Regarding possible relief to Armenians in Germany

ICRC has now informed us that (Department's 1350 WRB's 484 April 5) committee possesses no utilisable information whatever concerning Armenian refugees of POWS in Germany.

There are apparently Armenians among Russian POWS but their number and location are unknown since Germans have never as general rule supplied ICRC with data on Soviet POWS. There are similarly doubtless Armenian forced laborers deported from Soviet Union to German occupied regions but any information concerning their number or whereabouts are also lacking. ICRC has never, as you know, undertaken relief programs for forced workers in Germany.

Any needy Armenian civil detainee who happens to be in a concentration camp accessible to our WRB deliveries will benefit from them exactly as do inmates of others nationalities.

HARRISON

JMS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

TELEGRAPH SECTION

MFD-1749

Distribution of this telegram reading only by special arrangement.

REC'D 5:08 P.M. 1951 21 APR 09

SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C./LIAISON

2315, APRIL 20, 8 P.M.

FOR WRB FROM MOOLELLAND

CONTROL COPY

SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C./LIAISON

2315, APRIL 20, 8 P.M.

FOR WRB FROM MOOLELLAND

CONTROL COPY

Regarding possible relief to Armenians in Germany

ICRC has now informed us that (Department's 1350 WRB's 484 April 5) committee possesses no utilisable information whatever concerning Armenian refugees of POWS in Germany.

There are apparently Armenians among Russian POWS but their number and location are unknown since Germans have never as general rule supplied ICRC with data on Soviet POWS. There are similarly doubtless Armenian forced laborers deported from Soviet Union to German occupied regions but any information concerning their number or whereabouts are also lacking. ICRC has never, as you know, undertaken relief programs for forced workers in Germany.

Any needy Armenian civil detainee who happens to be in a concentration camp accessible to our WRB deliveries will benefit from them exactly as do inmates of others nationalities.

HARRISON

JMS
ICRC informs me that it is unfortunately no longer physically possible ship relief goods from Switzerland to region of Yugoslavia where Camps of Jasenovac and Starmgadiiska are located. Along with camp of Jablanac they are on Sava River about 100 kilometers due south east of Zagreb in territory either a fighting zone or already taken over by Tito. Only possible relief channel would therefore seem to be via Italy.

Katzki is taking up question of Armenians in Germany and possible relief to them with Burekhardt of ICRC this week in Genova.

HARRISON
April 5, 1945

JLEGATION

BERN

1350

The following for McClelland in WRB 464.

The Association of Yugoslav Jews in the United States has called to the attention of the Board the plight of 1,000 to 1,200 Yugoslav nationals who are held under appalling conditions in concentration camps near Jasenovac and Stara Gradiška in Croatia. They represent this group to be the remnants of an original population of 20,000. Kindly call this matter to the attention of the Commission with a view to making WRB food parcels available to this group, and (b) ultimate evacuation if such is possible.

Likewise, the Armenian Relief Corps, Inc. here has called our attention to the suffering of Armenian refugees and prisoners of war within Germany. Their informant, one Arnik Djavanian, an Armenian and resident of Geneva and Berlin, indicates that there are more than 40,000 who are in need of aid. Mr. Djavanian advises that Burckhard has promised to help with transportation of anything that can be sent to this group. Their needs are clothing, food and medicine. It is suggested that if this group can be reached, they too, share in the distribution of WRB food parcels.

ACHEESEN

(Acting)

(Acting)

WRB: 1400: KG

4/5/45

WISH (for the Sacy), Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Hutchison, McCormick, O'Dwyer, Files.
APR 3 - 1945

Mr. S. Boodagian, Secretary
Central Committee of the
Armenian Relief Corps, Inc.
212 Stuart Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Boodagian:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of March 22 regarding the plight of Armenian refugees and prisoners of war in Germany.

We have directed a communication to our representative in Berlin advising him of the information passed on to you by Mr. Armin Bjianian. Our representative has been instructed to do everything possible to assist these refugees.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
ARmenian relief corps, Inc.
central committee of America
212 Stuart Street  boston 16, Mass.

March 22, 1945

Mr. Paul McCormack
War Refugee Board, Treasury Dept.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. McCormack:

We have received a letter through the International Red Cross from an Armenian gentleman, Armik Djamalian of Geneva, and Berlin, who is asking our immediate assistance for Armenian refugees and prisoners of war in Germany.

Mr. Djamalian is informing us that immediate assistance is needed to alleviate the suffering of Armenian refugees and prisoners of war in Germany. He writes that there are more than forty thousand who should receive aid.

Our agency is anxious to send help to this group as soon as possible. Mr. Djamalian advises us that Prof. Burckhard, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, has promised to help with the transportation of anything we can send.

The request is mostly for clothing, nourishing food, medicine, and cigarettes for prisoners. We have written to the International and the American Red Cross for their suggestions and advice on how we could send aid to these unfortunate in Germany. The American Red Cross advised us to write to you. We would like very much to get your help in this matter.

Very truly yours,
Central Committee of the
Armenian Relief Corps, Inc.

S. Dedeogue, Secretary
S. Dedeogue