of packages under the International Red Cross supervision be permitted them under guarantees equal to those in effect with respect to the civilian internees referred to in (1) above.

We feel strongly that (1) above is preferable and suggest that (2) should be sought only if in the judgment of the Holy See (1) is unobtainable.

In view of Your Excellency's interest and activity in the past on behalf of all persecuted minorities, it is hoped that the measure suggested will have your full personal sympathy.

His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Aulete Giovanni Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia
The Apostolic Delegate
Washington, D. C.

McCormack:FH:AA/ir 6/12/44
L.S.L. (See note)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

W. R. B. *508
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

Nº 581/42

THIS NO. SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

April 4, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I acknowledge your letter of April 3, 1944, regarding the action taken by the Holy See to assist suffering Jews in Rumania and Hungary.

In regard to the condition of Jews in Slovakia I fully appreciate the comments you have made on the assurances given by Dr. Tiso. Undoubtedly the Holy See itself realized the vagueness of the explanation given, and I am sure that they will continue to employ every effort to obtain the a more humane treatment of the Jews in that country.

Nonetheless I shall be pleased to communicate with His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State, to ask any possible clarification of the previous message, and particularly to invoke the good offices of the Holy See that the Jews released from Slovakia may be sent to neutral countries rather than to Poland or to other well known interment centers under German control.

With the assurances of my highest consideration and of my deep personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

A. G. Cicognani

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

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APR 3 1944

My dear Archbishop Cicognani:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letters of March 25, and March 31, 1944. In reply, I wish to express to you, on behalf of the War Refugee Board, its deep appreciation of your speedy action in invoking the assistance of the Holy See, and the Board's gratitude to the Holy See for its efforts to assist the suffering Jews in Hungary and Rumania.

I take this opportunity to draw your particular attention to the treatment of Jews in Slovakia. The attention of the War Refugee Board has been drawn to a letter addressed by the Apostolic Delegation to Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, of the World Jewish Congress, on February 26, 1944.

In this letter, it was stated that

"the Holy See has taken up the interests of these unfortunate people. It seems that the census was made for the purpose of investigating certain specific suspicions. It likewise appears that the President of the Republic has promised that the Jews will not be persecuted, that is, condemned to severe punishments, but will only be interned and will be given opportunity and facilities to go to some other country.

"The Holy See will continue to take interest in the sad and uncertain condition of these unfortunate people."

In view of this Government's deep concern for the welfare of the Jews in Slovakia and elsewhere under Nazi domination, the War Refugee Board is happy to note the assurance contained in your letter to Dr. Perlzweig regarding the interest which the Holy See takes in their condition. At the same time, the common interest which the Government of the United States shares with the Holy See prompts me to bring to your attention the view that the assurances given by Dr. Tiso to the Holy See, referred to in the aforementioned letter to Dr. Perlzweig, are not of a nature to allay any fears regarding the fate of Jews in Slovakia.

Thus, the assurance that "the census was made for the purpose of investigating certain specific suspicions", is not without ambiguity since it does not contain any specific indication as to the use to which the information gained by the census will be put.

Similarly, the assurance that Jews in Slovakia "will be given opportunity and facilities to go to some other country", is of uncertain meaning since it is susceptible to the interpretation that Dr. Tiso and his associates contemplate the deportation of Jews to Poland or elsewhere, in accordance with the pattern and for the purpose heretofore evidenced in other countries under Nazi domination.

Furthermore, the War Refugee Board would appreciate the clarification of the meaning of the statement that "the Jews will not be persecuted, that is condemned to severe punishments, but will only be interned".

It is the view of the War Refugee Board that no assurances from Dr. Tiso and his associates could be considered adequate unless they include undertakings that Jews in Slovakia will not be persecuted, and that under no circumstances will they be removed from Slovakia to Germany or to any territory occupied by the German military forces.

These observations are submitted in the earnest hope that they may assist the Holy See in any conversations with Dr. Tiso or his associates proceeding from the Department of State's letter of February 21st last to the Apostolic Delegation with respect to the Jews in Slovakia.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Amleto Giovanni Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia
The Apostolic Delegate
Washington.

L.S.L.

LSLesser:BA:jp 3/31/44

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Nº 581/42.
THIS NO. SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

March 31, 1944.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

In reply to my recent communication to the Cardinal Secretary of State, Vatican City, mentioned in my letter to you under date of March 25, 1944, I received the following message:

The Holy See has taken advantage of every possible occasion to bring assistance to suffering Jewish people. Some time ago the Apostolic Nuncios in Bucharest and Budapest were called upon to interest themselves in the lot of the unfortunate Jews in Rumania and Hungary. The appeals to these Nuncios have been repeated from time to time and now further insistent recommendations are being made by the Holy See, although, sad to say, no great assurance can be given that they will succeed.

If other information regarding this matter reaches me, I shall notify you at once.

With assurance of highest personal regards and with sentiments of esteem, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

+ A. G. Cicognani

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

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