

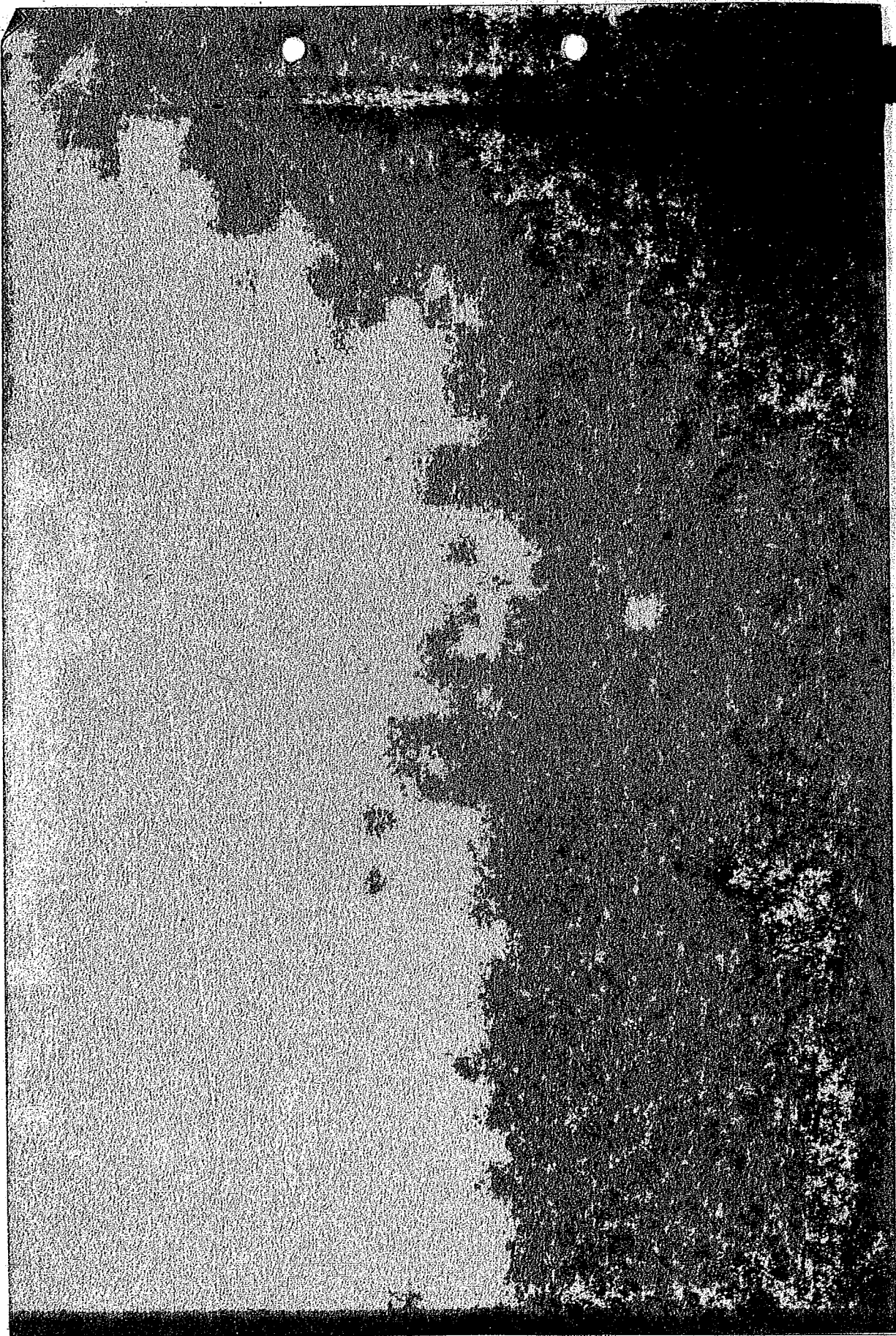
FRANCE

000805

1. GENERAL
2. ACTIVITIES OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS IN FRANCE
- a. American Friends Service Committee
 - b. American Committee of GSE
 - c. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
 - d. From Rabbi Langer to Rabbi Weill
3. NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS
4. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
5. Situation of Poles in France

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



163 Paris
2/19

February 21, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Joseph Schwartz was received through the American Embassy in Paris under date of February 19, 1945:

"For Easter bread in France there is required a minimum of 1,500,000 francs. Please advise whether a special appropriation is available and also what is the overall figure available for passover needs."

Very truly yours,

/s/ Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RBH

RBHutchison: 2/21/45

000208

ARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

AS-1614 195 FEB 20 PM 12 25

PLAIN

Paris

Dated February 19, 1945

Rec'd 10:40 p.m.

COPIES
(LONDON)

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

763, Nineteenth
FOR MOSES LEAVITT AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION
COMMITTEE FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ:

For Easter bread in France there is required a
minimum of 1,500,000 francs. Please advise whether
a special appropriation is available and also what
is the overall figure available for passover needs.

CAFFERY

RB

000209

JAN 20 1945

The Camp of Slow Death

From "Figaro," Paris, Jan. 10, 1945

By Francois Mauriac

It is useful for us to bear in mind what sort of people these are, who have not yet given up the hope of regaining Strasbourg. We tend to forget too much. We react less and less to horrors which are a thousand times retold, with which our imagination is saturated.

But here is a witness, Jean Jacques Bernard, who never raises his voice, who simply tells what he has seen, and has suffered—events which occurred quite close to us, at the Royallieu Camp at Compiègne: a camp without forced labor, without torture chamber, without poison gas, without a crematory; a camp harmless in appearance, a rest camp, if one may say so.

The executioner did not show himself. He directed everything from Paris. His directives were simple. He let his victims alone: it was merely a matter of allowing them to die, little by little, of hunger. They received scarcely anything to eat: soup, a little margarine. No packages from outside were permitted.

Jean Jacques Bernard shows us how, at Royallieu, young minds burst into activity, wavered and finally died. There was a period of brilliant conversations and lectures. But little by little the memory of the lecturer faded; the verses of "Booz Endormi," which he had known since childhood, escaped him. ["Booz Endormi," by Victor Hugo, deals with the Biblical Boaz, the husband of Ruth.—Ed.] The enthusiastic, fervent auditors, grew drowsy. They dozed off from weakness; this was already the sleep of death. Soon there were only fleshless bodies, crushed by physical misery of which one dares not speak, defenseless against vermin, covered with wounds which did not heal.

These French Jews, almost all men of distinction, are lawyers, doctors, men of letters. Many of them are an honor to their country. They committed no crime but to belong to the Jewish race. The Nazis slay them and at the same time consider them guinea pigs and try experiments on them. They find it interesting to assemble, in a sealed test tube,

Frenchmen who are passionately French and Jews without a country. The latter are almost all Zionists and believe that Israel still exists as a nation. Will they be able to convince their French brothers and detach them from the land in which they have taken root?

The experiment was conclusive. Unwittingly, Jean Jacques Bernard's book seems to me to present the Jewish problem as it should be presented. In reality the problem only exists for the emigrants without a country. The Frenchmen, of whom Jean Jacques Bernard is one of the noblest examples, do not react as Jews. In their eyes there exists no Jewish nation and—it seems in most cases—no Jewish God. When they are not freethinkers of the radical or Socialist type, after the fashion of our own country, they yield to the Christian influence and the Gospel inspires them; they are "Christians without knowing it and without willing it," says Jean Jacques Bernard, and Charity reigns in the Camp of Slow Death. Jean Jacques Bernard is the least grandiloquent of all the authors I know. Yet even he, in thinking of those starving men who shared with the others, the little which they received in secret, to stave off death, cannot repress this cry: "Oh, human heart!"

We knew of their suffering. How many times did I hear, during that ferocious winter, "Jean Jacques Bernard, at this moment, is starving to death at Compiègne!" What

could we do? What appeal could we make to the executioners? We were powerless—or else, we would have had to sell ourselves, to promise collaboration. One day I remember I was having lunch chez Drouant with a fugitive from Compiègne who, two days before, had shared a room with Jean Jacques Bernard. We did not dare question him. He did not want to speak of what he had undergone. But I remember how he looked at the meal on the table—avidly controlled by good manners.

The testimony of this book is all the more terrible because it is given in the spirit of moderation. The author is full of scruples and is anxious to be fair to his tormentors. It is, above all, the testimony of a Frenchman who wishes to be nothing but a Frenchman. How easily he convinces us—he and his companions whose love for France differs from ours only because it has an even better reason for existing. They have perhaps a clearer knowledge that we have of what they owe to France; they expect of her what she incarnates for the other nations. I would like "The Camp of Slow Death" to be read, and meditated upon, by all Frenchmen who are beginning to say once more, with a certain infection, "The Jews."

DEC 1 1944

Dear Jim:

I wish to thank you for sending on to me the two reports concerning the situation of the Jews in France during the German occupation. Any further reports you are able to obtain on the question will, of course, be appreciated and studied here.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

W. John

Mr. James J. Saxon,
U. S. Treasury Representative,
American Embassy,
Paris, France.

FH:hd 12/1/44

*original signed
by Mrs. Stoddell*

000211



AIR MAIL

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25

PARIS, 18 November 1944



Dear John:

I am transmitting herewith two copies each of two reports concerning the situation of the Jews in France during the German occupation, and concerning the status of various Jewish organizations in France during the same period.

I regret that these reports have been delayed so long. I have asked Mr. Brenner to prepare a supplemental report to bring up to date the attached reports.

Rains and Snider are now here and are, of course, a great help in the work of this office. The number and diversity of the tasks are still too great to permit of any concentrated work on special problems of any nature. In general, however, the office is getting along rather well.

Cordially,

James J. Saxon
U. S. Treasury Representative.

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Room 226-1/2 Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures.

000212



AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

19 Rue de Teheran

Paris

Paris, November 3rd, 1944
LAB. 07-70

Major Paul WARBURG
American Embassy,
P a r i s

Dear Major Warburg,

Please find enclosed a short report concerning the general situation of Jews in France and particulars about the main Jewish organizations.

Kindly excuse my English.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. Jefroykin
Directeur pour la France.

Enclosure

000213

November 3rd, 1944

NOTE

I.- Figures concerning the Jewish population in France

The number of Jews having resided in France before the War cannot be estimated in a precise manner, as, by reason of the law on the separation of Church and State issued in 1905, matters pertaining to religion are not disclosed in any official document. The figures given below must therefore be considered as approximate.

According to estimates, about 320,000 Jews resided in France before the War, of whom 50% were aliens. When the Germans invaded Holland and Belgium, some other 30,000 Jews took refuge in this country so that, at the time of the German - French Armistice (June 1940), the total number of the Jewish population in France may be estimated at 350,000. During the German occupation, about 120,000 were deported to German and Polish concentration camps; 50,000 immigrated legally to South-America, the United States and other oversea-countries and about 10,000 succeeded in crossing secretly the Spanish and Swiss border. It is presumed that at the present time the Jewish population in France numbers about 170,000, of whom approximately 100,000 are French Jews and 70,000 aliens. We do not take into account the number of Jews shot by the Germans and which it is rather difficult to estimate; probably about 10,000.

II.- Jews in the Resistance Movements.

From the very beginning of the German occupation in France and more especially since the occupation of the Southern zone in November 1942, the various Jewish organizations and groups passed into clandestinity where they carried on illegal activities in many ways.

a) Passive Resistance - The most vital problem for the Jews was to escape deportation. It therefore was essential to supply them with the necessary funds for their livelihood and furthermore, to provide them with false identity-papers. It was also necessary to disseminate them throughout France in order to avoid concentrations in certain regions.

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This task has been performed by the Jewish organizations with the utmost energy and persistence and in a spirit of self-sacrifice. There are of course no statistics available as to the number of persons who have thus been saved from the grips of the Gestapo, but, in a general manner, we may say that about 50,000 Jews were able to live hidden in some way or other.

The most alarming problem was that of the children who had to be saved in the first place. It was possible to entrust about 5,000 children to French families, especially in the country, and about 3,000 children were sent to Switzerland. These children were hidden with the active help of French families, especially peasants, and of the Catholic and Protestant Churches.

b) Active Resistance - A difference must be made between the part played by the Jews within the scope of the various resistance movements and the activities of the proper Jewish resistance.

1° - Participation of Jews in the French Resistance movement - Jewish participation in the various Resistance units has been considerable, both in the FFI (Forces Francaises de l'Interieur), and in the FTP (Franco-Tireurs et Partisans), as well as in the AS (Armee Secrete). No figures can be given as to their number, since for reasons easily to be understood, the Jews had to act under false identities. It is however a fact that a proportionally great number of Jews took an active part in the French Resistance movement from its beginning and numerous are the Jewish officers who joined the Secret Army. On the contrary, the part played by the Jews in the political resistance may be considered as negligible.

2° - Jewish Resistance Movement - The Jewish youth organizations of various political, social and ideological tendencies grouped themselves in 1941 and formed a unit which was called at first "Armee Juive" and finally became and still is the "Organisation Juive de Combat" (OJC). Their activities were carried on within the scope of the French Resistance movement and in accordance with the general instructions given by the "Comite National de la Resistance", formerly the "Mouvements Unis de la Resistance".

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In the first phasis of its existence, the OJC formed convoys of young men anxious to enrol either in the Allied Army in North Africa or in the Palestine Unit of the 8th British Army and got them through to Spain. Later, at the end of 1942, when the French resistance was organized in a more efficient manner, OJC formed centers of resistance in the Maquis and took part, in several rural areas as well as cities, in a certain number of actions against the occupation troops. When the liberation started and especially in the South-West, main center of OJC, the various groups took an active part in the liberation work, particularly at Paris, Albi, Toulouse and Castres. Casualties were proportionally higher than in other fighting units, not only on account of the Germans, but also on account of the Vichy Milice. Moreover, two companies recruited among members of OJC have been incorporated in the FFI division which is fighting on the Alsace-Lorraine front.

III/- Jewish Political, Social and Welfare Organizations.

The law of November 28th, 1942, dissolved all Jewish organizations which were amalgamated to form one official body called "Union Generale des Israelites de France" (UGIF), but in fact and thanks to the cooperation of the UGIF's executives, the old committees never ceased their activities and the UGIF merely served as a screen. Owing to this fact, all private organizations were able to carry on their tasks illegally during the German occupation and to get back to normal work soon afterwards. The principal organizations are the following:

1° - Political Organizations - All political and social relief organizations are represented by a joint committee called "CRIF" (Conseil Representatif des Juifs de France) whose members are: "Consistoire Central des Israelites (French Jewish Community), "Federation des Societes Juives de France (Community of alien Jews), "Organisation Sioniste de France", "Bund", (Socialists) and the Jewish Communist Party. The CRIF's principal aims are:

- a) to coordinate the various resistance activities;
- b) to safeguard the Jewish rights and interests;
- c) to reestablish the equality of rights of the Jews in France;

4.

d) to submit to the Allied Powers and to the Peace Congress the Jewish claims with a view to obtaining a solution of the Jewish problem in the world;

e) to plan the participation of the French Jews in an international Jewish policy and to send an international Jewish delegation to the Peace Congress;

f) to claim the abolition of the White Book of 1939 concerning the stop of the Jewish immigration to Palestine and to sponsor the policy of the Jewish Agency of Palestine respecting the future status of Palestine.

The CRIF's executive comprises:

- President: M. Leon MEISS (President of the Consistoire)
- Vice-President: M/ GRINBERG (President of the "Federation")
- General Secretary: M. J. FISHER (General Secretary of the ("Organisation Sioniste"))
- Treasurer: M. ADAM (Representative of the Communist Party)
- Member: M. S. LATTES (Representative of the "Consistoire")

2° - Welfare Organizations -

a) "Comite General de Defense". This Committee deals essentially with relief problems and is in charge with the distribution of relief funds in its various forms;

b) "Comite d'assistance aux Refugies" (CAR). This Committee's aim is identical to that of the above mentioned, but it deals more especially with refugees from Central European countries (Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia);

c) "ORT", Organization of new professional orientation by the creating of reeducational centers, i. e. manual and rural labor apprenticeship, workshops and farms;

d) "OSE", Organization of medico-social help, and assistance to children. This organization possesses in France a great number of children homes and medical centers for the Jewish population;

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5.

e) The "HICEM" deals with questions concerning emigration to overseas-countries, but its activity is interrupted owing to present circumstances.

f) The "Elailleurs Israelites de France" (Scouts) in charge of the youths between 12 and 18 years;

g) The social institutions of the Zionist organizations:

- The WIZO, Union of the Zionist women,
- The MJS, Zionist youth movement,
- The "Nechalutz, Organization of the intending Jewish pioneers in Palestine.

3° - Religious Organizations All religious communities belong to the "Consistoire Central Israelite". It is important to know that since the occupation, this latter extended its activities to other spheres and took a very active part in the political, social and illegal work of all kinds (cf. above paragraphe concerning "CRIF").

IV. - General Situation

1° - Legal conditions - On principle, the racial laws are abolished (Decree of August 9th, 1944, reestablishing the republican laws on the territory of continental France). However, so far, no official text has been published as to the application of the law. For instance, the administrators appointed by the Germans or the Vichy Government in order to run the Jewish enterprises are still in office and the Jewish owners can practically not retrieve their property. Moreover, recently an organization has been constituted under the denomination "Organisation Nationale Intercorporative du Commerce, de l'Industrie et de l'Artisanat". This organization incorporates all those who, taking advantage of racial legislation, have acquired during these four years all kind of Jewish property, such as commercial, industrial and handicraft enterprises, capital shares, bonds, etc.... It was this organization who recently submitted to the Ministry of Interior a report asking the Government to maintain the rights of the buyers of Jewish property. The application was based on moral arguments such as the good faith of the buyers, economic arguments, claiming that the buyers saved from destruction a great part of French economy and legal arguments, i. e. non-revocation of laws.

000218

In a general way, there are in France signs of a neo-antisemitism which has found its expression in the press and more especially in an article recently published by Gabriel Marcel in the "Temoignage Chretien".

2° Economic Conditions - The Jews remaining in France and who number 170,000 are for the greater part devoid of all means, after four years of concentration camp, enforced idleness and loss of all personal belongings. With the exception of some civil servants who were able to resume their functions and those who succeeded in saving part of their fortune, the great majority have no means of existence or are unable to retrieve their property owing to the lack of official decisions. It should also be borne in mind that numerous men have been deported leaving behind wife and children. All these people now flowing back to Paris can recover neither their apartments nor their working implements and furniture removed by the Germans, added to which they are faced with the problems of the present economical crisis.

The result of this is a general impoverishment of the Jewish population in France and no private organism can possibly deal with the situation.

At the present moment, 45,000 people have to receive total assistance for at least a period of six months. Most of them would even need a small fund to enable them to make a fresh start. Another problem of no less importance is that of the children. The Jewish organizations at present provide for 8,000 children who are disseminated throughout France and who, for the greater part, are orphans or children of deported parents.

To solve all these problems, not only will a considerable effort be necessary on the part of the relief organizations, but in addition to this the contribution of public powers such as the "Secours Social" and the "Ministere des Deportes". If the amounts required to meet the situation were to be figured out, we should arrive at a monthly budget of 100,000,000 francs.

We can maintain that the proportion of Jews devoided of all means of existence never was so high in France as it is now. Their economical condition can at present be assimilated to that of their coreligionists of Central and Eastern Europe.

000219

COPY

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
19 Rue de Teheran, PARIS.

Tel. provisoire : LABorde 07-70

Le 18 Septembre 1944

Monsieur Johnson, Conseiller Economique
aupres de Monsieur le Charge d'Affaires
des Etats-Unis en France.

Monsieur,

Ainsi que vous avez bien voulu me le demander, je
vous prie de trouver sous ce pli un rapport confidentiel
que j'ai etabli a votre intention sur l'activite en France
de l'AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, durant ces
dernieres annees.

Comme vous pourrez le constater, nous nous trouvons
places aujourd'hui devant des problemes d'un ordre capital
et il serait necessaire que Monsieur Joseph SCHWARTZ,
Directeur General pour l'Europe de l'A. J. D. C. ou un de
ses representants ait la possibilite de venir des que
possible a Paris, pour regler sur place les differentes
questions que nous avons a lui soumettre.

Je vous remercie de vouloir bien appuyer aupres du
Departement d'Etat a Washington la demande qui pourra etre
faite dans ce sens par Monsieur SCHWARTZ/

Veuillez agreer, Monsier, l'expression de mes sentiments
distingues.

(signed) Maurice Brenner
Representant par interim de l'A. J. D. C.
en France.-

000220

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
19 rue de Teheran, PARIS

Le 18 Septembre 1944

RAPPORT a l'intention de

Monsieur JOHNSON, Conseiller
Economique aupres de Monsieur
le Charge d'Affaires des Etats-
Unis en France.

~~CONFIDENTIEL~~

L'AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, dont la fondation remonte a vingt-cinq annees, subventionne les oeuvres de bienfaisance, juives en particulier, dans les differentes parties du monde. Son action a permis a des centaines de milliers d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants de retrouver une raison de vivre et des possibilites de regeneration. Sous son impulsion et grace aux ressources qu'il a fournies, des maisons d'enfants, des pouponnieres, des ateliers de reclassement professionnel, des fermes-ecoles, ont ete crees et se sont developpees dans des pays ou les populations juives semblaient condammeees a une vie miserable.

Le JOINT a egalement contribue a l'emigration vers des regions plus accueillantes d'un grand nombre de juifs persecutes et brimes dans les nations ou ils vivaient.

Il est evident que depuis l'occupation de la France par les armees et la police allemandes, l'action des representants du JOINT dans ce pays n'a pu se manifester au grand jour. Elle s'est donc exercee dans la clandestinite ainsi que celle, d'ailleurs, des oeuvres subventionnees par le JOINT/ Cette action clandestine a permis de sauver, durant les quatre dernieres annees, 7. a 8.000 enfants juifs qui ont ete, soit caches dans des familles ou des oeuvres chretiennes, soit dans des colleges, soit enfin envoyes clandestinement en Suisse.

Une action similaire a permis de soustraire aux persecutions nazies des milliers de jeunes gens, d'adultes et de vieillards.

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2.

Il convient de mentionner ici que la grande majorite des jeunes gens formant les cadres de toutes ces oeuvres clandestines, ainsi que beaucoup de leurs proteges, ont pris part et prennent part encore actuellement a la lutte armee contre les troupes allemandes. Ils se sont, en toutes occasions, conduit avec courage.

Bien entendu, toute cette action, aussi bien sociale que militaire, exercee clandestinement, ne s'est pas produits sans pertes severes.

Le travail devant lequel le JOINT se trouve place aujourd'hui en France est considerable:

A la suite des persecutions de toutes natures qu'elle a subies, ce qui reste de la population juive se trouve, pour une tres grande partie, dans un etat de misere totale (ne possedant plus ni logement, ni meubles, ni instruments de travail, ni bien entendu argent). Dans bien des cas, une partie de la famille a ete deportee. On estime qu'environ 100.000 juifs ont ete deportes de France vers l'Est et les rapports les plus pessimistes circulent au sujet du sort qui leur aurait ete reserve.

Des milliers d'enfants n'ont plus de parents. Il va falloir entreprendre une oeuvre de recherche des familles, de regroupement de celles-ci, - recouvrir les maisons d'enfants, les centres de reclassement, les fermes-ecoles et tous les centres, en general, qui avaient du etre fermes pour eviter les rafles allemandes. Des secours doivent etre distribues aux indigents, - des cantines doivent etre ouvertes, etc., etc...

Tout ce travail ne peut se faire sans l'intervention et l'appui de l'AMERICAN JOINT COMMITTEE.-

(Signed) Maurice Brenner,
Representant par interim de l'A.J.D.C.
en France.

000222

① DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

ALH-305
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
[REDACTED]

PM 3 53 Paris

Dated November 16, 1944

Rec'd 6:19 a.m., 18th

Secretary of State,

Washington

545, November 16, 6 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM SAXON

Brenner promised delivery soon of report re-
quested by you.

CONTROL COPY

CAPFERY

RR

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be closely guarded.

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

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DGG

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

October 9, 1944

Noon

7/11

AMEMBASSY

LONDON

8278X

FOR L. C. AARONS FROM TREASURY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

OCT 11 1944

COMMUNICATIONS

Please send the following message to Hoffman
in Paris: QUOTE Fehle appreciates the report forwarded
in your letter of September 23, prepared by Maurice
Brenner, JDO representative in France. War Refugee
Board would like to have any further information you
may be able to obtain concerning numbers and condition
of Jews in France. UNQUOTE

HULL
(GL)

FHA:GL:ST
10/7/44

000224

OCT 6 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Glasser ✓

FROM: Mr. Pehle

In your next cable to Hoffman I would appreciate your including the following paragraph:

"Pehle appreciates the report forwarded in your letter of September 23, prepared by Maurice Brenner, JDC representative in France. War Refugee Board would like to have any further information you may be able to obtain concerning numbers and condition of Jews in France."

JH
FH:hd 10/6/44

000025

ATE: 10/2/44

TO: Mr. John Pehle
Chairman, War Refugee Board
Treasury Department

FROM: Dr. William L. Langer

000026

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH

FIELD MEMORANDUM 34 (FR-57)

25 September 1944

Algiers, 17 August 1944

PRISONERS AND DEPORTEES
ORGANIZATION AND POLITICS

The three million-odd prisoners and deportees who will pour back into France after the war may become a political bloc of major importance. They will come out of the war with a common spirit born of common exile and common sufferings; they already have a single national movement within France which has built up a variety of services and maintained underground contacts with the camps in Germany; and they have in the administration a Commissariat, headed by Henri Frenay, with a long-range program for their repatriation and rehabilitation. Although spokesmen of this group are still talking solely in terms of patriotic unity and resistance, there are indications that after the war, prisoners of war and deportees will constitute a politically conscious force, with a definitely conservative political direction.

Organization of the Commissariat. Frenay's Commissariat of Prisoners, Deportees, and Refugees of the FGNL was created at the end of 1943 to handle all questions concerning prisoners, deportees and refugees. It plans: 1) to furnish moral and material aid to these groups and their families; 2) to organize and execute their repatriation; and 3) to prepare the measures necessary for their reintegration into the national life and the "safeguarding of their rights". To exercise these functions, the Commissariat is organized into two "Directions". The first, the "Direction des secours et des services généraux," assists families of prisoners and refugees, sends packages to the prisoners (the number of which has been increased from 429,000 in October 1943 to 906,000 in February 1944), and maintains rest camps and associations for those who have escaped from France (Association des femmes de Prisonniers, L'Union des évadés de France).

The second, the "Direction du rapatriement," is divided into two branches, international and national. The international branch deals with all problems inter-related with the Allied

This memorandum contains information forwarded by R&A personnel in the field. Because of its timely interest it is distributed prior to analysis and processing.

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

000227

SECRET

armies, foreign governments, or UNRRA -- notably, the movement of Frenchmen from camps in Germany to reception centers at the frontier (which are to be concentrated in Alsace and northern Lorraine) and the removal from France of Germans and other foreign groups. The second branch is wholly national. It is concerned with movements within France -- movements of prisoners and deportees from the reception centers to their homes, and movements of displaced persons from one part of France to another. The French authorities have indicated that they will deal with the latter problems themselves, without the participation of UNRRA. The size and nature of the undertaking as conceived by the Commissariat is indicated by the figures presented in Appendix I.

In combat zones, the Commissariat will have only a small number of representatives and liaison officers, as it does in northern France at the present moment. For the stage after the establishment of a Zone of the Interior, however, and for the problems of repatriation, the Commissariat has prepared detailed plans dealing with the technical questions of reception centers, census, transportation, food supplies, health, sanitation, and economic aid. It has given considerable thought to problems of health, estimating that as high as 80 percent of those returning from Germany may be diseased or in need of medical care. The importance of this problem in rebuilding a healthy France is heightened by their estimate that in the first year these men will be the fathers of 750,000 children. The Commissariat is also concerned with problems of family adjustments, notably those in which illegitimate children, including the offspring of German soldiers, have appeared in the home. (It is estimated by one source that illegitimate children occur in 7 to 8 percent of the families concerned while another estimates that the total number of illegitimate children in these families is 500,000). To cope with these problems, the Commissariat plans to have teams ("equipes psycho-sociales") who will find out the facts, explain them to those concerned, and facilitate arrangements for medical attention or, where desired and justified, for prompt divorce.

The Commissariat also has an extensive propaganda service which works through press and radio both here and in London, giving information about prisoners, deportees, and refugees, and acquainting the nation and the exiles with the problems of repatriation (see Appendix XI). In London, the Commissariat has small press, radio, and action sections which, in addition to performing liaison functions, run a leaflet program.

Organization in France. Within France, affairs relating to the prisoners and deportees have been progressively organized over the past year and a half into a single movement adhering to the

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972

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SNR. The impulse for organization began in Germany, where Frenchmen, determined to resist, formed nuclei in the separate camps. These little groups communicated with France by various means -- by individuals who were sent home for reasons of health, by men transferred to work in France, by clandestine letters and packages. Communications grew; Frenchmen drafted by the Germans brought messages and directions to those already in the German camps. By the beginning of 1943, the separate centers in France had become linked in three general associations concerned with prisoners and deportees; one of these sections was a dependent organization of the Front National. Further unification was achieved on 12 March 1944, at which time -- apparently under the direction of agents sent into France by Trenay's Commissariat -- the three groups, including the Communist organization, were fused into the M.N.P.G.D. (Mouvement National des Prisonniers de Guerre et des Déportés).

To maintain liaison with the Commissariat in Algiers, the M.N.P.G.D. has sent two delegates to Algiers. One of them who uses the name of Philippe Dechartre, gives the following description of the movement. The M.N.P.G.D. has a directorate of four men, plus a secretary-general, and has under its direction an extensive network of services. These include sections for propaganda, relation with other resistance organizations, economic assistance to the families of prisoners and deportees, penetration of the Vichy hierarchies concerned with prisoners, and technical sections for preparing false papers, directing action, etc. These services are a result of the fusion of the separate services built up by the three previous organizations. The technical sections include about 30 men whose duties consist of going back and forth between France and Germany. Communications with the camps in Germany are almost entirely centralized in the hands of the M.N.P.G.D.; the latter is in close liaison with Trenay's Commissariat.

The leadership of the M.N.P.G.D. is quite narrowly held. All the directors and all the chiefs of services are made up of escaped prisoners of war, of whom there now are estimated to be more than 80,000 in France. From the beginning, the prisoners of war, as the group most experienced in the ways of living and resisting in an enemy country, have been the directing force. They had, moreover, the advantages of organization. The current leadership of this M.N.P.G.D. is

1. Résistance des Prisonniers de Guerre et des Déportés, Comité National des Prisonniers et des Déportés, and Rassemblement National des Prisonniers.
2. The Services Speciaux, which in general handles contacts with the Resistance, has no special section for dealing with prisoners and deportees or for exploiting these channels leading back into Germany.

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date

SEP

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military and young (Decharre himself is probably under 30), with a taste for action and discipline that involves a certain contempt for parliamentary ways. That they intend to use their organization as a pressure group to assure their own interests, appears in the tone and nature of a document purporting to list their demands. In this document they ask that effective purge measures be carried out promptly, that their organization be left intact, that their special sufferings be recognized, that they be given appropriate representation, that a series of laws and decrees be passed and special delegates appointed to assure their rights and interests, and that no elections -- even municipal -- be held before the return to France of the prisoners and deportees.

Policies and Politics. Many of the critics in the Consultative Assembly who so severely cut Frenay's request for supplementary credits agree with the desirability of the plans of the Commissariat -- the program for census, transport, health, sanitation, economic classification, etc.; the proposals for holding men for medical treatment and for adjusting problems in family relations; the principle of repatriating first those who have been away longest or who are in the economic categories most needed in France. What Frenay's critics challenge is the practicality of such elaborate plans. They insist that it will be impossible to keep men who have been away two, three, and four years, in reception centers filling out forms, or undergoing training or treatment. They maintain that only the most rapid processing and transport can prevent individuals or groups familiar with the techniques of underground movements, from setting off across France on their own, with the attendant dislocations and dangers of disorder.

There has also been objection to Frenay's policy of urging the men in Germany to be disciplined, to stay quiet, to wait -- a doctrine he most recently repeated in a broadcast last Sunday. Critics argue that while this might serve his purpose of maintaining an organized mass movement, and might also promote more orderly handling of the groups, it is a dangerous policy; that every effort at escape from the Reich should be encouraged in order to minimize the menace of executions.

Behind all these criticisms -- and most notably behind a charge of using funds to build a private political association -- is the distrust shared by Communists, trade-unionists, parliamentarians and certain Gaullists of the political direction of

1. In a public interview last April, Frenay stated that all this would be accomplished within 150 days after his organization took over.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-74

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972

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the man and his movements. Because they mistrust Frenay, they are alarmed by indications that he may have larger plans for the post-war era. He has written vaguely about perpetuating a post-war Resistance party. In May the Algiers representatives of Combat, the movement Frenay led in France, resolved that its role was not finished with the liberation of territory, that it would take an active part in the reconstruction of France, with a "clear political orientation". His program for the prisoners also contains long-range features (hospitalization, retraining, reintegration) that might serve to keep intact the organization he has built up and the personnel he has gathered around him. Representatives of the moderate Left, such as Bouzanguet, a CGP representative in the Assembly, consider the M.N.P.C.D. a Rightist movement, possibly dangerous because of its temper and size. A movement that can recruit from among more than three million "persecuted" men and their families should be able, with any kind of organization, to raise a powerful voice in post-war France.

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

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Appendix I

Tranay presented the following totals to the Assembly on March 6, dividing the people affected into three categories. These estimates -- right or wrong -- remain roughly those on which the Commissariat is making its plans, with the exception of the figures starred (*). For the latter, revised estimates are given at the right in parentheses.

Group 1 - French who will return to France:

- 850,000 French prisoners of war
- 350,000 civilian workers, formerly prisoners of war
- *900,000 workers sent to Germany under the Relève (1,100,000)
- *60,000 persons deported for political and racial reasons (impossible to estimate number now, but certainly more than 100,000)
- 300,000 persons driven out of Alsace and Lorraine
- 180,000 persons from Alsace and Lorraine incorporated in the German Army
- 250,000 persons who sought refuge in the Empire

Group 2 - Persons who must leave France (including not only enemies and foreigners who must leave, but also colonials who must return to the Empire):

- 500,000 Germans installed in the Eastern region
- 150,000 Germans in the rest of the country
- 150,000 Italians living in France since 1940
- 50,000 foreigners
- *150,000 foreign workers of the Todt organization (a little less)
- 20,000 French who will return to the Empire

Group 3 - Displaced Persons within France who will move after the cessation of hostilities:

- 50,000 persons evacuated following the 1939 order
- 150,000 persons who became refugees in 1940 and have never returned home
- 80,000 persons driven out of Alsace and Lorraine by the Reich
- 1,000,000 persons evacuated by the Germans
- *100,000 French workers of the Todt organization scattered along the coasts (less)
- *100,000 approximate number of persons who have left their homes to go to the country (now estimated at 150,000)

These three groups comprise *5,730,000 persons, of whom more than *4,000,000 are French (somewhat higher).

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972

000032

Appendix II

The press and radio sections of Frenay's Commissariat describe their propaganda program as follows:

To give out information about prisoners, exiles, and refugees and also to give the latter, information about the nation; acquainting both the nation and the exiles with the difficulties of repatriation that must be overcome; establishing and controlling the material conditions of the return; and assuring the reintegration of the exiles into the life of the nation. Radio propaganda emphasizes four subjects:

1- Combat: Prisoners and workers in Germany comprise a French Army within Germany. During their captivity their means of combat are sabotage, escape, disobedience, and attempts to demoralize the enemy. If they escape, they should join the resistance; in case of a crack-up inside Germany, they should follow the order of the MNFGD. Their aims are an Allied victory, in which they participate to the greatest possible extent, and the reconstruction of France.

The wives of the exiles must encourage active resistance and enter into it themselves. The spirit of combat must achieve a unity of the three fronts -- the Armies outside, the FFI and the French in Germany -- during the struggle in Germany and later during the rehabilitation.

2- Politics: Broadcasts inform the nation and the exiles 1) of the facts of the Vichy betrayal (deportation of French workers, the abandonment of Alsace-Lorraine, deportation of women and Jews, the relève, the double-games, action of the Militia and the GMR against the maquis); 2) of the Vichy men, Petain, Scapini, etc.; 3) of the "valeurs Francaises"; the regenerative zeal of the Resistance; the role of women in the France of tomorrow; the significance of France as a nation; the prisoner of war camps as a microcosm of democracy; the unity of France in the Resistance.

3- Information: Precise facts for the instruction of the prisoners and deportees.

4- Repatriation: Radio will play its most important part when the repatriation begins. Until now it has merely stressed the dangers of isolated departures, the importance of remaining in groups; with the first influx of repatriation, the radio will be responsible for the mood and the spirit of the homecoming. Propaganda must bind the French together, unite them though they are separated geographically, socially, politically; the common struggle and the common suffering are reason for unity.

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

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Following is an excerpt from a letter dated September 23 from Mr. M. L. Hoffman, U. S. Treasury representative in Paris, together with a copy of the report enclosed therein.

"I am enclosing a report prepared at my request by the acting head of the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in France, a M. Brenner, which contains the most complete information available here concerning the actual location and condition of French Jews now in German hands. I would appreciate it if you would forward this to the War Refugee Board for their information. Incidentally, M. Brenner, who has been in France throughout the occupation, had not heard of the War Refugee Board until I spoke with him about it. The J.D.C. here has continued to exist, although clandestinely, throughout the occupation and has evidently done a rather remarkable job."

CC - Mr. Pehle, Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Friedman, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Lesser;
Miss Hodel

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INFORMATION ON THE CAMPS IN UPPER SILESIA
(Obtained June 1943)

1. The Gleiwitz Camp -- An immense city of barracks sheltering 22,000 workers, one-third of which are Jews and the remainder Poles. At Kattowitz itself and in the surrounding area, on the main road leading to Beuthen, there are five large encampments and nine medium encampments, among others.
2. Myslowitz, the "Hans" pits -- 3,000 persons, exclusively Jews, of which 2,500 work in the mines. The majority of them originated with in the "General Government", and 800 are deportees from Northern France and Belgium. Living conditions in this camp are catastrophic. The mortality rate is terrifying.
3. Kattowitz Town #2 -- 900 Jews, of which 120 are women, all from Paris, work in the outskirts of this town on the construction of blast furnaces under strict guard of the SS and are supervised by some coreligionaries who have been accorded special privileges. The food is passable and corresponds to that customary among the workers of the region. Some craftsmen work at their trade. Certain of these persons are authorized to write and to receive letters. The women are engaged in domestic work in the camp itself and, in the kitchen, in the preparation of the food. In general, living conditions in this camp are bearable.
4. The Brieg Camp, near Breslau -- 600 Jews, all able-bodied men, more than half of which are from Paris. They are engaged in building roads. Work begins at seven o'clock in the morning but the men are required to get up at 4:30 a.m. as they must march two hours to reach the place of their work. At the close of the working day they are transported by truck to their barracks. The food is plentiful but it is lacking in fats. The treatment by the foremen is not bad.
5. The Koennigsheutte Camp -- (Potash Mines) -- There are from 2,000 to 3,000 workers. The majority are Jews deported from France, among which there are children from 15 to 15 years of age (sic). They live underground in the pits. Every other Sunday they are brought to the surface where they engage in physical exercises for some hours.
6. Beuthen-Gleiwitz -- Construction of the Beuthen-Gleiwitz Strasscar Line -- Some Jews, men and women deported from France, who work here together with workers of different nationalities. Women carry out light auxiliary work. They prepare food in mobile kitchens, as meals are taken at the place of work.
7. The Myslowitz-Chrzanow-Tiszabinska Region -- In this region, there are three large camps and several less important ones which shelter in all a total of 9,000 workers, one-half of which were deported from Bohemia, Holland, and France, principally Paris. Vast barracks are being constructed which are equipped with some comforts. They seem to be destined to a prolonged stay. Workers' Dwellings -- All sorts of craftsmen work here at their trade. The guard is very strict; it is made up by detachments from the regular army. Nevertheless, relations between the guards

000235

and the internees are generally good.

8. The Kattowitz-Birkenau-Wadowice Region -- The road which cuts through these three towns is bordered by immense barracks for its entire length. There are three large principal camps and eleven smaller ones. Jews from Germany, Belgium, Holland, and France are found here among workers of various nationalities. Their barracks are always on the same side of the road, while the barracks of the non-Jewish workers are located on the opposite side. Life in these camps is bearable in view of the nearness of non-Jewish workers and, in some places, because the work is done together. The work consists in the construction of roads, bridges, and houses in the towns (vast towns made up of workers' houses). Craftsmen are accepted here by preference. The morale among the deportees is generally good and they are confident in the future.
9. Neisse -- 1,500 deportees, exclusively Jewish, 200 of which are women, are occupied on the farms of this region. The work is very hard and tedious; food is insufficient; the lodgings of the internees are unworthy of a human being. All individual liberty is strictly suppressed. Several cases of suicide have occurred.
10. Oberlangenbielau-in-Silesia Camp -- This camp is for women only. 2,000 women and girls, deported from Paris via Metz and Breslau in the month of August 1942, work in the spinning mills scattered throughout the region. Work is performed in two eight-hour shifts and is paid work, but the pay is used to cover meals which are generally taken in common in the canteens. The treatment on the part of persons charged with guard duty is good, but supervision during working hours is very strict.
11. Waldenburg, in Silesia -- From 1,500 to 2,000 Jews deported from France work in this region in the mines. Living conditions are very hard.
12. Gross-Strehlitz -- A great number of deported Jewish women and children work in this region in agricultural enterprises.
13. Oppeln -- Vast encampments of deported Jews live around this city, but reliable information is lacking. Nothing seeps to the exterior; supervision being without doubt extremely strict.

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The existence of the following camps in the "General Government" and in the "Protectorate" has been verified. Details are lacking.

- a) Cracovie-Podgorce) Salt Mines
- b) Cracovie-Wieliczka)
- c) Beilitz -- 5,000 Jewish women deported from Germany and occupied territories, including France, work in the spinning mills of this city.
- d) Theresienstadt (Teresin) -- Naguere, a small Slovak village of 7,000 or 8,000 inhabitants, today consists of an agglomeration of nearly 80,000. This sudden increase was caused by the deportation of

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from 30,000 to 40,000 Jews who have entirely repopulated and rebuilt this settlement.

According to information gathered, it appears that the women escape en masse whenever they have the occasion. According to their knowledge of languages, (Polish or Czech), they strike out for either Poland or Bohemia-Moravia. Attempts to escape by the men generally fail in the majority of the cases. However, these escapes are frequently attempted.

Some information has been gathered with respect to young children from two to five years of age, principally girls. More than 2,000 of these children are distributed among farmers which, in most cases, are peasant families in Eastern Prussia. Some exact and complete addresses of the latter will be communicated later on.

A persistent rumor (not yet verified) circulates that at Lauenberg in Pomerania and in Frenzbach some Jewish boys from 5 to 6 years of age are in the Hitler Youth (movement).

A very great number of infants and babies under two years of age, of Jewish parents, are scattered throughout Berlin itself and the region surrounding this city in various infant asylums and in numerous nurseries. They are always taken there by the German Red Cross and the N.S.V.W. (a German social organization) in the same capacity and at the same time as infants of parents injured or killed in air raids, and they are generally admitted there as such among these orphans, in effect victims of air raids. Some complete addresses of the various places of shelter of these infants will be communicated later on.

The liberation of a deportee, officially granted by the central authorities, is generally "scotched" by local subordinate officers.

The foregoing is a free translation from the French text; translated by R.B. Farke, transcribed by A. G. Rollock.

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AIR MAIL

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Washington 25

London, September 26, 1944

AIR POUCH

No. 95

Dear Mr. White:

The following items are enclosed herewith:-

1. A copy of a letter from Hoffman, dated September 21, enclosing a letter from the Bank of France relating to the \$50,000,000 transfer to Lend/Lease Administration.
2. The original of the enclosure with Hoffman's letter (item no. 1) which you are requested to forward to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, and also to confirm the delivery to Hoffman. There is also enclosed a copy of such enclosure.
3. A memorandum on Lend-Lease repayments, dated September 13, and written on behalf of the Minister of Finance to Hoffman. This memorandum was also enclosed with Hoffman's letter of September 21 (item no. 1).
4. A copy of a letter from Hoffman, dated September 23, relating principally to the subject of American and British civilians entering Paris for private business and commercial purposes. In this connection, I am advised that Mr. Darling of the Chase National Bank has now returned to London.
5. A copy of the enclosure mentioned in the last paragraph of Hoffman's letter of September 23 (item no. 4) containing information on the location and conditions of French Jews now in German hands. This document will be of particular interest to the War Refugee Board.
6. A copy of a letter from Hoffman, dated September 22, dealing in part with the subject of U.S. and British officers devoting themselves to their private business and commercial interests, and also dealing with other subjects of interest to the Treasury. Hoffman stated in a note that this letter was partly superseded by his letter of September 23 (see item no. 4). Please note that in this letter Hoffman requests that stationery be sent to him.
7. Copies of articles which appeared in the Paris edition of the Daily Mail concerning a possible adjustment of the dollar-franc rate of exchange. These articles were brought back by Mr. Odgaard.

Encl. #1 circ. separately

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8. Paraphrase of two cables, prepared by Mr. Reber, sent to the State Department on September 25, relating to the case of British and American business men in France. These cables have probably been brought to your attention.

9. Copy of a letter dated September 21 from Mr. Ray of the War Office to Brigadier Babington Smith, and a copy of a memorandum prepared by Colonel Bernstein relating to the use of ordinary Danish Kroner by the Combined Military Mission in Denmark. When this subject is raised with me officially, I shall send a cable asking for confirmation that the Treasury will, in due course, make settlement for any ordinary Danish Kroner so furnished by the British.

10. A copy of a memorandum, dated September 22, prepared by Major Marget, and a copy of a memorandum, dated September 23, by Colonel Bernstein relating to financial planning for MG Austria.

11. Newspaper clippings forwarded by Hoffman.

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I have just seen cable no. LEM 211 of September 20 from CCS (CCAC) to SHAEF Main. This cable deals with the question of responsibility for civilian supplies for France during September, October and November, and asks SHAEF's comments on the arrangements which have been suggested for carrying out this civilian supply program. The program calls for delivery of 1,309,299 tons. This figure includes 856,000 tons of coal as well as items of food, soap, medical supplies, clothing and agricultural machinery. It strikes me that the Treasury Department could use this as an opportunity to impress upon the appropriate U.S. Government agencies, as well as the British and the French, the desirability of looking to Germany for such part of this supply program as can be obtained from Germany and also committing ourselves to furnish only the balance of supplies which are not thus obtainable from Germany. You may wish to consider recommending to CCAC that this be inserted as one of the conditions of the arrangements outlined in LEM 211.

Very truly yours,

s/s L. C. Aarons

U. S. Treasury Representative

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COPY

BANQUE de FRANCE

Paris, le 11 Septembre 1944

Direction Generale
du
Service Bancaire Etranger

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK
Post Office Station
NEW YORK

(U. S. A.)

Messieurs,

Nous avons l'honneur de vous confirmer le cable que nous vous avons fait transmettre par M. le Representant du Tresor des Etats-Unis, a Paris, vous Priant de prelever au compte "T" de la Banque de France ouvert sur vos livres \$.50.000.000 (Cinquante millions de dollars) et de les mettre a la disposition de M. MAR UAIS Tresorier Payeur General aux Etats-Unis du Comite Francais de la Liberation Nationale.

Comme nous vous l'indiquions dans notre telegramme, cette somme est destinee a etre reversee a l'Administration Lend-Lease, a titre d'acompte sur la dette francaise envers cette Administration au titre des importations de marchandises civiles en Afrique du Nord et en Afrique Occidentale Francaise.

Au cas ou le cable susvisé ne vous serait pas parvenu, nous vous serions obliges de bien vouloir mettre a la disposition de M. MAR UAIS le montant de \$.50.000.000.- precite des reception de cette presente lettre.

Nous vous en remercions a l'avance et vous prions d'agreer, Messieurs, l'assurance de notre consideration distinguee.

Le Directeur General

(Signature illisible)

MINISTRE DES FINANCES

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE

5ème BUREAU

N° 13,611

Objet : Règlement avec l'Administration des Douanes.

Ainsi que vous le savez, les douanes de l'Union Française de la Libération ont été créées à partir du mois de décembre 1944, pour assurer les remplacements du profit de l'Administration des Douanes des marchandises livrées par l'Afrique du Nord et de l'Afrique Occidentale au Comité de la Libération. Elles ont été créées en France continentale sur la base d'un décret d'un Gouvernement avant la libération de la France. Le 15 France, la France continentale a été libérée et les douanes de l'Union Française de la Libération ont été créées.

Conformément à cet engagement, les douanes de l'Union Française de la Libération ont été créées à partir du mois de décembre 1944, pour assurer les remplacements du profit de l'Administration des Douanes des marchandises livrées par l'Afrique du Nord et de l'Afrique Occidentale au Comité de la Libération.

Le décret, en date du 15 France, a été publié au Journal Officiel de la France continentale. Les douanes de l'Union Française de la Libération ont été créées à partir du mois de décembre 1944, pour assurer les remplacements du profit de l'Administration des Douanes des marchandises livrées par l'Afrique du Nord et de l'Afrique Occidentale au Comité de la Libération.

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Sept 23, 1944

Mr. L. C. Aarons,
U. S. Treasury Representative,
American Embassy,
London, England.

Dear Sumner:

I have your letter of Sept. 20, 1944, with enclosures. The following is with reference to cable No. 756 of Sept. 16, 1944, concerning the Chase National Bank.

The policy of SHAEF, up to the present moment, at least, has been that no civilian shall be permitted to enter France, except those attached to military organizations, or other representatives of Allied governments. I am advised that this policy will be changed and a recommendation sent to the British and U.S. Governments to permit the entry of civilians recommended by the respective governments, up to the number of about 200 of each nationality. No military facilities would be provided except, possibly, transportation to the Theater. This would apply as long as the area is a forward zone. As soon as a zone of the interior is declared, it is desired to hand over the problem of admitting civilians to the British and U. S. Governments on one hand, and the French authorities on the other. I understand that Mr. Reber is cabling in this general line. As far as I know, the existing policy has been applied equally to representatives of British and U. S. institutions.

Mr. H. E. Darling of the Chase National Bank, London, came to my office on Friday, Sept. 15 in the company of Major Pekar and Mr. Troy, both of whom are Americans connected with the Army Exchange Service. We discussed the matter of opening accounts for the Post Exchange, which was reported in my cable of the same day. Major Pekar explained that Mr. Darling had come to Paris ~~xxxx~~ under the auspices of the Army Exchange Service to see about establishing banking facilities here comparable to those which the Post Exchange had with the Chase in London.

Subsequent to this visit, I reported the matter to both General Cobbs and General Carter, and to Mr. Reber and Gen. Holmes, emphasizing that the presence of Mr. Darling in Paris was extremely embarrassing in view of the general policy concerning the admission of civilian representatives of private concerns. AlYagreed, and Mr. Reber took the matter up with SHAEF. He is seeing Darling tomorrow and the facts will be fully reported. Darling is definitely here in violation of SHAEF policy.

The views of the French Treasury on this general subject were ascertained in connection with our discussions of the re-opening of American banks, concerning which a cable is now pending awaiting General Cobbs' return from London. The French Treasury has no objection whatever to American banks being re-established, or to personnel entering the area, provided the entry of such persons is approved through regular foreign office channels. This, of course, is impossible until the zone of the interior is established, and, of course, Darling's entry was not so cleared. So far, I have had no reaction from the French to Darling's presence. The system being proposed by SHAEF does not contemplate clearance with the French as far as I know.

With respect to the matter of whether or not authorizations, when eventually granted, shall include authorization to communicate, it would seem to me that, in view of the enormous number of communications relating to private affairs which are going from this area to England and United States through Army personnel, it would be futile and unwise to attempt to prohibit communications on the part of civilian representatives of private concerns. However, I feel that it is important that such persons be required to use the same channels as will be available to French residents, and that they should not be granted any military or other official facilities. In particular, I hope that the State Department will instruct the Embassy in this vein. If this policy is followed, as a practical matter, communications for some time will be haphazard and difficult, but I think that it is important to avoid discrimination in favor of American and British concerns in this respect so far as possible.

I have received your letter of Sept. 19, also, and will get busy on this matter right away.

I am enclosing a report prepared at my request by the acting head of the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in France, a M. Brenner, which contains the most complete information available here concerning the actual location and condition of French Jews now in German hands. I would appreciate it if you would forward this to the War Refugee Board for their information. Incidentally, M. Brenner, who has been in France throughout the occupation, had not heard of the War Refugee Board until I spoke with him about it. The J.D.C. here has continued to exist, although clandestinely, throughout the occupation and has evidently done a rather remarkable job.

Regards,

(Signed) M. L. Hoffman,
U. S. Treasury Representative.

Encl. 1.

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Des renseignements recueillis, il ressort que les gens s'évadent en masse lorsqu'ils ont l'occasion. Ils ont la connaissance des langues (polonais ou tchèque) et ils se dirigent soit sur la Pologne soit sur la Bohême tchèque. Ils tentent l'évasion parmi les hommes échouant généralement. Il y a des cas. Néanmoins, des évadés sont fréquemment torturés.

Des renseignements ont été recueillis, en ce qui concerne les enfants en bas âge de 2 à 5 ans, principalement, en Pologne. Plus de 2.000 de ces enfants sont répartis dans les camps de concentration, la plupart des familles allemandes en Pologne orientale. Les adresses exactes et complètes de ces derniers enfants sont à être ultérieurement.

Le bruit persistant non contrôlé encore, est que dans LITVENS en Pologne, ainsi que dans la région de Frenzen (Frenzen) des garçons israéliens âgés de 1 à 10 ans, trouveraient dans la jeunesse hitlérienne.

Un très grand nombre de nourrissons et de jeunes enfants de moins de 2 ans, de parents israéliens, sont répartis dans les camps et dans la région de cette ville dans les différents camps et dans des nombreuses pourboires. Ils sont répartis dans les camps par la T.H.H. (Trois jours allemands et le reste de la semaine sociale allemande) en Pologne et en Bohême tchèque. Les parents sinistres ou très dans les camps de concentration, sont généralement torturés tels qu'ils sont répartis, et les victimes de bombardement aérien.

Les adresses, complètes, de ces enfants sont à être ultérieurement à être ultérieurement.

La direction des renseignements, en ce qui concerne l'autorité centrale, est à être ultérieurement à être ultérieurement.

.....

Friday, 22 September

Dear Boss:

Again I find after hours to be the only time I can get a minute to write. There are several items of interest which I am overdue in reporting.

1. I have just talked with Holmes and Reber (separately) on the matter of U. S. banks. Tom Wailes says that a cable is coming for me, but I have not yet got it. I read a State Dept. cable which Reber has, however, and gather that the pressure is getting terrific to open up this area to all sorts of commercial interests. I have spoken only on the banks and have said that it was important to see that if any were permitted to come in, all should be given an equal chance. Also, that at present I thought it should be only on the basis of servicing the Army. As the Army is clamoring for such service, I don't think there's much question that this qualification will be obtained.

I don't know if my little cable about the P.K., etc., which indicated that Chase had a British civilian in here, had anything to do with this sudden burst of communications, but I was anxious to get that incident into the open and one way or another I've succeeded. It looks now as though he may be thrown out. In any event, the incident has been extremely embarrassing in view of the policy because it indicates quite clearly that the policy is not being enforced.

2. Today has been made miserable by the publication of an article in the Paris Daily Mail, with headlines, to the effect that a drastic change in the exchange rate is just about to be put into effect, moving the franc to 100 or 75 to the dollar. A major crisis has been caused among our troops. The article went on to talk about black market prices, how the franc obviously is not worth two cents, how you can get 200 or 300 francs in the black market for U.S. dollars, etc. A statement for the "Stars and Stripes" has been drawn up and I was in favor of issuing it right away on the basis of assurances by the French Treasury that no change is now contemplated. However, Cobb's people believe they can get an answer from Washington tomorrow, and in view of the persistency of the rumor and the belief that something may have been decided in Quebec, they were not willing to publish it till confirmation arrives. I think this is a mistake, but they are not willing to rely on the fact that the rate wouldn't be changed without agreement; so, since they are the ones having the trouble, I agreed to postpone publication of the denial. From past experience, of course, I know that such things might be decided without anyone knowing about it; so their caution may be justified. I do hope that the Treasury will let me know if any such thing is contemplated. The article will have one good effect, however, of emphasizing to the French what I have been telling them about our troops feeling that they are being gypped at the 50 franc rate and local prices. I think they are going to try to do something positive about it, publicity of legal prices, etc.

(Sat. A.M. - In this regard see quoted clippings from *Figaro* - which appears in all French papers today).

100247

"AVERTISSEMENT"

aux commerçants qui pratiquent des prix abusifs

"Il a été signalé que certains commerçants avaient exigé de membres des armées alliées des prix nettement abusifs. Des exagérations de ce genre ont été notamment commises dans des cafés, bars, salons de coiffure, teinturerie et marchands d'articles de nouveauté.

"Le ministre de l'Economie nationale signale, à cet égard:

1. Que les prix sont toujours soumis à la réglementation de blocage et que les règles relatives à l'affichage et au marquage des prix doivent être appliquées plus strictement que jamais;

"2. Que les abus commis au préjudice de militaires des armées alliées seront signalés à la direction générale du contrôle des prix, qui proposera de sanctions exemplaires;

"3. Que le Haut Commandement allié envisage, de son côté, d'interdire aux troupes, par voie d'affiches apposées sur les devantures, l'accès des magasins où des abus auraient été commis."

3. Further to item 1 - I understand that Lord Beaverbrook has published an article purporting to show that U.S. business concerns are reentering France and reestablishing contacts in the form of U.S. Army officers in Paris who are visiting their firms, reporting news, etc. Of course, this is perfectly true. Nothing on earth could stop it. Every U.S. officer who had any connections is visiting, bringing news, talking about the future, trying to get demobilized and stay here, sending news home. Of course, the British are doing precisely the same thing. To repeat, nothing ~~the~~ could possibly prevent this happening. It is my impression that the British are at least as active at this, if not more so - you have the outstanding case of Isthby's visit - which might be leaked if the propaganda battle gets rough. We have had nothing like this. However, General Carter, for example, brought messages and contacted at least one and probably more of the U.S. banks here, and that sort of thing is quite inevitable.

4. In the light of the above, it is probably about three weeks late for me to be reporting information about the status of U.S. banks in Paris, but I have received some authentic information which I hereby pass on for your and Treasury's information.

Until sometime in the middle of 1941 (probably at the time of freeing Germany, though I do not know the exact date), the American banks were not touched by the Germans. They had all, however, moved as much as possible of their offices to the unoccupied zone. In this move they were successful to varying degrees. Morgan was evidently the most successful as all their foreign accounts and all their foreign securities were moved. These were never touched by the Germans, although Morgan's were requested to re-transfer them to Paris. They succeeded in delaying this, and the Germans, when they occupied the south of France, continued to rely on their Paris organization for the control of banks, so they never got these assets. The other banks followed the same practice but I have the impression that they were somewhat less successful.

After the middle of 1942, a German administrator was appointed for the American banks. The Germans went into all safe deposit boxes (this they did to all banks) and took all the gold and U.S. currency and jewels. They did

000048

not take dollar bonds or other securities, although these were, of course, blocked. (See further for more on this point). The U.S. (and Br.) banks were controlled by means of orders from the administrator. The universal report of bankers, government officials, and business people is that the administrator interfered very little with the operation of the banks and then only on general matters. Furthermore, it is the general impression that he got very little guidance or pressure from Berlin, and that in the main his principal object was to avoid storing up trouble so he could keep his comfortable job. (This, incidentally, is such a universal view, not only with respect to banks, but with respect to U.S. businesses and even some Jewish-owned enterprises, and comes from so many persons of all shades of opinion, that I am inclined to believe it is generally correct). There was no elaborate organization, and investigation and examination of the books were perfunctory. Compared to some of our supervisory jobs, the Germans were apparently amateurs and the control of U.S. enterprises and banks was not considered an important function - rather one for officers of a certain age who had no great ambitions and wanted to live in Paris.

The status of U.S. -owned accounts and securities seems to be as follows: All the banks were required to transfer an amount of cash equal to their enemy accounts to the German agency which was called "_____stellen". I don't have the exact name, but it was the German A.P.C. The cash was transferred to Barclays Bank, which the Germans chose (presumably because of their good relations with this bank). They were later transferred to the Aerobank, and constituted the principal cash assets of this bank, which was, as you know, the bank which financed German aircraft production and related industries. The Aerobank pulled out of Paris shortly before the liberation and at this point I have two divergent stories. I was told by the French Treasury that the Aerobank's cash was all moved to Nancy or Metz, and that unless it was recovered there, the bank would be in very poor condition for liquidation (of course, the shell that was left has been sequestered). If this were true, American depositors would be out of luck unless some claim could be made good against the German Government or the French Government. In this connection, I have checked several sources and all agree that the "force majeure" in this case was a German military order, not a French order or law, which, I suppose, lets the French Government pretty much out of it.

The other version I got just today from the Secretary General of the Bank of France. I told him what I had heard substantially as above, and he said that, on the contrary, the cash reserve of the Aerobank was right here in the vaults of the Bank of France - at least that part representing the German A.P.C.'s holdings. What was transferred to Nancy or Metz was the cash of the Reichskreditkassen. This person thought that probably all the U.S. accounts would be settled in full. Eventually I shall find out which of these versions is correct.

The securities which were held here for U.S. (and Br.) citizens were also ordered to be transferred. This, however, was not done by a formal ordinance, apparently, only by an order of the administrator of a less formal nature. In any event, it is said that practically all the securities belonging to the U.S. and British nationals are still in Barclays. They got that far but were not transferred physically to the Aerobank. Just why this was not done is not entirely clear. Furthermore, Morgan's according to a M. Meynial, who came in to see me the other day, didn't transfer any securities and still has them. As noted above, all their foreign securities were sent south and remained there. The way they did this, by the way, was to challenge the legality of an order by the Germans in Paris as applied to their Chatel-Guyon branch, which they successfully maintained was a separate institution. Incredible as it seems, the Germans apparently fell for this and, according to Meynial, the whole issue was sidetracked into an endless and voluminous exchange of legal opinions on this point. In any event, the thing evidently never was considered important enough by the Germans to raise the matter above this level, and that's the way it ended.

100249

All of the U.S. banks underwent substantial liquidation and took on no new business. This is confirmed everywhere. None of them are new in a position to do more than carry on until new personnel is sent in. They are apparently all very liquid and all have some French staff. Further than this, I haven't gone into their actual administrative setup. Morgan's has rather a special problem because it is a partnership which really no longer exists in view of the incorporation of Morgan's in New York after the breaking off of relations. The people here are afraid to do anything until they know just where they stand on that point, i.e., who the partners are, what their responsibility is, etc. This, just for incidental information.

Apart from the above, the Germans apparently did nothing to the U.S. banks. They didn't vest the interest of the parent company, try to convert them into active agents for themselves, or interfere with their personnel (except for reasons connected with the individuals' own political activity, etc.)

see FFG
handbook

5. I have had two extremely interesting luncheons, yesterday and today, which I wish I could report in detail. One to which I was invited by Hannegan (FRA), without knowing who would be present, turned out to be at the Ritz with M. Ritz as host, and a M. Vernes and another member of the 200 families whose name I don't recall. We were later joined by an elderly American who represents United Shoe Machinery here, by the name of Gomon, I believe it is, who has lived in Paris 47 years, from Boston. Without going into details, I got a real load of the French right wing political philosophy, which has not changed a bit since 1936 or 1939. The only one, however, who really saw a Communist in each and every member of the F.F.I. was the elderly American, who had the political point of view of an extreme Conservative in Boston at the time he was last there (i.e., 47 years ago). As a matter of fact, Vernes seemed to be a reasonable person with some tolerance and faith in the future. I have since checked up a bit on him and am told he had a good record during the occupation. Ritz, I believe, did not.

Today I lunched in the Bank of France as the guest of honor at a luncheon for the top staff and several members of the Council. I'll tell you the details sometime which are of personal and cultural interest. However, I learned a good many things which are included under 4 above, and also got some extremely interesting views from M. Cariguel, with whom I talked at length after lunch, on numerous topics. He confirmed emphatically the general view of Ardent (of Soc. Gen.) and said it was a scandal that he was not in jail. He said Villard (Dep. Gov. of the Bank) was Ardent's man and that he (Ardent) ran the Comite d'Organisation des Banques through Villard. He said none of the Bank's staff was surprised when Boisanger and Villard were kicked out because they had been very weak and had shown no backbone to the Germans. He referred especially to the Belgian gold case and to the transfer of gold to the Polish representatives in New York in the Fall of 1940 (which Cariguel claims he did without checking with the Governor or the Government). Boisanger refused to back him up on that and, he says, was about to let the Germans take their revenge on him a couple of weeks before the liberation. He also said that Pose was the black sheep of B.N.C.I. He was unfamiliar with Pose's activities in Africa, but said that on the basis of what he did in France, he was a traitor and would undoubtedly be jailed if he returned. He based this on his publications and his support of German economic ideas. All this was rather interesting coming from a man in Cariguel's position.

6. Please have this letter typed and send me back a copy for my files.

7. Please ask the Treasury to send me some stationery and envelopes.

Regards,

Mike.

(M. L. Hoffman)

000250

C O P Y

From Paris, France edition of the DAILY MAIL

24 September 1944

A Frenchwoman's Point of View

The Continental "Daily Mail" has received the following communication from Mrs. Marcelle Poirier, the French Woman War Correspondent:

I am sorry to learn from Paul Bewsher in the Continental Daily Mail that the Allied soldiers in Paris feel that they are suffering from the present rate of exchange of 200 francs to the £ and 50 francs to the dollar. I really fail to see why they are so hardly hit at this rate or why they are obliged to sell their rations at black market prices in order to be able to buy a glass of beer or a cup of coffee.

If the exchange is indeed so disadvantageous it is surprising that the few remaining stocks of perfumes and silk stockings in Paris have been bought up so rapidly. Mr. Bewsher says:

"When I pay 100 francs to go to my office half a mile away in an open horse cab it is incorrect to say that the journey costs 10s. It just costs 100 francs, which represents to a Frenchman about what four or five shillings represents to the Englishman".

"Considerable Sum"

This statement is very far from the truth. One hundred francs is a considerable sum to the average Parisian, who in any case would not dream of taking a cab for a half a mile journey which he could easily walk. One hundred francs is about 1/20-1/30 of the average man's monthly wage in Paris. A factory worker putting in 50 hours a week earns on an average about 3,000 francs a month. A Civil Servant's salary ranges from 1,500 to 3,000 francs, and perhaps to 3,500 francs if he is in charge of an office; the shop assistant in the big departmental stores may earn 2,000 francs a month with luck and a typist from 1,500 to 2,000 francs.

If prices are too high for the pockets of Allied soldiers they are equally high, if not more so, for the Parisians, and if the Allied soldier on leave in Paris is to be given an advantageous exchange so that he can buy all the luxuries he wants it will force prices even higher, and it is the Parisian who will suffer further.

"Wrong Picture"

There has been a great deal of misunderstanding about the real conditions of life in Paris. This is due to a great extent to the fact that a large number of Allied newspaper men and women in Paris have been living in the equivalent of London's West End. Any Londoner will readily agree that a visitor to the British capital who only lives in the West End, staying in an expensive hotel or service flat, eating always in restaurants, or the houses of the rich, where are elegantly and expensively dressed in spite of clothes rationing, will have a completely wrong picture of the average person's life in wartime Britain.

The same is true of Paris. It is in the suburbs and in the industrial districts where the bread queues form at 6 a.m. and where the queues for tobacco can best be seen, where the shop windows are empty and the market stalls almost bare.

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COPY

From Paris, France edition of the DAILY MAIL

22 September 1944

EXCHANGE RATE MAY ALTER Dollar at 75 or 100?

By Paul Bewsher

Drastic changes in the present unsatisfactory exchange rates between the French franc and the dollar which has caused such a chaotic situation in Paris will probably take place shortly.

There may also be some change in the £-franc exchange rate, though this is not certain.

I understand that the dollar exchange rate will almost certainly be increased from 50 francs to the dollar to 75 francs and perhaps even to 100 francs, thus doubling the present rate.

This increase in the value of the dollar will bring it more into line with the actual buying value of the franc, and may help to curb the black market in currency. People with British Treasury notes are being offered as much as 400 or 500 instead of the official rate of 200.

This black market also operates in a less direct way in shops. An article priced at 1,200 francs is in some shops being sold for only four £1 notes, with a nominal value of 800 francs. But the shopkeeper knows that in the black market he could get at least 1,600 francs for the £1, thereby gaining four hundred francs and so splitting the black market profit with the customer.

This black market came into being because Allied Soldiers were getting exchange rates which simply did not correspond to the buying value of francs.

When I pay 100 francs to go to my office half a mile away in an open horse cab it is incorrect to say that the journey costs ten shillings. It just costs 100 francs which represents to a French about what four or five shillings represents to an Englishman.

As a result of this artificial exchange value soldiers' pocket money has gone nowhere and many have unfortunately resorted to selling cigarettes and rations to get a few francs to buy beer or coffee.

The open air market grew up especially near the Eiffel Tower. Parisians were offended by this because it suggested that people, clamouring for soldiers' supplies were cadging. "We are not a city of beggars", I heard an indignant Frenchwoman say in a cafe.

The scandal reached such proportions that more military police were drafted by the Americans in Paris.

The American army newspaper "Stars and Stripes" yesterday printed a very strong leader on the subject.

700254

COPY

From Paris, France edition of the DAILY MAIL

23 September, 1944

FRANC AND DOLLAR

On information from a usually well-informed source, we stated yesterday that the present rate of exchange between the franc and the dollar would probably be altered shortly.

We have now been informed from a high quarter that there is no intention of making such a change. The rate will continue to be 200 francs to the £1 and 50 francs to the dollar.

We regret any inconvenience which may have been caused by our announcement, printed in all good faith.

000255

C O P Y

██████████ Paraphrase, September 25, 1944
Outgoing Telegram

Secstate

Washington

September 25, 1944

We have discussed further the question of requests being made by British and American businessmen to visit France and Belgium, but it is considered by SHAEF that such visits should be postponed until it is possible to establish a zone of interior in France and the "second Phase" in other countries, although SHAEF is fully aware that it is desirable to permit these business representatives to enter the Theatre as soon as conditions will permit. The responsibility for the selection of individuals of American or British nationality cannot be accepted by SHAEF and at this point the only applications which have been accepted are from private individuals who were sponsored by government departments other than service departments of the US and the UK if they were sponsored by a request from the President or the Prime Minister. If the Secretary of the War Cabinet sponsors applications from British individuals, and if the War and Navy Departments or the President sponsor American individuals, requests for visits to this Theatre will be sanctioned; otherwise they will not be sanctioned until the establishment of the zone of the interior has been completed. This information is being given to the British Government and no permission for other visits will be granted. A great deal of publicity has been given this subject, particularly in England, and in view of this fact, there is transmitted in my immediately following telegram a statement of policy which has been prepared and has been approved by the Chief of Staff. There is no objection on the part of the Supreme Commander to this being used in both the United States and Britain if it is required, but he does not wish to make a statement; therefore, this has been telegraphed to London where on September 26 it will be used as a basis for a reply to a parliamentary question in the House of Commons.

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

200256

C O P Y

clear

25 September 1944

SECSTATE

WASHINGTON

September

Stories have been circulating in the United States to the effect that British officers employed by Supreme Headquarters have been taking advantage of their military position to engage in private business activities either on their own behalf or on that of business organizations by whom they were employed in France before the outbreak of the war. I understand that similar stories are circulating in Great Britain alleging that United States officers are engaged in the same improper activities.

It has been learned on the authority of the Supreme Commander that no facts in support of these stories have been brought to light.

In the selection of both United States and British officers for service with the Civil Affairs Division of Supreme Headquarters and its subordinate commands due regard was naturally paid to the knowledge which candidates might have, both of the language of the country in which they would be employed, and of local conditions there. All officers employed under the authority of the Supreme Commander are under the strictest orders against engaging in any occupation other than their military duties.

The lack, in the countries of Europe in which the war is still raging, of all communications except military communications, and the currency and censorship regulations which it has been found necessary to impose, do not in any case permit the general resumption of international business except under Government control.

It is a matter of regret that the military pressure on communications from the United States and Great Britain to the continent of Europe is still so great as to prevent the effective resumption of normal business contacts. This question is engaging the close attention of the authorities concerned, and every effort is being made, so soon as circumstances permit to enable such contacts to be resumed.

WINANT

SR:ETW:VAC

Original and eight
Charge Embassy Account

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C O P Y

Whitehall 9400 (Ext. 679)

THE WAR OFFICE
WHITEHALL,
S.W.1.

12h/Denmark/2. (F.5).

21st September, 1944.

Dear Babington Smith,

I understand that it is quite probable that the only Allied troops who will enter Denmark will be a small combined British and American Military Mission to see that military requirements are satisfied. I assume that the Mission will not carry out any Civil Affairs functions as, in the circumstances envisaged, a Danish Government will presumably have asserted itself and taken control of the country.

There will be no need to use A.M. Crowns, and we can supply a small amount, say £5,000 worth, of ordinary Danish Kroner to tide the Mission over until arrangements can be made with the Danish Government to supply further funds.

It will be necessary to ask the Danish Government to supply accommodation and services for the Mission, and I should be glad if you would let me know what action SHAEF are thinking of taking in this connection when the time comes. In particular, we should be clear whether SHAEF are going to arrange these details with the Danes or whether Governments should take them up through the diplomatic channel as soon as this is possible. In any case, the question of settlement for currency, services, etc., provided by the Danes will presumably be for the Treasuries and not SHAEF.

It might perhaps be well if we had some discussion on this matter, say at our next Friday meeting on 29th September.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ CHARLES E. DAY

Brigadier M.J. Babington Smith,
SHAEF
G45 Division
Financial Branch
No. 1 A.P.D.G.
London, W.1.

DECLASSIFIED
JCS MEMO. 1-17-79
BY SIC . DATE JUN 3 1974

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COPY

~~TOP SECRET~~
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
G-5 Division
Financial Branch

23 September 44

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Major Ecker-Raes and Lt. Ashley.

Discuss the attached with Major Knight and Major Jelly. I think our position should be that the Danish Mission should be provided by the Danish authorities with whatever regular Danish currency is needed, that appropriate records should be kept and settlement should be made by the Danish authorities with the British and American governments.

Similarly, to the extent that the War Office is able to provide £5,000 of regular Danish Kroner to SHAEF, settlement therefor should be between the U.S. and U.K. governments. Records of expenditures will be maintained by SHAEF or by the Army unit concerned.

B. BERNSTEIN
Colonel, gsc
Deputy Chief
Financial Branch, G-5

Incl: Ltr. W.O., 124/Denmark/2. (F.5), dtd 21 Sept. 44

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78
(JCS 6-1111) SEP 1 1972

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C O P Y

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
G-5 Division
Financial Branch

SHAEP/G-5/Fin/9

23 September 44

SUBJECT: Financial Guide to Planning for Military
Government of Austria.

TO: Civil Affairs Division, War Department
Washington, D. C. (ATTN: Lt. Col. Hilliard)

Inclosed are some comments respecting the draft Financial Guide for
Military Government in Austria which was forwarded to us by General HILLDRING
in the letter dated 29 August 44.

I believe that the inclosed suggestions warrant careful consideration.

B. BERNSTEIN
Colonel, CSC
Deputy Chief
Financial Branch, G-5

Incl: Ltr. SHAEP, Austrian Planning Unit,
dtd 20 Sept. 44, subject as above

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78
(JCS Guideline) SEP 1 1972

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C O P Y

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
COUNTRY UNITS
AUSTRIAN PLANNING UNIT

20 September 1944

SUBJECT: Financial Guide to planning for MG Austria.

TO: Col. B. Bernstein; Financial Branch, G-5 SHAEP.

1. The following comments on the Financial Guide to planning for Military Government of Austria are submitted, on the assumption that, the document not being "an agreed paper at any level", it is still open to discussion and possible modifications.

2. Paragraph 1b. I sympathize with what I take to be the purpose behind this instruction; namely, the desire to push through the conversion from marks to schillings as soon as possible. Nevertheless, the instruction seems to me dangerous as it stands; and I urge very strongly its deletion. On its face, the paragraph would suggest that the instruction to banks and the postal savings system "to pay out A.M. schillings only" would apply immediately on our entry into Austria, regardless of whether the frontier has been sealed or any of the other conditions necessary for a successful conversion are realized. Among the possible consequences of this would be the followings:

a. If, as is entirely possible, distrust attaches to Reichsmarks, in which all bank and postal savings accounts will be kept at the time of our entry, and if it then becomes known that banks are instructed to pay out only schillings, it would obviously be to everyone's advantage to convert his bank balance into schilling notes. The result would be a run on the banks which would force their immediate closing.

b. Quite apart from the danger of a run on the banks, it would be most undesirable to find the banks forced to revert to the paying out of Reichsmark currency, after having started to pay out A.M. Schillings, simply because there was not an adequate stock of A. M. schillings available. Actually, it is impossible to know, in advance of our entry, whether the amount of schillings printed will be sufficient to meet conversion demands even if those demands come solely from the holders of currency balances (as opposed to holders of bank balances). Estimates of the present population of Austria, which is one element involved in the calculation of the present Reichsmark circulation in Austria, vary from under 7 million to over 9 million, and even higher; and no one knows with certainty what the total Reichsmark circulation in the German monetary area (another element involved in the Reichsmark circulation in Austria) will be at the time of our entry. This being so, the final settlement of plans for the conversion of the Reichsmark currency into schillings should be left until after our entry; it should not be prejudiced by an instruction which the Financial Division of MG may find itself quite unable to carry out.

c. An instruction of the kind indicated would effectively block the way to the application of any plan for currency conversion which would attempt to combine such conversion with measures designed to prevent the excessive activation of cash balances, the amount of which is notoriously out of proportion to existing legal level of prices. A plan, for example, such as was tentatively favored in previous draft directives on Austria, for temporary withholding of the schilling proceeds of converted mark balances, will be workable only to the extent that the amount of schilling balances in existence at the time set for the total currency conversion is small. From this standpoint, what is called for is an instruction to banks and the Postal Savings system to refrain from paying out A.M. schillings until the conditions required for a successful total conversion of the currency are present; in other words, an instruction directly opposite to that proposed in paragraph 1b.

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3. Paragraph 2. I am not sure that I understand the full implications of this paragraph. I take it, however, that it will not be left to the Military Government of Austria to decide in advance that the amount of schillings printed will not be "adequate" to effect a total currency conversion (given other instructions with respect to the rate of exchange, etc.), and then to decide, on its own initiative, that A.M. marks should be issued at the outset, rather than A.M. schillings. What seems to be contemplated (on the analogy of yellow seal dollars, etc., mentioned in paragraph 3) is the use of A.M. marks to supplement the use of A.M. schillings if the supply of the latter will have run out. I submit that if such a situation should arise, (a) whatever political advantage will have been gained by the initial use of A.M. schillings will be largely lost; (b) that the total conversion of mark currency into schillings, which is the really important political corollary of the Moscow Declaration, will be further delayed possibly for a very considerable period; and (c) that, if paragraph 2 is not to be interpreted as leaving it to MG Austria to decide whether to use marks or schillings in troop payments, etc. (I assume that it is not to be so interpreted), and if there is no hope of reversing the decision to use A.M. schillings from the outset, then MG Austria should be given permission to use such devices, within the framework of an instruction to pay the occupying forces in A.M. schillings, as will minimize the amount of A.M. schillings issued prior to the establishment of conditions favorable to a successful total conversion of marks into schillings.

4. Paragraph 10, last sentence. I agree with what I take to be the main implication of this provision: namely, that the question of the "payment of interest and principal of the German national debt held in Austria" is so thorny and difficult that anything resembling final action with respect to it will have to wait upon a survey of the facts with respect to the amount and distribution of Austrian holdings of the German national debt, and upon directives from higher authority. But a categorical prohibition of the kind indicated here invites the serious consequences that will arise from the fact that a very large proportion of these holdings is in the hands of Austrian financial institutions, whose solvency would be gravely threatened by a prohibition as drastic as the one here proposed. I should much prefer a statement along the lines I have proposed for the impending revision of the Austrian Handbook: namely, "as soon as possible, Austrian holdings of the REICH national debt will be registered, with a view to resumption of service on such terms as may later be specified by higher authority". Within the framework implied by such a statement, I should like to hope that it would be possible for MG Austria to take whatever emergency action with respect to Austrian holdings of the German national debt might be required in order to prevent a collapse of Austrian financial institutions.

/s/ ARTHUR W. MARGET
/t/ ARTHUR W. MARGET
Major, AUS

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY
Istanbul, August 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am enclosing herein a copy of a report dated July 20, 1944, marked "Strictly Confidential", which was received in Istanbul and which relates to the activities of the Federation of Jewish Societies in France. The report came to Istanbul from Switzerland. For your information, the Federation is one of the agencies which is receiving funds through the Joint Distribution Committee. I am sure you will find the report to be most interesting, as it reflects the types of problems which must be met in conducting rescue work in France.

You might wish to show this report to the Joint Distribution Committee, in the event that they have not already received a copy thereof.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

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

Enclosure

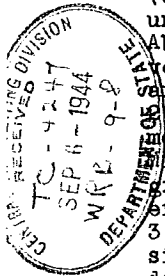
Kind personal regards.

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Bericht der F E D E R A T I O N

am 20. Juli 1944

STRENG VERTRAULICH



1) Es ist schwer genau oder sogar ungefaehr die Zahl der Juden zu nennen, die sich noch in Frankreich befinden. Jedoch denkt man dass von den dreihundertfuenfzig tausend Juden die sich in Frankreich befanden zu Beginn des Krieges, die Haelfte oder beinahe, sich noch da befinden. Andere denken dass es nicht mehr als 125.000 sind. Es ist wirklich schwer zu sagen wo die Wahrheit liegt. Man weiss z.B. dass in Paris man ungefaehr 40.000 franzoesische Juden zaehlt (und auch auslaendische) von denen die Gestapo die Namen besitzt und die verstaendlicherweise, unter staendiger Gefahr sich befinden. Aber ausser diesen 40.000 weiss man die Zahl der Juden nicht die sich versteckt halten und die Zahl der Juden die herumlaufen und sogar arbeiten mit falschen Papieren. Diese Letzteren sind ziemlich viel. Ein grosser Teil der Juden in Frankreich ist im Besitze aller moeglichen arischen Papiere. Dies ist nicht immer ein sicheres Mittel der Gestapo zu entkommen, hauptsaechlich die Maenner, aber gross an der Zahl sind die, denen diese Papiere immer Dienste erwiesen haben.

3) Viele Werke sorgen fuer diejenigen die Hilfe benoetigen. Und sie sind sehr zahlreich und ihre Zahl wird immer groesser. Es ist wahr, dass eine gewisse Anzahl dieser Hilfsbeduerftigen arretiert und deportiert sind, jedoch sind sie von anderen ersetzt welche bisher keine Hilfe benoetigen, die jedoch letzstens alles verloren haben.

4) Die FEDERATION kuenmert sich ungefaehr um 7.000 Personen. Die Hilfe die sie bringt ist manigfaltig. Es handelt sich zuerst um reine Hilfe d.h. fuer Nahrung, Unterkunft und Kleidung. Die Beisteuer die sie gibt ist aeusserst bescheiden, infolge der ungenuegenden Mittel. 300-350 Francs ist ungefaehr der Durchschnitt pro Kopf per Monat. Wegen der Teuerung des Lebens in Frankreich, ist das eine wirklich laecherliche Zahl. Sogar mit dem Doppelten kann man keine Person ernaehren. Aber um 700 Francs im Monat und per Person zu geben, muss man schon ca. 5 Millionen monatlich besitzen, nichts als fuer reine Hilfe. Aber leider gibt es noch anderes zu tun. Gerade um arische Papiere denjenigen zu verschaffen die von einer Verhaftung bedroht sind sowie von Deportation. Es handelt sich um folgende Papiere: Identitaetskarte, Alimentationskarte, Demobilisationsauszug, Geburtschein, Arbeitskarte, Neutralisationschein, Zeugnis der -Nicht-zugehoerigkeit zur juedischen Rasse, Heiratsdokument, Schein ueber gutes Leben und Sitten, Familienbuchlein, Studentenkarte, Evakuationskarte und sogar manchmal benoetigt man fuer gewisse aeusserst gefaehrliche und wichtige Faelle Taufscheine. Es handelt sich um fast 4 - 5000 Stueck per Monat, die sind aeusserst teuer, nicht zu sprechen von den Schwierigkeiten und Gefahren. Aber man erreicht viele Leute zu retten, dank dieser Arbeit. Wirklich, man muss ein spezielles Budget fuer diese Rettungsmethoden haben, die uns bereits so viele Dienste erwiesen haben. Dank dieser arischen Papiere, arbeiten viele in unseren Werken unter aeusserst illegalen Bedingungen.

5) Es gibt Leute die man ganz einfach verstecken muss. Es handelt sich hauptsaechlich um Leute die gesucht werden, sei es von der Gestapo, sei es von der Miliz. Man versteckt sie in grossen und kleinen Staedten, bei Nicht-Juden, manchmal kostenlos, aber im allgemeinen muss man zahlen und manchmal ziemlich teuer. Es ist schwer zu sagen welche Anzahl man versteckt und wie gross die Zahl ist von denen die mit arischen Papieren herumlaufen, aber jedenfalls, handelt es sich um tausende von Personen.

6) Man kuenmert sich ebenfalls eine gewisse Anzahl von Leuten ausserhalb Frankreichs zu senden. Es handelt sich hauptsaechlich um junge Leute die in Gefahr waren und die man nach Spanien schickte, mit dem Ziel ihre Reise weiterzufuehren und nach Palaestina zu gelangen um sich in den militaerischen juedischen Einheiten einzureihen oder nach Nordafrika fuer die franzoesischen Armeen. 700 Personen zu mindest sind letzstens nach Spanien geschickt worden, worunter ca. 60 Kinder, alle fuer Palaestina bestimmt. Es ist eine sehr schwierige Expedition, sehr gefaehrlich und sehr teuer. Alle Massregel sind getroffen worden um Unfaelle zu verhindern und fuer die

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ganze Zeit hat man bloss 5 Faelle zu beklagen. Natuerlich, ist es ziemlich traurig, aber im Verhaeltnis zu den Bedingungen, muss man diese Zahl nicht uebertrieben betrachten.

7) Selbst-Verteidigung. Die Gruppen der Jungen sind organisiert fuer diese soziale Arbeit und sie erfuehlen ihre Mission in dem Masse das all unsere Hoffnungen uebersteigt. Man wird spaeter das Lob dieser jungen Leute die sich opfern machen und die Zahl der Opfer ist bereits ziemlich gross. Diese Jungen bringen Hilfe den Familien und den versteckten Personen, kuemmern sich um Papiere zu beschaffen, und begleiten diejenigen die weggehen. Sie sind oft mit allem Noetigen ausgestattet, um sich noetigenfalls verteidigen zu koennen. Sie sind es die jede Situation studieren, die Fahrten der Verraster, manchmal der juedischen Verraster und nehmen alle noetigen Massregeln. Laut den letzten Nachrichten, sind ca. 15 festgenommen worden. Aber die anderen machen weiter. Andere Gruppen nehmen teil bei dem Widerstand, im Maquis usw. in dem allgemeinen Widerstand, aber es gibt ebenfalls einige Gruppen von Widerstand die hauptsaechlich juedisch sind. Sie erhalten alles was sie benoetigen.

8) Kinder. Man kuemmt sich viel um die Kinder. In Paris, hat die Federation zu ihren Lasten 400 Kinder. Sie kuemmerte sich um 150 Kinder einer anderen Organisation (Fefer). Sie hat ausserdem auch viele Kinder ausserhalb Frankreichs geschickt (ausser die nach Spanien). Man muss ca. 1000 Personen zaehlen (ausser die von Spanien) und bis zu ihrer Abfahrt macht man alles um sie in bester Form zu halten, was nicht sehr leicht ist. Letztens teilt man uns Faelle mit von Uebertritt von Kindern die in katholischen Werken untergebracht sind. Hier als Beispiel ein Brief wie folgt:

"Fraulein, Nachdem Sie sich mit einer schoenen Aufopferung um Maximilianne kuemmern und ihre Mutter ersetzen, moechte ich Sie ueber die Gesundheit Ihrer Schwester beruhigen, die sehr gut ist. Sie ist ziemlich brav und moechte sehr getauft werden. Bitte lassen Sie mich wissen ob Sie einwilligen. Der Anstaltsgeistlicher erwartet Ihre Antwort um sich um sie kuemmern zu koennen.

Empfangen Sie, mein Fraulein, unsere besten Gruesse
Der Chef des Centre"...

und zu sagen dass es sich um ein Kind handelt, dessen Eltern deportiert wurden, das ist ein Missbrauch wirklich uebertrieben. Schwer zu sagen ob solche Faelle oft vorkommen, aber sie existieren. Es ist nicht immer leicht sich dem Eiger derjenigen entgegenzustellen die sich um den Koerper dieser Kinder kuemmern, aber die niemand autorisiert hat sich um ihre Seelen zu kuemmern. Man muss also Mittel finden, diese Kinder anders zu retten.

8) Budget: Unmoeglich in der Lage in der wir uns befinden, ein normales Budget aufzustellen. Um nicht nur von der Federation zu sprechen die sich um ungefaehr 7.000 Personen kuemmt, nicht zu reden von den Subventionen die sie einigen Organisationen zustellt. Welches muss ihr Budget sein....Unmoeglich darauf zu antworten. Man kann nur etwas sagen, je mehr Geld man hat und umso rascher und regelmaessiger man es hat, umsomehr kann man retten. Hier ein Beispiel:

In Paris wollten wir von den 40.000 Leuten die sich in staendiger Gefahr befinden 10.000 zu mindest retten, sie unterbringen, man muss mindestens 2.000 Fr. per Person haben und Sie haben bereits eine runde Summe von 20 Millionen Francs. Die Federation braucht als normales Budget, d.h. Nahrung, Unterkunft und Kleidung 6 Millionen Francs im Monat wenigstens. Und dies fuer eine bescheidene Hilfe. Was die aussergewoehnliche Hilfen anbetrifft, ...unmoeglich ein Budget festzusetzen.

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(Translation from the German)

Report of the FEDERATION

July 20, 1944

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

1. It is difficult to indicate with precision or even approximately the number of Jews still in France. It is thought, however, that of the 350,000 Jews who were in France at the beginning of the war, one half or almost one half are still there. Others think that there are no more than 125,000. It is really difficult to tell where the truth lies. It is known, for instance, that there are in Paris about 40,000 French Jews (and also foreign Jews) whose names are in the possession of the Gestapo and who understandably live in permanent danger. It is not known, however, how many Jews other than these 40,000 are in hiding or wander about or even work with false papers. The latter are fairly numerous.

2. A large part of the Jews in France is in possession of all kinds of Aryan documents. This is not always a safe method to escape from the Gestapo, especially for the men, but many people were well served by such documents.

3. Many institutions take care of those who stand in need of assistance. Such persons are very numerous and their number is constantly increasing. It is true that a certain number of these needy people have been arrested and deported, but they were always replaced by others who did not previously need help and who lost everything of late.

4. The FEDERATION takes care of approximately 7,000 persons. The assistance which it extends is varied. In the first place it grants assistance for food, lodging, and clothing. In view of its insufficient resources, its contributions are extremely modest. Three hundred to 350 francs monthly form the average per person. In view of the cost of living in France, this is a truly ridiculous figure. Even double the amount would not suffice to feed a person. But in order to give 700 francs monthly per person it would have been necessary to have about 5,000,000 francs per month for elementary aid alone. Unfortunately, there are other things to do as well, notably to procure Aryan documents for those threatened with arrest or deportation. The following documents have to be procured: Identity Card, Food Rationing Card, Extract from the Demobilization Order, Birth Certificate, Working Permit, Naturalization Certificate, Certificate of Not Belonging to the Jewish Race, Marriage Certificate, Certificate of Good Behavior, Family Booklet, Student Card, Evacuation Card. At times, in some especially dangerous and important cases, Baptismal certificates are also required. About 4,000 to 5,000 items have to be procured monthly. They are exceedingly expensive, and difficult and dangerous to get. But thanks to this work, many people are being saved. One should, in truth, have a special budget for these methods of rescuing which have already

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rendered so many services. Thanks to these Aryan documents, many are able to work in our institutions under conditions of utter illegality.

5. There are people who have to be simply hidden. They are mainly people who are sought either by the Gestapo or the militia. One hides them in cities and in towns, with non-Jews, at times free, but in general one has to pay and sometimes one has to pay fairly high prices. It is difficult to say how many people are hidden and how many wander about with Aryan documents. In any case, thousands of persons are involved.

6. Care is also taken to send a certain number of people out of France. This concerns mainly young people who were in danger and who were sent to Spain with the view to going on and reaching Palestine in order to join the Jewish military units or to reach North Africa and the French armies. At least 700 persons were sent lately to Spain, among whom were about 60 children, all destined for Palestine. This is a very difficult expedition, very dangerous and very costly. All measures were taken to prevent accidents, and there were only five such cases during the entire time. Naturally, this was very sad, but considering the circumstances, this figure cannot be deemed too large.

7. Self defense. Youth groups are organized for this social activity, and they fulfill their mission to an extent which exceeds all our hopes. At a later time it will be possible to praise these young people who sacrifice themselves. The number of those who fell victims is already fairly large. These youths bring aid to families and persons in hiding, they procure documents, and they accompany those who leave. They are equipped with everything needed to defend themselves. They are the ones who study every situation, they follow the trail of traitors, sometimes Jewish traitors, and take all necessary measures. According to latest reports, about 15 of them were captured, but the others continue. Other groups participate in the Maquis, etc., within the general movement of resistance. But there are also some groups of resistance which are principally Jewish. They receive everything that they need.

8. Children. Great care is taken of children. In Paris, the FEDERATION has charge of 400 children. It also took care of 150 children of another organization (Fefer). Aside from this, it has also sent many children out of France without counting those sent to Spain. About 1,000 persons were sent abroad to countries other than Spain. Everything is done to fulfill all their needs in best form up to the moment of their departure and this is not easy. Recently we hear of cases of conversion of children placed with Catholic institutions. As an instance, the following letter is quoted:

"Madame: Since you are taking care of Maximilianne with a beautiful spirit of self sacrifice and have replaced her mother, I should like to reassure you about your sister's health, which is very good. She is fairly good and would like very much to be baptized. Please let me know whether you consent. The priest of the institution is awaiting your

reply in order to be able to take care of her.

Please accept, Madame, our best greetings.

The Chief of the Center"

This case involves a child whose parents were deported. This should really be considered an abuse. It is difficult to say whether such cases take place often, but they do exist. It is not always easy to stop the enthusiasm of those who take care of the bodies of the children but whom no-one has authorized to take care of their souls. It is therefore necessary to find means to rescue these children in another fashion.

8. Budget. In the situation in which we find ourselves it is difficult to establish a normal budget. Let us take just the FEDERATION which takes care of approximately 7,000 persons without mentioning the grants which it makes to other organizations. What should be its budget? It is impossible to give an answer. It is only possible to say that the more money one has, the more rapidly and regularly one gets it--the more lives one can save. Here is an example: In Paris, we wanted to rescue at least 10,000 of the 40,000 who are in constant danger. In order to find a place for them, it is necessary to have at least 2,000 francs per person. This alone amounts to the round sum of 20,000,000 francs. As a normal budget for food, lodging and clothing, the FEDERATION needs at least 6,000,000 francs per month, and this for a very modest subsistence. As for the extraordinary ways of bringing aid--no budget can be fixed for the purpose.

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DEPARTMENT
OF
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DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

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MJB-443
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reading only by special
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Lisbon

Dated August 14, 1944

Rec'd 3:09 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2509, August 14, 1 p.m.

FROM DEXTER FOR PEHLE.

This is WRB 154.

In view imminent liberation sections France with
considerable refugee population, it is assumed that WRB
has given consideration to possible incursion large
numbers, hopeful emigration United States, into Iberian
Peninsula. Seems advisable that WRB make policy decision
soon regarding refugees in France whether stateless,
Spanish (of whom there are large numbers) or Allied
nationals. Question wisdom of allowing refugees leaving
liberated areas unless there are compelling military or
supply reasons. Tentatively suggest that WRB send
representative into France for study problem cooperatively
with military officials and French authorities earliest
possible moment following liberation. Later problem may
be UNRRA's or Intergovernmental Committee's but for

immediate

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

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be closely guarded.

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COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LINSON)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

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-2-#2509, August 14, 1 p.m., from Lisbon

immediate future think WRB best equipped to handle.

For guidance here would appreciate comments and instructions.

NORWEB

RNK RR

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 18, 1944

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. James Andrews, American Friends Service Committee
Mr. Kuppinger, Special War Problems Division, State Department

COPIES TO: Miss Hodel, WRB
Mr. Kiaer, FEA

STANDARD FORM NO. 64 1-1403

In the course of a conversation today with Mr. Andrews on another matter he informed me, in reply to my question as to the number of persons now confined in refugee and concentration camps in southern France, that according to such information as was available to them, it was his impression that the number of such persons now was between 800 and 1,000.

He expressed the view that the decrease in the number of persons confined had resulted from deportation of Jews, the recruitment of able-bodied workers for labor elsewhere, and the dispersal of women and children in private homes.

SWP:EDK:EHJ

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Mission, Algiers
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 15, 1944
NUMBER: 2028

CONTROL COPY

Gilpatric has approved the following which should be passed to FEA, War Refugee Board, and State.

Saxon, Treasury, sends the following, No. A-204, for Secretary of the Treasury.

The French consider that there may be a large influx of French refugees into Spain, subject to the course of military operations in France. Although this is a contingency which is difficult to estimate, it must be provided for. The French think that in this connection their needs may possibly run as high as 25 million pesetas monthly for a period of two months or more.

It is tentatively proposed by the French, in order to meet the expenses of these refugees, to sell to Spain 10,000 tons of AEF cotton. The French Comite Economique is now studying this proposal.

If our agreement to this proposal is requested by the French, it will be necessary to decide whether you would be willing, because of the humanitarian aspect of the refugee problem, to use part of the income from the present United States Iberian supply program to support refugee expenditures

in such

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date

SEP 1 1972

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in such an emergency. Specifically, would you be willing to allow French cotton to displace dollar or sterling cotton under the present blockade quota in order to finance emergency refugee requirements, or would it be possible to raise quota for this purpose under the present circumstances.

It is necessary to consider that this emergency may arise quickly whereas it may be months before a contract for the cotton can be negotiated with the Spanish and delivery made thereunder. The French informed us that so far the Spanish have been reluctant to pay except against contract or, as actually seems to be the case, against delivery. Therefore, the question arises whether you would be willing to support a request by the French to the Spanish for a substantial advance of pesetas against future delivery of cotton.

Although no contract has yet been negotiated, the French are committed to sale of 5,000 tons of AOF cotton to Spain. The French propose as an interim measure, if the refugee emergency should arise soon, to use proceeds of these 5,000 tons to meet the immediate refugee need. While the contract for this cotton may be signed shortly, there is no prospect of early delivery thereunder. Therefore, in this case it is important to also consider whether you would be willing to support a renewed request by the French to the Spanish for advances against future delivery.

If the proceeds or advances on the AOF cotton are used
for

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for emergency refugee requirements it would still be necessary to cover ordinary French refugee and mission expenses which are to be covered for the present year with proceeds of AOF cotton. If the emergency refugee need should reach 50 million pesetas, it would thus be necessary to sell the entire 10,000 tons of AOF cotton.

Your views on the above would be appreciated, as well as any suggestions you may have for financing the emergency refugee needs by other means as, for example, by loan out of existing United States-United Kingdom peseta availabilities.

The French peseta position is roughly one million pesetas now. The British have been asked by the French to remit 75,000 pounds sterling to special sterling account, in order to meet ordinary refugee expenses for June and July. I understand that this has been agreed to by the British.

CHAPIN

DCR:VAG:FB 6/17/44

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Meeting of the Provisional Consultative Assembly
of Monday, 6th March, 1944

DEBATE ON THE REPATRIATION IN FRANCE OF PRISONERS
AND DEPORTED PEOPLE

Speech of Mr. Frenay, Commissioner for Prisoners, Deported People and Refugees.

I first wish to thank the Assembly for asking to hear me on the sad problem of deported people and prisoners.

Like all my colleagues, I think that it is in the frequency and intimacy of the contacts of the French Committee for National Liberation with the Assembly that can be found the guarantee that all problems will be solved and solved for the very best.

I think that this Debate is necessary; its importance is not perhaps clearly seen in the eyes of the public. But you have, all of you, realised its importance, and rightly so. I am going to speak now very seriously of a problem which will have a determining influence upon the moral and physical health of our country and, of course, on its political wellbeing.

The Commissariat for Prisoners and Deported People was created on the 9th November, 1943. Its duties have been determined by a decree of the 8th December, 1943. The main functions of my Commissariat are to centralise and handle all questions relative to prisoners, to workers deported out of France by the Germans and by the Government, so called the French State, and to look after all Frenchmen who are refugees within the Metropolis, in the Empire or in foreign lands. A projected decree is being prepared to extend these functions to include members of Allied countries, also neutral or enemy countries and to the people without a country who have abandoned their homes and wish to return to them.

General de Gaulle, in creating this Commissariat, first wanted to show the interest that France takes in the prisoners and deported people. While our Allies have only created an Office, the French Committee of National Liberation has instituted an independent Ministry. General de Gaulle also wanted to demonstrate in a tangible way the unity of Frenchmen who are in the hands of the enemy.

In settling his choice on me, one of the men of the Resistance, to be head of this Ministry, General de Gaulle wanted to show the unity of France in time of war, France who fights everywhere - on the outside front, on the interior front or in Germany.

The Commissariat whose objects I am going to outline is only a four month-old child. You will, without any doubt, sense my blind fatherly love for it mixed with a little exaggerated pride. I submit its work to your critics. I ask you to be kind, but fair nevertheless.

We had from the very beginning to face three kinds of problems. In the first place we had to think of extremely urgent problems. We have created for these an Office of Assistance. We also had to consider measures to reintegrate millions of Frenchmen who are in Germany or away from their homes; so we had to create an Office of Repatriation. As all problems that concern large human masses are dominated by considerations either moral or psychological, I attached to my staff a certain number of under-secretaries in order to carry out my task more easily. All these secretaries have their opposite numbers in London, as the questions that fall to my Commissariat have not only a national character, but also international repercussions.

As all these problems, which, as you all see, are extremely important, interest all the Commissariats, a Commission that will

/ co-ordinate

John P. McArthur
file

co-ordinate all the various Commissariats, a Commission over which I preside, has been created.

I will first show you what we have done, then I will try to tell you what we are going to do.

First, the help to French prisoners of war. There are now 850,000 Frenchmen who are considered as prisoners of war. This figure was higher a few months ago, but following the Laval-Saukel Agreement, a certain number of prisoners of war have been turned into civil labour. According to all the information that we have, there is no doubt that the position of these men becomes more and more critical.

It is not in vain that every day Germany is pillaging the French soil. As a consequence of this the help that prisoners were formerly able to receive in food and clothing from their families is getting smaller and smaller. The number of parcels sent by the families is being cut down every day and their food value is also decreasing.

The French Committee of National Liberation is aware of the problem and in the middle of 1943 created a Central Committee to help prisoners of war, presided over by Senator Maroselli, under the vice-presidency of Mr. Hymans. I wish to acknowledge publicly the great devotion of these men and to outline the remarkable achievements that they have already accomplished (Applause).

Mr. Maroselli, during his journeys in the United States, in Canada and in Great Britain, where he was most cordially received and so well understood, arranged that the Red Cross would send 600,000 parcels a month.

I would like to show you the progress made in the number of parcels sent since I arrived in this Commissariat. In the month of October, 1943, we sent 429,000 parcels; in November, 536,000; in December, 573,000; in January, 1944, 634,000; and in February, 906,000. (Applause). That is to say we have been able to send twice as many as were being sent at the end of last summer. On this subject we must stress the contribution of the Empire. Algeria and Morocco have made a remarkable effort. The number of parcels they prepared jumped from 20,000 in November to 188,000 in February. (Applause). I wish to extend my thanks to Miss Lung (Manageress of the organisation in Algiers for sending parcels to war prisoners), and to Mrs. Puaux (Manageress of the War Fraternity in Morocco), to whom we owe these remarkable results. (Applause). Whilst we have been able to send more than a parcel a month for each prisoner in the hands of the Germans, it is our desire to see that soon our prisoners should receive two of them.

The maximum effort must first be asked from the Empire and it is only when we have reached the limit of this effort that we should ask again for more help from our Allies. (Very good).

Two factories have been installed to make parcels, one in Casablanca and the other in Algiers. The Casablanca factory uses hand labour methods. It can wrap 8,000 parcels a day. Its industrial equipment will make it possible to manufacture daily 22,500 wrappings. The Empire will furnish the food that these wrappings will contain.

It is possible that this might be too much for the Empire. I have asked Mr. Maroselli to take his pilgrim's cane and go, this time, to South America. (Applause). I am sure that the ties of friendship which unite us with the countries of Latin America have not been severed in our misfortune, but that, on the contrary, they have been reinforced. If we cannot reach our goal, we will ask some extra help from the United States, Canada and Great Britain.

But I hope that in three or four months we will have reached our goal. We will then be able to express our gratitude to all those whose generous assistance has helped us to succeed.

I will touch briefly upon the question of clothing. The call for help that we have sent to our Allies has not been in vain. We have succeeded in buying in the United States 300,000 suits which are sailing now towards our prisoners. Unfortunately, 300,000 suits when we wanted 850,000 still leaves us far from our goal. We have asked our foreign representatives to negotiate actively as we would like to send to each one of our prisoners a suit and new underclothes every year.

In the medical field we have been able to do what was asked by the International Red Cross. We have been able to send to prisoners' camps 80,000 medical pouches in a very short time and 25,000 anti-typhus vaccines.

For the escaped and refugees, we asked at the beginning of this year a credit of 2,600 million which would allow us to give some help. At the present time two-thirds of these credits have already been used. In a few months I think that I will be obliged to return to the Finance Commissioner and tell him that we have worked very well, very well indeed as we have spent all he gave us. (Very good! Very good!)

The situation of people who escaped from France was not very good until lately. These men who have been active in the Resistance meet a double deception when they arrive here. First they would notice a great difference, and I do not care to dwell on this point now, between the political climate in France and the political climate here. (Applause). They also were expecting a warm welcome. They were receiving at the very best only kind words. We have first tried to unite the two organisations that were taking care of them: The Union for the Escaped and The French Aid. The Union's duty was to concentrate its action in North Africa, and The French Aid took care of people who escaped to Spain, Tunis, Oran and Casablanca. A fourth one will open soon in Algiers. In two-and-a-half months these Receiving Centres have sheltered a total of 10,800 of our friends and served them meals. I wish to thank the Management of this Group for all it has done.

I have learned that there was in Morocco an Association of Escaped People. I got into touch with this Association and I think that it will very soon be able to unite with the other two Organisations in order to pull together.

Escaped people who are still in Spain are few. With the help of the Commissariat of Foreign Affairs we send them some help and their situation is greatly improved.

We are also equally concerned with refugees. We can, of course, only take care of the refugees who are in North Africa. We do not know exactly how many there are. There may be 250,000 of them. Most of those who settled in Algeria before 1942 are not in need of material help. But they all need moral help and we have done our best to put them in touch with their families who remain in France. With the help of the International Red Cross and of the Vatican we have been able to intensify the sending of messages.

We have been able to obtain the transfer of family papers, such as Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate, Death Certificate, which are necessary for certain formalities. We have done what we could to enable individuals to help the families from whom they have been separated. At the present time the head of a family, who is living in North Africa, can send to France 2,000 francs a month for his wife and 1,000 francs for each child.

Such measures have eased many worries and many heartaches.

There are other projects under consideration. We are trying to pay family allotments to people who have sheltered children from France.

We will also try to wipe out a certain amount of injustice. For instance, the military allotment paid to families of prisoners is inferior to that which families of other soldiers are receiving. This must change.

I come now to the question of deported people.

There are two millions of them in Germany. It is difficult to send them help because we would have to do it through international organisations, such as the Geneva Red Cross, which is not accredited for that.

It is only in Corsica that we can do anything. We have asked the German

/ authorities

authorities to exchange deported Corsicans who are in the Island of Elba or in Northern Italy, against interned Germans from Corsica. We have not reached a settlement on this point yet.

We have thought also of the distress of certain families in Corsica. I saw that it was necessary to allot a donation of one million to the Association of Families of the Deported in Corsica.

Another category of people draws our attention. The former political prisoners and interned civilians. We also gave them a donation.

We also gave the Corsican Red Cross the means to accomplish its mission.

I will now speak of the co-ordination of charity organisations. In each territory submitted to the authority of the French Committee of National Liberation there are organisations which are all dependent upon the Red Cross, but which have no contacts one with another. It seemed necessary to create a Co-ordinating Committee, at the same time leaving to each organisation its own initiative. All that remains to be done is to find the men. But we know only too well that in North Africa it is sometimes difficult.

The National Aid, whose name brings back so many sad memories is to be replaced by the French Brotherhood of Aid for Liberation.

If one considers the broad task that has fallen on our shoulders, one understands all the difficulties that we will have to overcome and all the responsibilities which will be ours. I believe that I am surrounded by willing and devoted friends and I feel positive that I will soon be able to say to you "This is what we wanted to do, and this is what we have done."

I will now touch on the gigantic problem of repatriation. It has so many facets and involves questions whose eventual solution will have a great influence on the fate of our nation.

Some people are thinking only of conducting the war without worrying about anything else. I think that this is a mistake. What good would it be to win the war if we lost immediately the benefit of victory? (Very good). The main duty of a government is to foresee. I think that a government is judged on the wisdom of its foresight. The fighting men themselves are encouraged by the action of a government that has some foresight. (Applause).

You have too much at heart the national interest not to be convinced of the fairness of these observations after I have put before you the broad outlines of the problems of repatriation. In this field we have two kinds of problems, one international, the other national.

There are now in Germany or in occupied territory almost 30 million people transplanted on account of the enemy. We must gather these people wherever they are and bring them back to their homes - perhaps destroyed.

Among these 30 million people, how many are French?

I divide them into three categories: people who will have to return to France; people who will have to be sent out of France; people who will have to be moved from one part of France to another.

In the first category one finds about:

- 850,000 French prisoners of war;
- 350,000 French prisoners of war who became civilian labourers;
- 900,000 workers who left France in exchange for war prisoners;
- 60,000 people deported for political or racial reasons;
- 500,000 Alsaciens and Lorrains sent away from their homes;
- 180,000 Alsaciens and Lorrains incorporated in the German Army;
- 250,000 refugees in the Empire.

The second category comprises, in the first place, the enemies who will have to leave France:

/ 500,000

500,000 Germans settled in the eastern part of France;
150,000 Germans in the rest of the country;
150,000 Italians resident in France since 1940;
50,000 foreigners;
150,000 foreign workers belonging to the Todt organisation.

As soon as the camps cease to be guarded, a certain number of people will try to reach France. I assess them at 50,000

Add 20,000 people from France who will return to the Empire and one reaches a total of 1,070,000.

In the third category one finds the 50,000 people forcibly evacuated in 1939 from the frontier zone, the 150,000 refugees of 1940 who have not yet reached their homes, the 80,000 Alsaciens and Lorrains expelled from the Reich and who took refuge in France, a million people evacuated by the Germans and the 100,000 French workers of the Todt organisation settled along the coast.

With those who left their homes for the country, one finds in this category 1,480,000 people. If one adds the three categories of people one reaches a total figure of 5,730,000, among whom more than four million are Frenchmen.

The mere quotation of these figures shows you how serious our problem is.

Let us now study this problem from an international point of view and consider what risks surround us.

It is quite certain that all the men who have been kept away from their fatherland for a long time, will feel from the last cannon shot a strong temptation to return home. As a result there will be a migration of millions of people, a migration unprecedented in history, a migration that will take place with the greatest disorder and the greatest confusion and which will have the most serious consequences. It could bring famine, famine could bring banditry, this epidemics and we don't know how far all this could go. We must also expect the anger of these men who are expecting much and to whom we shall not be able to give all that they expect.

It is the material, physical and psychological future of a whole continent that will be in the balance. The Government has made a deep study of all the principles that will govern the solution of these difficulties.

First of all we cannot allow that the problem of deported people and the problem of prisoners be separated. The question of repatriation is one. I stress this point because the Allied Governments have not a perfect understanding on this side of the problem.

We also wish that the efforts should be proportionate to the numeric importance of the people to be repatriated in each country. We also wish that repatriation should not be slowed by the demobilisation of the Germany army and changes among enemy populations. We shall commence with ourselves and we will think of them, but afterwards. (Very good).

These operations must be carried out quickly, with order and in a sympathetic manner.

Speed first: these operations must start as soon as possible after the end of hostilities. That is why we think that they must take place with the help of the General Staffs. We will try to choose gifted men to execute the plans that will be drawn up. These men will have very wide powers. We will avoid too great a centralisation which would slow up everything. There must be decentralisation from a technical and geographical angle. The Services of Supply will be away from the main travelling lines of repatriation in order to avoid disorder. Supplies will have to

/ take place

take place with local means in order to avoid the delays that would bring delivery of special but distantly situated material.

Let us consider now how order can be kept. This order will depend on the interior state of Germany. It will be necessary to enforce martial law and act with a very strong hand. So as to keep order propaganda and instructions will let everyone know that they will reach their homes more quickly if they follow the instructions that will be given them and if they wait where they are for the Allied Missions.

All this calls for organisation made in advance and close liaison between the various Missions.

These Missions will have with them former prisoners of war and also representatives of trade union organisations. We will also have to establish priority based on justice and on the needs of national economy. First those who have been away from France for the longest time, then, by order, the war prisoners - those from Alsace and Lorraine first, people deported for political reasons, workers sent to Germany. After order, it is sympathy which will guide the work. All these operations must be carried out with tact and kindness. We must avoid slowness and red tape. We will use former prisoners and feminine helpers. Our women, our sisters will be better understood and better heard by our prisoners.

After telling you on what principles our actions will be based, I want to mention my trip to London. I was in contact over there with our Allies in order to study the immense work that we have to do. I have been able to notice, and this is not a figure of speech, what perfect unity we have in considering our problem. I have also noticed how truly happy they were to see a representative of France take part in the discussions.

How will the problem be solved: U.N.R.R.A. has been put in charge of settling it through a sub-committee: the sub-committee for dispelled people, whose leaders I got into contact with in London.

The British and American representatives have noted the desire to make quick headway and to do well. I am afraid that such an important organisation with so many tasks may not act as quickly and as efficiently as necessary.

We will need, we Frenchmen, to fulfil our task, not only the organisations foreseen in London and in Algiers, but also people whom we will recruit in France.

We must foresee sending Missions, regional or local, to Germany and this will need more than 10,000 people. It won't be necessary to demobilise a division for that but it will be necessary to recruit these people in France.

Let us now consider the practical aspect of the problem.

Let us suppose that we have gathered the millions of men who are now spread throughout Germany and occupied countries. To mention only the French, our compatriots are spread in 80,000 kommandos. After gathering them we will have to feed them, to clothe them, to put them through medical inspection in order to fight contagious diseases. We will have to bring them back onto their national territory. We must foresee that in France we will need Receiving Transitory Centres.

It has only been necessary to bring the main features of this problem to your attention for you to appreciate its great importance from an international point of view.

/On a national plan

On a national plan the technical aspect of the problem is the same. The sanitary condition of the country could be seriously threatened. The number of people who have tuberculosis and the number of people having contracted syphilis has greatly increased.

What is the duty of the Government then? Must we put the repatriated men in contact with their wives? Wouldn't that have terrible consequences for the future generations? The problem as it is is extremely serious and painful. Those who have been separated for a long time are in great haste to meet each other. This desire is legitimate and comprehensible, but is it not the duty of the Government to put national interests above personal desires?

There are other difficulties.

We must take in hand people who are now under the authority of the Vichy Government: Commissariat of Work in Germany, Commissariat for Prisoners of War Repatriated, Office for Refugees. We will make a distinction between the technical organisations which must be kept going and the political organisations which, on the contrary, must be broken up. We will put in the place of the Vichy organisations men who have been prepared for their task here.

It is at the time when we take the succession of a poor and complicated organisation that repatriation will start. We cannot expect to reach perfection in view of all these difficulties.

Here are the problems that the Government will have to face. Groups are working, groups that understand their responsibilities. They work with all the devotion, all the initiative, all the courage that France expects from its servants.

So far I have only mentioned technical problems. We know very well that the problem is dominated by a psychological and moral aspect, in other words by its political aspect.

The boches have tried to divide France. To do so they have used several means: demarcation lines, propaganda, sending people to Germany. To all these attempts at division, France has answered by a will to be entirely united in the war. (Applause).

All Frenchmen are fighting wherever they are: on the outside front or on the front of Metropolitan Resistance or on the front of Resistance in Germany.

To the Vichy slogan of being resigned, to the slogan that trial is a good thing France answered by anger and by affirmation of the virtues of the war. Instructions given to Frenchmen in Germany can be put into two words: sabotage, demoralisation.

We also wish to prepare tomorrow's unity. All Frenchmen who had to leave their country went through a moral and psychological evolution different from Metropolitan France. We might be afraid that they might not understand France and that France might not understand them.

Prisoners and deported people must be told what France is, what their fight is. France must know also what is the life, the fight, of these prisoners and deported people. Thus will all men understand that they are the sons of the same country and they have the same cause.

/ Radio broadcasts

Radio broadcasts have been organised in London to explain to prisoners and deported people the same problems as those which are being explained by Radio France or by Brazzaville.

It is necessary to make known our prisoners to the men of North Africa. It is for this purpose that an exhibition will be opened soon, an exhibition which will have three parts: how they left us; how they live and fight; how they will come back. We also want to tell the prisoners what measures we expect to take to allow them to regain their homes and meet their families.

All these men who have been away from home for so long expect a lot from us. I am afraid that the results might not reach the height of their impatience but we expect that their spirit of discipline will excuse our unwilling imperfections.

Their anger might be all the worse that it will take place a few weeks before their vote. The result would be a very serious political instability at a time when international conferences will be taking place. ~~If after~~ the discouragement and the anger of our prisoners and deported people should turn against our Allies, wouldn't that create bitterness in their heart?

All these reasons lead me to think that the problem ~~is~~ is of such a political importance that it reaches beyond our own frontiers.

It is necessary, in my opinion, that we should inform our prisoners and deported people so that they will be with our comrades of the Resistance, the builders of the IV Republic, so that they participate in the revolution that France will offer to the world in a renewed ideal of justice, of generosity and of greatness. (Loud Applause).

I have explained to you what the Government has done and expects to do for these millions of Frenchmen whom war or treason has driven from their homes. The Government is trying to solve the problems that I have outlined in all their complexity, in all their immensity. We will do all we can and not spare any effort in order to succeed in our work.

In spite of our foresight, in spite of our efforts, I don't think that we can find perfect solutions so as a reward we only ask from our conscience the very gratifying feeling that we have done our duty, all our duty towards our country. (Applause).

February 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

Jewish Internees in French Camps Who Possess
Latin American Passports. (Material obtained
from file in Visa Division, State Department)

On January 31, 1944, the Department wired Bern that Michael G. Tress, Chairman of the Agudath Israel Youth Council, had submitted a memorandum dated January 27 to the Department, in substance as follows: (1) the Swiss Government has a negative attitude toward Jewish internees in French Camps who possess South American or Latin American passports. Hence it is necessary to intervene with the Swiss and have them make a positive answer to the Germans; (2) the Swiss should be informed that Paraguay has not cancelled passports of Jewish internees in Camp Vittel and is not considering cancellation; (3) special intervention should be made to have the Swiss recognize passports of Jewish families interned in Camp Vittel who possess the following passports: Honduras, 30 families; Peru, 18 families; Costa Rica, 28 families; Ecuador, 18 families; Nicaragua, 4 families; Haiti, 4 families; and Venezuela, 4 families. The Swiss Government is creating difficulties for Agudath Israel Youth Council because they were instrumental in obtaining passports for Polish Jews. The Swiss were threatening punishment for such action, and the American Government was requested to intervene to obtain humane treatment for members of the Council. Bern was requested to give its reaction to Mr. Tress's memorandum and furnish information.

K. Hartung

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February 21, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Re: Paraguayan Citizens in France. 1/

Evidently, several Paraguayan diplomatic representatives, without authority, issued Paraguayan passports to various persons in neutral territory. Most of these people were Jews, and the possession of Paraguayan passports was the only thing which saved them from deportation to Poland and kept them in the camps at Vittel and other places in France. On 17 December 1943, the Director of the IGC, London, was advised that these passports were about to be nullified and their holders deported. 2/ He cabled the Paraguayan Government on 17 December 1943, 3/ and raised the matter with the State Department at the same time. 4/ The American Embassy passed this on to the Department on 18 December 1943 in the regular course. 5/

On 23 December 1943, Mr. Michael G. Tress, Chairman of the Agudath Israel Youth Council of America telephoned Assistant Secretary Long, asking him to take action to save 1,000 Jewish families, holding Paraguayan citizenship papers and presently in concentration camps, from being deported to Germany. It was reported that this action was threatened because the Germans heard a rumor that the Paraguayan Government was about to revoke these papers. 6/ An urgent cable was immediately dispatched to London outlining the problem and suggesting that the Executive Committee of the IGC endeavor to stay the deportation of these families. 7/ A surprisingly strong cable was sent to the American Embassy, Asuncion, Paraguay, which outlined the situation and concluded: 8/

"Please contact foreign office immediately and suggest that in name of humanity Paraguayan Government will doubtless wish, in light of this information, to refrain from any action which may result in these Jewish families being sent to torture and death."

- 1/ Unless otherwise indicated, all material under this title was taken from the file, "Refugee Groups - Paraguayan Citizens in France". The file was found in the Visa Division of the Department of State.
- 2/ Letter of 16 December 1943, from Solomon Schonfeld, Executive Director of the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council, to Sir Herbert Emerson of the IGC.
- 3/ Cable from IGC to Paraguayan Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- 4/ Letter from IGC to American Embassy, London.
- 5/ Dispatch No. 12822, 18 December 1943, from London to the Department.
- 6/ Mr. G. L. Brandt's memorandum of 23 December 1943, describing the conversation between Tress and Long.
- 7/ No. 8114 of 23 December 1943, from Department to London.
- 8/ No. 513, 24 December 1943, noon, from Department to Asuncion, Paraguay.

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On 24 December 1943, a note was delivered by the Polish Embassy to the State Department giving further details on the matter. It recited that the Paraguayan Consul in Bern issued courtesy passports to Jews, mostly Polish, who are now interned by German authorities in special camps for citizens of Allied Nations. These passports were issued as a humanitarian measure by consulates of Allied Governments and this practice was not confined to Paraguay. It was done by Great Britain, United States, Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Haiti, Chile and Venezuela. The rumor was that the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin, who represents Paraguayan interests, had been instructed by Paraguay to annul its passports. Thereupon, on 12 December 1943 a German Commission had arrived at one of the camps and taken away for verification the passports of all Allied Governments which had been issued to Jews. The note of the Polish Government indicated that it was taking steps before the interested governments in order to insure that the validity of these passports be maintained for the duration of the war. ^{9/}

London advised, on 25 December 1943, that it had contacted the Director of the IGC, as directed. ^{10/} Our Embassy at Asuncion, Paraguay, advised on 27 December 1943, that it had contacted the Paraguayan Foreign Office, and had been advised that the Paraguayan Government had not cancelled the passports of the persons in question, nor was it considering such action. It had confined itself to taking energetic steps against its consular officers involved. Paraguay had so advised the IGC on 13 December 1943. ^{11/} On 28 December 1943, London was advised of this development and asked that it be communicated directly to the Swiss for the Germans. ^{12/}

There followed several minor, miscellaneous developments. The Department sent a cable for the Agudath Israel Youth Council, asking the International Red Cross to ascertain if Jewish families with South American passports were being deported from camps in France. ^{13/} A cable was sent to Istanbul, outlining the facts with respect to the threat of deporting the Jews, and asking that the matter be checked with one Facon Griffel, Hotel Continental, Beyoglu, Turkey, a representative of the Agudas Israel World Organization. ^{14/} It developed that the source was Agudas Israel, in Geneva, and Griffel was advised of the situation. ^{15/} Long was hailed as

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- ^{9/} Note from Polish Embassy to State Department, 24 December 1943.
 - ^{10/} No. 3993, 25 December 1943, 1 p.m., to the Department from London.
 - ^{11/} No. 688, 27 December 1943, 3 p.m., from Embassy at Asuncion to Department.
 - ^{12/} No. 3190, 28 December 1943, from Department to London.
 - ^{13/} To Bern, 28 December 1943.
 - ^{14/} No. 319, 29 December 1943, from Department to American Consul, Istanbul.
 - ^{15/} No. 4, 4 January 1944, 5 p.m., from Istanbul to Department.

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the saviour of the Jews in a cable of 29 December 1943, from the Agudath Israel Youth Council, the British Embassy was advised of the status of negotiations with respect to the purloined passports, 16/ and the Poles were thanked for their note and advised of the measures taken. 17/ London was asked to look into the matter of the seizure of passports. 18/

The situation was not cleared up, however. A letter was written on 10 January 1944 from one Jacob Rosenheim, expressing doubts as to the good faith of the Paraguayans in the matter. Mr. H. R. Travers, of the Visa Division, disposed of this with the note "I see no reason to doubt the Paraguayan statement -- In any case I do not see that we can do anything else in the matter."

On 15 January 1944, a dispatch was received from the Embassy at Port-au-Prince outlining that there were both Czechs and Poles who were the holders of Haitian passports, and Haiti had been requested to maintain their validity. The Haitian Government requested the opinion of the United States. 19/ One Mrs. G. T. Hawley, of the Special War Problems Division, suggested a reply advising Haiti of the recommendations made by the United States in the Paraguayan situation. Prior to this someone had attached the following note to the dispatch, on a slip of the Department of State, Special Division, and bearing the initials J.E.H. at the top. The note appeared anonymous.

"I remember no precedent along these lines but I can see the hand of my friend, J. Waterman Wise, and the World Jewish Congress in this request. (See Paraguayan matter.)"

"I am sympathetic to our humanitarian effort to save lives but I cannot see how we can officially bless this one as it involves fraudulently issued passports illegally held, and the persons concerned might easily be dumped on us in the project to broaden the Baden-Baden exchange, thereby displacing bona fide nationals of this and other American countries."

It was not indicated in the file what reply was sent to this dispatch.

On 27 January 1944, Tress of the Agudath Israel Youth Council wrote to Assistant Secretary Long pointing out that the Swiss Government was maintaining a negative attitude to the problem of Jewish internees in French camps who possessed South or Latin American passports. It was felt that direct intervention with the Swiss was necessary, since they were threatening to prosecute the religious leaders in Switzerland who were instrumental in getting the passports issued.

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- 16/ See memorandum of R. W. Grant, of the Visa Division, 5 January 1944.
17/ Note of 11 January 1944, to Polish Embassy from Department.
18/ No. 281, 11 January 1944, midnight, from Department to London.
19/ Dispatch No. 2483, 15 January 1944, from Haiti to Department.

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- 4 -

It was indicated that a similar problem existed with respect to Turkey and Peru, Turkey taking the position that it would do all it could to protect Turkish citizens, and Peru punishing its guilty consular officials. 20/

Joseph H. Murphy.

20/ See memorandum of a conference attended by Long, Travers and the Belgian Ambassador, 9 February 1944.

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S.AFRICA 12743/41.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA CENSORSHIP

MEMORANDUM RE:
DEPORTATIONS FROM FRANCE TO EASTERN EUROPE

As a sequel to the blood-curdling but unfortunately true account of conditions at the DRANCY Concentration Camp in France, from which the Nazis, assisted by Laval, "drain off" forced labour for Germany, which was lately furnished from the office, comes the following fresh item from the Swiss Press. (Journal not on list of those received in London).

"Israelitisches Wochenblatt". Zuerich, Aug. 27, 1943

"In FRANCE the estates of the Rothschild's have been sold. The castle of Vaux de Gernay has been taken over by an anonymous buyer, another has been bought by the Vichy-Government for a children's Home.

A further 40 properties, the owners of which had been disenfranchised, came under the hammer. The British Government has already declared these sales are void, because they had to be returned to the original owners. The famous art collections were also sold.

From the Camp of DRANCY deportations to the East started on June 23. The Administration has changed from the French to that of the Germans, who have gradually introduced their methods. The inhabitants of other Camps like Beaune have also been brought to Drancy, apparently with the intention to start deportation from there. The inhabitants of the Camps have been divided into seven categories, in which also a distinction of Nationalities has been made. Jews from America, England and from Neutral Countries as well as from Allied Countries, like Hungaria and Rumania are not deported. From July 15 to July 18 about 1000 persons have been deported.

Jews from Alsace-Lorraine now living in France are being declared stateless; they also no longer receive any maintenance."

Submitted to: P.I.D. B.B.C. R/G.
D.R.W. M.E.W.
CWI/LON.

ERIC ROSENTHAL.
Censor.
PUBLICATIONS SECTION.

THE CHIEF CENSOR, CAPE TOWN
(Press Section)

W. McCartney, Major
DEPUTY CHIEF CENSOR.

JOHANNESBURG,
8th December, 1943/G.

Other.....

Disp. Anal. Sec.

FOURTH READER

SECOND READER

SPECIAL NOTICE.—This contains information taken from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confined only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely distributed, or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Director of Censorship.

BYRON PRICE
Director.

C
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Y

AIRGRAM

PLAIN

No. A 35
Time: 5:10 p.m.

Jan. 18, 1944

AMLEGATION,

LISEON,

The American Legation at Bern forwarded to the Department, in telegram no. 8079 of December 23, 1943 a report concerning conditions in France submitted by Dr. Donald Lowrie for transmission to the American Joint Distribution Committee at New York. Dr. Lowrie requests that the following information contained in his report be transmitted to the representative of the American Joint Distribution Committee at Lisbon. QUOTE In France the condition of the Jews is becoming progressively worse, in Rice razzias continue and more than 5,000 have been deported. Hundreds of families have been sent to Drancy from Marseille, Nimes and Perpignan. The French militia in Toulouse is joining with the German police in pursuing the Jewish residents. For every assassination by partisans several Jews are put to death. Mass arrests are taking place in Dordogne, Creuse and Haute Vienne. After forced abandonment by Jewish families apartments are given to German families from barred localities. Jews who were seriously ill in hospital at St. Louis were deported as

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972

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(# 35 to Lisbon)

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well as the children, women and aged who were living in the foreigners social service centers.

In November 20 fifteen hundred persons were sent from Drancy on east-bound transport. The UGIF is in a state of dissolution as the Gestapo persecutes the Jewish social organizations.

Gaston Kahn, after Lambert Baurator, the last General Director, was sent to Drancy as were other important employees. The Director of Rothschild's Hospital, Zadoc Kahn, and the Consistory President, Heilbronner, with their families were arrested by the Gestapo as was Sister Onin Corpore. In trying to save children at five five social assistants of the OSE were lost. The Childrens Help Activities from last news received on December nine will have to continue as an unofficial organization. Eli deported. Approximately six thousand children have been placed with private families because their homes have been completely broken up. At this time there are fifteen hundred additional children who have been abandoned for whom homes must be found. Maurice and Lyka are in hiding and the local financial

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(#35 to Lisbon)

- 3 -

financial organization has been completely destroyed.
Would repeat previous request to obtain immediately
promises for visas for children in hiding in France
or now refugees in Switzerland in order to expedite
and facilitate the process of rescue. UNQUOTE.

HULL

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PLAIN

Bern

Dated January 15, 1944

Rec'd. 9 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

347, Fifteenth

German press January 13 reports liquidation 11,000 of 30,000 Jewish properties Occupied France up to October 31, 1943 realized 485 million francs. Estimated originally over 3,000 Jewish-owned houses in Paris. Administrative reorganization expected expedite further liquidation.

HARRISON

IMS

cc: Pehle, Schmidt, DuBois, Aarons, Tomlinson

000892

C
O
P
Y

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

HB

This telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (C)

Bern

Dated September 11, 1943

From

Rec'd 6:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington

5657, September 11, 1 p.m. (SECTION ONE)

According to instructions Donald Lowrie World'd

Alliance Geneva submits following summary report on
worsening condition of Jews in France with request
for funds which he requests in Department's discretion
be communicated to the American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee, Inc., 270 Madison Avenue, New York City 16.

"I learn from OSE that a systematic campaign for
exterminating all Jews in France has reached a new
climax using all the methods of persecution already
known in Germany, Holland and Belgium. Brunner
director and Bruckner adjoint have introduced new
terror in Drancy including physical violence to all
interned men, women and children. The so-called
hospital is a mockery, operations must be done under
impossible conditions all sorts of patients crowded
into one infected barrack. There have been no normal
births only miscarriages. Since the sending of food
parcels was stopped real famine exists. Under threat
of torture

000293

- 2 - #5657, September 11, 1 p.m. (SECTION ONE) from Bern.

of torture to members of families already in Drancy
Brunner's police compel those at liberty to give themselves up for internment.

HARRISON.

WSB

740.00116 European War 1939/1090

000294

JG

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (C)

Bern

From

Dated September 11, 1943

Rec'd 4:38 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

5657, September 11, 7 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

Here each prisoner may write one letter which serves to locate other family members. Once the whole family is rounded up they are deported with the next convoy. Brunner ordered that each person deported, escaped or deceased must be immediately replaced by another seized at random among wearers of the yellow star still of liberty thus maintaining constant population in Drancy of approximately 3500 including many children. Brunner is elaborately decorating camp making photos to prove Drancy beautiful comfortable place. All children of the Paris area are being registered for eventual deportation, 400 have been deported, 700 are in hiding, and 200 have been sent to Jomil through the efforts of Eugene. 600 remain under German surveillance. To save these they should also be transferred to Jomil. Eugene is daily awaiting his own arrest but has taken necessary measures that his work may continue.

HARRISON

BB

740.00116 European War 1939/1090

000895

MC

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (C)

Bern

From Dated September 11, 1943

Rec'd 5:47 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

5657, September 11, 1 p.m. (SECTION THREE)

Mass arrests took place in the grieves office 29 Rue Bienfaisance Paris whole families plus 45 employees were arrested by Brunner in person. and Rebaud has been moved to Drancy. All Jewish insane have been collected from asylums and taken to Drancy. All those commonly in Faume la Rolande were moved to Drancy and then deported. The same situation exists in the provinces, mobile columns of German police seize the entire Jewish population of a given village collecting all money and jewelry. In the provinces 3000 children are hidden, 1200 are in homes, 1000 in Jewish families 400 in forced residence totalling 6300 in charge of OSE. Children in forced residence and those remaining with parents are specially menaced. August 23 all prefectures in France were ordered to arrest all Jewish men, French between 20 and 30, foreign between 18 and 50, and send them in convoys to the central to wrists organization in Marseilles consequently Jews are being arrested everywhere including political refugees, escaped war prisoners and volunteers in the French army.

HARRISON

WSB

740.00116 European War 1939/1090

000296

JMB

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (C)

Bern

Dated September 11, 1943

From

Rec'd 6:18 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

5657, September 11, 7 p.m., (SECTION FOUR)

Raoul informs me wife, four children and wife's parents with other employees were arrested in Marseille, Professor Olmer is held as hostage, we await new measures against the union and expulsion all Jews in Marseille. Regardless of this frightful situation all OSE personnel not personally sought by the police remain at their posts. Thanks to preparations made (?) save the 600 children in danger in Paris and the 1000 in Jewish families if they had necessary finances. The financial situation is catastrophic, children perish for lack of the 2000 francs to pay fare to the provinces. Even the 3700 in hiding (700 in Paris and 3000 in provinces) are threatened because 600 francs monthly pension is not guaranteed for the coming months. Thus, the lack of relatively small funds constitutes a greater danger than the Gestapo. Our friends have secured from the Italians protection

000297

-2- #5657, September 11, 7 p.m., (SECTION FOUR), from
Bern

protection from arrest up to now in the prefectures
under their occupation but the Italians insist that
this is only a reprieve and that other measures are
necessary to avoid later reprisals by Germans.

Harrison

NFL

NFL

740.00116 European War 1939/1090

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SCB

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (C)

Dated September 11, 1943

From

Rec'd 11:38 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington

5657, September 11, 1 p.m. (SECTION FIVE)

The Italians have promised when leaving France to take with them as civil prisoners the 4000 foreign Jews now in forced residence in Haute Savoie but we are uncertain whether this can be realized. We feel that the courage and devotion of our friends under greatest danger merit special aid. We have no right to expect them to risk their lives and have their efforts foiled by lack of funds. Gurvie, Jarblum, Weill, levy inform us that the last fortnight has brought fundamental changes in the situation of Jews and Ugi important officials arrested. Immediate measures are indispensable to save our faithful collaborators. We need special fund 30,000 francs paid via (?)y. Inform Kat (?) (?) Donald Lowrie"

(END OF MESSAGE)

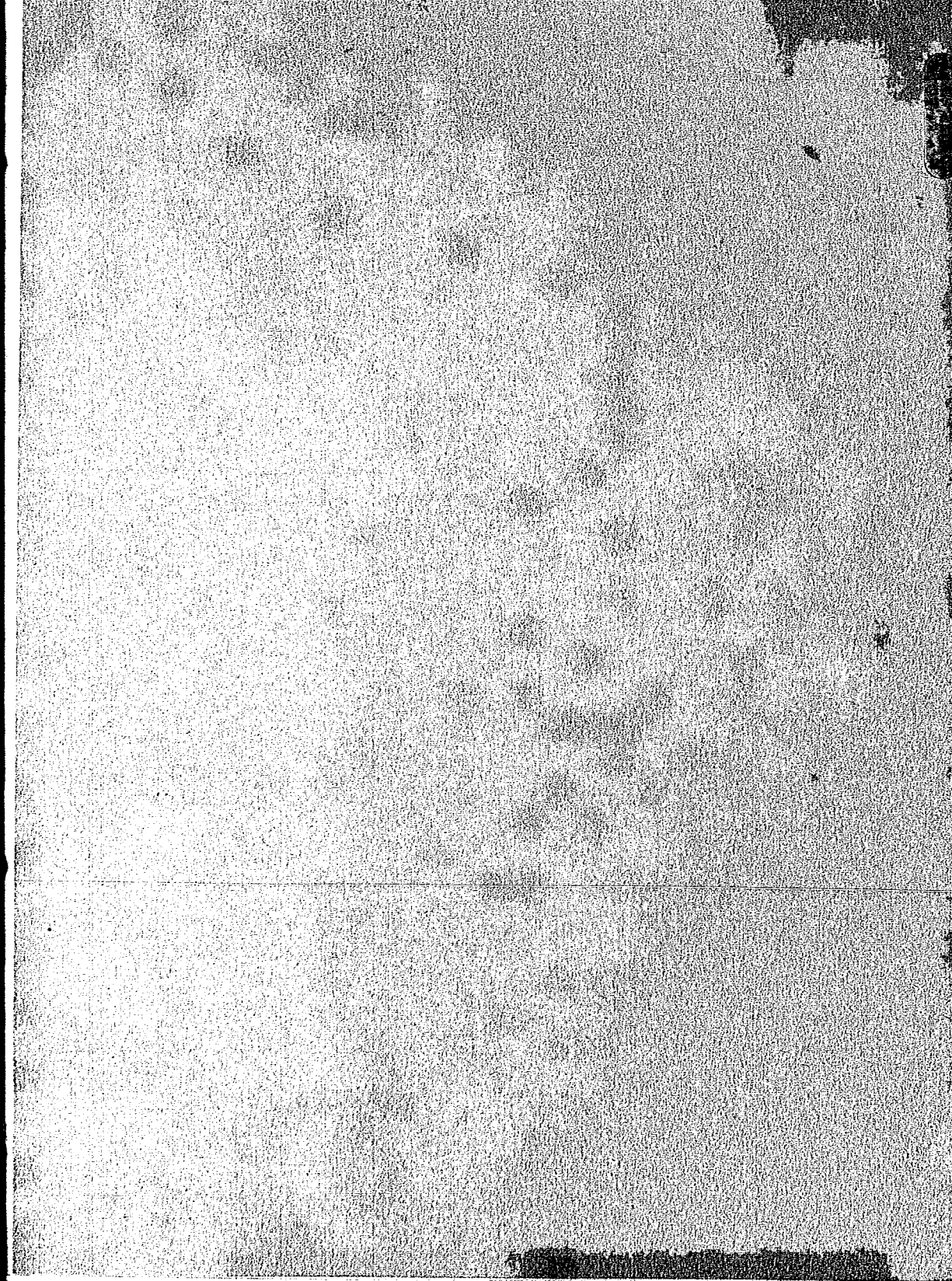
HARRISON

NPL

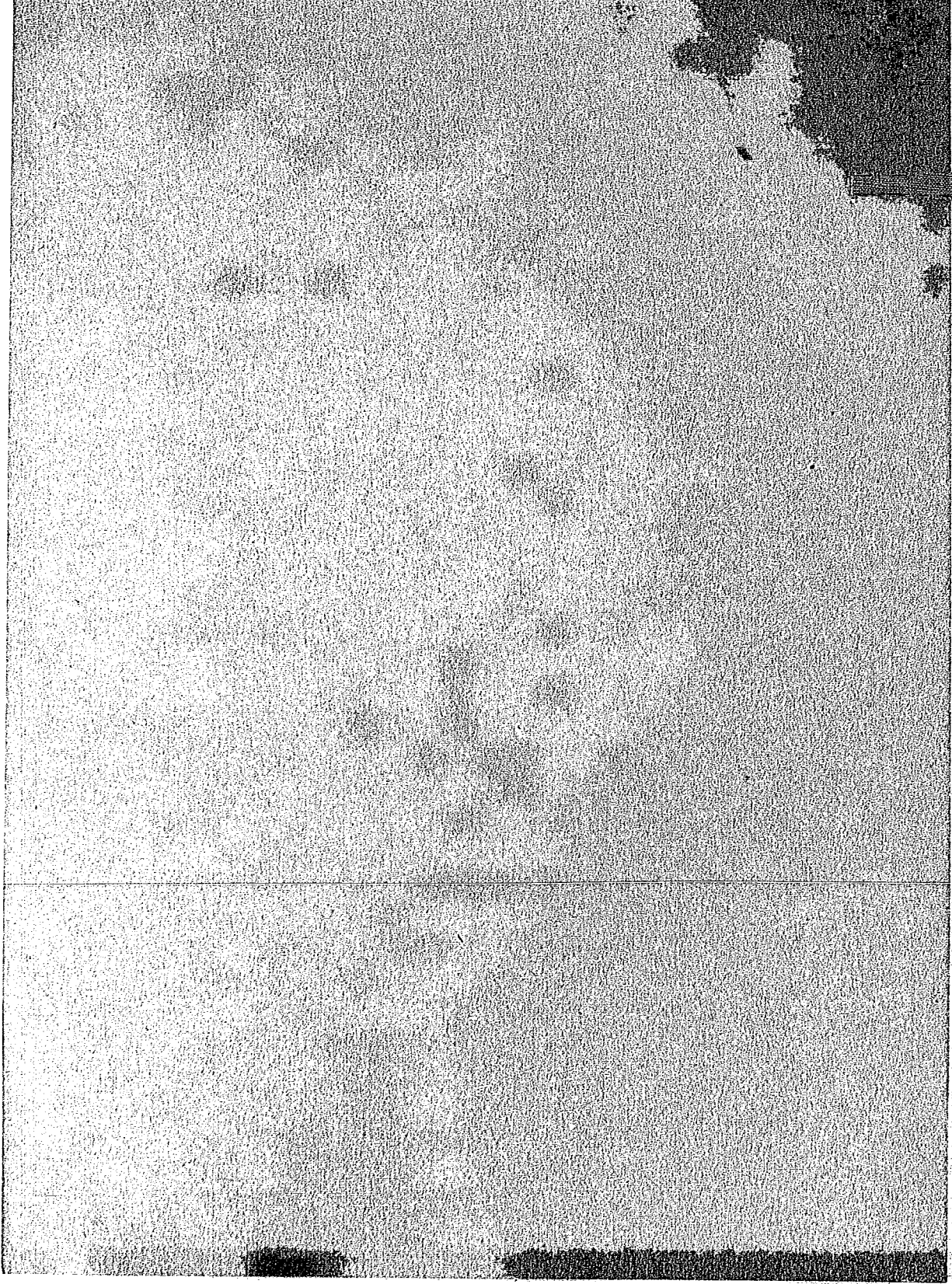
NOTE: Repetition of garbled groups requested

740.00116 European War 1939/1090

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000901

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

TO : Miss Hodel

October 4, 1944

FROM : R. B. Parke

Subject: Purchase of Non-Swiss Foodstuffs by AFSC, Geneva.

In accordance with your request, there is submitted herewith a draft of a cable to Berne, for transmission through official channels, which authorizes the American Legation in Berne to grant to the AFSC, Geneva, authorization to purchase non-Swiss foodstuffs for relief of needy displaced persons in France.

The transaction was cleared with the War Department by Mr. J.C. Jones, of our Liberated Areas Section, and with Mr. Kaier of F.E.A. by Mr. O'Flaherty.

No amendment is necessary with respect to the Treasury license (Ph 14532) under which the funds (which will be utilized for such purchase) were remitted to Geneva, as such license does not preclude the use of such funds for the purchase of foodstuffs of other than Swiss origin. It merely provides for "the purchase within Switzerland of foodstuffs with the approval of the American Legation at Berne....". While Berne's cable No. 5718 of September 1, 1944, is not entirely clear on this point, it seems reasonable to assume that the foodstuffs of non-Swiss origin mentioned are within Switzerland.


R. B. Parke


J. C. Jones

000902

CP-870

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Bern

Dated September 1, 1944

Rec'd 10:30 a.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

5718, September 1, 2 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

For FEA from American Friends Service Committee

Geneva: "Following purchases through Joint Relief Commission
IRC planned: 10,600 kilograms macaroni from Hungary, 3000
kilograms sugar from Slovakia for combining with Swiss
fruit to can 6000 kilograms jam in Switzerland, 250 cases
(48 boxes of 340 grams each) unsweetened condensed milk
and 3200 250 gram boxes cheese, last two items of Swiss
origin. Total value approximately 60,000 Swiss francs".

HARRISON

WSB

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, DuBois,
Friedman, Hodel, Gaston, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack,
Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

000903

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MS-422

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

BERN

September 28, 1944

Rec'd 6:06 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

6460, September 28, 7 p.m.
FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.
FOR FEA

Legation's 5718, September 1, 2 p.m.

American Friends Service Committee, GENEVA, would
greatly appreciate advice whether authorization purchase
foodstuffs for refugees France outlined in our 5718 can
be granted. Joint Relief Commission is pressing for
an answer stating option on foodstuffs cannot be main-
tained much longer. Friends office at Geneva has al-
ready received Swiss franc equivalent \$15,000 from
Philadelphia and would like to proceed purchase at
least of foodstuffs of Swiss origin.

HARRISON

TMB

CONTROL COPY

Classified with
info by JWC
1-14-44

000904

SOCIETE RELIGIEUSE DES AMIS (QUAKERS)

Centre Quaker de Paris
12, rue Guy-de-la-Brosse
Paris V

*Rec'd from
Mr. Andrews of
Am. Friends*

RECEIVED

NOV - 6 1944

RECORDED

GENERAL REPORT (1940 - 1944)

If we draw up a statement of the religious and social activity of the Society of Friends in Paris during the German occupation, we shall see that not only has the Society been able to continue its existence, to hold its monthly and annual meetings regularly, its meetings for worship (three times each week), its study circles, but also to publish new pamphlets, to bring out a fresh edition of the Book of Discipline (second part: Christian Practice), and to publish, after ten years' study, the third part (Church Administration) under the title "Règles et Usages."

The small group in Lyon met almost always regularly and kept in touch with all the members and scattered sympathizers. The ECHO DES AMIS, which had been suppressed, continued under the name of the "Brotherly Letter," its issue increased and has now reached 550 copies per month.

It was possible to keep up more or less the connection with Switzerland (Geneva) through the sending out of the "Brotherly Letter."

The Quaker Center has always endeavored to maintain the centuries' old tradition of the Friends in receiving in a Christian Spirit all those who have called, whether French, German, Polish, Jewish or non-Jewish, etc.

The General Report for 1944 bore as a motto for the year: "BELIEVE - MAINTAIN - HOPE." It can be said that these three words sum up exactly what the Friends strove to be and to do during the German occupation.

Let us add that the German authorities showed themselves comprehending and that the rare visits paid to the Center by the police have always been of short duration and courteous. (The placing of Henry van Etten under arrest for almost three days (March, 1944) as responsible Secretary of the Society of Friends was due merely to a slanderous denunciation and brought about no consequences.)

Help in the German Prisons in Paris and the Parisian Area (from June, 1941, to August, 1944)

The Service of Assistance to the civilian prisoners, which, during the German occupation, was one of the most important activities of the Paris Quaker Center, helped within the limits of its possibilities the civilian prisoners confined in the German prisons of Paris and the Parisian area.

000905

It was because we were able to form an idea of the extreme destitution of the majority of the prisoners that we undertook the work for them. In fact, the person who in general is officially the least cared for, is he who, for one reason or another, is in prison; it is, however, there where, without speaking of the defective material conditions, his moral suffering is most severe.

When the Quakers started their activity in the German prisons of the Seine, it was to this latter aspect of the question that they principally and above all turned their attention. They were able to pay personal calls on the prisoners over a considerable period, to bring them at the same time as food and linen, the comfort of a fraternal friendship. The war was prolonged; discipline became more severe. However, the Quakers' position of being absolutely above all partisanship, as well as their sincere desire to serve in a brotherly spirit, induced the authorities to let them carry on their prison work.

Whilst in the beginning we took a particular interest in special cases, we were led to occupy ourselves with more general problems, peculiar to each prison. This more general activity began in Fresnes, following upon an appeal made by a German doctor of the prison in favour of 200 prisoners who were in a particularly necessitous state. Having had this brought to our notice, the Secours National gave their help, which increased constantly as the need became greater. Very soon we learned that besides clothing, the food itself was not sufficient, prison pharmacies did not exist and it was impossible to treat the many varied diseases. At the same time a great number of other material and moral questions which it was imperative to solve to the benefit of the prisoners, retained our attention.

In Fresnes, for instance, we finally succeeded in supplying the medicaments necessary for the prisoners. A considerable number of prisoners who, without such help would have been entirely cut off from the outside world, received parcels. The connection between the prisoners who were not in solitary confinement and their families in the provinces was assured by means of our service of information and of distribution of family parcels. This work has, on the other hand, not merely been done in the prisons; the prisoners' families also required to be comforted, for often months passed before the prisoners could send news to their homes. This connection permitted us to reassure the families. At the same time, through our service for returning the luggage and property of prisoners transferred to Germany, we were able to keep the families informed of these deportations.

In the other prisons, the work became organized very much in the same fashion. Started by the American Friends' Service Committee in November, 1940, prison work was taken over by the Quaker Centre in June, 1941. Only the Quakers were

000906

authorised to visit the German prisons of Paris and of the Parisian area from November, 1940, until February, 1942, at which date the French Red Cross was also given the right of admission. In spite of this the Quakers carried on work in the same conditions, and the importance of this work was continually increasing.

Prisons Visited

We visited regularly the following prisons: Fresnes, the Cherche-Midi, Romainville and as from the beginning of 1942 Villeneuve St. Georges, as well as the German section of the Val-de-Grace, which since April, 1944, has been transferred to the Hospital of St. Denis. We also visited the prison of the Sante up to October, 1942, at which date it was converted again into an exclusively French penitentiary centre. Further, in collaboration with the French Red Cross, distributions of linen and of clothing were made to needy internees at the administrative camp of the Fourelles.

NOTE. The work of the Quaker Help was in addition carried out in the towns of Bordeaux, Dijon, Nancy in the Northern zone (see the enclosed report) and in Toulouse and Marseilles in the Southern zone (as the postal communication is interrupted, we are unable for the time being to give details as regards the work carried out in the prisons of these latter towns.)

Nature of the Work

In the beginning, our work consisted of the distribution of linen, clothes, toilet articles, to necessitous prisoners. In view of the very great insufficiency of the civil prisoners' food ration, we felt that our work would be incomplete if we confined it only to distributions of linen and clothing. We, therefore, organised distributions of food parcels, of caseined cereals and biscuits. In addition medicaments and vitamins were supplied every week to the infirmaries of the prisons above-named. We were able to obtain permission to visit certain prisoners such as those who had been condemned and to hand over to them personally the gifts destined for them.

At the same time we interested ourselves in helping in the solution of certain general problems touching the whole of prison life, such as laundry, or books and games for the prisoners. We were able to solve, in addition, certain questions concerning the intercourse of prisoners with their families.

Linen - Clothing

In collaboration with the Secours National who sent us regularly linen and clothing, we were able to distribute in the prisons above-mentioned 27,425 items of clothing (men and women). We also distributed a certain number of baby-linen for the babies of the women prisoners in Fresnes and in Romainville.

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Food

Distributions of food parcels were made from June, 1941, to February, 1942, in connection with the French Red Cross and from May, 1942, with the help of the Secours National which supplied us with quantities of goods always larger in volume, the number of parcels never ceased consequently to increase. We distributed from 1941 to 1944 64,030 parcels, representing approximately 150,350 kilograms. These parcels contained chocolate, sugar, gingerbread, honey, prunes, dextrospout, cremosine and jam and weighed from 2 to 3 kilos. They were given to necessitous prisoners or to those not authorised to receive parcels from their families.

In addition there were distributed in the infirmaries of these prisons, 1,600 kilos of fresh fruit, powdered and condensed milk (reserved for the babies of the women prisoners), of sugar, of ovomaltine and 13,755 kilos of vitamin biscuits.

In the Romainville camp where the food was at first given out in the form of parcels, this distribution was, from December, 1943, made in bulk, representing during such period 20,470 kilos of aliments.

For the Christmas festivals of 1942 and 1943 we distributed in all 3,000 supplementary parcels in the prisons visited by our service.

Family Parcels

A distribution service of parcels sent by the families living far from Paris, operated from August, 1941, in certain prisons (in particular at Fresnes) where parcels sent by post or by rail were not accepted. We acted thus as a link between the prisoners and their families, and have distributed approximately 6,200 family parcels. From August, 1943, until June, 1944, we have sent back to families in the provinces the parcels which had been refused and the soiled linen of the prisoners in Fresnes, making a total of more than 2,000 packages.

Pharmacy

We have had frequent communication with the sanitary staff of the prisons. This permitted us to carry out a very useful work. We have been able to hand over personal parcels of remedies and of special high-nutritive food products to invalid prisoners whose names were notified to us by the medical service or by their families. In agreement with the military doctors and the German sanitary staff, we were able to supply from April, 1942, to the infirmaries of Fresnes, la Sante, Romainville and Cherche-Midi the following medicaments:-

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Vitamines.....12,600 boxes
laxatives..... 7,500 boxes
sedative medicaments.... 7,385 boxes
or small bottles
gastrointestinal medicaments..... 4,970 boxes
antiinfectious medicaments..... 3,330 boxes
or small bottles
organo-mineral reconstituents..... 2,820 boxes
or tubes
dermatological medicaments..... 850 pots
or small bottles
hypotensive-cardiac medicaments..... 280 boxes
or tubes
dressings of different kinds.....23,750
aspirin..... 15 kg.
diverse instruments and necessities: needles, syringes,
scissors, basins, thermometres, etc., cellulose, cotton,
wool, and absorbent gauze for the making of hygienic
towels 700 kg., as well as 140 kg. of absorbent or
carded cotton wool for the medical service, etc.

Library

We reorganised a library for the prisoners at the Fort de Romainville (1,700 volumes) and for those in the infirmaries of Fresnes (German and French sections). We increased the size of the libraries of the other prisons in particular that of Villeneuve St. Georges. In addition material and tools for book-binding were distributed.

Cigarettes

Since October, 1942, we regularly distributed a large amount of cigarettes to the prisoners of Romainville, Cherche-Midi, to the infirmary and divisions of Fresnes and to Villeneuve St. Georges. Our weekly distributions amounted to 1,500 to 2,200 or a total of 189,400.

Laundry

We occupied ourselves with the prisoners' laundry. In particular we installed a washing-machine in the prison at Villeneuve St. Georges which dealt with the linen of 500 prisoners. Moreover, in all the prisons visited by our service, large quantities of soap and washing powder were regularly distributed.

Diverse Supplies

We also supplied sewing, cotton, needles, scissors and a sewing machine, material for shoemaking, 248 kilos of leather, 140 kilos of rubber, 22 kilos of different nails, different tools (files, pincers, hammers, etc.), hairdressing materials, scissors, clippers, razors, combs, toilet necessities!

000909

soap, 3,000 kilos; washing powder, 1,600 kilos; toilet towels, 2,300; toothbrushes, 2,000; toothpaste, 2,000; combs, 500. Games (cards, draughts, chessboards, etc.) were also distributed.

Luggage

A service entrusted with the collection at the prison of luggage, valuables and money belonging to the deported prisoners, and the re-expedition of same to the families, operated from August, 1942. We sent back to more than 2,070 families, the luggage and valuables of their prisoners and transferred to them more than 1,295,000 francs.

Enquiries

We carried out regularly enquiries regarding people arrested by the authorities of occupation and whose families were without news of them and communicated to such families all the necessary information regarding the situation of their prisoner. In 1944 we carried out about 60 enquiries each week, and since the beginning of our activities, a total of about 5,000 have been made.

Visits and Correspondence

Since the beginning of this work we have had more than 10,000 visits and have received more than 8,000 letters. We ourselves have sent out more than 13,000.

Staff and Premises

It was necessary to have an increasingly large staff to take charge of this service; in 1941 it was composed of 4 people; in 1942, six; in 1943, eight; in 1944, thirteen. In the same way as our work developed it became necessary to increase the number of our storage-rooms. In August, 1944, 3 stores were necessary.

Finance

The outlays from the beginning until August, 1944, amounted to Frs. 2,350,245.70. We have received in subventions from the "Secours National" Frs. 1,691,869. The difference between the outlays and the amounts received in subventions, has been covered by gifts from the families of prisoners and from friends of our movement.

Quaker Aid of Paris, 12, rue Guy-de-la-Brosse, Paris 5^e. Service of Aid to Interned Civilians - Bordeaux.

Commenced in March, 1943, at the request of the Commandant of the German Prison "Fort du Re" at Bordeaux, this service has operated without interruption, due to the help of the "Secours National" which, during this period, has handed over to us Frs. 222,000. The outlays during this same period amounted to Frs. 251,371.35. In addition we have received from the Secours

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National 20 tons of goods, enabling us to distribute about 67,000 parcels. Among these parcels a certain number has been set aside for the convoys of prisoners transferred to Germany.

Thanks to the Secours National, we have also been able to distribute 2,700 items of clothing to necessitous prisoners and pharmaceutical products representing an amount of Frs. 27,000.

Distributions of cigarettes were also carried out through our agency.

Service of Aid to Interned Civilians - Dijon and Nancy

Subventions. We received from the Secours National subventions amounting to Frs. 42,000. Our outlays amounted to Frs. 48,931.50.

Dijon. This service commenced at the end of September, 1943, and, up to the present date, there have been distributed to the prison of the rue d'Auxonne, as well as to the prison at Hauteville about 2,700 parcels for which we have received from the Secours National 5,400 kilos of goods.

Nancy. This service was started at the beginning of December, 1943, and up to the present date there have been distributed about 1,250 parcels for which we received from the Secours National 2,500 kilos of goods.

In addition we delivered to these different prisons pharmaceutical products, soap, books, reviews, letter-paper.

Distributions of cigarettes have also been carried out through our intermediary to the Fort d'Hauteville.

Aid to Civil-Law Prisoners and to Juvenile Offenders

Founded in the autumn of 1943, after a meeting held at the head-quarters of the Secours National of the representatives of the various organizations interested in civil-law prisoners, as well as the Directors of the Paris area prisons, this service operated from November, 1943, until the end of August, 1944.

During this period about 14,000 parcels of 2 kg. each were distributed to the prisoners of the prisons of la Sante, Petite Roquette, Tourelles, Depot, as well as to the juvenile offenders Centres in the rue de Grasse, at Villejuif, Tourelles, Marlotte, Chevilly to various organizations of rescue work, and 4,850 items of clothing were distributed to necessitous prisoners while under detention and at the moment of their liberation.

000911

Christmas parties and recreative film seances with tea parties were also organized several times for the juvenile offenders at the Tourelles, rue de Crimée, and at Villejuif.

Since its commencement, this work has been carried out in close collaboration with those organizations interested in detained or liberated prisoners, institutions receiving youthful delinquents, etc.

Aid to the liberated was also undertaken, although on a somewhat reduced scale, due to lack of funds. Help in money, in clothing, and in finding work for these people was given.

Aid to the Families of Internees (August, 1941, to August, 1944)

During this period, thanks to subventions of Frs. 900,000 - received from the Secours National in nine payments of Frs. 100,000 each - about 300 families of civil internees, representing more than 1,000 children, were helped for periods renewable every three months.

Of these families about 50 per cent are French and 50 per cent foreigners (Poles, German and Austrian refugees, Hungarians, Russians, Turks, Roumanians, Czechs, etc.), of whom a great many are interned or deported Jews.

Apart from the monthly help, the funds received were utilized as part of the expenditure of a dispensary which has been working at our Center since 1940 and which is principally intended for Jewish refugees and the families of internees.

The funds were also employed for organizing Christmas parties for the children of internees and deportees, as well as for various expenditures on behalf of such families (participation in the cost of identity cards, medical fees, boarding of children in the country, etc.)

At present about 125 families are still regularly aided. The number has slightly decreased since the agreement reached with Secours National that it should assume the charge of all the French families and leave to us the foreign families only.

Urgent Help Service

During the period from June, 1940, (beginning of the occupation) to August, 1944, the service known as "Urgent Help" worked uninterruptedly under various aspects, according to the type of persons whom it assisted.

In 1940, for instance, when all the committees who until then had interested themselves in the Jewish and political refugees of Central Europe had fled to the South of France, the Quaker Center was one of the only ones which continued to help these people. In 1940 Frs. 149,698.33 were distributed under this head.

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Food parcels, clothing, etc., were likewise distributed to them. Little by little, as the arresting of Jews and their deportation became more frequent, the service had a smaller number of people to be helped. Nevertheless, for those who were able to remain in Paris it continued to dispense monthly aid (to cover the expense of identity cards, of medical fees, of electric light and gas bills, etc.)

The expenditures amounted to:

In 1941	Frs. 70,264.75
In 1942	Frs. 68,786.65
In 1943	Frs. 89,441.20
In 1944 (up to July 31)	Frs. 67,599.10

By degrees the proportion of French people helped increased. These persons were chosen in general amongst those who benefited by the canteen or those who were specially recommended by official social workers.

The help was extended also to liberated prisoners, political as well as civil-law ones.

Numerous board expenses for children were likewise paid; generally for Jewish children who were placed in the country thanks to the assistance of devoted friends living in the districts where these children were sent.

On the whole, this aid was generally given to people who could either not procure help elsewhere for one reason or another, or who did not receive sufficient aid from other committees.

With the exception of the help given to liberated prisoners, these amounts have always been taken from the Center's budget (balance of the sums sent by the American Friends and donation of French Friends) and never from the subventions received from the Secours National, which were intended for other services, such as prisons, internees' families, etc.

Canteen

Founded in June, 1940, at the moment of the exodus from Paris and the arrival of the German troops, the family canteen has never ceased its activity.

At the beginning it was mainly intended either for refugees from the provinces or people waiting for an opportunity to leave Paris.

Little by little its purpose changed and during these four years it was chiefly used on one hand for middle-class people living in the quarter, momentarily in straitened circumstances and who were recommended to us by friends or social workers;

000913

and on the other hand by a certain number of Jewish or non-Jewish refugees who through the lack of food tickets could not have their meals elsewhere.

The number of meals served varied generally between 50 and 80 per day, to which number must be added the staff of the Center, of the canteen, etc.

Some of these meals were free of charge, the others at an exceedingly low rate, and some were paid at the full rate.

The canteen work was carried on due in part to the subventions of Secours National, which amounted to:

In 1940	Frs. 22,000
In 1941	Frs. 15,000
In 1942	Frs. 65,000
In 1943	Frs. 86,000
In 1944	Frs. 156,000

and in part to the donations of other organizations, amongst which certain Jewish committees, to the benevolence of friends, as well as through the reimbursement of meals paid for integrally.

Up to July, 1944, two meals were served daily, but as from July 1, due to food and gas restrictions, only one meal could be given.

Apart from the food bought through the sources of general supply, thanks to the food tickets of those taking their meals at the canteen and to the coupons which were granted to us, the canteen received with gratitude various parcels from Secours Quaker in the Southern zone, which were very valuable. From time to time, in addition, we were able to purchase vegetables in the suburbs of Paris.

Divers

For practically the whole duration of the occupation, the Quaker Center lent its large hall to the ladies' sewing guild of the American Church of Paris, closed during that period. These ladies have been devoted in their labors and have never ceased to make shirts and other articles of clothing for the civil internees.

A small dispensary was opened in August, 1940, and continued in being until August, 1944. Its work was mainly for Jewish children and their mothers. Each week it received from ten to thirty patients, but this work became less important as the arrest and deportation of Jews went on.

Aid to British Ex-Internees

Since the month of October, 1943, a regular service of distribution of parcels to the aged and necessitous British

000914

ex-internees has been carried on in collaboration with the Reverend Mr. Pullen, Honorary Chaplain of the British ex-internees in Paris.

During this period 3,745 kgs. of goods were handed over to us by the Secours National and divided into 2-kgs. parcels, which were distributed in various hospitals of the Paris area, as well as in the homes of British invalids or necessitous persons.

The Reverend Mr. Pullen is in close touch with about 180 or 200 of these British ex-internees.

In the pavilion at 9, rue Guy-de-la-Brosse, we were always able to dispose of some free rooms for friends passing through Paris and to let others permanently to young student friends or employees.

workers

Due to the constant increase of work, the staff in August, 1944, was composed as follows:

Henry van Etten, General Secretary	(Friend)
Marguerite Czarnecki, Assistant General Secretary and Prison Work	(Friend)
Maurice Fleury, Prison Work	(Friend)
Marcelle Vaguel, Prison Work	(Friend)
Simone Hebert, General and Prison Correspondence	(Friend)
Albert Brethenoux, Bookkeeper	(Associate Member)
Jacqueline Cook, Social	(Friend)
Ernest and Berthe Le Roy, Canteen	(Friends)
Jacqueline Tribouillard, General	(Non-Friend)
Twelve workers (non-Friends) for the packing of food, clothes, canteen work, etc. (including a chauffeur)	

Honorary workers:

Roger Charels, General Treasurer and Secours Quaker Work in the South of France	(Friend)
Denise Domine, Secours Quaker Work in the South of France	(Associate Member)
Jean Leunier, Prison Work	(Son of an Associate Member)

Received by the American Friends Service Committee, 20 South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 1944.

000915

The following report from Eleanor Cohu, Director of Secours Quaker in Marseille, has just been received from our delegate Howard Wriggins in Italy. This report was forwarded to him by the newspaper correspondent of the Overseas News Agency, who had seen Eleanor Cohu. In his covering note he says:

"The general situation here is most interesting and complex. I have been fighting hard to avoid generalizations on limited observation, which is all that is possible. The displaced persons and refugee question reaches tremendous proportions. Far more Jews survived than anyone had thought, for one thing. Their position economically, and, very important, psychologically, is very difficult."

Howard Wriggins adds:

"As you know, large numbers of the Jewish groups had been living underground with false documents and names. Bit by bit, as they regain confidence, they are declaring themselves according to their true status."

Marseille, September 20, 1944

NOTE CONCERNING THE PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF SECOURS QUAKER

The Quaker Delegations in Marseille, Montauban, Perpignan, and Toulouse have been continuing their relief work without interruption since the departure from France of the American Friends Service Committee delegates. Secours Quaker, in its present form, has been functioning since January, 1944, at which time its direction was taken over by the Quaker Center in Paris, 12 rue Guy-de-la-Brosse, Paris V.

The liaison between the Quaker work in the North and South has been maintained by Andre Lebel, Secretary General of Secours Quaker, 6 rue Moliere, Lyon.

Due to the interruption of postal and telegraphic communications during the last few weeks, we in Marseille have been isolated from our head office in Paris, from Lyon and from the other delegations, so for this reason we regret to be unable at the moment to furnish information concerning their activities. The following is a list of the delegations of Secours Quaker and their respective Delegates-in-Charge:

Marseille, 29 boulevard d'Athenes	Eleanor Cohu
Montauban, 39 rue des Doreurs	Seraphima Lieven
	Nora Cornellisen
Perpignan, 30 avenue des Balears	Fred Cornellisen
Toulouse, 16 boulevard Bon Repos	Mary Elmes
	Helga Holbek
	Catherine Bleuland van Oordt

000916

Toulouse (continued)

Helene Rott de Neufville
Alice Resch Synnestvedt

Activities Carried on at Present by the Delegation of
Marseille.

1. Baby Feeding. Distribution of milk and baby food to medically selected cases.
2. Medical Canteen for specially underfed children, about 300 meals served daily.
3. Pretubercular Cases. Weekly food rations to about 100 medically chosen pretubercular children.
4. Home Colonies in the Marseille region. Monthly rations and financial help to about 300 children in families whose circumstances have been seriously altered owing to war conditions.
5. Children's Colony. Colony of about 70 children at Brout-Vernet, Allier, directed by Mlle. Andree Montagnon.
6. Prison and Camp Work. Aid, medical and otherwise, whenever possible.
7. Workroom where 20 women, most of whom are homeless, sew, knit, and mend clothes for our distributions and receive in return financial help and a free meal every day.
8. Individual Cases. This covers a wide range of moral and material aid such as food packages and financial help to momentarily lost persons; judicious distribution to children of the few remaining garments, great variety of requests for information, etc.
9. Special Emergencies. In spite of bombardments and during the recent battle of Marseille, all our services continued without interruption. We helped in transporting wounded, giving first aid, organizing emergency milk distributions and distribution of food in fifteen different public shelters, where over 2,000 rations were served by us.

Situation of Foreigners in the Marseille Region. Most of the Jews and foreigners detained in camps or work companies were either deported or evacuated before the departure of the German Army. There remain, however, some workers from the work companies as well as numerous persons who have been in hiding. It is as yet too soon to estimate their number. Local Jewish committees have been formed and are listing these cases.

Increasing numbers of requests for foreign transfers and exchange of correspondence with relatives in the U.S.A. come to us.

The foregoing resume of the activities of the Marseille delegation represents a considerable reduction of the aid given

000917

in previous years. This is, of course, due to the depleted conditions of our stocks. We feel considerable concern over the prospect of unavoidable delay in the arrival of food imports for this region. Transportation facilities between this region and regions where food is plentiful have been reduced so severely that one cannot count upon their functioning before many weeks.

Present Needs. The most immediate and urgent needs in this region appear to us to be the following:

- Milk, for children of all ages
- Proteins
- Fats
- Medical supplies
- Warm clothing and shoes
- House linen
- Kitchen utensils for bombed-out population

The most recent available figures for the Marseille population are the following:

0 to 3 years	18,980
3 to 6 years	14,521
6 to 13 years	33,457
13 to 21 years	72,263
Adults	228,940
Workers	130,701
Old folk	24,858
Laborers	3,290

It is estimated that 2,000 to 3,000 children have returned since then and within a few weeks, when the majority of the children who have been evacuated from Marseille will have returned, the numbers of children will be considerably higher.

A message has just been received from the Friends in Paris including messages from the London Friends and John Judkyn from AFSC. Direct correspondence between the Paris Quakers Center and London and Philadelphia has now been established.

American Friends Service Committee
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania
October 20, 1944

000918

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Societe Religieuse Des Amis (Quakers)

CENTRE QUAKER DE PARIS
12, Rue Guy de la Brosse - Paris V.

Paris, September 14th, 1944

Clarence Pickett
American Friends Service Committee
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia, Pa. U.S.A.

Dear Friend,

As soon as we got the letter of the Friends' Relief Service in London, which gave us an immense joy and a great comfort, we set ourselves to a close study of the question of immediate Quaker work in France, as it presents itself to us, with the coming of Winter and the prospect of your possible cooperation.

We do wish and hope that this cooperation between English, American and French Friends will soon be possible, as well in Paris as on the whole French territory. The task to be done is huge, and we are so few that your coming would be a great boon to us.

1) Edith Pye: We think it desirable that Edith Pye or (and) some other British or American qualified Friend should first come alone to study with us one or two of the main problems of this country and prepare the coming of a full qualified Quaker team.

2) Prisons and internment camps: This work, which we have been carrying on these three last years in some of the German prisons in France and which we are now pursuing under the new circumstances, has been made possible for us thanks to the help of the French "Secours Social" (formally called "Secours National") which has supplied us with money, food and clothing (Detailed reports on this piece of work will be sent over to you as soon as a regular mail will be possible). We are under the impression that this kind of work will be greatly increasing during the coming months; hundreds of people are being daily interned, and new camps are going to be opened all over France, which will mean extra workers, lorries, supplies, etc. The "Secours Social" has quite recently asked us to extend our work to these camps, not only in Paris but also in the provinces wherever we shall find it possible.

3) Aid to children: According to the last official reports, there are now in Normandy only, about 250,000 people (men, women and children) who have lost everything: home, clothes, pieces of furniture, etc. and are thus awaiting the coming of winter. They don't need food, Normandy being a rich province, but they lack everything else, and the Secours Social doesn't think he will be able to answer more than 30% of these demands, the other 70% having to be found elsewhere. If you should feel it possible to come and help these people, especially the children, in Normandy, the Secours Social would give us all possible help, so that we could organize ourselves the distributions of clothes, furnitures, etc. Immediate steps should be taken, as winter will soon be there. In South East France (Marseille, Nice the Riviera), the main problem will be a food one. People, and children particularly have been undernourished these last three years. Food supplies would probably have to be sent through Marseille, and the work should be

000919

organised through the four Quaker delegations in South France, in Marseilles, Toulouse, Montauban and Perpignan. Owing to the interruption of all mail in France, we do not know exactly what the situation of these delegations is at the present moment, and what their plans are for the near future, but we have been told that the number of people to help with food supplies is at least about 250,000 for South East France only.

4) Regrouping dispersed families: Over 150,000 Jews have been deported since 1941 and have been unable to send news to their relatives left in France, or settled abroad, in the U.S.A. especially. Some international organization will have to find out what has happened with these people, which among them have died, which have survived, help the children find their parents, etc. Lists will have to be drawn, of those who were arrested all over France, in order to try and find these people in Silesia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, etc. We are very much concerned with this problem and should like to help solving it.

5) Finances:**It is difficult to state how much money would be needed for this new scheme of work. All that we can say is that now, for our three centres of work in Northern France (Paris, Bordeaux, Dijon) we need approximately Frs. 220,000 - monthly (i.e. £ 1,100 or \$4,400) - Quaker relief work in Southern France (Marseilles, Toulouse, Montauban and Perpignan) is using about 1 million francs monthly (i.e. £ 5,000, or \$ 20,000); these figures would not permit any extension of the work, but only the continuation of the actual work.

We do hope to hear soon from you, and more than that, to be able very soon, to welcome some of you in Paris.

With our best and loving greetings,

/s/ Marguerite Czarnecki
Assistant Secretary

/s/ Henry Van Etten
General Secretary

P.S. If Edith Pye, or any other Friend, should be able to come, in order to inquire about the possibilities of work in France, we should like to point out to you that all her or their moving about would have to be done by car, as no railway will probably be available before three or four months. We have now at the Centre three cars; one Ford lorry, a smaller truck and a small Fiat tourist car. But the fuel problem is a very acute one (wood for the lorry and gasoline for both other cars) no gasoline being now available in France, except through British or American channels.

We have sent a similar letter to the Friends' Relief Service in London.

** Editorial Note from AFSC, Philadelphia. It will be noted that the budget of \$24,400.00 monthly explained in this paragraph, applies only to the current Quaker program in France and does not allow for the meeting of any of the emergency needs set forth in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.

9/25/44

000920

November 17, 1944

F R E N C H N E W S

The State Department has just informed us that Clarence Pickett and Margaret Frawley have permission to proceed from London to attend a conference in Paris on Monday, November 20, ~~of all Protestant church bodies, concerning relief work.~~ This is not to be quoted in print until confirmation has been received from London.

Letters have just come from Kendall Kimberland in Algiers telling of two postcards he has received from France.

The first is from Mary Elmes in Perpignan, dated October 16:

"We were happy to receive your message of August 26. We thank you for your kind thoughts in sending us this friendly message. We are equally happy to tell you that we are all in good health at Perpignan. We are awaiting with impatience the return of our English and American friends and hope that very soon we shall have the pleasure of working with them.

"Our greatest needs here are: milk, all kinds of fats, meat, clothing, and above all shoes. We have a colony of 100 children, victims of war, who are almost entirely without shoes.

"We send you our best wishes." (Translation)

The other card is from Toot van Oordt in Toulouse, dated October 17:

"It was a great joy for us to first get your letter to Helga Holbek and some days ago your friendly message to all of us. I hasten to write a few lines to you and to thank you, very warmly indeed and all of you. It was such a pleasure to get news from American Friends and we know how much you all shared our concerns. Yes, we are still all here in Toulouse: Helga Holbek, Helene Rott, Leo Gartner, Ima Lieven (who is since a few months in Marseille and well), Alice Resch Synnestadt. Our work continues: medical center for 'suralimentation' at our premises, where 200 children and 100 students eat daily a 'gouter' at four o'clock with 100 grams of bread and 20 grams of Danish lard for 300 children - prison work - home colonies - individual cases. But our stocks are nearing the end. We need sugar and milk (condensed and sugared). A message came through from Edith Pye (Friends House) through the Paris Quakers asking our needs, our projects went off a fortnight ago, with Helga Holbek, who hoped to go to London!

"Many thanks and kindest regards."

Kendall Kimberland also forwards the copy of a letter from Eleanor Coahu in Marseille, dated November 3, in which she says:

"Transportation difficulties will continue until the end of the war. This is the conclusion we have arrived at after consultation

000921

with the various services concerned. Lack of rolling stock and lack of trucks is seriously impeding transfer of food from interior regions where it is really plentiful and where a surplus actually exists, to the coastal regions which are still facing serious shortages. This is why we believe it would be a real contribution for the Quakers to help in solving this difficulty. It will doubtless be impossible to obtain title to Army material. A considerable number of trucks, it is said, are or will be at the disposal of the Ravitaillement services, but we doubt that their number will be sufficient. We propose this suggestion although realizing that there may be insurmountable obstacles to its realization. In the departments of the Ardeche and the Isere there are available butter, cheese, nuts, meat, and we are authorized to go and bring down here as much as we can. But we only have a Chevrolet ambulance-truck, which we have had transformed into a gaso-bois and which can only haul a short three tons per trip.

"It is fine to have your help and cooperation."

Four letters have also been received from Rose Thorndike, now with the American Red Cross in Paris, dated October 27 to November 2. In addition to Paris Friends, she had seen Helga Holbek and Ima Lieven, both from Toulouse, who had been in Paris for a few days. Describing a conversation with them, she says:

"The chief need is for fats, milk, and sugar. There has been only one distribution of sugar in Toulouse since May. The bread ration has increased, and its quality is much improved, since the Germans had no time to destroy or acquire the wheat crops. Fruits and vegetables are also more plentiful, as is meat. Helga was able to get ten tons of bacon from her own country (Denmark), and this was distributed through the Southern offices, conditions along the Mediterranean still being much the worst. Children are not growing and look to be far below their actual ages. Some who had gained no weight in two years showed improvement within six months when fed the bacon. Helga said it was like watering a parched flower.

"The question of communications is also much better than it was. Southern offices have been cut off from each other, but not from Paris. Everyone on the job, but very tired. They need replacements, but these will be of little help without supplies.

"The needy class, and the word is comparative, are the political internees in the camps, though conditions there are improving. Refugees and displaced persons are also needy, of course, but more plans are on foot for them."

Rose Thorndike wrote on October 31 for Henry van Etten in Paris that the budget of \$30,000 a month, which Secours Quaker has been receiving from Secours Social, may be withdrawn, owing to the difficulty in raising funds, and Henry van Etten would like to raise the question with us as to whether we could help if this should happen.

000922

He could get along for three or four months with his present program, but after that sees no prospects for raising money outside of transfers from Philadelphia and London. This is, of course, only a possibility, and we replied that we expected to be able to make up his budget for an emergency period, but that any long-time financial commitments would have to await consultation between American Friends and Secours Quaker.

The Southern delegations of Secours Quaker have met to discuss their future plans and requirements, and we have received through London a detailed estimate, dated October 16. They emphasize the importance of our help in the next four months, and for this period would like a minimum of 8,000 tons of food, especially milk, sugar, fats, for services in sixteen southern departments to babies, undernourished children, students, and old people, both French and refugee. In the department of Gers, the health report recommends food supplements to 20,000 children, sick, and aged, out of a population of 200,000. In addition to the urgently needed food, clothes, underwear, and shoes are hard to find, and there is a serious scarcity of fuel. Transport is also badly needed, of course, and Margaret Frawley is investigating the possibility of buying British trucks.

From Madrid David Blickenstaff sends us an excerpt from the bulletin of the local French Diplomatic Mission, dated October 24: "During the German occupation of France, 1,000,000 children died of starvation; 100,000 persons, including 50,000 hostages, were executed without trial; 1,400,000 persons were deported to Germany; and 100,000 prisoners died in prisons and concentration camps." How accurate these figures are it is not possible to say. We are inclined to question them.

American Friends Service Committee
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

000923

Executive Committee

201001, 7/27/00
110001, 10/11/99

We have been in the concentration camp since two months to assist the Jews who are being imprisoned and keep the Jews who have been arrested before they are sent away. There are men, women, and children. We are helping them by giving food to help to get some medications. The Jews are very ill because they are fasting from themselves since a few days ago we had no food. These people came out with 30 are still alive. The garden will have milk and eggs and milk for the prisoners here. In the same time, we are allowed to come to the kitchen to get potatoes or other soups go off north. We have discovered that the lack of drinking water is very severe - usually they have enough food for the journey. So we all go - nearly the whole office to the goods station to distribute food, and something else. Last Sunday we spent the entire day there, from 8 to one o'clock, and back to the office to prepare rice, because there was more than quantity than we were told. It was a transport of about 30000 men. At four we were back at the goods station and we had until midnight at night trying out food and retching containers given for those severely people. At there was only one train and it was 10 miles away from the train (goods wagon) which was extremely an enormous amount of time. We have been asking somebody to bring us empty bottles, that we wash and fill with drinking water and hand into the wagons. Fortunately, we have found several hundreds of them. Some people bring two or three empty bottles each, others ten or twenty and it is really surprising how everybody is willing to help.

Our 100 men and 1000 pack horses each dwindled down, as there has been liquidation of the October, and the remaining people put into hostels or in "congregated council" (The Chief of Vernet has been sent to work in the city, so that only two still exists. But what was left of the war of 1861 left in the forefront of last Sunday.

3

000925

Handwritten: *France*
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than the Government
Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
October 20, 1944

3 PM 12 17
1944 OCT 22

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

Handwritten: 2 - *Wm*
Ref Bd
(Mr. Rehl)

EMBASSY

PARIS

200

The following message is from Dr. Brutzkus and Dr. Sulman
of the American Committee of OSE through War Refugee Board.

NOTE Kindly advise us extent current needs among remain-
ing Jewish population, what activities you are planning and
what funds are required immediately. Because of negotiations
with ~~Ram~~ Joint representative Dr. Schwartz who recently arrived
here for relief plan conferences this information essential.
Information also desired who remain of committee and staff mem-
bers and who are missing or were deported. For purposes coopera-
tion maintain regular contact allied and private relief agencies.
Our New York OSE address is 24 West Fortieth Street. 109 Stamford
Hill, London N 16 is OSE British address. Glad to hear you are
well and in charge OSE work in France. UNQUOTE

Please deliver paraphrase to Dr. E. Minkovsky, 130 Boulevard
Montparnasse.

HULL
(CITE)

MRB:MMY:KG
10/19/44

CONTROL COPY

000926

CABLE TO AMERICAN MISSION, PARIS, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Dr. E. Minkovsky, 130 Boulevard
Montparnasse, Paris, from Dr. Brutzkus and Dr. Wulman of the American Committee
of OSE:

QUOTE HAPPY TO LEARN YOU ARE WELL AND IN CHARGE OSE WORK FRANCE.
PLEASE INFORM US EXTENT PRESENT NEED AMONG REMAINING JEWISH
POPULATION WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED BY YOU AND WHAT FUNDS ARE
IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED. THIS INFORMATION ESSENTIAL ESPECIALLY IN
VIEW NEGOTIATIONS WITH JOINT REPRESENTATIVE DR. SCHWARTZ WHO
ARRIVED HERE FOR CONFERENCES ON RELIEF PLANS. PLEASE INFORM
ALSO WHO OF COMMITTEE AND STAFF MEMBERS REMAINED AND WHO WERE
DEPORTED OR MISSING. KEEP UP REGULAR CONTACT ALLIED AND PRIVATE
RELIEF AGENCIES FOR PURPOSES COOPERATION. OUR ADDRESS OSE 24 WEST 40TH
STREET, NEW YORK. ADDRESS BRITISH OSE 109 STAMFORD HILL, LONDON N. 16
UNQUOTE

10:30 a.m.
October 18, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman,
Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

*Copy sent
RD OSE 10/20/44*
RDrury 10/17/44 *JH -*

000927

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

Devoted to Safeguarding the Health of Jews

24 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-3905

October 16, 1944

HONORARY COMMITTEE

PROF. ALBERT EINSTEIN
DR. EMANUEL LIBMAN
DR. MILTON J. ROSENAU
DR. JULIUS BRUTZKUS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS:

DR. A. J. RONGY, *Chairman*
DR. ENG. B. PREGEL, *Co-Chairman*
DR. J. J. GOLUB, *Vice-Chairman*
DR. D. JEDWABNIK, *Vice-Chairman*
DR. ENG. CH. BREYNER, *Treasurer*
DR. L. WULMAN, *Secretary*

MEMBERS:

MR. N. ARONSON
DR. A. BROWN
DR. L. LAJZEROWICZ
DR. N. RATNOFF
DR. L. ROSENTHAL
DR. I. S. WECHSLER

Miss R. Drury
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear madam:

"We are forwarding herewith a slightly revised text of our message which we would be grateful to you if you transmit to Dr. E. Minkovsky, 130 Boulevard Montparnasse, Paris.

We appreciate greatly your courtesy to us in this matter.

Yours very truly,

S. Jacobs

(Mrs.) S. Jacobs
Secretary to Dr. Wulman

000928

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE
(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

Cable message to:

Dr. E. Minkovsky
130 Boulevard Montparnasse
Paris, France

"Happy to learn you are well and in charge OSE work France. Please inform us extent present need among remaining Jewish population what activities are planned by you and what funds are immediately required. This information essential especially in view negotiations with Joint representative Dr. Schwartz who arrived here for conferences on relief plans. Please inform also who of Committee and staff members remained and who were deported or missing. Keep up regular contact Allied and private Relief agencies for purposes cooperation. Our address OSE 24 West 40th Street, New York. Address British OSE 109 Stamford Hill, London N. 16.

Dr. Brutzkus

Dr. Wulman

October 16, 1944

000929

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

Devoted to Safeguarding the Health of Jews

24 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-3905

HONORARY COMMITTEE

PROF. ALBERT EINSTEIN
DR. EMANUEL LIBMAN
DR. MILTON J. ROSENAU
DR. JULIUS BRUTZKUS

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MR. N. ARONSON
DR. A. BROWN
DR. L. LAJZEROWICZ
DR. N. RATNOFF
DR. L. ROSENTHAL
DR. I. S. WECHSLER

September 25, 1944

War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

We wish to express our thanks for your courtesy in telephoning in response to our letter of September 7, 1944.

It occurred to us after your call that perhaps you would favor us further by keeping our letter on file so that if conditions change enough to permit us to contact Paris directly through you, you would then be kind enough to inform us.

Very truly yours,

L. Wulman

L. Wulman, M.D.
Secretary

lw:sj

000930

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

Devoted to Safeguarding the Health of Jews

24 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-3905

September 7, 1944

HONORARY COMMITTEE

PROF. ALBERT EINSTEIN
DR. EMANUEL LIBMAN
DR. MILTON J. ROSENAU
DR. JULIUS BRUTZKUS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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DR. ENG. CH. BREYNER, *Treasurer*
DR. L. WULMAN, *Secretary*

MEMBERS:

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DR. N. RATNOFF
DR. L. ROSENTHAL
DR. I. S. WECHSLER

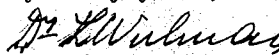
Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Please accept our grateful acknowledgement of the receipt of the message from Dr. Lazar Gurvitch sent through the American Legation in Bern and so kindly forwarded by you.

This message contains the news that the OSE has resumed its welfare and child care work in France, and we are most anxious to contact Dr. E. Minkovsky, the Chairman of the newly re-established OSE office in Paris (130 Boulevard Mont Parnasse). Since telegraphic communication with Paris still remains inaccessible to the general public, we beg you to render us the great service and accept the enclosed cable message for transmission to Dr. E. Minkovsky, Paris.

Very truly yours,



L. Wulman, M.D.
Secretary

Encl.
as above

lw:sj

000931

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE
(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

Cable Message to:

Dr. E. Minkovsky
130 Boulevard Mont Parnasse
Paris, FRANCE

"Happy to learn you are well and in charge OSE work France. Please inform us extent present need among remaining Jewish population what activities are planned by you and what funds are immediately required. This information essential especially in view negotiations with Joint representative Dr. Schwartz who arrived here for conferences on relief plans. Please inform also who of Committee and staff members remained and who were deported or missing. Keep up regular contact with Tschlenoff Geneva and contact Allied Relief agencies for purposes cooperation. Our address OSE 24 West 40th Street, New York.

Dr. Brutzkus

Dr. Wulman

American OSE Committee

September 7, 1944

000932

OCT 19 1944

Dear Dr. Wulman:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of October 6, 1944, enclosing a copy of a cable message from your Swiss organization indicating the extent of welfare activities already resumed by your organization in France.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. L. Wulman,
Secretary,
The American Committee of OSE,
24 West 40th Street,
New York, New York.

EST RBH Hutchison:agr 10-18-44 Jd -

000933

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE

(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

Devoted to Safeguarding the Health of Jews

24 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-3905

October 6, 1944

HONORARY COMMITTEE

PROF. ALBERT EINSTEIN
DR. EMANUEL LIBMAN
DR. MILTON J. ROSENAU
DR. JULIUS BRUTZKUS

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DR. I. S. WECHSLER

Mr. J.W.Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

At the request of our Swiss organization we take pleasure in sending you herewith a copy of a cable message recently received from them. This message gives some indication of the extent of welfare activities which have already been resumed by our organization in France, and we believe will be of interest to you.

As you may know, Dr. Lazar Gurvitch, the signer of the cable, is the General Secretary of the OSE Union. Dr. Joseph Weil is a noted French physician and authority on welfare work, member of the Study Group for Post-war Relief and Refugee Problems in Switzerland which is comprised of representatives of various organizations engaged in relief and rehabilitation activities.

Yours very truly,

L. Wulman, M. D.
Secretary

Encl.

lw:s

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF OSE
(ASSOCIATED WITH TOZ)

C
o
p
y

FA121 XBX SZ8230 GENEVE 101/100 21 1532

NLT LEO WULMAN 24 WEST 40TH STREET NEWYORK

DOCTOR JOSEPH WEIL VISITED FRANCE CONFERENCE HELD
CHAMBERY FIXED PLAN NEW ENLARGED ACTIVITIES RE-
ESTABLISHING MEDICAL SOCIAL CONSULTATIONS GRENOBLE
LYON MARSEILLE TOULOUSE STOP REOPENING CHILDREN
HOMES MONTINTIN POULAZAT COURET OTHERS WILL RAPIDLY
FOLLOW STOP CONTROLLING ALREADY OVER 400 CHILDREN
SOUTHERN ZONE STOP HAVE SENT FRANCE MEDICINES
RESTORATIVES CONDENSED MILK OPENED FAMILY SEARCH
BUREAU HELP BRINGING TOGETHER PARENTS AND CHILDREN
STOP SHOULD MUCH APPRECIATE RECOMMENDATION OUR
WORK BEFORE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES STOP ANSWER YOURS
SEPTEMBER 8 WILL FOLLOW STOP RETEL AUGUST 31ST
BERTY HEIBERG GENEVA 41 BOULEVARD GEORGESFAVON
OTHER CHILDREN FRANCE CONTROLLED OSE

OSE LAZAR GURVITCH

000935

OCT 11 1944

Dear Dr. Wulman:

The following message for you from Lazor Gurvitch has been received through the American Legation, Bern, under date of October 7, 1944:

"There are no direct possibilities for transporting medicines to Lublin by the International Red Cross. Through the National Red Cross organizations, we are trying to find other ways. It would be appreciated if you would transmit all the details regarding Herssenhorn, in particular the number saved and the possibilities of assistance. We shall keep in France during the next few months at least 5,000 children, most of whom have been abandoned. About 2,000 of these children together with families are being helped. Since most of the equipment has been salvaged, we have started reopening homes for 1,000 children. In view of further repatriation and emigration, we have organized special family research service in Geneva and France. Social and medical centers have been reopened and we emphasize the need of strong measures on behalf of people in need of medical care, particularly those with tuberculosis. It is urgent for us to organize the sending of medicines and fortifying foods. We have been informed that there are now over 3,500 children in Belgium who have been abandoned. The report and program of local organizations is expected to be given to us soon."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle
J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Leo Wulman, Secretary,
American Committee of OSE,
24 West 40th Street,
New York 18, N. Y.

hd 10/10/44

000936

MENT
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

STATE

MS-109

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Bern

Dated October 7, 1944

Rec'd 9:10 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

6674, October 7, 10 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAN

For Leo Kulman American OSE from Lazor Gurvitch.

CONTROL COPY

"International Red Cross has no direct possibilities
send medicines Lublin. Attempting find other ways
through National Red Cross organizations. Please
communicate all details concerning Herszenhorn parti-
cularly number saved and help possibilities. In France
next several months shall maintain at least 5000 children
mostly abandoned. About 2000 of these are helped to
gather families. Have started reopening homes for 1000
children most equipment having been saved. Organized
special family research service Geneva and France view
further repatriation and emigration. Reopened social
medical centers emphasize necessity energetic measures
behalf sick persons particularly tuberculars. Necessary
we organize sending medicines fortifying foods. In-
formed over 3500 abandoned children in Belgium. Ex-
pecting report and program local organizations soon."

HARRISON

WSB

000937

74
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

EOC-238

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Lisbon

Dated September 2, 1944

Rec'd 11 a.m.

6 war by, Br
Rille
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEP 3 1944

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2707, September 2, noon.

WRB 173. JDC 61. FOR LEAVITT FROM PILPEL

Gurevitsch, OSE, Geneva cables:

"Have met our French employees who came to Geneva
to confer. Work in France has continued so far on same
lines but not undertaking steps to reopen our former
institutions according elaborated plan in liberated
parts of country, particularly homes for abandoned
children. Address our Paris representative, Doctor
Minkovski, 130 Boulevard Mont Parnasse."

NORWEB

JT

Message sent
9/6/44

000938

SEP 6 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Mr. Pilpel was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of September 2, 1944:

"JDC 61. Gurevitch of OSE in Geneva cables as follows: 'Have met with our French representatives who came to confer in Geneva. In France work continues so far on the same lines but steps are not being undertaken to reopen our former offices in accordance with the elaborated plan in liberated areas of the country, and particularly abandoned children's homes. Please address our representative in Paris, Doctor Minkowski, 130 Boulevard Mont Parnasse.'"

Very truly yours,

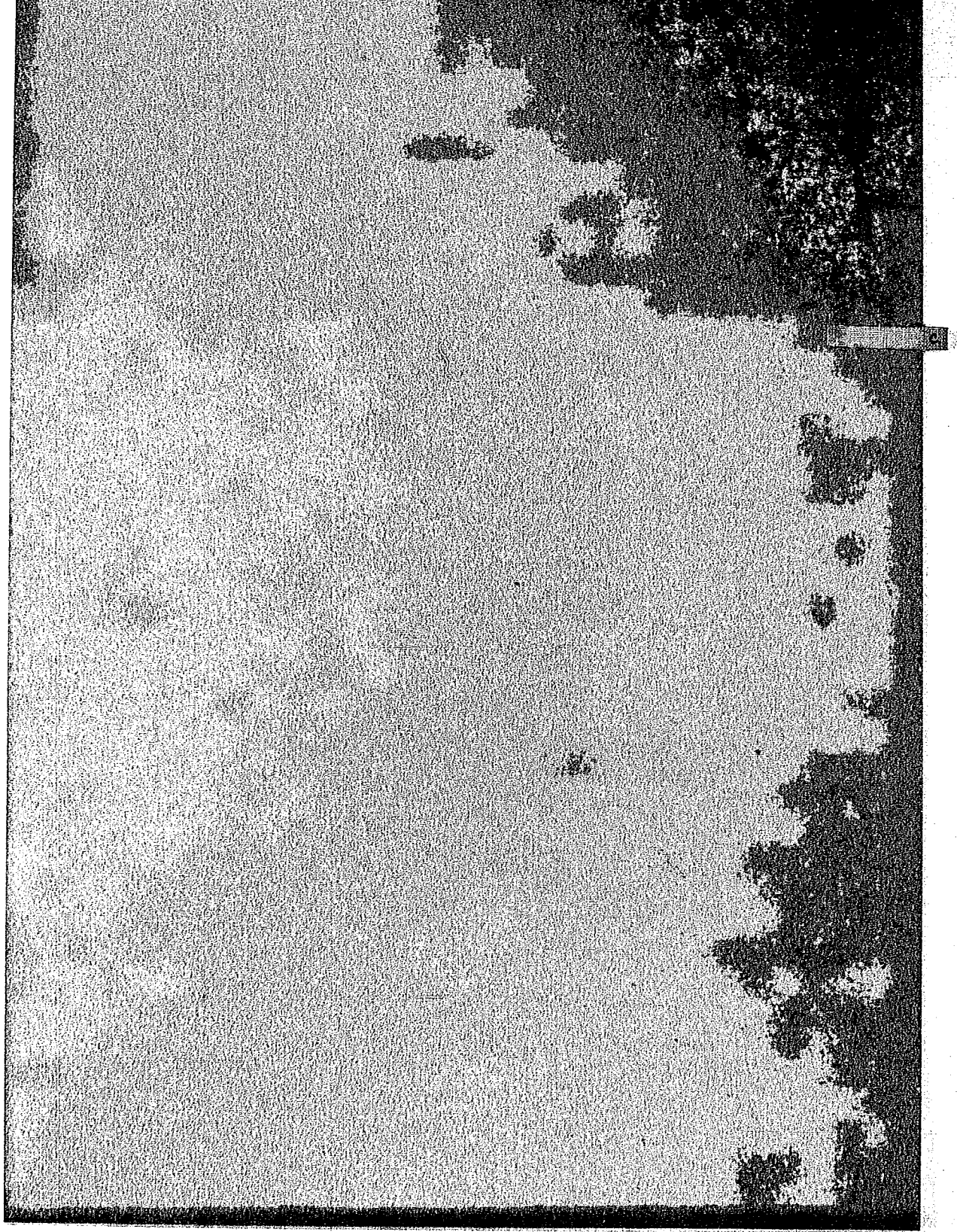
(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

✓
RW
RDury 9/5/44

000939



000940

2-10-44 Rf BS
Pilla

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Paris
DATED: October 14, 1944
NUMBER: 155 X

CONTROL COPY

Cable to American Mission, Paris, from War Refugee Board.

Please deliver the following message to Maurice Brenner, 19
Rue de Teheran, Paris, from Joseph Schwartz of the American
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE We are informed that Hicem has four million
francs which was in account of ugi and has now
been impounded by the French authorities who are
willing to release the funds provided Hicem agrees.
Hicem New York is willing to release those funds to
us for relief purposes and we would ask you to under-
take all necessary steps to obtain use these funds
for relief purposes either for Paris or the Provinces
advising us to whom funds have been turned over. Mr.
Bienstock representative of Jewish telegraphic agency
and the overseas Jews Service who may now be in Paris
is fully informed concerning this matter and would
suggest you get in touch with him. UNQUOTE

OCT 13 11 51

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

000941

CABLE TO AMERICAN MISSION, PARIS, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Maurice Brenner, 19 Rue de
Teheran, Paris, from Joseph Schwartz of the American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee:

QUOTE WE ARE INFORMED THAT HICEM HAS FOUR MILLION FRANCS
WHICH HAS IN ACCOUNT OF UGIS AND HAS NOW BEEN IMPOUNDED BY
THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES WHO ARE WILLING TO RELEASE THE FUNDS
PROVIDED HICEM AGREES. HICEM NEW YORK IS WILLING TO RELEASE
THOSE FUNDS TO US FOR RELIEF PURPOSES AND WE WOULD ASK YOU TO
UNDERTAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO OBTAIN USE THESE FUNDS FOR
RELIEF PURPOSES EITHER FOR PARIS OR THE PROVINCES ADVISING
US TO WHOM FUNDS HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER. MR. BIENSTOCK
REPRESENTATIVE OF JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY AND THE OVERSEAS
JEWS SERVICE WHO MAY NOW BE IN PARIS IS FULLY INFORMED CONCERNING
THIS MATTER AND WOULD SUGGEST YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM UNQUOTE

October 12, 1944
11:00 a.m.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman,
Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

RD:ury 10/11/44

000942

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

ECM
This telegram must be
rechecked before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency.

October 16, 1944

5 p. m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 18 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

AMEMBASSY

PARIS
163 x

Kindly deliver paraphrase of cable below to Maurice

Brener, 19 Rue de Teheran.

QUOTE Sergeant Bertram Schwartz ASN 32987662 HQ Det
Loire Section OZ ETO Staff Judge Advocate APO 360 Postmaster
New York is source of information that he and colleagues
have found 150 Jewish children formerly hiding with private
families. Chateau for childrens' use been rented by this
group. Suggest you contact Schwartz and extend all aid
possible as we understand these children need all kinds of
assistance particularly clothing. UNQUOTE

The above message is from H. A. Leavitt of American
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee through War Refugee
Board.

HULL
(GLW)

CONTROL COPY

WRB:MMV:KG
10/16/44

WE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972

000943

CABLE TO AMERICAN MISSION, PARIS, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Maurice Brenner, 19 Rue de
Teheran, Paris, from M. A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint

Distribution Committee:

QUOTE WE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM SERGEANT BERTRAM SCHWARTZ
ASN 32987662 HQ DET LOIRE SECTION CZ ETO STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE
APO 350 POSTMASTER NEW YORK THAT HE AND COLLEAGUES FOUND
150 JEWISH CHILDREN WHO WERE IN HIDING WITH INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES
AND FOR WHOM THEY HAVE NOW RENTED CHATEAU FOR THEIR USE. THESE
CHILDREN WE UNDERSTAND REQUIRE ALL TYPES OF ASSISTANCE ESPECIALLY
CLOTHING. SUGGEST YOU CONTACT BERTRAM SCHWARTZ AND EXTEND ALL
POSSIBLE AID UNQUOTE

*Copy sent
SEC 10/11/44*
October 12, 1944
11:00 a.m.

Miss Chaurcey (for the Sect'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, Du Bois, Friedman,
Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

RDruy 10/11/44 *DET*

000944

*I was Ref. 24
Pella*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Paris
DATE: October 14, 1944
NUMBER: 156

From War Refugee Board.

Please deliver the following message to Maurice Brener,
19 Rue de Teheran, Paris, from M. A. Leavitt of the American
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE LEARNED THROUGH CHAPLAIN JUDAH NADICH
THAT FELICIE KON AND THREE CHILDREN FORMER
VITTEL INTERNEES CARE OF WILFART 96 AVENUE
MOZART PARIS 16 URGENTLY NEED ASSISTANCE. WE
AUTHORIZE YOU GIVE HER NECESSARY ASSISTANCE
UNQUOTE

HULL

CONTROL COPY

4 OCT 15 AM 11 53

RECEIVED
STATE DEPT.
OCT 15 1944

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972

000945

CABLE TO AMERICAN MISSION, PARIS, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Maurice Brenner, 19 Rue de
Teheran, Paris, from M. A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee:

QUOTE LEARNED THROUGH CHAPLAIN JUDAH NADICH THAT FELICIE
KON AND THREE CHILDREN FORMER VITTEL INTERNEES CARE OF WILFART
96 AVENUE MOZART PARIS 16 URGENTLY NEED ASSISTANCE. WE AUTHORIZE
YOU GIVE HER NECESSARY ASSISTANCE UNQUOTE

October 12, 1944
11:00 a.m.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman,
Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

Copied out
10/17/44

WH:hd 10/12/44

JA -

000946

December 11, 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Joseph Schwartz was received through the American Embassy in Paris under date of December 6, 1944:

"Here the situation is very critical; 38,000 people are requesting relief in various forms from our committees; of these approximately half are in Paris and the remainder in provinces, mainly large towns such as Lyon, Nice, Marseilles, Toulouse. At our public canteens in Paris 6,000 are being fed each day and another canteen is being opened now in Marseilles. At least 8,000 children, in addition, require care immediately; many must be assembled in homes and these homes must be equipped and made ready. A large number of new organizations has appeared during the period of resistance and all of these insist upon continuing to function in welfare service, which complicates the situation. Agencies of the French Government are starting to function but so far they have not defined precisely the categories of persons entitled to aid, and non-French Jews particularly are enduring great suffering, and public relief is not being given to them. Distribution of relief to Polish nationals by the Polish Government has begun on the basis of 800 francs per month per person; this it is hoped will lessen the burden on us. The French have not invited UNRRA to work, mainly because they now have no supplies and ICG finds that it is limited by its mandate which restricts relief activities to those persons who were forced to leave their country due to race, religion, or political beliefs, and is hampered also because of lack of funds for purely relief purposes. In present emergency believe that for winter months will need budget of at least 30 million francs per month which it is hoped will be decreased by end of winter as situation improves and when government and other organizations start to operate more effectively. For the next four months at least in order to meet this budget it will be necessary for you to send to us monthly \$250,000 and the balance it is hoped can be met out of franc reserves here which have been set up. Also feel that it is important to reopen Cassa which up to 1940 was functioning in Paris, so that loans can be made to persons able to start earning. Could 10 million francs for this purpose be made available by the Reconstruction Committee. Next day expecting to leave for Switzerland and then will go to Belgium; thereafter will return here for a longer stay. As yet Arthur Greenleigh has not arrived.

000947

- 2 -

Kindly request him to proceed here immediately as it is most urgent. Also suggest that an additional American staff member be sent here. You should initiate application at your end and the matter will be pushed by us from here."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

✓
RDrury 12/11/44

000948

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

*War Ref. Bd.
Pelle*

1944 DEC 8 PM 4 44

EK-220
Distribution of trust
reading only by special
arrangement. [REDACTED]

Paris

Dated December 6, 1944

Rec'd 8:08 p.m. 7th.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

819, December 6, 4 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM HOFFMAN.

The following message is to Moses Leavitt from

Joseph Schwartz:

Situation here very critical with 38,000 persons asking various forms relief from our committees of whom about half in Paris remainder provinces mostly large cities like Lyons, Marseilles, Nice, Toulouse. 6,000 being fed daily at our public canteens in Paris and additional canteen now being opened in Marseilles. In addition at least 8,000 children need immediate care, many of them having to be assembled in homes which must be prepared and equipped. During resistance period many new organizations have sprung up, all of whom insist continuing function in social service field thus complicating situation. French Government agencies beginning to function but have not yet definitely defined categories entitled to relief and particularly

CONTROL COPY

*Message sent
12/11/44
RD*

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972

000949

-2-#819, December 6, 4 p.m. from Paris.

particularly non-French Jews suffering greatly and not receiving public relief. Polish Government begun distributing relief to its nationals on basis 800 francs per person per month and it is hoped that this will lighten our burden. UNRRA has not been invited by the French to work largely because at present time they have no supplies and intergovernmental committee finds itself limited by its mandate which restricts activities to persons who had to leave their country because of race religion or political views and is also handicapped by lack funds for purely relief purposes. Believe that in present emergency for winter months will have to have budget not less than 30 million francs monthly which budget will be decreased it is hoped by the end of the winter as conditions improve and as government and other, agencies begin to function more effectively. To meet this budget for at least next 4 months you will have to transmit to us \$250,000 monthly and it is hoped that balance can be met from franc reserves which have been set up here. Also consider it important reopen Cassa which was functioning in Paris up to 1940 in order make loans to people who can begin to earn. Could reconstruction committee make available 10 million francs for this purpose. Expecting leave for Switzerland next day and then

000950

-3-#819, December 6, 4 p.m. from Paris.

and then visit Belgium after which will return for longer
stay here. Arthur Greenleigh not yet arrived, please
ask him proceed here at once as this most urgent. Would
also suggest another American staff member be sent here.
Please initiate application your end and we will push
from here.

CHARGE JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, NEW YORK.

CAFFERY

WMB

000951

000952

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RE
This telegram must be
registered before being
communicated to anyone
other than the Government
Agency.

October 16, 1944

3 p.m.

*5. War Ref.
Bd (Mr.
Pehle)*

AMEMBASSY

PARIS



X 16.

The following message is from Rabbi Langer, New York
through War Refugee Board.

QUOTE Edward de Rothschild Chairman of ARIF requests
list most required necessities needed for children and
adults be cabled. Meeting of such requirements will be
attempted. UNQUOTE

Please deliver paraphrase of above to Grand Rabbi
Julien Weil, 44 Rue de la Victoire, Paris, to Maitre David,
117 Rue Breteuil, Marseille and to Leon Weiss, care Temple
Israelite, Quai de Tilsit, Lyon.

HULL
(GLW)

CONTROL COPY

WRM:EV:KG
10/16/44

WE

000953

URGENT TO AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PARIS, FROM NEW YORK REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Grand Robbin Julien Weil,
44 Rue de la Victoire, Paris, from Rabbi Langer, New York:

QUOTE EN BELLEF POUQUART DE ROTHSCHILD CHAIRMAN OF ARIF CABLE
LAST REQUESTED NECESSITIES NEEDLE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
WILL ENDEAVOR MEET REQUIREMENTS UNQUOTE

10:15 a.m.

October 13, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn,
DuBois, Friedman, Model, Lesser, Mannon,
McCormack, Files

*Received by Mr. A. Smith 10/13/44
the requested message be dispatched
at 10:15 a.m.*

*Clearance with Mr. Abrahamson
RD*
REurvy 10/12/44

*Copy sent
JDC 10/17/44
RD*

000954

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
LETTER	URGENT
DEFERRED	RATE
SHIP	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT	NIGHT
TELEGRAM	LETTER
SPECIAL	SHIP
SERVICE	RADIOGRAM

Persons should state class of service desired otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1207-B

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

To Grand Rabbin Julien Weil October 11th, 1944

Care of or Apt. No. 44 rue de la Victoire

Street and No. PARIS (France)

Place _____

~~NIT ON BEHALF EDOUARD DE ROTHSCHILD CHAIRMAN OF A R I F CABLE~~
~~MOST REQUISITE NECESSITIES NEEDED FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS~~
~~SHALL ENDEAVOUR MEET REQUIREMENTS~~

RABBI LANGER
251 West 87th Street
NEWYORK City.

Sender's address
for reference

Edouard de Rothschild
1000 Park Ave. N.Y.C.

Sender's telephone
number

REgent 7-2085

000955

ALL MESSAGES TAKEN BY THIS COMPANY ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it repeated, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unrepeat message rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, this is an unrepeat message and paid for as such, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the message and this Company as follows:

1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the unrepeat-message rate beyond the sum of five hundred dollars; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the repeated-message rate beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, unless specially valued; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages.
2. In any event the Company shall not be liable for damages for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of any message, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the actual loss, not exceeding in any event the sum of five thousand dollars, at which amount the sender of each message represents that the message is valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing by the sender thereof at the time the message is tendered for transmission, and unless the repeated-message rate is paid or agreed to be paid, and an additional charge equal to one-tenth of one per cent of the amount by which such valuation shall exceed five thousand dollars.
3. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.
4. Domestic messages and incoming cable messages will be delivered free within one-half mile of the Company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the Company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to contract for him for such delivery at a reasonable price.
5. No responsibility attaches to this Company concerning messages until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of the Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.
6. The Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing to the Company within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission; provided, however, that this condition shall not apply to claims for damages or overcharges within the purview of Section 415 of the Communications Act of 1934.
7. It is agreed that in any action by the Company to recover the tolls for any message or messages the prompt and correct transmission and delivery thereof shall be presumed, subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.
8. Special terms governing the transmission of messages according to their classes, as enumerated below, shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all the foregoing terms.
9. No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

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Valentine's Day Mother's Day Father's Day
Jewish New Year Thanksgiving

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Birthdays Commencement
Birth of a Child

MISCELLANEOUS

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Kiddigrams (No 35¢ rate)

ASK AT ANY WESTERN UNION OFFICE OR AGENCY FOR FULL INFORMATION

Handwritten: 10/11/34
29 0 420

McCormack, Files
Durois, Friedman, Hotel, Jessor, Mannion
Miss Channock (for the Soc'y) Abrahamson, Conn

Handwritten: 10:15 a.m.
October 13, 1934
This is a copy of a message
sent to the office of the
American Red Cross
at New York City
on October 12, 1934
at 10:15 a.m.
The message was
sent by the Western Union
Telegraph Company
and was received by the
American Red Cross
at New York City
on October 12, 1934
at 10:15 a.m.

000956

32

000957

FRANCE PRODS ALLIES ON AID TO PRISONERS

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, March 19.—Henry Frenay, French Minister of Prisoners of War and Deportees, during a two-hour meeting this afternoon with Jefferson Caffery, United States Ambassador, and Alfred Duff Cooper, British Ambassador, submitted proposals for getting food to French and other prisoners of war still in Germany and helping those already liberated.

His proposals included the parachuting of food to prisoners of war camps and the sending of Allied trucks to Sweden and thence to Luebeck in Germany to help in the emergency distribution of Red Cross food parcels that has already begun from Switzerland. He asked more Allied help in setting up prisoner reception centers near the front.

Like a man whistling in the dark, the French popular press has been saying that Frenchmen now being liberated by the Americans in Germany are fine chaps, as good as ever, and full of pep and humor. Officials in the know, however, tell a different tale.

"Five years of insufficient food and humiliation are a long time," they say, "and these men are 'diminished' physically and mentally."

One in ten is tubercular, one in twenty has venereal disease and their mental condition is also below par, these observers declare. Yet they are the lifeblood of France.

This explains some of the deep concern felt by M. Frenay and many others in France. His Ministry is facing growing criticism over the inadequacy of its activities, especially from communistically inclined National Movement of Prisoners and Deportees which is foremost among many political groups vying for favor of returning prisoners of war.

000958

BALTIMORE
DEC 11 1944

Reports 120,000 Jews Deported From France

New York, Dec. 10 (AP)—Baron Guy de Rothschild, captain of the staff of Gen. Pierre Koenig, military governor of Paris, said today that of 350,000 Jews in France when the war began 120,000 have been deported and 10,000 to 15,000 were known to have been exterminated.

He spoke at the 30th annual meeting of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

000959

DEC 10 1944

Nazis Cremated 1,665 Women at Camp in Alsace

**Struthof Also Had a Gas
Chamber, Where Victims
Were Hung on Hooks**

By Sonia Tomara

By Wirelets to the Herald Tribune
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**WITH THE AMERICAN 7TH
ARMY IN SAVERNE, France, Dec.
3 (Delayed).**—While our troops
kept fighting through Sunday this
little Alsatian town celebrated its
liberation. American guns were
thudding in the distance. Virtu-
ally all the population of Saverne
went to church and listened to the
first sermon delivered in French
since the Germans came here June
17, 1940.

I learned more about Alsace un-
der the Germans during today's
visit to Saverne than I did
on trips to Strasbourg. In a small
town of 10,000 inhabitants you
can come closer to the people's
problems, and they appear stripped
of non-essentials. The Germans
tried to Germanize Saverne, as
they tried to Germanize all of Al-
sace, and failed pitifully in their
attempt. As Henri Wagner, a
school teacher of Saverne and a
lieutenant in the French Forces of
the Interior, told me, some 40 per
cent of Saverne's population were
anti-French before the war. Only
5 per cent are anti-French now,
and most of these have gone to
Germany with the Nazis or are
under arrest and may be sent to
the concentration camp of Schir-
meck in a few days.

Signs Still in German

This is a pretty town on the
eastern slopes of the Vosges
Mountains. Brigadier General
Jacques Leclerc broke through it
with his tanks on Nov. 22. It still
has all of its signs in German.
Hotels are called gasthaus, and
restaurants are wirtschafte. The
people are respectable bourgeois
for the most part. Most of the men
at church wore black clothes, while
the women wore hats, and not the
Parisian variety of turbans. The
Germans call Saverne "Zabern,"
and all road signs point to Zabern.
The language spoken is an Alsatian
brand of German. For four
years only German was taught in
all the schools, and people who
spoke French in the streets were
sent to Schirmeck.

After having visited Saverne to-
day I drove in a jeep to Schirmeck,
some forty miles away. It was a
gruesome experience. I know that
the people at home do not like to
hear about German atrocities, yet
there are some things they ought
to know nevertheless. The camp
of Struthof near Schirmeck was
started by the Germans right
after the conquest of Alsace. The
conquerors wanted to propitiate
the Alsatians and come as liber-
ators. But they at once started to
show their cruelty, and the Alsa-
tians did not like it. Alsace is a

very democratic country, and
Adolf Hitler's regime was unsuit-
able for it.

Struthof is at the top of a
mountain, and it began to snow
when we reached it. We drove
through dark fir forests. The road
wound up through a barbed-wire
gate. There were electric switches
on this gate. Then many wooden
sheds, painted dark green. A
member of the F. F. I., who took
us around, led us to one shed—the
crematorium and gas cham-
ber.

Victims Attached to Hooks

I had heard about those things,
but I had never actually seen
them. Here they were. There was
a sort of stove to make gas—they
did not know what gas. A pipe
led to another small room without
light. There were eight rods run-
ning parallel under the ceiling and
attached to them were hooks, such
as butchers use for meat. Men and
women were attached to these
hooks, and the gas arrived through
the pipe opening. In the next room
was a hose. The F. F. I. man said
it was to wash the bodies of vic-
tims of torture. All was planned
methodically. Death was dealt out
in machinelike fashion.

It is unknown how many people
went through Struthof and how
many were executed and burned
there. About 6,000 men and wom-
en were accommodated at the
camp at one time. So far, it has
been established that 1,665 bodies
of women were burned in an oven
at the camp. The ashes were
placed in earthen urns, like flower
pots. Hundreds of these, ready to
receive ashes, are still there, tidily
placed on shelves. The last prison-
ers who were still at Struthof
were not liberated. The Germans
took them away when our ad-
vance against the Vosges began.

It began to get dark as we
walked through Struthof. Wind
lashed at us. My feet were numb
with cold, and my heart was
frozen. Clouds were very low and
loaded with snow. We thanked the
F. F. I. man and drove back in
silence.

People Saved Mayor

The morning passed in Saverne
had been such a contrast. I had a
long talk with the Mayor, white-
moustached Herr Henri Wolff,
whom I had met as he waited in
the milk line with two white cans.
He had been the Mayor here since
1919, and the Germans wanted to
expel him. But the people inter-
vened. He lived here through the
occupation as a private citizen. A
man from Karlsruhe who knew
nothing about Saverne was made
its Mayor, and all the officials
came from Germany, chiefly
Baden. In an effort to Germanize
Alsace, the Germans took most of
the Alsatian officials to Germany.
Wagner, my F. F. I. friend, was
taken to Baden to go through Nazi
courses. When he returned he had
to teach children in German.

All the French books that were
found in Saverne were burned by
the Nazis. Crucifixes were taken
out of the schoolrooms and Hit-
ler's portraits hung instead. The
priests did not like that, nor did
they like it when the children un-
der their care were drafted into
the Hitlerjugend and taught to

denounce their parents and led to
drill on Sundays at mass time.
Wagner, the school teacher, told
me how he was present at the
children's enrollment into the Hit-
lerjugend. They were awed into it.

Some 300 persons in Saverne
who were known as pro-French
were expelled to France and their
property taken by the German
state and placed in the charge of
Germans from Germany. The
same was done with Jewish prop-
erty. "We saw trucks and trucks
of furniture, fixtures and bed
and table linen leave for Germany soon
after the occupation," the Mayor
said to me. "And there was even
more looting during those last
months of September and October
when you had liberated Paris and
the Germans knew they were beat-
en," he added.

Nazis Called "Sparrows"

The Saverne factory was for-
bidden to manufacture anything
but farming machines, which were
all sent to the occupied Russian
Ukraine.

The Germans, who came to Sa-
verne "like sparrows," according to
the Mayor, nearly all left the night
before Leclerc entered the town on
his lightning march toward Stras-
bourg. The few who remained have
been arrested, together with Alsa-
tian collaborators. Some twenty
political prisoners are in jail now,
and more are being sent from
Strasbourg. Saverne authorities
think of transferring the "spar-
rows" to Schirmeck to make them
realize what life under the Ges-
tapo's rule meant.

The Saverne people are pleased
to see the war move farther away
from them. Last Sunday, though
they were free already, they were
not yet sure of remaining free.
The Germans told them they
would return. Now they have seen
the tremendous might rolling be-
hind our armies and they are re-
assured.

000960

France to Back Reds in Support Of Reich Industry

London Supporting
Opposition to Policy
Now Under Discussion

By STANTON B. LEEDS,
World-Telegram Financial Writer.

The French government will throw its weight in favor of preserving German industry after the war, industrialists here from abroad indicated today.

When Gen. Charles de Gaulle, President of the provisional government of France, returns from Moscow this will be evident, these visitors declared. Here to buy locomotives, rolling stock and heavy machinery for the French, in support of their conclusion they pointed to statements authorized after the Rye business conference by Ernest Mercier, head of the French delegation to that meeting. Furthermore, they went on, in private conversations M. Mercier has been even more explicit and he speaks from the book they insist.

Mercier Supports Plans.

Long a backer of Gen. de Gaulle as head of France's utility network and representative of the large French oil interest in the Arabian fields, M. Mercier is credited with planning the nationalization of the French coal mines, recently put in effect and described by him privately as the foundation of the plan for restoring France as a great power.

Its development is now being discussed in Moscow by Marshal Stalin and Gen. de Gaulle. As visualized by French industrialists long friendly to the General, this scheme calls for the Germans rebuilding France.

"But won't this leave Germany powerful?" one of these businessmen was asked. Denying this, he said that Germany can not stage a comeback "as long as France controls the ore and coal of Lorraine and has plenty of oil from Arabia."

French Opposition.

That this policy will meet with furious opposition from many of the French is already evident.

According to well informed observers, "this challenge to Mercier," as it is called, has the backing of London, but it has shown up here in the French weekly, *Pour la Victoire*, where the noted commentator, Henri de Kerillis, dropped out last week.

He has long been known as a friend of Winston Churchill and Lord Vansittart, and a staunch backer of their policy of bearing down hard on Germany, a policy that has brought him into conflict with Mme. Genevieve Tabouis, editor of the paper and a friend of Mrs. Roosevelt, who has always shown a marked disposition to favor the Soviets as "the logical ally of France."

ATTENTION: MR. WHITE

NEW YORK

Herald Tribune

NOV 29 1944

First Passports Issued Here for Trips to France

Business Men Find Them Hard to Get, Then Comes Transportation Problem

American business men are slowly beginning to return to France and take up threads of commerce broken by the war, it was learned yesterday. Though the United States government warns them that they face hard living conditions in France, several hundred are trying to be first to strike out from New York.

A number of passports have been issued, Mrs. Ruth B. Shipley, chief of the passport division of the State Department, said last night. She could not say how many. However, she said the papers have been granted "right along" since it was announced on Nov. 11 that applications are in order from three groups of Americans.

Those eligible are persons who can show that their presence in France (or North Africa, Syria, Lebanon or Turkey) would do any of the following: contribute directly to the war effort; serve the national interest by the resumption of economic or other activities disrupted by the war; or materially aid the place in its essential requirements for civilian consumption or reconstruction. Only the interior zone of France is included—the area east of the departmental boundaries of the Seine, Indre, Oise, Seine-et-Marne, Yonne, Nievre, Saone-et-Loire, Rhone, Ardeche and Guard. American Express headquarters in New York reported yesterday that American citizens already may cash the company's travelers' checks at any French bank in Paris now. They expect to reopen their own offices between Jan. 1 and March 1 in Paris and Marseilles, it was said. Soon, too, American banks will reopen Paris branches, it was said.

With his passport the American receives from the State Department the following "Warning as to Living Conditions in Paris":

"Persons to whom passports are

issued for use in France, and persons who contemplate applying for passports in order to proceed to that country are warned of the difficult housing and living conditions in Paris and that the American Embassy there can, under no circumstances, assume any responsibility in obtaining hotel rooms or Army mess privileges.

Practically every reputable hotel in Paris has been requisitioned by the military or civil authorities and the Embassy knows of no place where a casual traveler can obtain a decent room.

"Meals in ordinary restaurants are inadequate and unappetizing and diners must produce ration tickets which travelers could only obtain with difficulty. In the so-called black market restaurants the minimum price is about \$10 for a modest meal."

"It is understood that the S. H. A. E. F. will not be responsible for housing or feeding of civilians except persons sent by the War Department. It is suggested that Americans proceeding to France who are connected with firms having branches or agents in France might find it possible to arrange with representatives or friends in Paris for quarters before departing from the United States."

Clipper passage from Lisbon is a desideratum few civilians aim for, it was said by one who expects to be off any day. He declined to be quoted—there is lively competition in French-American circles for any scrap of data about the best means of managing any aspect of the project.

From Lisbon to Paris, the journey is said to take anywhere from two days to two months, depending on the means secured. When passage is by ship, the journey may last six weeks or so, and likely it will be by tramp steamer. The French government has several ships transporting supplies, and has some priority with French vessels in the Allied shipping pool. "Destination, France" is the voyager's designation. He may arrive in Casablanca, or at a broken fishing port on the invasion coast, and may sail from New York or New Orleans. French officials said American authorities assign transportation.

000962

NOV 1 3 1944

SS WOMEN GUARDS DECLARED BRUTAL

Refugees From Prison Camp
Say They Tortured Captives
for the 'Pleasure of It'

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, Nov. 12 — French and Polish women who endured nightmarish months in a German concentration camp operated by women of the SS, tell stories of Sadism equal to most of the camps with men guards.

Their bodies still bear scars and bruises and their minds are scarred by memories of the sight of seeing other women prisoners beaten by women guards until they died or torn to pieces by ferocious dogs that were turned on them.

A 28-year-old brunette, member of the feminine volunteer force in France, Mme. Graviella Canazzi, mother of two children, is one who told a story of the savagery of German women. Dozens of other French and Polish women tell the same experiences.

Mme. Graviella's crime was working for the resistance movement in south France as a liaison officer between the underground groups. In May, 1943, Gestapo agents seized her and tortured her to try to force her to reveal the names of fellow patriots.

For eight hours a day the Germans beat her with bare fists on her head and all parts of her naked body. When she fainted from exhaustion they had a doctor revive her until she was able to stand more beatings. When, after three months of this treatment, she had not betrayed her fellow-patriots, they sent her to a concentration camp in Germany.

German women were wardens there over 30,000 French, Polish, Russian and Czechoslovak women who dared to resist the German conquest of their countries. More than 1,000 women were in each barracks, five crowded into each two beds with no hygienic measures, no washing facilities and forbidden the right to speak to each other.

Captives Beaten for Pleasure

The women guards were young fanatics of the SS, described as "crueller than any men" by the prisoners whom they beat regularly "for the pleasure of it."

The women prisoners were covered with lice. When they became ill medical attention was denied to them. Their only food was a thin soup twice a day. Until they dropped from exhaustion they worked in a munitions factory or on heavy construction work around the camp. When they mutinied against the work vicious dogs were turned on them.

"I saw women torn to pieces and others die from the effect of the bites," Mme. Graviella said. "I saw others beaten to death by women wardens because they were too ill to work. Others were electrocuted before my eyes on the electric wires that fenced in the camp when they tried to escape."

When the women in the factory were caught communicating with other prisoner workers by note the least punishment was twenty-five lashes and three days' imprisonment in a windowless cell without food. Every day, regardless of the weather the prisoners spent hours standing at attention in the courtyard of the prison.

But the spirit of the interned women remained unbroken. When they were offered money to work harder in the munitions factory and an opportunity to buy extra food all refused.

The International Red Cross went to the rescue of Mme. Graviella and when she became seriously ill through ill treatment the Red Cross insisted that she be returned to a prison hospital in France from which she was released by the Allies.

3,000,000 JEWS EXECUTED

Book Published in German Prison
Camp Tells of Gas Chambers

The execution by the Germans of more than 3,000,000 Jewish captives in gas chambers in Tremblinka, a German death camp in Poland, is described in a clandestinely printed booklet received yesterday and made public here by local representatives of the Underground Jewish Labor Movement of Poland. The booklet, "One Year in Tremblinka," written by an escaped prisoner of the camp, was smuggled out of Poland by the Coordinating Committee, an underground body of the remnants of the Jewish population of Poland. It was received here by Emanuel Nowogrodsky of 175 East Broadway, secretary of the American Representation of the Underground Jewish Labor Movement of Poland.

Between 450 and 500 persons were crowded in each chamber at each execution, the booklet says. On their way to their doom, the victims were beaten with rifle butts and lengths of gaspipes. To escape the blows and the dogs that were sent on them the groups rushed to their death, the stronger shooting the weaker ones ahead. Prisoners in the camp were forced to remove the dead from the gas chambers and carry out mass burials under the threat of similar execution. Between 26,000 and 28,000 were gassed each day.

000 963



"A dispersal of population without parallel in history"—French civilians returning to their wrecked homes.

Thirty Millions in Europe's Darkness

LONDON (By Wireless).

WHEN the word refugee was used before the war one knew fairly well what it meant. A refugee was a person who had to leave his country of nationality and could not return to it without danger to his life or liberty, because the Government could not afford to him the rights and protection of a citizen.

Most of the pre-war refugees belonged to one or the other of a few well defined groups. They were either the victims of religious or racial persecution, or because of their political activities and views they were not acceptable to the Government of their countries. Some of the groups, the Nansen refugees, for instance, dated from the last war; the Spanish refugees were a product of the civil war in Spain; the Austrian, German and Czech refugees, mostly but not entirely Jews, were among the first victims of Nazi brutality and fanaticism.

It is no longer possible to classify those who have had to leave their country within a few clearly defined groups. The war has led to a wide dispersal of population and a diffusion of individuals which is without parallel in history. Not long ago it was estimated that in Europe alone thirty million people have had to leave their homes.

Persecution has been an important cause of this dispersal, but there have been other causes. Moreover, the vast majority of the persons concerned are anxious to get back to their own countries and are sure of a cordial welcome as soon as their countries are liberated. So the term refugee in its old sense covers only part of the problem. It is now customary to refer to

The 'displaced peoples' present a vast human problem. An expert sees a solution.

By SIR HERBERT EMERSON

Director Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees

the mass of persons who are separated from their homes as displaced persons rather than refugees.

During the war many agencies have been busy trying to help displaced persons. Great help has been given to those who escaped from countries occupied by the Axis. Places of asylum have been found, though not without difficulty, for the hundreds of thousands who have got out. They have been given the chance of becoming self-supporting. A large proportion of them are fighting for the Allies, or otherwise helping the war effort, and provision has been made for them when they could not maintain themselves. In many different ways their plight has been mitigated.

THE task of getting people out from, or of helping them while they are inside, occupied territory has been infinitely more difficult. It is a tale of continuous effort, leading only too often to disappointment and frustration. Sometimes, when success has been almost in sight, an unexpected development of the war has completely changed the prospects.

In the autumn of 1942 the French authorities in Vichy had agreed to allow a certain number of Jewish children to leave France and the arrangements for their departure were well advanced. Sud-

denly the Allies invaded North Africa, the Germans occupied the whole of France and the permission previously granted was withdrawn. All efforts to get it renewed were unsuccessful.

At another time it might have been possible to have got persons out of Hungary down the Danube. But for military purposes the river had been heavily mined and safe conduct could not be given.

Many similar instances could be made. Apart from the difficulties inherent in a state of war, there has been one constant and insuperable stumbling block—the persistent refusal of the Nazis to allow their victims to escape. Nonetheless, many thousands have been able to get away, although they are only a pitiable fraction of those who remain.

Happily, there have been means of getting help to some of those within the Nazi clutches, although again only to a small proportion of the whole. Escape from the country has not been the only way of salvation. Many persons concealed themselves and they are emerging from their hiding places as countries are freed. There is hope that the number will be larger than at one time seemed possible.

They owe a great deal to the protection given to them by the people of the particular country, very often at the risk of their

own lives. The churches have given much help, both in the denunciation of atrocities and in the actual reception and concealment of refugees, particularly children. It has also been possible to get help to them from outside. Of course, nothing can be said about this so long as there is territory occupied by the Nazis and people within their power to whom this form of assistance can still be given.

WITH the liberation of countries all over Europe, the problem is rapidly changing, and one is now able to see at least the rough shape that the post-war problems will take. So far as numbers are concerned, military success automatically gives relief. In Russia several millions of people previously displaced have gone back to their villages. German civilians who had established themselves comfortably in conquered lands have had to beat a hasty retreat. Belgians who were in France are returning to their own country and Frenchmen in Belgium are returning to France. Similar movements are taking place in some of the Balkan countries.

But this re-transfer of population is at present only partial. It is limited by lack of transport, by the requirements of military operations and other factors. Although the number of displaced persons in Europe must now be well below the peak of thirty millions, the decrease has been comparatively small. There remains a vast number, including at least 10,000,000 in Germany itself.

As soon as military success opens the way, the immediate task will be to get as many persons as (Continued on Page 54)

Millions in Europe's Darkness



A French refugee returns to her home.

Millions in Europe's Darkness

(Continued from Page 13)

possible back to their own countries with the least delay. There are several reasons why this should take priority. It is the ardent wish of the great majority of the people to return. They are wanted at home for urgent work. A large floating alien population is a disturbing element, politically and economically, to the country in which it may be, and work of reconstruction and rehabilitation cannot make real progress in any country until the population is more or less stabilized.

REPATRIATION is, therefore, a very important objective and will be one of the main responsibilities of UNRRA in those countries in which it operates at the invitation of the Governments concerned. Since all the Allied European Governments have nationals dispersed in various lands, they are ready and, indeed, eager to help each other in this matter. Reciprocal agreements have been reached, or are in hand, covering the main lines along which mutual help will be given.

Some of the neutral countries are also vitally interested. They have given asylum to large numbers during the war and will doubtless continue to do so while the necessity lasts. But it would be unfair to take undue advantages of their hospitality when the guests can return home. The homing movement has begun and from now on there will be a continuous, though irregular, stream, or rather series of streams, flowing in all directions across Europe.

This does not mean that the time is within sight when any belligerent country in Europe will be able to recover the whole of its own nationals or to restore all the strangers within its gates to their own countries. Germany itself is the crux of the problem, containing as it does millions of displaced persons of all nationalities—prisoners of war, involuntary conscripts, forced laborers, civilian internees and other groups.

Until Germany is conquered the homeward trek will be piecemeal and variable. Even when hostilities cease in Europe, some time must elapse before the movement is complete. The limiting factor will be transport, for, even under the most favorable circumstances, it will not be possible to move many millions in a few weeks, or even months.

It is not only a question of transportation within Europe. There are displaced Europeans in most countries of the world, many of whom will wish to return. Meantime, pending repatriation, many problems will have to be solved.

THE position will be complicated by the sudden unemployment of millions now engaged in some sort of war work. Large numbers will have to be fed, clothed and housed, protected against disease and given welfare services that will keep them reasonably contented while they are

marking time. They will wish to communicate with their relatives and when they do not know where those relatives are, or even whether they are alive, they will need help in tracing them.

The natural instinct will be to take a direct line for home, and, although every means will be taken to discourage this, many are likely to act on impulse. So there may be large wandering bands without the necessary means of support. The arrangements for the reception of nationals within their own countries and their absorption within the industrial system will require much organization.

There is also a security side to the problem. After the war the host of displaced persons will be swollen by war criminals who have fled from their own countries and by collaborators with the Axis who dare not return to their own lands. The Allied Governments are alive to the security and political problems which this may involve.

Thus, although the main post-war problem for the vast majority of displaced persons can be stated in simple terms as the task of restoring them to their own homes, this will involve many ancillary operations requiring organization and planning, and demanding large resources of money, supplies and services. It is essential that there should be the closest cooperation between the agencies engaged in the work—the international organizations, the national Governments and the voluntary associations. But there is a definite objective, namely, repatriation, and it is capable of achievement within a relatively short period.

REPATRIATION, however, presupposes two conditions: A man must be willing to return and his Government must be willing to receive him. Because these two conditions will not always be satisfied, repatriation will not be a universal remedy.

We may illustrate the first condition with reference to one group of pre-war refugees—namely, Jews of former German nationality. They have been the victims of every form of persecution that human devilry can devise. They have been deprived of their nationality and robbed of their property, and they owe their very lives to the accident of escape. Many of their friends and relatives have been done to death in the most horrible circumstances and their race and religion have been held up to contempt in a fanatical but well-organized campaign that has now lasted for nearly twelve years.

The gospel of hate has not merely been preached. It has been driven into the minds of the German people. It is a cardinal feature of the Nazi creed and is strongest among the Hitler Youth. It may be assumed that the United Nations will do all that can be done to eradicate this vile feature of the Nazi system; that they will abolish discriminatory laws and practices, restore

(Continued on Page 55)

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the rights of citizenship and give protection to life and property.

They will make conditions as favorable as they can be made for the return of the persecuted. But they cannot erase the memories of the past, or dissipate by decree the venom of hatred. This will take time. Some of this group may be willing to return for personal reasons, but many more will not be willing. And it is inconceivable that they should or indeed could be forced to do so against their will. Other causes will have a similar influence on members of other groups, and when the reasons are convincing it will not be practicable to compel their return to their countries under duress.

On the other hand, there will be some who would be glad to return to their own countries but will be unable to do so because of changes in the form of government or because of transfers of territory. How important these factors will be cannot yet be estimated, but there are signs that they will be present.

THUS there will be many members of the different groups of persons now displaced who will be outside the scope of repatriation. It is to be hoped that it will be only a small proportion of the whole number, but it may easily be 5 per cent, and might be as high as 10 per cent. They will be non-repatriables and will be in a position closely resembling that of the pre-war refugees, in that they will not have a Government which will give them protection, or to which they can appeal for assistance.

This is one of the heaviest burdens under which a man can labor. He stands in need of the same services as other displaced persons, but over and above these he is under the terrible handicap of insecurity.

He has no right to asylum anywhere and he is almost inevitably relegated to second place when his interests are in conflict with those of nationals of the country in which he happens to be, as, for instance, when employment is not

sufficient for all. Most of the non-repatriables have their own personal problems, and despite the fortitude and patience which so many have shown their cases often contain features which demand special care. This is the more necessary because there is not a quick solution of their troubles.

BROAD and large, repatriation is a short-term problem. The finding of new homes for a large number of homeless persons is a long-term one. It depends on the willingness of Governments not merely to afford them temporary hospitality, helpful though this is, but to give them the rights and allow them to assume the obligations of citizenship. Because it is a long-term problem it goes beyond the present purposes of UNRRA. That organization will give physical relief where it is needed in countries where it is working; and for the period of its operation, but it cannot accept the responsibility of finding new homes.

On the international side, the latter will be the duty of the Intergovernmental Committee of Refugees, which is also charged with the task of watching the interests until a final solution is found. Here again there is a sovereign remedy.

Some will be absorbed in the countries in which they now are. Some will ultimately return to their own countries if they are satisfied that they will have a reasonable chance of happiness. Provision for some may be found in fairly large scale settlements.

The majority, however, will probably depend on the process of individual emigration, which in the past has quietly and effectively provided a new life and a new citizenship to hundreds of thousands of stateless persons.

Although the solution of the problem will not be simple, it can be achieved. It will require the good-will of many Governments, the devoted service of many voluntary organizations and the effective cooperation of all agencies working in this field.

DIVISION OF
PRESS INTELLIGENCE
O.W.I.
Tempo V Bldg.

PH. _____

SY. *VM*

Inquirer.
Philadelphia, Pa.
121
DATE
MAR 1 - 1945
P.

France Is Planning Refugees' Return

French war refugees intending to return to France when transportation facilities are available are requested to appear at the New York office of the Mission of the Ministry for Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees, Room 506, 610 5th ave., New York, it was announced yesterday by Henry D'Ornano, chief of the unit.

In order to fulfill formalities without delay, those interested in returning to France should have their passports and six photographs. They should call at the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 9 to 5 o'clock, Mr. D'Ornano said.

000966

The New York Times.

NOV 3 - 1944

~~Bought Seized Jewish Property~~

PARIS (ONA)—Frenchmen who bought confiscated Jewish property during the German occupation are expected to organize a strong legal battle to retain this property, despite the nullification of the transactions carried out under the abrogated Vichy anti-Jewish laws, it was indicated here. More than 2,000 Nazi-appointed real estate managers, some of whom handled more than fifty properties, and at least 5,000 business administrators operated confiscated Jewish properties during the occupation.

000967

New York Post
OCT 27 1944

Refuse to Return Stores to Jews

Paris, Oct. 27 (Reuter)—About 40,000 owners of small businesses — mainly furniture, furs, textiles, clothing and jewelry — have formed a "protective association" to oppose any French government order for the return to Jewish owners of businesses which were sold to non-Jewish Frenchmen during the German occupation. The association said if these businesses had not been bought

they would have been liquidated by the Germans—a serious loss for French national economy.

There already have been disturbances where Jewish citizens have tried to retake possession of their pre-war business premises.

The government faces a delicate problem since undoubtedly some of the new owners are war widows, refugees from Alsace, or people who have been bombed out in other French areas.

The solution proposed by the association is to treat Jews who lost their businesses as a result of Vichy anti-Semitic laws as if they had been bombed out. This would entitle them to government compensation.

000968

JEW OF FRANCE ASK AMERICAN AID

Refugees Who Do Not Want to
Go Back to Germany or
Poland Are Problem

By DAVID ANDERSON

By Wireless to The New York Times.

PARIS, Sept. 23—The Jews of France are seeking American aid to speed their return to a normal way of life, it was learned here today.

They believe that the Americans will somehow find a solution to the question of displaced persons, in which Jews figure high, especially those with no desire to return to Germany or Poland. At present the situation is still confused. Not even the best-informed Jewish leaders can tell how many of their co-religionists are in France, how many are refugees or much about the condition of various groups. Lacking the means of traveling around the country, they can do no more than assess the often conflicting reports that reach them.

It is estimated some 30,000 to 40,000 Jews were in Paris at the time of its liberation. One hundred twenty-five thousand live in Continental France. But 100,000 have been deported to Poland and at least 80,000 emigrated during the war.

Thoughtful Jews believe that some accounts of their life here during the occupation have been too pessimistic. Almost half the French Jews, for example, lived openly in their own homes, this writer was assured by a man who hastened to add, "That is not to say that we were not living in fear for our lives or that we escaped suffering—three-quarters of my own family is missing, gone God knows where."

There was no ghetto in Paris, he explained. The capital, like most great cities, had a predominantly Jewish quarter, where the Germans bullied people with extreme cruelty, but they dared not herd all the Parisian Jews into a confine after the fashion of Warsaw.

Services were held in twelve synagogues throughout the occupation. Worshipers entered quietly, slipped on a Star of David armband to be one with the rest, and later left to vanish in the crowds on the boulevards. Only once did the Germans check on a congregation, and that was a year ago at a Rosh ha-Shanah service in the biggest synagogue on the Rue de la Victoire. They caught two persons with false papers, although the majority of those present probably had forged identifications as well as their own.

French Jews were described as worse off, on the whole, than those of Belgium and the Netherlands, since Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain habitually left the handling of Jewish affairs to the Germans, who were likely to be ruthless.

Now, relaxing for the first time in at least two years, the Jews are picking up the threads of their institutions and private lives. A relatively high percentage of them worked in the resistance movement, and are thus fairly well organized. The whereabouts of many are unknown, nor will the truth about all ever be told.

An American authority in the civil affairs section observed today that the Jews would be all right because they were working hard as individuals and also as a team.

Nazis Deported 80,000 Parisian Jews to East

Half of Colony, Including
Women and Youths, Sent
to Germany and Poland

By Sonia Tomara

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

Copyright, 1944, New York Tribune Inc.

PARIS, Sept. 15 (Delayed).—

About half of the pre-war Jewish population of Paris has been deported to Germany and Poland during the four years of the German occupation and hardly any news of the deportees has reached the remaining Jewish colony here, it was said today at the office of the General Union of French Israelites in Paris.

Only 45,000 Jews remain in Paris today while five years ago the total Jewish population of the French capital was estimated at 180,000. More than 80,000 men, women and children have been deported eastward and the rest have fled to the south of France, to North Africa and to America. Those who are still here are for the most part destitute.

The anti-Semitic laws decreed by Vichy in the summer of 1940, spring of 1941 and summer of 1942 have deprived them not only of all civil rights but also of their jobs, trades, bank accounts, apartments and of most of their possessions.

So far the new French government has not yet abrogated the Vichy anti-Semitic laws, Richard Weill, director of the union, said. Thus the Jews who were expropriated by Vichy cannot yet try to get their property back. The majority of them are homeless. Many live in homes for orphans whose little inmates were deported eastward July 31, when the Allies had begun their breakthrough in the Paris direction. Only a very few Jews have managed somehow to remain in their own apartments and keep their furniture. The greater part own-

only the clothes they wear and have no funds to start business.

Kept in Camp Near Paris

This writer talked today to three men who for a long time were detained in the concentration camp of Drancy, a few miles from Paris near Le Bourget. This camp, which I visited a few days ago, is filled with militiamen and other collaborators, many of whom are well known actors and writers.

These three men are Weill, Camille Caen, who passed thirty months at Drancy, and Emmanuel Langberg, who for thirteen months was the Jewish commandant in the camp. They too were to be deported Aug. 13 together with 1,580 other inmates. But Allied bombing had disrupted German transportation, the Allied armies were nearing Paris and the French Forces of the Interior had risen. The Germans fled from Drancy Aug. 17, leaving the Jews behind and these were freed by the F. F. I.

Drancy had sinister fame under occupation. It was filled the first time on Aug. 20, 1941, when French police were ordered by Germans to raid the poorer eastern districts of Paris. A second batch of Jews taken from the intellectual professions—doctors, engineers, lawyers, and writers—arrived there Dec. 12, 1941. Among them were many distinguished persons.

The first trains with deportees left Drancy for the camp of Auschwitz (Oswiecim) in Upper Silesia March 25, 1942. "Useful" men were sent to work in the salt and coal mines.

The darkest days for Paris Jews began July 16, 1942, when 40,000 men, women and children were seized by the Gestapo and after short sojourns at Drancy were sent eastward. Children were separated from parents and sent in freight cars—sixty in one car—with little clothing and little food and water. No word ever has been received from any and even their names have been lost.

Many women were taken to Birkenau camp near Hannover and trace of them was lost. Most men went to Auschwitz and Theresienstadt in Czecho-Slovakia.

Julien Weill, Grand Rabbi of Paris, has not been deported, the Jewish leader said. But sixteen rabbis—from Vichy, Strasbourg, Lyon and Brussels, among other cities—have been carried away.

Among deportees were babes-in-arms separated from their mothers and very old people who received a shot in the arm to get to the train. Nobody cared if they died later. The oldest man was aged 102 years.

Trains with deportees usually left Drancy three times weekly carrying away 1,000 persons. The deportees were allowed to take no money and only one change of underwear, one blanket and one overcoat. The overcoats had linings and seams torn by the Germans who looked for currency or jewelry that might have been hidden.

Germans Burned Records

The Germans burned the records of the means of deportees, but some of them were nevertheless saved by the Jews themselves.

A total of 74,000 Jews were deported from Drancy according to Caen and Langberg, while more Jews were taken from the camps of Pithiviers and Beaune-la-Rolande, southeast of Paris. The last trains with 1,300 deportees left last July 31. Among them were ninety-three children from the orphan homes of Secretan, Vauquelin, Louveciennes and Neuilly. These children were taken with the whole personnel of the homes.

Arrests of Jews were made by the French police until July, 1942, when the Gestapo started to do the work. The branch of the Gestapo, was called Sicherheitsdienst—security service—shortened into S. D. The most cruel Gestapo chiefs, according to Weill, Caen and Langberg were: Hauptsturmfuehrer Ernst Bruckler, Hauptsturmfuehrer Alois Brunner, Oberschaarfuehrer Joseph Veizel and Oberstammfuehrer Rietke. The latter left with fifty hostages, among whom was Armand Kuhn of the Rothschild Foundation.

**French Jews Reported
Half Pre-War Number**

**Only 20,000 of 140,000 Said to
Remain in Holland**

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, European chairman of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, said Thursday in an interview at the New York offices of the committee, 270 Madison Avenue, that throughout the German occupation of France the organization had kept in close touch with the French underground and had even made loans, which he said would be repaid.

The work of the committee, he emphasized, has been non-political. He said that only about half the 150,000 Jews who were in France before the war have remained, while only 20,000 of the 140,000 Jews in Holland before the war are still there. Dr. Schwartz said there were about 80,000 refugees in Switzerland, about 40 per cent of them Jewish, and praised the co-operation of both Switzerland and Sweden in harboring refugees.

The committee has spent \$16,600,000 this year in aiding refugees, and \$47,530,900 since the war began, Dr. Schwartz said. The urgent problems now facing the committee are keeping alive the Jews in Slovakia and German-held Poland and aiding Jews coming out of hiding in partly liberated territories.

000971

New York Post
SEP 15 1944

**120,000 Jews in France
Escaped Nazi Terror**

By VICTOR M. BIENSTOCK

©1944, N. Y. Post, Overseas News Agency

Lyon, France, Sept. 10 (Delayed)—Leaders of French Jewry told this correspondent today they believed that 120,000 to 150,000 Jews eluded the German extermination campaign in France and survived the terror. They placed at 300,000 the number of Jews, including those of foreign nationality, in the country at the outbreak of the war.

Additional thousands, they said, escaped by crossing the Swiss and Spanish frontiers. About 12,000 to 15,000 Jewish children in France were smuggled out of the country to Switzerland, where they were maintained at the expense of American Jewish organizations.

000972

SEP 7 - 1944

Says Jews Not Freed With Rest Of France

Paris, Sept. 6 (AP) — The newspaper *Combat* said today that Jews were not given full freedom along with the rest of France because no positive measures have been taken to assure their rights even though Nazi anti-Semitic ordinances have been outlawed by the de Gaulle administration.

Several papers in the last few days have reported cases of women being rejected for volunteer jobs in the health service because they were Jewish and today *Combat* complained that Jews are not able to regain possession of their seized homes.

000973



000974

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of
reading only by special
arrangement (Special)

TELEGRAM

January 27, 1945

6 p.m.

War Refugee Board

1945 JAN 29 PM 1 57

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

AMEMBASSY

PARIS

325

For Caffery and Hoffman, Treasury Representative.

Embassy is authorized accept War Refugee Board

cables submitted by Hoffman on reimbursable basis.

Authority retroactive September 1, 1944.

GREW
(Acting)
(GLW)

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be closely guarded.

WRB:MMV:KG
1/27/45

WE

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

000475

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR, PARIS, FRANCE, AND HOFFMAN, TREASURY REPRESENTATIVE.

Embassy is authorized accept War Refugee Board cables submitted by Hoffman on reimbursable basis. Authority retroactive September 1, 1944.

2:00 p.m.
January 26, 1945

Miss Channing (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Alzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois,
Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files

DWhite:hmd

dw-1/26/45

000976

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

AIR MAIL
Office of the Treasury
Representative

Embassy of the United States
Paris
December 26, 1944

No. 50

Air Pouch

Dear Mr. White:

As you know, we have been acting more or less unofficially for the War Refugee Board in a number of instances in Paris. Among other things I have approved certain cables to be charged to their appropriation. In order to avoid future difficulties, it would probably be a good idea if the War Refugee Board would confirm in some way that it is appropriate for me to have approved these charges to its appropriation. Any such confirmation should, of course, be predated to about September 1, 1944.

Sincerely,

(signed) Michael L. Hoffman,

Michael L. Hoffman,
U.S. Treasury Representative

Mr. Harry D. White,
Assistant to the Secretary,
Treasury Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

cc: 1/24/45 Messrs. Glasser-Mrs. Gold-Taylor, DuBois, Gunter-Kamarek,
Bronz (3), Miss Mikulich

ACTION: MR. PERLE

000977

000978

FEB 22 1945

Dear Mr. Switelik:

Reference is made to my letter of February 16, 1945, transmitting a message received for you from Florian Piskorski through the American Legation in Lisbon.

I have received from the State Department a correction of this message which indicates that page two, first line of the message should read "This group calls for our immediate assistance as their etc." Line five, page two, should read "Food should be sent immediately from U.S. or purchases local European markets etc."

Very truly yours,

((Signed)) Florence Model

Florence Model
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Francis Switelik,
President, American Polish Relief Council,
Marquette University,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

RBH:inp 2/23/45

000979

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

CORRECTION

CC

PLAIN

February 16, 1945

In telegram #335, February 14th from Lisbon,
page two, last two lines should read "This group
calls for our immediate assistance as their etc."
Page 3, lines 4 and 5 should read "Food should be
sent immediately from U.S. or purchases local European
markets etc."

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

WFS

*Reverts
Is this a print
message of yesterday
by chance?*

000980

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

war ref. Bd.

Gen. O. Senger

CORRECTION

CC

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markets etc."

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

WFS

CONTROL COPY

000981

February 16, 1945

Dear Mr. Switelik:

The following message for you from Florian Piskorski was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 14, 1945:

"Further my cable February 9, reporting Poles situation France: Contacted Polish Civil Military Ecclesiastical and Youth Relief representatives having cordial support from USA military authorities also USA and Polish diplomatic representatives. Poles are only biggest foreigners problem in France and be divided five following groups: First group last war-time immigrants 600,000 strong 40% being children residing mostly northern France, Belgium, Luxemburg, western Holland much ruined conditions due lengthy enemy occupation and war operations; second group 9,000 present war refugees from Poland including 4,000 old men 1,700 women 2,300 children mostly in eastern and southern France although under shelter living without employment therefore lacking means obtain food and other necessities; third group over 400 patients Aislesbains Hospital and Hauteville TB Sanitorium also several hundreds in various French hospitals which require outside assistance besides some 10,000 persons from fifth group who require urgent medical treatment; fourth group 30,000 Poles including over 5,000 Jewish origin living without shelter around Paris, Lille, Lyon, Verdun, Grenoble, Marseille, Toulouse, Bordeaux districts wanting adequate assistance. Absolutely destitute deportees from Poland whom enemy had put working under guard in farms which Allies have been taking and whose number increasing constantly as war operations progress. When I visited them rear operations zones covering Chaumont, Aisne, Comantre, Charleville, Nivres they numbered 44,000 thus divided: 12,000 men, 14,000 women, 5,000 children 1 to 6 years old, 7,000 boys 7 to 15 years old, 6,000 girls same ages. Birth roll increasing due promiscuity conditions. Their living conditions quite unbelievable French administrative authorities being absolutely powerless meet situation.

000982

This mroue [Sig] calls for our immediate associate as their conditions being most tragic of all.

"Clothing shoes layettes blankets both new and used urgently needed by fifth group others also needing all essential clothing. Food should be sent immediately local European markets for 100,000 people particularly undernourished children and old age people besides sick through malnutrition. Medicines for third group as specified in separate cable should be sent without delay bearing in mind French pharmacies holding lowest stock essential drugs ever recorded in history.

"Means transportation both railway and road practically nonexistent therefore renewing request cable October 11 for minimum 10 5 ton covered motortrucks which should be purchased priority complete with accessories with American registration and carnet de passages for each (obtainable AAA) behalf American Polish Relief Council European Delegation shipped to Lisbon whence should proceed overland to France loaded with food and other items purchased here. Once in France trucks will make deliveries to shelters camps picking up at French Spanish border further consignments purchased in Portugal Spain whence transportation till French border can be made easily provided we have own means thereafter. These trucks can later be used in Poland. One passengers station wagon with carnet also required.

"Considering shipping from USA is vital concern for winning war therefore available on highest priorities am requisitioning only most essential items assuming funds will be made available for purchase in Portugal, Spain remaining necessities namely dried fruits, canned fish, tea, coffee, cocoa, honey, chocolate, foiegras, various types canned meat, fats, clothing, several hundred tons olive oil being our disposal Spain. Both Portuguese, Spanish authorities willing supply various products for Poles. Purchases will be made from official sources and under supervision advisory committee. However, any amount flour, powdered milk, eggs, from USA would be quite desirable their shipment being preferably made direct to France consigned our delegation care American Embassy Paris, if impossible then to Portuguese port but in either case our own trucks should be indispensable.

"In order to meet desperate situation Poles which has vital significance to preservation national life estimating initial \$500,000 should be made available Lisbon immediately. Since practically nothing can be purchased France and few items only obtainable at unbelievable prices no funds should be transferred there.

"Our assistance more than welcome by French authorities as it meets large national group moreover existing Polish agencies

000983

express belief that American Polish war relief could solve moral and national problem. Once our work established France proper distribution of relief will be made regardless of partialities or preferences and by centralising relief work would contribute enormously to saving both energies and funds which are presently being wasted by several competitive organisations there which nevertheless depend upon our support.

"My attention was drawn to following additional cases which I investigated personally and report for favorable consideration: \$7,000 needed enable neglected youth in France attend French universities under guidance Centre Etudes Polonias similarly to what has already been done for Polish internees Switzerland. \$3,000 needed for immediate restoration Polish library founded Paris 1838 by Mickiewics which enemy has partly destroyed permitting its use for lectures and studies. \$3,000 required for purchase technical instruments, working tools, pedagogical material. \$25,000 needed for special assistance to 1500 boys 500 girls 13 to 17 years old 60% drawn from deportees and whose parents are either in concentration camps or left in Poland 40% from old immigrants education having been neglected during these 5 years. I visited them in special camp at La Chapelle 27 kilometers north Paris where they are under care Polish military representative lacking essential means namely food, clothing, blankets, books. Efforts worthwhile for preservation these youth and their preparation as future Polish citizens \$5,000 needed for group named military family composed 800 families whose supporters died serving Polish Army are lacking complete support therefore needing urgent assistance.

"In submitting present report I wish emphasize truthfulness unbearable situation assuming it is American Polish Relief Council duty to assist above mentioned Poles therefore expecting action will be taken immediately by board whose decision should be cabled Lisbon officer together with funds necessary carry on respective activities.

"Various representatives concerned who I met in France anxiously await my return to report your decisions therefore kindly advise urgently."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Model

Florence Model
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Francis Switelik,
President, American Polish Relief Council,
Marquette University,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

R.H. Harrison 7/16/45

000984

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

*marked Ref. bel.
shli*

LFG-135

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated February 14, 1945

Rec'd 11:59 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

335, Fourteenth

MRB 316. FOR FRANCIS SMITELIK RESIDENT AMERICAN
POLISH RELIEF COUNCIL MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY MILWAUKEE
WISCONSIN FROM FLORIAN PISKORSKI EUROPEAN DELEGATE.

Further by cable February 9, reporting Poles
situation France: Contacted Polish Civil Military
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cordial support from USA military authorities also USA
and Polish diplomatic representatives. Poles are only
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000985

-2-#335, Fourteenth, from Lisbon

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most tragic

000986

-S-535, Fourteenth, from Lisbon

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Clothing shoes layettes blankets both new and used urgently needed by fifth group others also needing all essential clothing. Food should be sent immediately *from U.S.*

or purchases local European markets for 100,000 people particularly undernourished children and old age people besides sick through malnutrition. Medicines for third group as specified in separate cable should be sent without delay bearing in mind French pharmacies holding lowest stock essential drugs even recorded in history.

Means transportation both railway and road practically nonexistent therefore renewing request cable October 11 for minimum 10 5 ton covered motortrucks which should be purchased priority complete with accessories with American registration and carnet de passages for each (obtainable Am.) behalf American Polish Relief Council European Delegation shipped to Lisbon whence should proceed overland to France loaded with food and other items purchased here. Once in France trucks will make deliveries to shelters camps picking up at French Spanish border further consignments purchased in Portugal Spain whence transportation till French border can be made easily provided we

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000987

-4-#335, Fourteenth, from Lisbon

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000988

-5-#335, Fourteenth, from Lisbon

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000989

-6-#335, Fourteenth, from Lisbon

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In submitting present report I wish emphasize truthfulness unbearable situation assuming it is American Polish Relief Council duty to assist above mentioned Poles therefore expecting action will be taken immediately by board whose decision should be cabled Lisbon officer together with funds necessary carry on respective activities.

Various representatives concerned who I met in France anxiously await my return to report your decisions therefore kindly advise urgently."

NORWEB

HJF

message sent 2/16/45

000990

February 16, 1945

Dear Mr. Swietlik:

The following message from Florian Piskorski was received for you through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 15, 1945:

"Reference my cable report on situation Poles in France wish emphasize absolute necessity securing support from USA General Staff Washington to our activity in France as proper entity assisting the 700,000 Poles there therefore Council should request urgently General Staff of Army George C. Marshall Chief of Staff to recommend favorably SHAEF to lend us indispensable support in execution our rehabilitation assistance by making available to us such items as gasoline for adequate distribution relief goods to shelters and camps food rations for ten persons staff besides assisting us through proper channels obtain office quarters as well as lodgings for personnel all expenses involved being paid directly to same SHAEF military authorities in France suggest you contact General Barzynski Quartermaster Chicago for advice about procedure in placing above request without concession above required facilities pursuing relief to Poles France greatly handicapped if not impossible therefore hope General Staff will respond favorably which decision kindly cable me Lisbon soonest so that when back France am enabled deal with SHAEF accordingly."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Francis Swietlik, President,
American Polish Relief Council,
Marquette University,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

RBH
RBHutchinson:inp 2/16/45

000991

MENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MB-263

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated February 15, 1945

Rec'd 1:07 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

345, Fifteenth

WRB 317

CONTROL COPY

For Francis Swietlik President American Polish

Relief Council Marquette University Milwaukee

Wisconsin from Florian Piskorski European Delegate 148.

Reference my cable report on situation Poles in France
wish emphasize absolute necessity securing support
from USA General Staff Washington to our activity in
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there therefore Council should request urgently General
Staff of Army George C. Marshall Chief of Staff to
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support in execution our rehabilitation assistance by
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adequate distribution relief goods to shelters and camps
food rations for ten persons staff besides assisting us
through proper

000992

-2- 345, Fifteenth, from Lisbon

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NORWEB

RF

message sent 2/16/45

000993