July 25, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to refer to your letter of July 1st, addressed to Dr. Wise and conveying a message to the latter from Mr. Weisman.

In the first part of this message Mr. Weisman states that he has transmitted through the WRB for us copies of the cables he exchanged with the French Finance Commissioner Mr. Mendes France. May I ask you to be kind enough to let us have the copies in question?

In the second part of the same message Mr. Weisman calls our attention to an action taken by the Ecuador Government, whereby it has cancelled all passports issued by its Stockholm Consulate. I would be grateful to you for informing me whether the Board has taken up this matter with the Ecuador Government and, if so, what results were achieved.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Date]

A. Leon Rubowitski, Head, Refugees Dept.
Attended is the material in our files concerning the request made by Weissman to Mendes-France. After reading this material, I have discussed with Jim Lamm, Weissman's more recent request for $100,000.

Lamm's reaction is that if any sum even approximating $100,000 is given to Weissman, he may then insist on setting up a separate rescue organization of his own in Spain and thereby upset the recent arrangement which has been worked out by the JDC and the WJC. Lamm, however, feels that it would not be objectionable, and perhaps might be helpful, if a small sum, say $20,000, were given to Weissman on the understanding that it would be used only for rescue work and would be paid over to the Joint Rescue Committee which has been established. Jim feels that this contribution by Weissman to the joint work might improve relations with JDC. If such a payment were made, it should obviously be made through the War Refugee Board's representative in Lisbon and specifically earmarked for rescue purposes.

I agree with Lamm that a payment of the nature indicated might be helpful. I do not think we should insist with the French, but should merely indicate that if they are in a position to make a contribution of the size and in the manner indicated above, we are sure that it will be used to good advantage in rescue work.

Attachment

7-26-44

We have no objection to receiving an amount being available through WRB Representative.

J.R.
Secretary of State,

Washington.

1978, June 26, 6 p.m.

FOR RABBI STEPHEN ZISE FROM WEISSMAN WB 83

Yours 119. Who is Goslan? Cable exchange with Mendes France transmitted through WB Washington whom please consult. Cannot understand lack my news since WB informed with request transmit to you cables. Also letter dated May 24, apply again WB. All efforts made to mail Silberschtein failed, continuing efforts.


WEB EMB
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Lisbon
DATED: June 3, 1944
NUMBER: 1661

CONTROLL COPY

From War Refugee Board to Norweb

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Weissman, c/o American Legation, Lisbon, from Mr. Mendes-France of the French Committee of National Liberation:

"I thank you for your message. The question is now being considered both in Algiers and in Washington, in order to procure you the help you are asking for."

THIS IS W.R.B LISBON CABLE NO. 33.

HULL
CABLE TO LISBON

From War Refugee Board to Morwell

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Weismann,
c/o American Legation, Lisbon, from Mr. Mendes-France of the
French Committee of National Liberation:

"I thank you for your message. The question is
now being considered both in Algiers and in Washington,
in order to procure you the help you are asking for."

THIS IS WARB LISBON CABLE NO. 33

*********
June 1, 1944
11:15 a.m.
May 29th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:-

I have been requested by Mr. Mendès-France, before his departure for Algiers, to ask you to send to Mr. Weissman the following answer to his confidential message:

"I thank you for your message. The question is now being considered both in Algiers and in Washington, in order to procure you the help you are asking for."

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Christian Valensi,
Maître des Requetes au Conseil d'État,
Contrôleur Financier des Missions Françaises aux États-Unis.

Mr. J.W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, 25, D.C.
LISBON, 1570.

The following is from Pehle for Mann care Leiter and is RH cable no. 35.

On arrival Algiers suggest Ackermann and you see Mendes-France or Guinney of Commissariat de Finance regarding Lisbon cable no. 1446 of May 13 containing message, delivered in Washington, to Mendes-France from Weissman.

HULL
(053)

S/CR

DECLASSIFIED: State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Dec. 1572
CABLE TO LISBON
From J. W. Peake, War Refugee Board, to Norweb for Maa

c/o Dexter.

When you get to Algiers will you and Ackermann please see Mendes-France or Guinday of Commissariat de Finance concerning cable no. 1446 from Lisbon dated May 13, 1944, containing message from Weissman to Mendes-France which was delivered in Washington.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 35

********
June 1, 1944
4:06 p.m.
May 29, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Mr. Pehle discussed this matter with Mr. Guindey of the French Commissariat de Finance. Mr. Guindey advised Mr. Pehle that the Comité had indicated a willingness to help Weissman but before doing so they wanted to have further advice from the War Refugee Board. Mr. Pehle advised Mr. Guindey of Mr. Lamm's present trip to Portugal and suggested that arrangements be made to discuss the problem with Mr. Lamm in North Africa.

Accordingly, a cable was prepared for despatch to Lamm, requesting him to get in touch with Médecas-France or Guindey in Algiers.

F. Hodel
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

May 29, 1944

Mr. Pehle discussed this matter with Mr. Quinsey of the French Commissariat de Finance. Mr. Quinsey advised Mr. Pehle that the Comité had indicated a willingness to help Weissman but before doing so they wanted to have further advice from the War Refugee Board. Mr. Pehle advised Mr. Quinsey of Mr. Mann's present trip to Portugal and suggested that arrangements be made to discuss the problem with Mr. Mann in North Africa.

Accordingly, a cable was prepared for despatch to Mann, requesting him to get in touch with Mendes-France or Quinsey in Algiers.

F. Model

Ph:lab 6/1/44
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
Dated: May 13, 1944
Number: 1446

Following is WRB no. 31 from Weissman, for Pierre Mendes-France Finance Commissioner of French National Liberation Committee now in Washington.

I am happy to inform you that children's rescue program is bringing excellent returns. Among children in Portugal now are six French. Entrance of large number of children without papers has been agreed to by both Iberian countries. Our frontier organization is now developing on scale that we hope to save hundreds. Also we have offered to rescue non-Jewish children. List of Catholics is being prepared by Monsignor Boyer-Mias, French Red Cross delegate in Spain, and we have other lists of Protestants.

I am reminding you of your promise to place money at our disposal in view of the fact that we are suffering from shortage of funds for intensified work. I am now asking for immediate help. You can send funds through the War Refugee Board.

KORWEB
Dear M. Mendes-France:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Weissman was received from the American Legation, Lisbon, under date of May 13, 1944:

"I am happy to inform you that children's rescue program bringing excellent returns. Among children in Portugal now six French. Entrance of large number of children without papers has been agreed to by both Iberian countries. Our frontier organization is now developing on scale that we hope to save hundreds. Also we have offered to rescue non-Jewish children. List of Catholics is being prepared by Monsignor Boyer-Was, French Red Cross delegate in Spain, and we have other lists Protestants.

"I am reminding you of your promise to place money at our disposal in view of the fact that we are suffering from shortage of funds for intensified work. I am now asking for immediate help. You can send funds through the War Refugees Board."

Very truly yours,

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

M. Pierre Mendes-France,
Commissioner of Finance,
French Committee of National Liberation,
1523 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 9, D. C.

[Stamps and seals]

000127