

HEBREW SHELTERING and Immigrant Aid Society

000489

SEP 14 1945

Dear Mr. Dijour:

The enclosed documents were received for
you through the United States Consulate General in
Istanbul.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive
Director

Mr. Ilya Dijour
Executive Secretary
Hias-Ica Emigration Association, Inc.
1317 "F" Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

EAT

EBTowler

9-14-45

000490

SEP 12 1945

Dear Mr. Asofsky:

As you may know, the War Refugee Board will be dissolved on September 15th. Because of your deep interest in the work of the Board, I am sending you herewith for your confidential information a copy of the summary report of its activities.

It was only through the cooperation of the private agencies that it was possible for the Board to bring some measure of relief and hope to the suffering victims of Nazi oppression. I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the Board for the support and assistance rendered by your organization to this unique humanitarian undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Isaac L. Asofsky,
Executive Director,
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society,
426 Lafayette Street,
New York, N. Y.

Enclosure.

FH:hd 9/5/45

000491

JUN 26 1945

Dear Sirs:

For your information and that of other interested persons, this is to advise you that, in view of the early termination of the War Refugee Board, over-all responsibility for the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, has been transferred from the War Refugee Board to the Department of the Interior.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid
Society,
425 Lafayette Street,
New York, New York.

EBT:inp 6/26/45

000492

WRB (O'Dwyer)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Political Adviser, Caserta
DATED: March 12, 1945
NUMBER: 210

CONTROL COPY

In reference to your 719, February 27 and 751 of February 28,
the War Refugee Board is not represented by Jacobson. The Depart-
ment has not approved his entry into Hungary.

The validity of Jacobson's passport includes Portugal, Spain,
and Turkey and does not include other continental European countries.

STETTINIUS

WRB:MEV:BM

Paraphrased:
DC/L:WAS:VLM
3-14-45

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

000493

Hebrew Sheltering
& Immigrant Aid

The New York Times
MAR 4 1945

UNITY URGED ON AID TO WAR REFUGEES

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Group
Calls for a Council of All
Agencies in the Field

In a move to eliminate duplication of activities among organizations supplying relief for Europe's refugees, 2,500 delegates to the sixtieth annual convention of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society urged yesterday the creation of a council of Jewish voluntary agencies as the pivotal point of a plan for coordinating their work.

The program was adopted unanimously at a meeting at the Hotel Astor. Emphasizing the need for some sort of platform of cooperation, Abraham Herman, president of HIAS, declared that under existing conditions a certain amount of overlapping and duplication of effort was inevitable.

According to Mr. Herman, the plan is based on the principle that it is "good sense for each agency to confine itself to expansion within the special field of its past experience." In this connection, the program calls upon all agencies to refrain from taking on services already being performed by a responsible group.

Under the HIAS plan, the proposed council will not perform any direct service to individuals, its main purpose being to act as the representative of the member agencies in dealing with foreign governments on problems of general policy.

The council also would provide a forum for the discussion of the best methods of meeting the complex problems facing relief agencies after the war, Mr. Herman

said. Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director of HIAS, added that because Jewish agencies—groups such as the American Friends Service Committee, the International Migration and Relief Committee and the Unitarian service group would be invited to participate in the council.

\$1,808,000 Budget Adopted

After adopting a 1945 budget of \$1,808,000—the largest in the history of the organization—the delegates adopted a series of resolutions designed to ease the path for refugees seeking new homes. One appeal was made directly to the forthcoming United Nations conference at San Francisco, urging the settlement of Jewish refugees within the countries represented.

Another resolution asked President Roosevelt to issue the necessary directives to "make the administration of the nation's immigration laws less technical and more humane, to the end that as many families as possible may be reunited." The President also was urged to use his good offices to induce Great Britain to revoke the White Paper restricting Jewish settlement in Palestine.

Throughout the three-hour meeting speaker after speaker declared that Palestine offered the best and perhaps the only solution to the Jewish refugee problem. Most of them attacked the policy of Britain in administering its mandate over Palestine and for failing to set up a Jewish commonwealth there.

Especially bitter was Representative Emanuel Celler of Brooklyn, who charged that President Roosevelt and the Democratic Administration had gone back on pre-election pledges to support the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

He declared that the Congressional resolution urging unrestricted Jewish entry into Palestine was contradicted at the wish of the British Government.

Dean Alfange, Liberal party leader, declared that organized Jewry should disregard present restrictions and "sanction and support extralegal immigration into Palestine."

100494

(Released for distribution March 3, 1945)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Political Adviser, Caserta
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 28, 1945
NUMBER: 751

*Mar Ref. 2d.
O'Dwyer
Suzer*

CONTROL COPY

The following message is in reference to my cable of February 27, No. 719.

McHarney was informed by General Key that position of Hungarian Government is that all citizens of Hungary are on equal basis and in the opinion of the Hungarian Prime Minister, to encourage intervention in behalf of only one group would be unwise.

In addition Key stated that since this probably reflected the Russian attitude he hesitated to request Jacobson's clearance.

It was Key's opinion that since war refugees as a general class obviously need relief, entrance of representatives of relief agencies not affiliated with one religious or racial group would be approved by both Hungarians and Russians.

KIRK

DC/L:KAS:MM 3-3-45

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 1972

000495

CONTROL COPY
(REL AS OF MARCH 1, 1945)

*War Ref Bd.
O. Sawyer*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Political Advisor, Caserta
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 27, 1945
NUMBER: 719
/

U. S. URGENT.

From Debrecen Squires has reported that HIAS IGHE official S. Bertrand Jacobson now in Rumania has asked for assistance in entering Hungary from General Keys. War Refugee Board has approved his application, Jacobson says.

Is Jacobson to be the official representative of the War Refugee Board in Hungary and as conditions are now, does the Department approve his entry? We would appreciate being urgently advised.

Sent to Department as number three from Debrecen.

KIRK

EA
DO/L:ER 3/2/45

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

000496

FEB 23 1945

Dear Mr. Asofsky:

I have your letter of February 14, 1945, concerning the difficulties encountered in the transmission of messages to and from your representative in Rumania.

This is to advise you that it is not feasible for the Board to make the suggested appointment of Mr. Jacobson for the purpose indicated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Isaac L. Asofsky,
Executive Director,
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society,
425 Lafayette Street,
New York 3, New York.

EBT:inp 2/23/45

PA - Cleared with O'Dwyer

000497

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Asofsky:

In reply to your letter of February 14, 1945, I *wish to advise*
~~wish to advise~~ you that the War Refugee Board does not plan *to*
to designate a representative in Rumania. Accordingly, it
is not feasible for the Board to make the suggested appointment
of Mr. Jacobson for the purpose indicated.

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Isaac L. Asofsky,
Executive Director,
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society,
425 Lafayette Street,
New York 3, New York.

000498

HEBREW SHELTERING and IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY



425 LAFAYETTE ST., NEW YORK 3, N. Y.
Telephone ALgonquin 4-2900

Overseas Central Office: HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASS'N (HICEM)
Lisbon, Portugal

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Mrs. A. Herman
Miss Elizabeth Lesser

His Council of Organizations
A. Baron
Louis Golluck
Barney Greenberg
Morris Tigol
Louis Zatz
Mrs. Rose Zeitlin

Women's Council
Mrs. Herman J. Lefert

February 14, 1945

Miss Florence Hodel,
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

As you probably know from messages that have come to us through your office, our representative, S. Bertrand Jacobson, is now in Bucarest, Roumania.

The Cable and Radio Censor has called our attention that in order to permit messages from Mr. Jacobson to reach us, such messages should be sent through the War Refugee Board. We accordingly cabled to our central office in Lisbon, Portugal, from whom we received the following reply, contained in your communication to us of January 31st. 1945:

"Refer ours 20th. Jacobson Bucharest in reply my communication states no WRB there, suggests either transmission through WRB Istanbul calling attention to mutilation occurring all cables received Istanbul or have him, Jacobson, appointed temporary representative WRB without salary. Claims Burton Perry American Minister approves appointment."

We would very much appreciate your advising us whether the suggestion made by Mr. Jacobson is possible. If you desire we shall be very glad to discuss the matter with you in person.

Very sincerely yours

Isaac L. Asofsky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AG

President's War Relief Control Board Registration No. 562

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PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA
TANGIER
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND
*TEMPORARILY CLOSED

HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (HICEM)

386 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS:
HICEM-NEW YORK
TELEPHONE:
MURRAY HILL 3-2845

European Headquarters:
"HICEM"
Rua Rodrigo Da Fonseca 49
LISBON, PORTUGAL

November 30, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We just received word from our representative,
Mr. S. Bertrand Jacobson, that he arrived in
Bucarest via Istanbul and Sofia.

It goes without saying that he is at your entire
disposal in case you may need his services. His
address is :

c/o Dr. Mauriciu Zingher
Hicem
Strada Mosilor 131, Bucarest

Very sincerely yours,

Ilja Dijour
Ilja Dijour
Executive Secretary

ID/FK

NOV 9 1944

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of November 6, 1944, enclosing a copy
of your first communication from Mr. Schah has been received.
Thank you very much for sending this report to the Board.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Max Gottschalk, President,
Mr. Ilja Dijour, Executive Secretary,
HIAS-ICA Emigration Association, Inc.,
386 Fourth Avenue,
New York 16, N. Y.

FH:hd 11/9/44

000501

HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (HICEM)

386 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS:
HICEM-NEW YORK
TELEPHONE:
MURRAY HILL 3-2845

European Headquarters:
"HICEM"
Rua Rodrigo Da Fonseca 49
LISBON, PORTUGAL

November 6, 1944

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Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We just received the first communication from
Mr. W. Schah, Director of the Hicem in France,
concerning the immediate tasks of our organization
in that country.

We think that this letter will retain your attention,
as the expression of the hopes and fears of one of
the responsible leaders in Jewish social work, dealing
with the problem of emigration and repatriation of
the Jewish victims of this war.

Very sincerely yours,

Max Gottschalk
Max Gottschalk
President

Ilja Dijour
Ilja Dijour
Executive Secretary

1 encl.

ID/HK

000502

Communication from Mr. W. Schah,
Director of Rices France

Meysac, September 10, 1944

The time has come to resume our work. The task ahead is immense. This war without precedent, has convulsed the old continent like a terrible earthquake. Towns and villages, entire areas, countries, states, have collapsed. The old order, a bad one, but still an order, is no longer. In its place, nothing stable exists: it is the chaos before Creation.

I want to sketch here a brief scheme of our future work. I of course have in view Jewish migration, but under present conditions, so different from former ones, the task confronting us appears as entirely new.

TWO CURRENTS.

Migration will take place both ways: from Europe towards other continents and from all continents towards Europe.

We will have to muster all our energy in order to channelize, facilitate, guide and safely bring to their destination these two currents, which may be of equal volume.

Whatever the new laws may be that will settle the fate of the Jews, tens or hundreds of thousands of them will not want to remain in Europe. Too many griefs, too many awful memories will hang like a nightmare for a long time to come over those who escaped the bestial savagery of the Germans. Too great a distrust will survive in their hearts for them to work in peace for the reconstruction of their desecrated, burned, annihilated homes. One single thought, that of fleeing and trying to create a new home elsewhere, away from the countries dishonored by the barbarous persecutions against Jews, will guide the multitude of our unfortunate brethren. Promises of a better, more equitable future, are not for them.

This is the kind of emigration we have always cared for. But this time, those eager to emigrate will be still more destitute, still more weebegone, still more distressed, and will need more care, a better organization and greater financial means.

000503

The other current will consist of people who left Europe, but whose relatives have remained here. Their exodus from Europe took place under such conditions that it had little resemblance to a normal emigration. Cutt off for years, tortured by anguish as the details of the cowardly crimes of the Germans filtered through the walls of the ghettos and concentration camps, they will wish to come back to our continent to mourn the dead, find the survivors and bring them solace and help. If they want to return, if they have confidence, how can we oppose their desire? And if they come back, we must welcome them and help them resettle in their countries.

In order to take care of this reemigration, we must reorganize our committees all over Europe appropriately.

WHITHER ?

I am writing the foregoing and the continuation on the assumption - perhaps wrong - that the Jews of Europe will have the right to go where they judge fit. Is it so ? Have the barriers raised of old been abolished ? We believed we saw belated regrets of the prohibitions on entering countries of refuge in the humanitarian appeals in favor of persecuted Jews addressed to the neutral countries by the foreign ministers of Great-Britain and the United States. Have they understood the dreadful link between Evian and Lublin ? For the representatives of the governments which, in Evian, closed the doors of the countries of refuge to tens of thousands of Jews, opened before them the doors of the crematories of Lublin.

However things may stand at present, those who went through the anguish of these past years and who miraculously escaped torture and death have the right, - even the duty - to present the unveiled truth and to pose the problem with all the brutality of the facts.

We must say this to ourselves and to others : if, immediately after victory, the candidates for emigration are not allowed to leave Europe and to settle elsewhere, a calamity in all points similar to that which has befallen the Jews during this war will be prepared. The survivors who wish to flee the place of their grief or join their families far away from the devastated and hated areas must have the right to do so. Otherwise, they will not be able to stand it. Neither their health nor their nerves will be able to endure this last ordeal. This is why it is indispensable that simultaneously with measures taken on the spot to assist an entire undermined and weakened population, the broadest opportunities be given to those who can and want to go away.

We who have remained here are awaiting your information on this subject. We suppose that you have posed this old problem, now more tragic than in the Middle-Ages, to the governments, and that you have obtained results.

000504

We are therefore expecting your information and instructions because we shall soon be submerged by the mass of requests of these unfortunate people. We fear their questions: "What have our representatives done, what have they obtained to alleviate our sufferings?"

What must we answer them?

In any case, there is one reply they must not be given: "Wait, a conference will be called soon in Evian or elsewhere."

Your reply will tell us whether emigration in general is possible or whether - especially if we compare the need with the pre-war possibilities of satisfying it - it is to remain a poor, a very poor palliative.

SEARCH FOR RELATIVES.

It is needless to emphasize the importance of this task. All our activities, in the beginning, will be devoted to this search.

IDENTIFICATION PAPERS.

In the modern State, man without identification papers does not exist. Procuring them for him when he lacked them has always been a ticklish problem, particularly in Poland, Rumania and the Baltic countries. But it will now become the basic question.

The war has destroyed the documents of all Jews of Central and Eastern Europe. It has passed five, six, ten times through some places, leaving a desert in its wake. All inquiries in the civil registers will therefore be futile. Official documents will at first have to be constituted by a simple and speedy procedure recognized by the national authorities; then the recognition of the documents by all consular authorities will have to be obtained. To that effect, the authorities of the countries of departure, transit and arrival have to be requested to accept such documents. I consider that a procedure similar to the establishment of a French "acte de notoriété" whereby two citizens act as witnesses before a Justice of the Peace of a municipal functionary for the establishment of the necessary document, may be advocated.

We have been in the position to observe in practice the importance of a speedy solution of this problem when all our efforts to send one thousand children to America in October 1942 failed because of the hesitation of the proper authorities to accept the documents of those poor children, especially made for that purpose: when, at long last, the documents were accepted, it was too late. The arrival of German troops in the French unoccupied zone closed the Spanish border, and the children assembled for the voyage in some towns near the frontier had to be sent back to the children's homes and to their parents, from where at least part of them were deported to Germany.

Do we need a more tragic example of the fatal influence of administrative dilatoriness and the absurd severity of its demands?

100505

SEP 19 1944

Dear Mr. Asofsky:

Reference is made to your letter of September 14, 1944, in which you quote the text of a cable received from your committee in Zurich.

Since the problem raised in your committee's cable is one for discussion with the Swiss Government, I suggest that you arrange to take up the matter with the Swiss Legation in Washington. I regret that the question is not one within the jurisdiction of the War Refugee Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Isaac L. Asofsky,
Executive Director,
Hebrew Sheltering and
Immigrant Aid Society,
425 Lafayette Street,
New York 3, N. Y.

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle*

*7/4 Cleared
with [unclear]*

FH:hd 9/19/44

Wome
Mi

000000

HEBREW SHELTERING and IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY



425 LAFAYETTE ST., NEW YORK 3, N. Y.
Telephone ALgonquin 4-2900

Overseas Central Office: HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASS'N (HICEM)
Lisbon, Portugal

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Miss Elizabeth Lesser

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Louis Gallack
Barney Greenberg
Morris Tigol
Louis Zatz
Mrs. Rose Zeitlin

Women's Council
Mrs. Herman J. Lottet

Sept. 14, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

As you probably know, we have for some time past been receiving funds from American residents for trans-
mission to relatives who are refugees in Switzerland,
for living expenses.

Much to our surprise, we now received the following
cable from our committee in Zurich:

UNTIL FURTHER ADVISE REMITTANCES FOR REFUGEES
ARRIVED SWITZERLAND AFTER JANUARY FIRST 1942
SWISS GOVERNMENT RETAINED FROM AMOUNTS ARRIVED
IN DOLLARS IMPORTANT PART FOR PAYMENT OF GOVERN-
MENT EXPENSES IN RECEPTION CAMPS STOP WE ARE
NEGOTIATING ENERGETICALLY KEEPING BACK ALL AMOUNTS
PENDING UNTIL FORMAL CONFIRMATION OF AUTHORITIES
THAT AMOUNTS REMITTER FROM USA RELATIVES WILL NOT
BE USED FOR PAYING SWISS GOVERNMENT EXPENSES STOP
REFUGEES ARRIVED BEFORE 1942 CONTINUE TRANSFER

In view of the contents of the cable, we have been
obliged to stop accepting remittances for Switzerland.
We do not know to what extent you can help in prevail-
ing upon the Swiss government not to make deductions
from the amounts transmitted. We shall, of course,
appreciate very much your cooperation and advice.

Very sincerely yours

Isaac L. Asofsky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AG

100507

AUG 17 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The attached copy of a letter received
from Mr. Isaac L. Asofsky, Executive Director of
the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society,
is being referred to your office for reply.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Anne Laughlin

Anne Laughlin
Special Assistant
to the Executive Director

Mr. Dillon Myer,
Director,
War Relocation Authority,
Barr Building,
Washington, D. C.

Attachment.

EST RBH as.
RBHutchison;agr 8-14-44

000108

In reply please
refer to# 3145

AUG 17 1944

Dear Mr. Asofsky:

The War Refugee Board is deeply appreciative of your letter dated July 28, 1944, and of your generous offer to be of assistance to the refugees now located at the Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, New York.

Since the War Relocation Authority is responsible for the operation of the Emergency Refugee Shelter, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to Mr. Dillon Myer, Director.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Isaac L. Asofsky,
Executive Director,
Hebrew Sheltering and
Immigrant Aid Society,
425 Lafayette Street,
New York 3, New York.

8137

9.1.14
Laughlin:RBHutchinson:agr 8-14-44

Mr. Herman J. Lotters

000509

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Asofsky:

The War Refugee Board is deeply appreciative of your letter *dated* July 28, 1944, and of your generous offer to be of assistance to the refugees now located at the Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, New York.

Since the War Relocation Authority is responsible for the operation of the Emergency Refugee Shelter, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to Mr. Dillon Myer, Director, ~~and, no doubt,~~
~~you will hear from him.~~

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

0005 10

In reply please
refer to: 3145

Not needed

Dear Mr. Asofsky:

Thank you for your letter of July 28, 1944,
offering the assistance of your organization in caring
for the refugees at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

Your offer is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Isaac L. Asofsky,
Executive Director,
Hebrew Sheltering and
Immigrant Aid Society,
425 Lafayette Street,
New York 3, New York.

12/16
Hutchinson:agr 8-7-44

000511

HEBREW SHELTERING and IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

3145

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: **IAS**
Ans. **8/17/44**
No. Ans. Reg.
Date

425 LAFAYETTE ST., NEW YORK
Telephone ALgonquin 4-2900

Overseas Central Office: HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASS'N (HICEM)
Lisbon, Portugal

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Vice-Presidents
Albert Rosenblatt
Samuel A. Telsey
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Samuel Goldstein
Executive Director
Isaac L. Asofsky

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Women's Council
Mrs. Herman J. Lefter

July 28, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Concerning the group of refugees enroute to the camp at Oswego, New York, we wish to advise you that we are prepared to render such service as may be required of us. As you know, HIAS has been serving immigrants upon and after arrival and has been the intermediary between these immigrants and their relatives in the United States.

Please feel free to call on us.

Very sincerely yours

Isaac L. Asofsky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AG

000512

JUL 29 1944

Dear Mr. Rockmore:

Thank you for your letter of July 11, 1944, informing us of your appointment as Acting Counsel for IAS, and requesting that future communications be addressed to you.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the cooperation and help your organization has always given in the work of the Board.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Abraham Rockmore,
Acting Counsel,
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society,
1317 "J" Street, N.W.,
Washington 4, D. C.

RBH Hutchison:agr 7-28-44

For ✓

000513

WASHINGTON OFFICE

714
HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY
(HIAS)

1317 F Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
National 6120

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel

ABRAHAM ROCKMORE
Assistant Counsel

ISIDORE HERSHFIELD
Counsel Emeritus

NATIONAL
OFFICE
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

July 11, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to advise you that Mr. Louis E. Spiegler, who has been Counsel to the Washington Legal Bureau of HIAS has resigned his post as of July 1, 1944.

Our Board of Directors has officially designated me as his successor. I took over my duties at this office on the same date, July 1, 1944.

It will be deeply appreciated if all future communications would be addressed to me at this office.

It is my earnest wish that my relations with you will be as pleasant and cordial as they have been with my predecessor.

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Rockmore
ABRAHAM ROCKMORE
Acting Counsel

AR:vrp

000514

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

WMB
KJB-632

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

Ankara

Dated July 21, 1944

Rec'd 11:39 p.m.

Copy only
War Ref Bd
(Mr Behr)
CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1334, Jul: 21, 2 p.m.

Department's 622, July 10, 7 p.m.

DIVISION OF

JUL 22 1944

COMMUNICATIONS

The Embassy is informed that David Schweitzer[✓] now represents the HIAS[✓] organization in Istanbul. However, inasmuch as Schweitzer intends to leave Turkey in the near future, the Embassy perceives no objection to Jacobson's coming to Turkey as director of refugee immigration activities for the HIAS.

KELLEY

WMB WFS

100515

fab
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LMA-240

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated June 7, 1944

Rec'd 9:49 p.m.

Way Ref'd (m. Behle)
CONTROL COPY

File

Secretary of State,
Washington.

17:5, Seventh 3 p.m.

WRB 61. Applications. Bertrand Jacobson Nicem
representative for passport validation for Palestine
Turkey and North Africa en route being sent by Consular
section. Nicem requests that after consultation Hias
New York WRB support validation.

NORWEB

EDA
EMB

NO 11 MA 01 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
DIVISION
JUN 10 1944

000516

CONTROL COPY

From

LISBON

Date: May 23, 5:30 p.m., 1944.

Rec'd: May 29, 2 p.m.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

A-395, May 23, 5:30 p.m. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD:

WRB Airgram No. 1 COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Dr. James Bernstein, European director of Hicem, applied at Consular Section May 22 for validation for passport to enable him to visit Casablanca, Algiers, and Tunisia. Purpose of visit is to inspect branches of Hicem and endeavor to enhance their usefulness. Believe trip would be useful for aims and purposes WRB and suggest WRB support his request with Passport Division.

Sent to Department.

Repeated to ALREP, Algiers.

FORWEEB

RCD/hsh
cc - ALREP, Algiers (by courier)

000517

DEPARTMENT

OF
CONTROL COPY

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DSH-646

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

Lisbon

Dated May 20, 1944

Rec'd 1:38 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

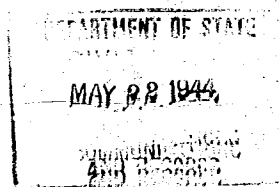
1531, May 20, 1 p.m.

Bernstein reports Lichtenstein has Spanish visa.

This our WRB 42 replying your 27. Bernstein thinks
our intervention Spanish now unnecessary.

NORWEB

LET
EDA



000118

*W. W. R. K. R.
J. M. R. K. R.
copy only*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Lisbon
DATED: May 19, 1944
NUMBER: 1409

From War Refugee Board For Dexter

HIAS requests assistance in securing Spanish visas for Raphael Spanien, French citizen, representing HIAS, and Fritz Lichtenstein, Palestinian, representing Jewish Agency for Palestine. Please discuss matter with James Bernstein HIGEM representative in Lisbon and lend all appropriate assistance.

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 27

HULL

EO 4 MF 25 JAN 4:21

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

000519

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR NORMAN FOR DEITER, LISBON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

HIAS requests assistance in securing Spanish visas for Raphael Spanien, French citizen, representing HIAS, and Fritz Lichtenstein, Palestinian, representing Jewish Agency for Palestine. Please discuss matter with James Bernstein HICEM representative in Lisbon and lend all appropriate assistance.

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 27

May 19, 1944
10:40 a.m.

Miss ~~James~~ (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,
Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files
LSL serials 5/17/44

000520

WASHINGTON OFFICE
HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY
(HIAS)

1317 F Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
National 6120

WASHINGTON, D. C.

LOUIS E. SPIDLER
Counsel

ABRAHAM ROCKMORE
Assistant Counsel

ISIDORE HERSHFIELD
Counsel Emeritus

NATIONAL
OFFICE
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

May 9, 1944.

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

My dear Mr. Pehle:--

For your information and file, there is attached hereto a copy of a cable from our Dr. James Bernstein, in charge of our European Office with headquarters at Lisbon.

As you will note, our Society is assisting in the removal of refugees from Spain so as to enable others from occupied countries to enter Spain. You will also note how important it is for our Mr. Spanien and Mr. Lichtenstein of the Jewish Agency to obtain permission to enter Spain to prepare and assist in the removal of those that can be evacuated.

Mr. Schweitzer of our staff has already reached Turkey. His address is the Hotel Pera Palace at Istanbul. We appreciate the assistance of the War Refugee Board in obtaining a visa for Mr. Schweitzer to Turkey. May we take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for your endeavor in this connection.

We request the aid of your offices in helping Mr. Spanien and Mr. Lichtenstein obtain visas for Spain.

If you believe it will serve a useful purpose, Mr. Asofsky and the writer will call upon you at your convenience, to further discuss the subject matter of the cable.

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Spidler
LOUIS E. SPIDLER
Counsel

LES:nbk
encl.

1000521

Translation

LISBON MAY 2, 1944

NLT HAS ICA EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION 586 FOURTH AVENUE NEW YORK

ABOUT 120 NEW ARRIVALS SPAIN SINCE MARCH FIRST MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE CANDIDATES FOR EMIGRATION TO PALESTINE STOP

REPRESENTATIVES PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS MEET WITH DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING SPANISH VISAS AMONG THEM RAPHAEL SPANIER WHO MUST GO TO SPAIN BEFORE RETURNING TO NORTH AFRICA VIA TANGIER IF OBTAINS VISA WHICH IS EQUALLY DIFFICULT STOP

HIS PASSAGE TANGIER MADE NECESSARY BY DR JOSEPH SCHWARTZ'S PROJECT OF RECRUITING THERE CANDIDATES FOR PALESTINE THUS PERMITTING CHARTERING NEW SHIP AND BESIDES MAKING USE OF REMAINING ABOUT 60 UNDISTRIBUTED CANADIAN VISAS STOP

FRENCH COMMITTEE NATIONAL LIBERATION SENT TO MADRID AUTHORIZATION TO EVACUATE TO NORTH AFRICA 750 REFUGEES INCLUDING SEPHARDIM STOP

TRANSPORTATION WILL TAKE PLACE SOON STOP

FRITZ LICHTENSTEIN REPRESENTING JEWISH AGENCY WILL PROCEED TANGIER TOMORROW TO SELECT CANDIDATES WILL RETURN TO LISBON VIA SPAIN IF OBTAINS VISA STOP

CONVOY OF 40 SPANISH SEPHARDIM AT PRESENT IN PERPIGNAN AND 300 SPANISH JEWS FROM ATHENS AT PRESENT INTERNED IN GERMANY AWAIT AUTHORIZATION ENTER SPAIN DEPENDING PROBABLY ON DEPARTURE OF GROUPS ABOUT TO LEAVE SPAIN STOP

DAVID SCHWITZER CABLED HE IS LEAVING PALESTINE FOR ISTANBUL STOP
WE HAD MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES WAR REFUGEE BOARD SENDING REPORT

JAMES BERNSTEIN HIGHM

000522

SO IN
OBTAIN
CHANDLER BOX
WENT 150 NEW YORK

NY 110 104 EUGENIC 1120
1944

1120110101

James

- ① French national
- ② Last known to be in Spain

Mr. Lichtenstein

- ① Palestinian national
- ② Last known to be in Palestine

Please call him?

Leave -
What shall I tell him?
Leave S.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000523

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 16, 1944

TO: Mr. Lesser
FROM: Myles Standish

With reference to the request from Mr. Louis E. Spiegler, Counsel of HIAS, that we assist in obtaining permission for Mr. Spanien of HIAS and Mr. Fritz Lichtenstein of the Jewish Agency to enter Spain, Mr. Spiegler informs me that the former is a French national and the latter a Palestinian national.

In view of the fact that the subjects of the request are not American citizens, and in light of the reported agreement between the Spanish Foreign Office and Ambassador Hayes that no additional American welfare workers will be brought to Spain at this time, I feel that the Board should not extend the desired assistance under present circumstances.

Myles Standish

000524

COPY

Designated below.

CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON ON PALESTINE
AND REFUGEE PROBLEMS.

Designated below.

The Secretary of State
The Secretary of the Treasury
Mr. J. W. Pehle

1) Dr. Chaim Weizmann called on me on April 19th and reviewed the problem of Jewish refugees escaping from Europe to Palestine. He emphasized that there are already 500,000 Jews in Palestine and that many of them are relatives of Jews who have been persecuted or killed in Europe. This has served, he stated, to heighten greatly the feeling among the Jews in Palestine against British insistence on maintenance of the White Paper restrictions. They feel that many more Jewish refugees could have escaped from Europe had the British relaxed these restrictions so as to admit more Jews into Palestine.

Dr. Weizmann stated that he understood, of course, that the President and the Prime Minister are concentrating on the war at the present time. He profoundly hoped, however, that somehow the Palestine matter could be solved without too much delay. He asked me to present his compliments to the President and to appeal to him to do everything in his power to speed the reaching of a solution.

2) On April 24, 1944, Mr. A. L. Easterman and Dr. Barou of the World Jewish Congress called on me. They discussed various problems in connection with the escape of Jewish refugees from Europe. They agreed to send me a memorandum with more detailed information on these problems so that I can discuss them in detail in Washington.

100525

3) Mr. Wallace Murray, in conversations with Sir Maurice Peterson, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and other Foreign Office officials on April 12, discussed the refugee problem in relation to Palestine. As the British view the matter, the immediate problem is not the future status of Palestine but the provision of machinery for escape from the Axis-held areas of Europe. They feel that modification of the White Paper is not necessary at the present time because the White Paper quotas will be ample to permit the entrance into Palestine of all the Jewish refugees who can escape from Europe while hostilities continue.

The British officials stated that they were prepared to cooperate actively in any projects for assisting refugees to escape from Europe, provided only that they would not redound to the benefit of the enemy, and they pointed out the steps which the British have already taken to facilitate the escape of Jewish refugees through Turkey. Sir Maurice Peterson gave his assurances that if it should become possible for a larger number of refugees to escape, sufficient places of refuge would be found for them in the Middle East by the British.

5-12-44
Discussed
with
Stein
Indicated
I was
in
discussing

MAY 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 688

Dear Mr. Digeur:

Thank you for your letter of April 28, 1944, enclosing two reports on the condition of refugees in Poland and Greece which you received from your Lisbon office.

Your cooperation in making this form available to us is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Typed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Ilja Digeur,
Executive Secretary,
Hias-Ica Emigration Association, Inc.,
386 Fourth Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

EDT BH HBButchison:agr 5-16-44 JWS

000527

221 688

HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (HICEM)

386 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 16,

W. R. B.
 (New York)
 To: Files
 Ans. 5/17/44
 Mr. Ans. Reg.
 Inquiries
 Rua Rodrigo Da Fonseca 49
 LISBON, PORTUGAL

CABLE ADDRESS:
 HICEM-NEW YORK
 TELEPHONE:
 MURRAY HILL 3-2845

April 28, 1944

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 ILJA DIJOUR

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- ALGIERS
- EGYPT
- KENYA
- MOROCCO
- PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA
- TANGIER
- UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
- AUSTRALIA
- NEW ZEALAND
- *TEMPORARILY CLOSED

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Our President, Mr. Max Gottschalk, who is at present at the I.C.O. Conference in Philadelphia, asked me to forward to you the attached two documents of a confidential character, which we received through our Lisbon office, and which describe the situation of certain Jewish groups in Poland and in Greece up to the end of the year 1943.

The first of these documents is translated from German, and the second from Spanish.

We hope that this material will prove of interest to you, and remain

Very sincerely yours,

Ilja Dijour
 Ilja Dijour
 Executive Secretary

2 encl.

ID/HK

RECEIVED
 MAY 12 1944

100528

Translation from German

J U S

REPORTS No 1, 11, 111

-0-0-0-0-0-0-

May 12 - December 31, 1948

000529

U S

Jewish Relief Agency
for the General Government

Centrala Pomocy dla Zydow
W Generalnym Gubernatorstwi

No 10/44 - Wt/JW

Organisation d'Assistance
aux Familles Eprouvées
Rua Rodrigo da Fonseca, 40-2
L i s b o n

Re Gift Packages

We received your letter of October 26th. The 26 parcels of oil sardines mentioned have not arrived as yet. On receipt of same, we will inform you.

Regarding their distribution among the Jewish inmates of the labor camps, we are not in a position, at present, to transmit parcels to individuals, especially not delicacies. As you will learn from the enclosed three reports of our activity, we can transfer medicaments, dressings, disinfectants and food directly to the camps, whereas we profitably exchange delicacies for flour for bread baking.

Re: Reports

Enclosed we are sending you Reports No 1, 11, and 111 of our activity.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Weichert

Enclosure

000530

U S
Jewish Relief Agency
Krakow, Jozefinska 2a, P.O.Box 211

BRIEF REPORT OF THE ACTIVITY
OF THE "J U S"
From May 12 to July 31, 1943

The Jewish Relief Agency for the General Government "J U S" renewed, at the end of April, its activities by authorization of the Superior S.S. and Police Chiefs in the General Government under the supervision of the General Government's Administration, main department of Internal Administration, section of Population and Welfare. The authorities assigned to it the building at No 2a Jozefinska where offices, drug distribution service and stores have been.

The main purpose of "J U S" consists in distributing to Jewish labor camps, to districts inhabited by Jews and to factories where Jews are employed, drugs, food as well as clothes and linen received as gift packages from abroad or obtained through exchange or by supplementary purchases.

Since May 12th, on which date the first transport with food and drugs left for a labor camp, and up to July 31st, 81 shipments were dispatched to 34 labor camps, Jew inhabited districts and to factories employing Jews. Of these:

17	received one shipment
7	" two "
4	" three "
2	" four "
2	" six "
1	" seven " , and
1	" even eleven shipments

These shipments were made up mainly of drugs, among which were some quite unobtainable pharmaceuticals and others whose price was prohibitive. Furthermore, the "J U S" was also able to supply the recipients of the gift packages with dressings. The labor camps and the Jew inhabited districts received the greater shares, while factories obtained a lesser amount, but in insufficient quantity for emergency accidents and sickness.

Among the drugs were also medicines suitable for swift recoveries for an early resumption of work, such as: Cibazol, Dagenan, Quinin, Codein, Opium, Cibalgin, Amidopyrin, Calcium preparations, Calcium bromide, Caffein, and also various ointments and balsams such as codliver ointment, Unguentolan, Vitamin ointment, Riccoovitan.

Besides drugs and dressings, it was also made possible to distribute foodstuffs such as condensed milk, Navitol, Maggi-Soups, powdered milk etc. Sweetened condensed milk (of Swiss "Nestle" origin) was particularly appreciated.

The labor camps were in addition supplied with disinfectants and various exterminators such as Desogen, Iynol, Sublimat, Sulphur in sticks and even certain surgical instruments, like syringes, injection needles, scalpels etc.

000531

With a view to facilitate the establishment of the lists of needed drugs, dressings and foodstuffs, the camps received at short intervals three lists of #1, 2, and 3 of the available gift packages. All the articles supplied up to now came from the assigned quota to the Jews of the general shipments of gift packages include:

7402 kg of Drugs and foodstuffs
938 " " Vaseline
1318 " " Drugs
28 " " Soaps
159 cans of condensed milk weighing 3975 kgs as well as a
shipment of paper dressings weighing 466 kgs which the Geneva
society OSE had bought in Stockholm.

"J U S" received also from the "Arbeitsutkottet for Hjalp at Europas Judar" in Stockholm a sum of Zł. 11,847,20. The Jewish Charity Organization in neutral countries have also promised further shipments of gift packages.

Part of the packages received between January and April and containing coffee, tea, sardines in oil, were exchanged for flour which is used for baking bread. This bread is distributed every week among the men who perform heavy labor in the camps and in and around Cracow. A ten weeks supply and distribution of bread is already assured.

Four bundles of clothes could only be distributed. They contained 433 pairs of trousers and were the remainder of the old "J U S" stock. Steps are being taken to obtain the necessary permit from the authorities for a planned campaign abroad for clothing and underwear for the Jews working in the General Government.

Krakow, August 1, 1943

J U S
Jewish Relief Agency
for the General Government

Dr. Weichert

000532

J U S
Jewish Relief Agency
Krakow, P.O.Box 211

REPORT No 11

August - September

1943

During the months of August and September the activity of the "JUS" developed still further. The number of labor camps and factories supplied by us reach 47. The number of shipments forwarded has also greatly increased. Whereas within the first 3 months after the renewal of our activity 81 shipments were sent out, 136 were forwarded during the last two months. 68 of them contained drugs, dressings and foodstuffs 67 foodstuff and 1 clothing and underwear. The total number of shipments from May 12th to September 30th amounted to 217. All these packages have reached their destination in good condition with a single exception when a small part was lost.

We are always kept exactly advised about the distribution of the gift parcels. We visit the labor camps not too distant, often and regularly. We are thus always able to meet the wishes of the labor camp council. As to the other camps, Jewish physicians or camp representatives come to see us and explain their needs.

The packages we send are received by the Jewish physicians of the camps, checked according to specifications and acknowledged on the copies attached to the packages; the arrival of foodstuff such as condensed milk etc. is, moreover, acknowledged by the individual receiver on a list which is forwarded to us by the Chief of the Sanitary Division.

The activity in connection with food supply started in July and August, was continued. We were able to supply weekly eight camps near and around Cracow, with additional bread that was baked from the flour of the "JUS" in the bakeries of the largest camp. We supplied some of the kitchens with Avo and Maggi-Soup which like the flour mentioned above, were exchanged against foodstuffs from abroad.

A further development of the feeding possibilities is very desirable; however, it could be carried out only in case we receive foodstuffs such as flour, cereal and legumes from Relief Organizations abroad.

Another step was made in the field of milk supply. At the suggestion of "JUS", some camps started distributing to whole groups of men doing hard and very hard work white sweetened coffee using our condensed milk; however, this is supplied only twice a week owing to the shortage of the latter product. This

100533

did not influence the daily milk distribution to sick and convalescent people in the camps. As before, the milk distribution is highly appreciated.

In this connection, we take the liberty to quote an excerpt from a letter of a Jewish camp physician in the district of Cracow, dated August 19th; "The drugs you have sent time and again caused miracles indeed. The number of sick people diminished daily, and the large supply of dressings which is at my disposal at present permits a prompt treatment of the various labor accidents which occur daily. Especially grateful am I for the condensed milk. You will learn from the enclosed list how great is the help and the success in this special field".

In addition to the gift packages mentioned in Report No 1, "JUS" received lately the quota assigned to the Jews from the general shipment destined for the non German population of the General Government. This quota comprises:

- 1,965 kg. Lactocao (sweetened cocoa with milk)
- 3,716 tins of sweetened milk powder, of which 3,365 tins were sweetened with glucose
- 1,411 tins of sweetened condensed milk
- 388 tins of Ovomaltine and
- 331 tins of other foods

The total weight of the foodstuffs amounts to about 4,900 kg. In addition this shipment contained such valuable drugs as:

Rexdoxon, Adovern, Larosan, Larostidin, etc.

On an exchange basis we were able to get ampoules of Caffein and Strychnin.

The above mentioned foodstuffs and drugs as well as the instruments, clothing and linen are noted on lists Nos 4 and 5.

Moreover, we received a shipment of 23 parcels from the Society "OSE", Geneva, which was forwarded to Warsaw last year, but could not be delivered due to custom difficulties. This delivery consisted of 388 Kg of drugs and 1,615 kg. of Chemicals and Disinfectants.

Thus, certain camps were able to proceed to a thorough disinfection and vermin extermination using also large amounts of calcium hypochloride and kresol solution taken partly from our stock and partly purchased by us.

Finally, we received from the Association "Bikur Cholim" in St. Gallen a shipment of 3 kg of anti-typhus vaccines, which is to be used especially in the labor camps of the districts of Lublin and Galicia.

The approaching fall and winter season induced "JUS" to take preparatory steps regarding a supply of clothing. With the agreement of the Authorities we were able to acquire from the Polish Main Board some hundred pieces of cloth and linen. This quantity has no comparison to the immense need for these articles. We have therefore made an appeal to those organizations in neutral countries who were supporting us, to carry on a campaign for used clothes in our behalf.

The activity of the "JUS", so highly appreciated by the Jews interned in labor camps, can be successfully continued only in case the Relief Organizations in neutral countries send medicaments, food and garments in regular intervals.

Krakow, October 1, 1943

JUS
Jewish Relief Agency
Dr. Weichert

000534

J U S

Jewish Relief Agency (Juedische Unterstuetzungsstelle)
Krakow, P.O.Box 211

R E P O R T No 111

October - December

1945

There was a further development of our activity in the last three months. The number of labor camps we were caring for until September 30 was increased by some additional big camps. We were also able to increase the quantities of drugs supplied as well as of concentrated foodstuffs and of regular foods. 199 shipments were made during the above mentioned period; 105 contained drugs, 86 foodstuffs, 8 clothing. In the first period which lasted from May to July, there were 181 shipments, during the second one in August...September- 136 shipments.

We were able to supply the Jewish labor camps regularly with drugs, foodstuffs dressings and disinfectants, and also in part with flour or bread, as well as with Maggi and Avo-soups; we were, however, not in a position to meet the demands for clothing and underwear, of which they were in great need. Barely some hundred pieces, which we purchased from the Polish Main Board, were distributed. For the present, we have not succeeded in our endeavor to obtain clothing, underwear or foodstuffs from neutral countries.

Now as before, our need in drugs, dressings and food is supplied chiefly through the quota assigned to the Jews from the general gift packages received through the International Red Cross for the non German population of the General Government. Our quota was fixed at 10% by the responsible authorities.

In addition to the gift packages mentioned in our report 1 and 2, a third transport of 3 cars arrived from which we received:

12,000 Ampoules of campher oil
520 lbs. of Calcium Glycerophosphate
998 lbs of Craesolum saponatum
8,000 Ampules of Glucose 50% 20cc
200 lbs. of Sodium bicarbonate
180 lbs of Sulphur ointment
75 lbs. of Radix senegae polygalae
44 lbs. of Magnesium oxyde
about 1,600 pieces of carbolic soap substitute

Furthermore, we succeeded in obtaining from the Central German Sanitary Authorities, in exchange for drugs which we did not need or, at least, without which we could manage, other drugs very valuable for the labor camps. Thus we received:

20,000 tablets of Aspirin
60,000 tablets of Antineuralgia with Caffein
60,000 tablets of Trypaflavin
40,000 tablets of Veramon
20,000 Tablets of Codein phosphate

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40,000 tablets of Tannalbin
60,000 tablets of Solventes.
3,000 tablets of Digalen
10,000 tablets of Veronal
12,000 tablets of Vitamin C

large quantities of:

Caffein
Spiritus ammono anisati
Bismuthum subnitricum
Sismuthum subgallicum
Delouaing ointments

and smaller quantities of:

Tablets of Quinosol
Ampoules of Cardiasol
Tinct. Valerianae
Ungt. Ichtyoli
Ungt. Acidi borici
Cod Liver ointments
Ampoules of Betabion "forte"
Tablets of Burow solution
Sterilized cotton
Absorbent Cotton
Paper bandages, etc.

Thanks to the antityphus vaccinas sent by the Society "Bikur Cholim" of St. Gallen and especially to those we received from the general shipment of gift packages in accordance with the above mentioned decision, vaccination of the sanitary personnel and of those in direct contact with the sick could be carried out in the camps with which we were connected.

In order to insure the necessary supply of surgical instruments, we concluded an agreement with an important firm in Cracow to furnish as far as possible the required instruments to the Jewish camps.

During the period covered by this report, the accounts connected with the exchange of commodities received from abroad during the summer were definitely closed and bread baking from the flour thus obtained was assured for several months.

The Jewish Charity Organizations in Switzerland were not able to send us a large number of gift packages during this period, as they did not succeed in obtaining the necessary export licences. Following their suggestion, we applied to our supervising officials asking them to approach the International Red Cross through the council of the German Red Cross in order to obtain the necessary authorization. Minor gifts arrived from Portugal (Caldas da Rainha) and from Turkey (Istanbul). They were distributed partly in the camps and partly were bartered for flour. New drugs received in the course of these three months are contained in our lists #6 and 7.

One correction has to be made. The shipment of 388 kg of drugs and 1615 kg of chemicals mentioned in our report #2, were made not by the Society of "OSE in Geneva, but by the Association "Bikur Cholim" of St. Gallen.

Cracow, December 31, 1943

JUV S
Jewish Relief Agency

Dr. Weichert

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REPORT ON THE FATE OF THE JEWS IN SALONICA
(Transmitted from Lisbon on March 1, 1944)

A few days after the entry of the German army of occupation into Salonica and entire Macedonia, on April 9, 1941, they arrested all the members of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community of Salonica (Sephardim), as well as the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Koretz, of Polish origin, and other outstanding personalities of the community who were liberated after six weeks detention.

The Chief Rabbi was being arrested for the third time, and was sent to Vienna to be questioned.

In the first days of May 1941, the German Commander ordered the confiscation of all radios belonging to Jews, regardless of their nationality. One year later, a similar measure was taken against the orthodox Greeks.

During the first year of the occupation, no antisemitic measure was taken against the Jewish population. The first manifestation of antisemitism was the summoning on July 6, 1942, of all Jews between the ages of 18 and 35, to a field of the city, called Plaza de la Libertad, for their registering for compulsory labor in the interior of the country. About 8,000 to 9,000 persons appeared.

On July 7th, their expedition started in groups of 800 to 1,000 persons at a time. One day later, the Germans decided that the Jews wishing to be exempted from compulsory labor would have to pay at least one million drachmas and five millions at most. Many people profited by this measure, and about 700 million drachmas were thus paid.

A committee was constituted, comprising the German Chief Civil Engineer charged with the execution of this task, and three members of the community, in order to decide how much each person should pay, according to the individual's wealth. One month later, another agreement was concluded between the Befelshaber Wolik Algal and the Community, according to which the payment in three instalments of 3,000,000 drachmas (this sum was later reduced to 1,000,000) the liberation of all the people already working would be obtained, and after that, no Jew was sent to compulsory labor.

In order to raise the enormous amount required, especially after having already collected 700 million drachmas so as to save the 8,000 persons from compulsory labor where most of them would surely have died of hunger, illness, etc. the community was compelled to levy a heavy tax on all its members, based on the financial wealth of the individuals.

After the first payment, they were all liberated, and 1,500,000,000 were raised. In the meantime, the racial laws came into force and, as a matter of course, the question was solved by itself.

Although, legally speaking, the neutral Sephardic Jews were exempted from this tax, nevertheless, of their own volition, and for solidarity's sake, they decided to help the community in this humanitarian action by paying the amount they deemed appropriate.

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The Spanish colony participated with about 70,000,000 drachmas, and the Italian colony with about 50,000,000.

On February 7th, the high German authorities ordered the application of the racial laws in Northern Macedonia, and its capital, Salonica, without the previous consent of the Greek Government. The first measures applied starting February 28th, were the following :

- 1) Every individual was to wear the yellow star with the "Mogen David" and his registration number ;
- 2) Absolute prohibition to ride in the trolleys ;
- 3) Prohibition to walk in the central and main streets of the cities ;
- 4) Order to display in the stores owned by Jews a sheet of paper with the inscription "Jewish Store" ;
- 5) Declaration of every person's fortune ;
- 6) Internment of everybody in ghettos.

To this effect, two large ghettos were organized, one for the inhabitants of the countryside and the other for the persons living in the center of the city, as well as for the poor Jews of the outskirts: District No.151 (turned over by the Italian government to the Jewish Community for a very small sum, as it had belonged to the Italian army in the Orient during the war 1914-1918) and District No. 6, Calamaria, Regis, Vardar, Baron Hirsch.

In order to enable the Gestapo to exercise a direct control over the ghettos, the Jewish youths were constituted in a police force ; they wore a brassard and were charged to watch the Jews living in the ghettos and to accompany in the streets those who had to go outside for some particular reason, always with a special permit signed by the chief of the Jewish police. Exit from the ghetto before 5:00 P.M. was forbidden, but the people were allowed to walk within its limits.

Were excluded of these measures the nationals of neutral and friendly countries : Italy, Spain, Turkey, Switzerland, Portugal, Egypt and Persia. The nationals of countries like France, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Germany were affected by the racial laws.

In the month of April 1943, mass deportations began. As first concentration point, the District Baron Hirsch was chosen (this district was created with the financial assistance of the Baron Hirsch Fund for the accomodation of a number of Jewish families from Lemberg after the Russians left the city in 1918), and they were provisionally gathered there for the preparation of the convoy.

A total of 17 expeditions took place in horse wagons with 60 to 70 persons to a wagon. The approximate number of deportees was 48,000 persons, all to Poland. They were permitted to take along only 15 kilograms of clothing per person, plus a package of food. All their fortunes, furniture, personal belongings as well as values, money, were confiscated. They did not touch real estate property. All the stores were closed and the keys remitted to the competent German military authorities.

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In agreement with the Greek government, it was decided to register all merchandise in the stores, warehouses, etc. The realization of this operation was entrusted to an administrative committee of three. For the registration of merchandise in the stores, committees of three were constituted. One of the three was connected with the Chamber of Commerce, one was a functionary of the Ministry of Finances and the third a member of the Jewish Community, and they were assisted by the interested persons in the drawing up of the inventory of merchandise. Copy of this inventory was remitted to the interested person. Since the deportation of all the Jews, the decisions taken by this administration for the total and definitive liquidation of the confiscated merchandise are unknown. The damage caused thereby is inestimable and amounts to many billions of drachmas. All the archives of the Jewish Community were burnt and destroyed. The most interesting book that were to be found in some libraries, public and private, were sent to Berlin. The Holy Books (Sephirim) were also sent to Berlin, according to certain members of the Jewish Community.

The fate of the deportees to Poland is unknown, due to lack of news.

Some members of the community, as well as various employees and members of the committees, totalling 75 to 80 people, in gratitude for the services rendered to the Gestapo by accurately applying the racial laws, were deported on the same day as the Spaniards to Belsen-Bergen (near Hanover). Among these persons was Dr. Koretz with his family, and Albana, the President of the Community, who, until now, were obliged to work.

Expulsion of Sephardic Jews, nationals of Neutral countries,
from Macedonia and Salonica

After carrying out the deportation of the 48,000 Greek Jews, the Berlin government decided, in the end of April or the beginning of May 1943, to expell the Sephardic Jews, nationals of neutral countries, giving them as the last day for leaving the country July 15, 1943. The delay was subsequently extended for a fortnight and was definitely set for July 31, 1943. The decision was communicated to the respective governments and transmitted to Salonica through the respective Legations.

Spain at once accepted in principle to receive its nationals in the homeland and negotiations were initiated for the organization of the trip and the safe-guarding of the Salonica Spaniards; with the Spanish Legation in Athens, the Spanish Embassy in Berlin and the Spanish Consulate in Salonica.

Negotiations were still under way for the definite organization of the trip to Spain, and it remained to be decided whether it would be effected by sea or by land, on a Spanish ship, or on a Swiss ship of the International Red Cross carrying wheat to Greece, or by train via Germany or Italy, etc, and Rome had accepted in principle to authorize the transit of the Spaniards through its territory when, in the night of July 15th, the Spanish Legation in Athens notified its representative in Salonica that the Madrid Government would not accept the repatriation en bloc of the entire colony, but only their return in small groups.

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It was therefore decided that the Spaniards would be provisionally deported for two or three months by the Germans to a concentration camp in Germany where each case would be individually examined with a view to repatriation.

This unexpected decision of the Spanish government one day before the expiration of the last delay given by the Germans for their leaving the country caused consternation and despair of the entire colony when it saw itself suddenly abandoned, while the other countries, like Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, Portugal, had accepted the repatriation of their nationals.

When the German authorities learned about the decision of the Spanish government of Madrid not to accept the Spanish people from Greece, on July 29, 1943, they summoned all the heads of families in a synagogue and brought them to the Baron Hirsch concentration camp.

The measure was so unexpected that many Spaniards came to the camp in summer clothes and without bringing additional clothes with them. In the following days, they were allowed to go and fetch some indispensable things for the trip, as well as all their jewelry, gold and values.

Two days later, on July 31, 1943, the Spanish colony was notified that it would be transferred to the concentration camp of Belsen Bergen in Germany. Before leaving, the heads of families were obliged to declare and remit to the Chief of the Gestapo all the money they had, in foreign currency, in jewelry or in national money, in obvious contradiction with the promise made to them, that they would be permitted to take along all the money and valuables they might have.

As it was, each Spaniard declared and remitted to the German Chief of the Police, on July 31st, all he possessed in currency and money, which was put in individual envelopes bearing the name of each depositor and his registration number, which was duly sealed. The total amount of money remitted on that day amounted to about U\$A 42,000, 55,000 Swiss francs, some golden 20 French francs coins, some jewels and about 24,000,000 Greek drachmas.

* When taking the deposits, the German Chief of Police did not issue any receipt, but remitted a detailed list signed by each depositor, next to the indication of the sum remitted by him. However, the Chief of the Police solemnly promised that the envelopes would be restituted to each of the depositors upon his arrival in Germany. As far as the drachmas were concerned, they were to be reimbursed in Germany by means of the clearing. To date, these amounts have not been refunded.

After a 4 days stay in the concentration camp Hirsch, the colony was shipped in 10 horse wagons to the concentration camp of Belsen-Bergen. The food for the trip from Salonica to Belsen-Bergen was purchased by the Spaniards themselves, their expenses amounted to about 84,000,000 drachmas. The trip lasted 11 days and on August 13th, they reached the camp where they were accommodated in four wards as explained herein. The Spaniards were not subjected to compulsory labor. The number of Spanish deportees was 367; two of them - one young girl and one elderly man - passed away of natural death.

In the end of October 1943, all the Spaniards as well as the 46 Argentine nationals of Polish origin, were notified that they would be transferred elsewhere. No other indication was given them.

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On December 23rd, a Gestapo functionary of the camp advised the chief of the colony that he had had a conference with Berlin over the telephone, and needed urgently a list of the 365 Spaniards. On January 2nd, 1944, the German Commandant of the camp declared that the Spaniards would be repatriated, and that two lists had to be drawn up, one of 182 and one of 183 persons, as the expedition would be effected in two groups. The first group was to leave on February 3rd and the second on February 7th. The sojourn in the camp had lasted six months, from August 3rd to February 7th, 1944.

The trip was made via Hanover, Frankfurt, Salzburg, Mulhouse, Dijon, Lyon, Perpignan, Port-Bou and Barcelona, and lasted six days till the Spanish border.

The German police commandant who accompanied the convoy issued the certificates of nationality prepared in the camp, and a functionary of the Spanish Embassy in Berlin, who arrived to that effect in Port-Bou, remitted to each interested person the individual passport issued by the Spanish Consulate in Athens, dated May 26, 1943, bearing the visa of the Spanish Embassy in Berlin, for entry into Spain. The telegram of the Embassy in Berlin authorizing their entry was dated July 30, 1943; the date of the visa affixed by the Consul General of Spain in Athens was August 10, 1943, or 8 days after the detention of the Salonica Spaniards and their deportation to Belsen-Bergen.

Protection of the Spaniards' interests in Salonica since the German occupation until their departure.

It is thanks to the personal steps taken by His Excellency Sir José Dussenague, Minister of Spain in Athens, on the day of the occupation of the capital by the German Army, with the representative of the Reich in Athens, that he received the promise that the interests of the Spaniards in Greece and their property, regardless of their religion, would be respected. Therefore, almost no Spaniard, with the exception of a few, suffered any requisition of furniture, belongings, merchandise, etc. until the very day of their deportation. The Germans observed strictly the agreement concluded between Mr. Dussenague and the German Ambassador in Athens.

Conduct of the Greek elements of Orthodox religion in Salonica with respect to antisemitic action.

The greatest part of the middle class Salonica population viewed with satisfaction the total deportation of the Sephardic elements and particularly their removal from the market.

The intellectual class acknowledged the measures with indignation, but could not express its feeling, due to fear.

Expropriation of the ancient Jewish cemetery of Salonica

For 15 or 18 years, the central Greek authorities had accepted the principle of the total expropriation of the Jewish cemetery. Subsequently to an intervention of the Jewish Community, there was in time a provisional amiable agreement whereby part of the ground was turned over to the Salonica University for the erecting of laboratories. The matter was thus settled and the expropriation adjourned.

200541

In the month of November 1942, some functionaries of the Government General of Macedonia whose headquarters were located in Salonica seized the occasion of the German military occupation and, knowing the feelings of the Germans regarding the Jews, raised the subject and within less than one month, without any delay, they decided to expropriate the cemetery, and started destroying and ancient and the new cemetery, and the tombs, only allowing those who wished it, to take the rests of their defuncts. Despite various protests made by the Chief Rabbi, no practical result was achieved, and the cemetery was totally destroyed under the direct control of a competent functionary of the Government General of Macedonia. The Government General of Greece did not seem to know about that decision.

In the concentration camp of Belsen-Bergen, destined solely to nationals of neutral countries, there were 279 subjects of Palestine, 657 South Americans (of Chile, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, San Salvador and some of the U.S.A.), all natives or residents of Poland. The Palestine subjects obtained certificates in 1941, those of South America received passports in 1940 before the occupation of Poland by Germany. The Palestinians have certificates issued by Dr. Colden, representative of the Palestine government in Istanbul, in whose passports it was inscribed that they had previously resided in Palestine and had the right to do so again.

The South Americans had regular passports delivered by the Consul General of these republics in New York or Berne and attestations of their respective Consuls. For example, Nicaragua recognized all the documents issued by the Consulate General in New York.

Bergen?
Argentina : there are about 63 persons among whom the Consul General of Argentina in Salzburg, Eduardo Biegler and his wife. The latter requested the Chargé d'Affaires of Argentina in Berne, Santiago Fiezer to be advised for an authorization to remain in the country to keep the archives. In Bergen bei Dresden, a German concentration camp, there are about 1,800 South American subjects, whose documents were not considered as quite in order by the German Police. Therefore, it is necessary to endeavor to have the status of these persons regularized, all the more so that 90% of them are the best elements of Poland : physicians, lawyers, engineers, pharmacists, rabbis, etc. all persons of merit. There are more American nationals in the concentration camps of Vittel, Libernau and Dost (Silesia). In the same camp of Belsen-Bergen there are also 1,000 persons who were brought from Holland, and whose documents are being controlled by the German authorities.

As has already been said, there are also in the camp Belsen-Bergen 75 Jews from Salonica, of Greek nationality, with Dr. Koretz, the President of the Community and several members of same. The South American and Palestinian subjects are not compelled to work, but the Greeks and some Dutchmen must perform very hard labor.

200542

May 16, 1944

TO: Mr. Lesser

FROM: Myles Standish

With reference to the request from Mr. Louis E. Spiegler, Counsel of HIAS, that we assist in obtaining permission for Mr. Spanien of HIAS and Mr. Frits Lichtenstein of the Jewish Agency to enter Spain, Mr. Spiegler informs me that the former is a French national and the latter a Palestinian national.

In view of the fact that the subjects of the request are not American citizens, and in light of the reported agreement between the Spanish Foreign Office and Ambassador Hayes that no additional American welfare workers will be brought to Spain at this time, I feel that the Board should not extend the desired assistance under present circumstances.

LS
MStandish:lcm 5-16-44

100543

HEBREW SHELTERING and IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

W. R. B.

Filing Authority

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Lisbon, Portugal

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May 10, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I was unable to reach you on the telephone so I spoke with Mr. Abrahamson of your office. The purpose was to convey the following cable message which we received from our Mr. David Schweitzer who is now in Turkey:

DISTRESSING NEWS REACHING HERE FROM
HUNGARY CONTACT IRA HIRSHMAN WHO IN
RECEIPT OF CABLE FROM JOE LEVY
CORRESPONDENT NEWYORK TIMES AND WITH
WHO AM IN CONSTANT TOUCH STRONGLY
URGE ALONG LINES SUGGESTED TO HIM

I am, of course, at your service and shall appreciate hearing from you so as to enable us to reply to Mr. Schweitzer.

Very sincerely yours

Isaac L. Asofsky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AG

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9-11-41
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Mr. Lesser

FROM: R. L. Smith

SUBJECT: Evacuation of Refugees from Switzerland by Sealed Cars

At my request, HIAS submitted a memorandum (see Appendix) outlining the use of sealed cars in the past from Germany or through German-dominated territory with the consent of the German Government. Suggestions that negotiations to this end be undertaken were made by both HIAS and American Friends Service Committee in their replies to the Board's request for ideas, sent to all private agencies active in refugee work. Prior to October 1941, permission for activities of this sort was given fairly freely.

Between April and October of that year large numbers of Jewish refugees with overseas immigration visas were allowed to leave Germany in groups of two or three hundred, crossing France to Irun on the Spanish border in sealed cars. On other occasions, Jewish refugees residing in Switzerland were permitted to cross France by bus and sealed wagons to Barcelona. Both Germany and France granted permission for such transit. On other occasions, permission was granted for transit by airplane from Stuttgart across France to Spain and Portugal.

Since October 1941, apparently no permission has been granted with the exception of official exchanges such as that of the diplomats recently sent from Germany across France through Irun to Lisbon also in sealed cars.

HIAS urges that while permission for the transportation of adults will probably not be granted, there might be less objection if only children were included. Negotiations would have to be conducted by Switzerland, acting for itself, and if permission of the German Government were granted, no difficulty with either Spain or Portugal is anticipated since a sufficient number of visas for children are available.

LEGAL BACKGROUND

There is comparatively little of a definite nature to be found in works on international law concerning safe conduct in time of war

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except for general definitions. Oppenheim declares¹ that "a safe conduct is a written permission given by a belligerent to enemy subjects or others allowing them to proceed to a particular place for a defined object." Also, "Passports and safe conducts make the grantee inviolable so long and insofar as he complies with the conditions specially imposed upon him, or made necessary by the circumstances of the special case." In limitation he says "they are only a matter of international law when the granting of them has been arranged by the belligerents, or their responsible commanders, or between the belligerents or neutral powers. If they are granted by one of the belligerents acting unilaterally and without such arrangement, they would seem to fall outside the scope of international law." He says specifically that safe conducts may be given for ships as well as for persons. Presumably, by analogy, this would also apply to other vehicles.

Wheaton² gives the same definition and adds that "such documents are to be interpreted by the same rules of liberality and good faith with other acts of the sovereign powers."

An application by Switzerland for a safe conduct of the kind contemplated would not be a violation of its neutrality since humane or charitable acts performed by a neutral country do not violate its neutrality even if performed only on behalf of the subjects of one belligerent.³

During World War I, the Swiss Government devised a transportation plan as part of the arrangement sponsored by it between France, England, and Germany for the hospitalization and release of sick and wounded prisoners of war. Such prisoners, selected for hospitalization in Switzerland, were assembled at specific points, one in France and one in Germany, from which points they embarked by train under the jurisdiction of the head physician of International Red Cross. These trains operated on a fixed time schedule, leaving on each occasion at the same hour and following the same route. They were under the control of the Red Cross until the Swiss border was crossed, although a specified number of Swiss soldiers acted as guards. The Swiss officer in charge was made responsible for the delivery of all such prisoners and triplicate lists were made up so that each interested party had a check.

¹ Section 218, Vol. II, Oppenheim's "International Law" Sixth edition

² Page 777, Vol. II, Sixth edition

³ "Proceedings of American Institute of International Law, 1921, Page 105-7

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In the agreement entered into by the United States and Germany in November, 1918, concerning prisoners of war, sanitary personnel and civil prisoners, Article 174 provides in detail the machinery for arranging transportation, with the cooperation of one or more neutrals. All details were to be arranged by a mixed committee composed of two members for each contracting party and one for each neutral country through and in which transportation was to take place. Safe conduct was to be guaranteed.

Article 175 of that agreement provides a basis for selecting persons under a definite system of priority, and Article 176 covers the subject of expenses.

Although this agreement was never ratified, and is not legally binding upon anyone presumably because the Armistice was signed on the same day and it became more or less superfluous, it contained certain details agreed upon after prolonged negotiations and could serve as a blue-print for the proposed action so far as it goes. The fact that Germany once agreed to such a plan might also be persuasive in approaching the present government.

MEMORANDUM

To : Mr. I. L. Asofsky (for the War Refugee Board)

From: Ilja Dijour, Executive Secretary of HICEM

During the period between April and October 1941, Jewish refugees in possession of United States or other overseas immigration visas were still allowed to leave Germany, in order to embark in Portuguese or Spanish harbors. The procedure was the following.

1. After receiving their immigration visas, the emigrants and refugees would register with the MER (Mittel-Europaeisches Reisebureau) which represented the most important German steamship companies (Hamburg-Amerika Linie and Norddeutscher Lloyd).
2. The MER would advise their correspondents in Lisbon or Madrid, communicating the name-lists of those holders of overseas immigration visas. These lists would be submitted by the Portuguese and Spanish steamship companies to the Police in Lisbon and Madrid, with requests for Spanish and Portuguese transit visas. These applications for transit visas had to be backed by the private Jewish organizations, such as the HICEM and or the JDC, which would give the guarantee to the Portuguese authorities that steamship reservations would be made and that none of these emigrants would remain in the country owing to the lack of transportation funds.
3. The emigrants would be assembled in groups of two to three hundred each, and would be sent from Germany through France in sealed cars to the Spanish border (Irun).
4. In other cases, several groups of Jewish refugees residing in Switzerland, were sent with the permission of the German and French authorities through unoccupied France in sealed wagons and sometimes in buses which had no right to stop until they reached the Spanish border. These groups were directed to Barcelona.
5. In the same way, two compact groups of Jewish refugees from Luxemburg were sent through occupied France to the Spanish border at Irun. One group counted 250 people and the other 400 people.
6. During the same period, Jewish refugees were allowed to use the direct air line from Stuttgart going through unoccupied France to Madrid and Lisbon.
7. Two other groups of Jewish refugees were repatriated directly from Paris; the Spanish group of 300 left Paris in August 1943, and upon reaching the Spanish border at Hendaye, these people were assigned to residences in several localities in Spain. The 150 Portuguese citizens left Paris in October 1943 and were assigned for residence at Curia and Coimbra.
8. According to the latest information, 365 Jews from Saloniki who were sent from Greece to the camp of Belsen Bergen near Hanover on July 29, 1943, reached Spain

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- 2 -

Via Perpignan and Port-Bou on January 2, 1944.

These examples, (without speaking of the group of diplomats brought from Baden-Baden and Godesberg through Paris and Irun to Lisbon to ship on the s/s "Gripsholm" also in sealed cars), seem to indicate that there is a possibility of getting in some instances, permission from the German authorities to allow the passage in transit through French territory of groups of refugees to neutral Spain and Portugal.

An effort in this direction, made by the War Refugee Board, is highly desirable, and if there be some obstacles difficult to overcome when adult refugees are concerned, it must be possible to secure such permission for the evacuation of children, for whom immigration visas in overseas countries, are available in large numbers. In case such a permission can be obtained by the Swiss authorities, there will certainly be no difficulties to get Spanish and Portuguese transit visas.

ID/HK
4/12/44

000549

TO: Mr. Lesser

FROM: R. L. Smith

SUBJECT: Evacuation of Refugees from Switzerland by Sealed Cars

At my request, HIAS submitted a memorandum (see Appendix) outlining the use of sealed cars in the past from Germany or through German-dominated territory with the consent of the German Government. Suggestions that negotiations to this end be undertaken were made by both HIAS and American Friends Service Committee in their replies to the Board's request for ideas, sent to all private agencies active in refugee work. Prior to October 1941, permission for activities of this sort was given fairly freely.

Between April and October of that year large numbers of Jewish refugees with overseas immigration visas were allowed to leave Germany in groups of two or three hundred, crossing France to Irun on the Spanish border in sealed cars. On other occasions, Jewish refugees residing in Switzerland were permitted to cross France by bus and sealed wagons to Barcelona. Both Germany and France granted permission for such transit. On other occasions, permission was granted for transit by airplane from Stuttgart across France to Spain and Portugal.

Since October 1941, apparently no permission has been granted with the exception of official exchanges such as that of the diplomat recently sent from Germany across France through Irun to Lisbon also in sealed cars.

HIAS urges that while permission for the transportation of adults will probably not be granted, there might be less objection if only children were included. Negotiations would have to be conducted by Switzerland, acting for itself, and if permission of the German Government were granted, no difficulty with either Spain or Portugal is anticipated since a sufficient number of visas for children are available.

LEGAL BACKGROUND

There is comparatively little of a definite nature to be found in works on international law concerning safe conduct in time of war

000550

except for general definitions. Oppenheim declares¹ that "a safe conduct is a written permission given by a belligerent to enemy subjects or others allowing them to proceed to a particular place for a defined object." Also, "Passports and safe conducts make the grantee inviolable so long and insofar as he complies with the conditions specially imposed upon him, or made necessary by the circumstances of the special case." In limitation he says "they are only a matter of international law when the granting of them has been arranged by the belligerents, or their responsible commanders, or between the belligerents or neutral powers. If they are granted by one of the belligerents acting unilaterally and without such arrangement, they would seem to fall outside the scope of international law." He says specifically that safe conducts may be given for ships as well as for persons. Presumably, by analogy, this would also apply to other vehicles.

Wheaton² gives the same definition and adds that "such documents are to be interpreted by the same rules of liberality and good faith with other acts of the sovereign powers."

An application by Switzerland for a safe conduct of the kind contemplated would not be a violation of its neutrality since humane or charitable acts performed by a neutral country do not violate its neutrality even if performed only on behalf of the subjects of one belligerent.³

During World War I, the Swiss Government devised a transportation plan as part of the arrangement sponsored by it between France, England, and Germany for the hospitalization and release of sick and wounded prisoners of war. Such prisoners, selected for hospitalization in Switzerland, were assembled at specific points, one in France and one in Germany, from which points they embarked by train under the jurisdiction of the head physician of International Red Cross. These trains operated on a fixed time schedule, leaving on each occasion at the same hour and following the same route. They were under the control of the Red Cross until the Swiss border was crossed, although a specified number of Swiss soldiers acted as guards. The Swiss officer in charge was made responsible for the delivery of all such prisoners and triplicate lists were made up so that each interested party had a check.

¹ Section 218, Vol. II, Oppenheim's "International Law" Sixth edition

² Page 777, Vol. II, Sixth edition

³ "Proceedings of American Institute of International Law, 1921, Page 105-7

In the agreement entered into by the United States and Germany in November, 1918, concerning prisoners of war, sanitary personnel and civil prisoners, Article 174 provides in detail the machinery for arranging transportation, with the cooperation of one or more neutrals. All details were to be arranged by a mixed committee composed of two members for each contracting party and one for each neutral country through and in which transportation was to take place. Safe conduct was to be guaranteed.

Article 175 of that agreement provides a basis for selecting persons under a definite system of priority, and Article 176 covers the subject of expenses.

Although this agreement was never ratified, and is not legally binding upon anyone presumably because the Armistice was signed on the same day and it became more or less superfluous, it contained certain details agreed upon after prolonged negotiations and could serve as a blue-print for the proposed action so far as it goes. The fact that Germany once agreed to such a plan might also be persuasive in approaching the present government.

ML:lcw
4-22-44, RLS.

000552

MEMORANDUM

to : Mr. I. L. Asofsky (for the War Refugee Board)
From: Ilja Dijour, Executive Secretary of HICEM

During the period between April and October 1941, Jewish refugees in possession of United States or other overseas immigration visas were still allowed to leave Germany, in order to embark in Portuguese or Spanish harbors. The procedure was the following.

1. After receiving their immigration visas, the emigrants and refugees would register with the MER (Mittel-Europaisches Reisebureau) which represented the most important German steamship companies (Hamburg-Amerika Linie and Norddeutscher Lloyd).
2. The MER would advise their correspondents in Lisbon or Madrid, communicating the name-lists of those holders of overseas immigration visas. These lists would be submitted by the Portuguese and Spanish steamship companies to the Police in Lisbon and Madrid, with requests for Spanish and Portuguese transit visas. These applications for transit visas had to be backed by the private Jewish organizations, such as the HICEM and or the JDC, which would give the guarantee to the Portuguese authorities that steamship reservations would be made and that none of these emigrants would remain in the country owing to the lack of transportation funds.
3. The emigrants would be assembled in groups of two to three hundred each, and would be sent from Germany through France in sealed cars to the Spanish border (Irun).
4. In other cases, several groups of Jewish refugees residing in Switzerland, were sent with the permission of the German and French authorities through unoccupied France in sealed wagons and sometimes in buses which had no right to stop until they reached the Spanish border. These groups were directed to Barcelona.
5. In the same way, two compact groups of Jewish refugees from Luxembourg were sent through occupied France to the Spanish border at Irun. One group counted 250 people and the other 400 people.
6. During the same period, Jewish refugees were allowed to use the direct air line from Stuttgart going through unoccupied France to Madrid and Lisbon.
7. Two other groups of Jewish refugees were repatriated directly from Paris; the Spanish group of 300 left Paris in August 1943, and upon reaching the Spanish border at Hendaye, these people were assigned to residences in several localities in Spain. The 150 Portuguese citizens left Paris in October 1943 and were assigned for residence at Curia and Coimbra.
8. According to the latest information, 365 Jews from Saloniki who were sent from Greece to the camp of Belsen Bergen near Hanover on July 29, 1943, reached Spain

000553

via Perpignan and Port-Bou on January 2, 1944.

These examples, (without speaking of the group of diplomats brought from Baden-Baden and Godesberg through Paris and Irun to Lisbon to ship on the s/s "Gripsholm" also in sealed cars), seem to indicate that there is a possibility of getting in some instances, permission from the German authorities to allow the passage in transit through French territory of groups of refugees to neutral Spain and Portugal.

An effort in this direction, made by the War Refugee Board, is highly desirable, and if there be some obstacles difficult to overcome when adult refugees are concerned, it must be possible to secure such permission for the evacuation of children, for whom immigration visas in overseas countries, are available in large numbers. In case such a permission can be obtained by the Swiss authorities, there will certainly be no difficulties to get Spanish and Portuguese transit visas.

ID/HK
4/12/44

000554

APR 24 1944

Dear Mr. Spiegler:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 1944, addressed to Mr. Smith, and its enclosure.

Please also express to Mr. Aessfay and Mr. Dijour my appreciation for their very helpful memorandum covering the transportation of refugees in "sealed trains."

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Louis E. Spiegler, Esquire,
1317 "Y" Street, N. W.,
Washington 4, D. C.

2.52.

RLSmith:LSLesser:als 4/24/44

000555

584

WASHINGTON OFFICE

HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

(HIAS)

W. R. B. _____
 Filing Authority _____
 Ans. 4/24/44
 No. Ans. Req. _____
 Initial _____
 Date _____

1317 F Street, N. W.
 Washington, D. C.
 National 6120

WASHINGTON 4, D. C.

LOUIS E. SPIGLER
 Counsel

ABRAHAM ROCKMORE
 Assistant Counsel

ISIDORE HERSHFIELD
 Counsel Emeritus

NATIONAL
 OFFICE
 425 Lafayette Street
 New York, N. Y.

April 19, 1944

Mr. Robert L. Smith
 War Refugee Board
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Smith:

Attached hereto you will find memorandum prepared by Mr. Ilja Dijour, Executive Secretary of Hicem, covering the transportation of refugees in "sealed trains" which I trust is what you want and will be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS E. SPIGLER
 Counsel

LES:nbk
 encl.

200556

MEMORANDUM

To : Mr. I. L. Asofsky (for the War Refugee Board)

From: Ilja Djfjour, Executive Secretary of HICEM

During the period between April and October 1941, Jewish refugees in possession of United States or other overseas immigration visas were still allowed to leave Germany, in order to embark in Portuguese or Spanish harbors. The procedure was the following.

1. After receiving their immigration visas, the emigrants and refugees would register with the MER (Mittel-Europaisches Reisebureau) which represented the most important German steamship companies (Hamburg-Amerika Linie and Norddeutscher Lloyd)
2. The MER would advise their correspondents in Lisbon or Madrid, communicating the name-lists of those holders of overseas immigration visas. These lists would be submitted by the Portuguese and Spanish steamship companies to the Police in Lisbon and Madrid, with requests for Spanish and Portuguese transit visas. These applications for transit visas had to be backed by the private Jewish organizations, such as the HICEM and or the JDC, which would give the guarantee to the Portuguese authorities, steamship reservations would be made and that none of these emigrants would remain in the country owing to lack of transportation funds.
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8. According to the latest information, 365 Jews from Saloniki who were sent from Greece to the camp of Belsen Bergen near Hanover on July 29, 1943, reached Spain

000557

via Perpignan and Port-Bou on January 2, 1944.

These examples, (without speaking of the group of diplomats brought from Baden-Baden and Godesberg through Paris and Irun to Lisbon to ship on the s/s "Gripsholm" also in sealed cars), seem to indicate that there is a possibility of getting in some instances, permission from the German authorities to allow the passage in transit through French territory of groups of refugees to neutral Spain and Portugal.

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ID/HK
4/12/1944

000558

In reply please
refer to: 506

APR 18 1944

Dear Mr. Spiegler:

Thank you for your letter of April 11,
1944, quoting from a report submitted to you by
Mr. Spaalen of your European office.

Your cooperation in making this infor-
mation available is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Louis E. Spiegler,
Counsel,
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society, (HIAS),
1317 "F" Street, N.W.,
Washington 4, D. C.

EBH Hutchison:agr 4-17-44

000559

WASHINGTON OFFICE

HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY
(HIAS)

W. R. B. 506
Filing Authority
To: Files
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

1517 F Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
NA 6001 6120

LOUIS E. SPEDLER
Counsel

ABRAHAM ROCKMORE
Assistant Counsel

ISIDORE HERSHFIELD
Counsel Emeritus

NATIONAL
OFFICE
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

April 11, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

For the information of the War Refugee Board I quote from a report which Hias has received from Mr. Spanien of our European office who recently had occasion to visit Barcelona and Madrid:

"Clandestine Arrivals - The rate at present is - 200 Poles a month cross the border; 60 Frenchmen at most among whom a few Jews and 25 to 30 Jews of various nationalities. The crossing seems very hard for the young. The sum demanded for each crossing is 3,500 to 5,000 pesetas for children and 8,000 to 12,000 pesetas for adults. The difference in prices varies according to the distances, whether the person starts from Toulouse or Paris."

Very truly yours,

LOUIS E. SPEDLER
Counsel

LES:vrp

000560

APR 11 1944

My dear Mr. Minister:

Mr. S. Bertrand Jacobson is planning to visit Europe as a representative of the Hebrew Sheltering & Immigrant Aid Society and the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association, with the approval of the War Refugee Board. It is contemplated that in the course of the proposed trip, Mr. Jacobson will contact representatives of the Board in the countries visited in order to establish the closest possible cooperation between the Board and the organizations he represents. The Board is desirous of taking advantage of the services of any private agency which can be of assistance in its work of bringing relief to and facilitating the evacuation of refugees in Europe.

It is felt that the efforts of Mr. Jacobson could be employed to advantage in the mutual efforts of our two governments in this work of mercy, and the Board would be deeply grateful for your assistance in expediting his application for a visa to your country.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Joao Antonio de Bianchi,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary of Portugal,
Washington, D. C.

RLSmith
LSLesser
als 4/10/44
JW

000561

April 10, 1944

Dear Mr. Herman:

In the ten weeks since the President created the War Refugee Board I have come in contact with representatives of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, and through them I have learned of the great and inspiring work your organization has been doing for six decades.

I send you my heartiest good wishes.

We of the War Refugee Board and you of HIAS are engaged in a common task. We approach the undertaking with hope and determination. Until the armies of Hitler and his satellites are crushed and the last vestige of their criminal power is exterminated, we will work hand-in-hand with you in the effort to save the Jews in Nazi-dominated Europe.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Abraham Herman, President,
Hebrew Sheltering & Immigrant Aid Society,
425 Lafayette Street,
New York, New York.

aa
H. Weinstein/sg 4/10/44 J.M.W.

000562

CONTROL COPY

2-War Refugee
Bd (Mr. Bedke)

TELEGRAM SENT

GEM
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Governmental
agency. (BR)

April 4, 1944

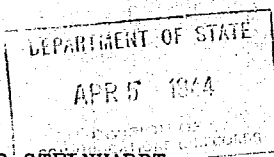
3 p.m.

file

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

295



FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO STEINHARDT

Board considers it important that David J.
Schweitzer, American citizen, presently in Palestine
as a representative of Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
proceed to Ankara.

Any assistance which you can give in facilitating
the issuance of his Turkish visa, which has been delayed,
will be appreciated.

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:OMH

NE

000563

MAX GOTTSCHALK
President
JOHN L. BERNSTEIN
Chairman, Executive Committee
ABRAHAM HERMAN
Honorary Secretary
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ILJA DIJOUR

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AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND
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177
212
HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (HICEM)
386 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS:
HICEM-NEW YORK

TELEPHONE:
MURRAY HILL 3-2845

European Headquarters:
"HICEM"
Rua Rodrigo Da Fonseca 49
LISBON, PORTUGAL

March 30, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Room 228 Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

✓ The Belgian Refugee Committee took care
of 1000 German children. One of these children, after having
sojourned in France since 1940 arrived in this country a few
weeks ago.

✓ She has interesting information to give
concerning the situation in France and the Pyrenees. She does
not want to give this information, but I am quite sure that
if she would be invited to do so, she would answer any questions
that would be of interest. She is very reliable and I am quite
sure that she would only give information that would be correct.

Her name is:

Inge Berlin
o/o Mrs. Altschul
718 W. 178 St.
New York City

Sincerely yours,

Max Gottschalk
Max Gottschalk

MG/BB

200564

March 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Spiegler:

Thank you for your kind invitation to the spring luncheon of the Women's Division of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society. I wish that I might accept it. But the pressure of the work I am doing is such that I cannot commit myself to leave Washington for even a short trip in May.

I should like to suggest as a possible substitute Miss Anne Laughlin, one of my special assistants, who could very capably present the work of the War Refugee Board to the women of HIAS.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) John W. Pehle

John W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Louis E. Spiegler, Counsel
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society
1317 F Street, Northwest
Washington 4, D. C.

VW:ant

000565

WASHINGTON OFFICE

HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY
(HIAS)

431

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Ans.

No. Ans. Req.

Initial

Date

March 28, 1944

1317 F Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
National 6120

WASHINGTON 4, D. C.

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel

ABRAHAM ROCKMORE
Assistant Counsel

ISMORE HERSHFIELD
Counsel Emeritus

NATIONAL
OFFICE
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

On behalf of the Women's Division of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), I hereby cordially invite you to be its guest at its Annual Spring Luncheon to be held in New York City on May 7, 1944.

As you know, the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society is a philanthropic organization in existence over half a century, extending its services gratis to those in need on visa, immigration, naturalization, and kindred matters. The Women's Division is a group of volunteer women workers who implement and supplement the work of the organization. I am sure that a message from you will be enthusiastically received and will hearten and encourage those interested in this humanitarian effort.

In your capacity as Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, we know that you will from time to time come in contact with our organization here and abroad.

I am hopeful that you will be able to honor the Women's Division of HIAS with your presence at its Annual Spring Luncheon.

Assuring you of our deep appreciation for your thoughtful consideration of this invitation,

Respectfully yours,

Louis E. Spiegler
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel K

WASHINGTON OFFICE
HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY
(HIAS)

1317 F Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
National 6120

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel

ABRAHAM ROCKMORE
Assistant Counsel

ISIDORE HERSHFIELD
Counsel Emeritus

NATIONAL
OFFICE
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

March 28, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

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In your capacity as Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, we know that you will from time to time come in contact with our organization here and abroad.

I am hopeful that you will be able to honor the Women's Division of HIAS with your presence at its Annual Spring Luncheon.

Assuring you of our deep appreciation for your thoughtful consideration of this invitation,

Respectfully yours,

Louis E. Spiegler
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel K

cc: Mr. Weinstein

file

000567

March 21, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Stewart has taken up with Mr. Warren the application of
Mr. S. Bertrand Jacobson, representative of HIAS for an air priority.

Menn:dn

Handwritten notes:
... 207 ...
...
...

000568

HEBREW SHELTERING and IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

425 LAFAYETTE ST., NEW YORK 3, N.Y.
Telephone ALgonquin 4-2900

Overseas Central Office: HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASSN (HICEM)
Lisbon, Portugal

U. S. B. 349
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Mrs. A. Herman
Miss Elizabeth Lesser

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A. Baron
Louie Gollack
Barney Greenberg
Mrs. Rose Tobachalck
Abraham S. Wilk
Louis Zatz

Women's Council
Mrs. Herman J. Lefert

March 19, 1944

J.W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Department,
Washington, 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Please accept my very best thanks for your most helpful letter of March 14th, advising me that my mission abroad on behalf of HIAS and HICEM has the approval of the War Refugee Board. I shall not fail, in conformity with your request, to place myself in contact with your representatives in the countries I plan to visit in order to establish the closest possible cooperation in the accomplishment of our tasks.

I hope I shall have the pleasure of another talk with you in Washington early this week.

With renewed thanks, I am

Very respectfully yours,

S. Bertrand Jacobson
S. Bertrand Jacobson

SBJ:JA

100569

MAR 14 1944

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

Your contemplated trip abroad as a representative of HIAS and HICEM has the approval of this Board. You are requested to make yourself known and give all cooperation to the Board's representatives in the countries that you visit, and the Board's representatives abroad are, by these presents, requested to extend to you all appropriate assistance.

Very truly yours,

(signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. S. Bertrand Jacobson
✓ Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

*Handed to
Mr. Spiegel
3/15/44.*

ISL:essentials 3/14/44
L.S.L.

000970

MAR 14 1944

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

Your contemplated trip abroad as a representative of NIAS and NICEH has the approval of this Board. You are requested to make yourself known and give all cooperation to the Board's representatives in the countries that you visit, and the Board's representatives abroad are, by these presents, requested to extend to you all appropriate assistance.

Very truly yours,

(signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. S. Bertrand Jacobson
Hobbes Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

LSL:essentials 3/14/44

000571

Hebrew S. + Immigrant Aid - reg. file

WASHINGTON OFFICE

HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY
(HIAS)

1317 F Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
National 6120

March 6, 1944

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel

ABRAHAM ROCKMORE
Assistant Counsel

ISIDORE HERSHFIELD
Counsel Emeritus

NATIONAL
OFFICE
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Mr. S. Bertrand Jacobson is going abroad on behalf of our organization. No doubt when he reaches his destination, he will cooperate fully with the representatives of the War Refugee Board.

Mr. Jacobson has made an application with the International Communications Division of the State Department for a priority on the Clipper. He desires to leave sometime during the month of March.

Mr. Fohle of the War Refugee Board has suggested that you would expedite this priority. In these circumstances, I solicit your cooperation to this end.

Assuring you of our deep appreciation for whatever you can do in this matter,

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Spiegel
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel

Mr. Mari Stewart

If Jacobson is not cleared in time to make a boat leaving about March 17, Mrs. Spiegel will get in touch with us. No action necessary until then.

W.D. 3/8

Spiegler called. Jacobson not cleared. Wants assistance in obtaining Clipper priority for him.

W.D. 3/15

Take up with Mr. White's files

000572

WASHINGTON OFFICE
HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY
(HIAS)

1317 F Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
National 6120

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel

ABRAHAM ROCKMORE
Assistant Counsel

ISIDORE HERSHFIELD
Counsel Emeritus

NATIONAL
OFFICE
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

March 2, 1944

Mrs. Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Hodel:

Our Dr. Bernstein in Lisbon has cabled our New York office as follows:

ISRAV ZURICH CABLES THAT AMERICAN EMBASSY
SWITZERLAND UNINFORMED ABOUT CREATION WAR
REFUGEE BOARD STOP ZURICH COMMITTEE ACCOUNT
PROXIMITY FRANCE CAN RENDER VALUABLE
SERVICE

We thought it our duty to call this cable to your attention. We hardly believe it possible that the American Embassy in Switzerland would be uninformed.

Yours very truly,

Louis E. Spiegel
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel

200573

MAR 2 1944

Dear Mr. Herman:

Please accept my warm greetings on the occasion of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society's annual meeting. Your great work in bringing aid and comfort to the victims of Hitler's cruel persecution needs no praise from me. A record of accomplishment speaks for itself.

The War Refugee Board deeply appreciates HIAS' wholehearted cooperation in the task which ~~has come to be recognized as a~~ it has undertaken. ~~responsibility of Government. In a democracy such as ours, the Government is the people's. For the Jews have been banished together for sixty years and have only recently been officially recognized as a distinct people. Only sixty days are dedicated to a joint undertaking. Together we bear the responsibility. Together we shall share the satisfaction of accomplishment.~~

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Abraham Herman, President
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

*Handed to Miss Kaplan,
Secy to Mr. Pfeiffer 3/3/44
L.S.L.*

LS Lessersals 3/2/44
VM Mannon

[Signature]

000574

MAR 2 1944

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(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Abraham Herman, President
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

LSL:VM:JWP:lh 3/2/44

000575

DIGEST OF HIAS' REPLY TO CIRCULAR LETTER
OF FEBRUARY 8, 1944

HIAS' response is divided into two parts: (1) An outline of a program and (2) a description of the HIAS facilities which are at the disposal of the Board.

The program is outlined in the broadest of terms but stresses three major points:

(1) The contiguous neutrals must be persuaded to leave their frontiers open to refugees.

(2) Temporary havens and maintenance and support must be supplied refugees in such places as Spain, Portugal, and North Africa, and arrangements must be made for the emigration of large numbers of such refugees from such temporary havens to Palestine, North and South America, and other places of immigration. Assurance that this point can be activated will aid in accomplishing point (1) above.

(3) The fact that contiguous neutral frontiers are open must be widely publicized in the occupied areas by shortwave and otherwise. These broadcasts should stress the fact that the United States has set up a special Board "to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe--racial, religious, or political--of civilian victims of enemy savagery", and that every act of aid and comfort to a fleeing refugee is an act of humanity and an expression of sympathy for the cause of the United Nations".

The facilities which HIAS offers consist of personnel trained in emigration and immigration problems located throughout the world. Some of the HIAS representatives abroad are American citizens. HIAS also has several representatives now in the United States who are available for service abroad.

000576

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OF FEBRUARY 8, 1944

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LSLesser:ag:als 2/18/44

000577

In reply please
refer to: 97

FEB 16 1944

Dear Mr. Asofsky:

Thank you for your letter of February 10, 1944, and its enclosures, outlining suggestions and information for the aid of the War Refugee Board in formulating its rescue program.

Your cooperation and prompt response to our request for advice are greatly appreciated. We shall give very careful consideration to the suggestions and information which you have advanced.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director


Mr. Isaac L. Asofsky,
Executive Director,
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society,
425 Lafayette Street,
New York 3, New York.

EAT

2-14-44

000178

HEBREW SHELTERING and IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

97
FILING AUTHORITY
TO: Mail & Files
ANS. 
NO ANS. R-R

425 LAFAYETTE ST., NEW YORK 3, N.Y.
Telephone ALgonquin 4-2900 DATE.....

Overseas Central Office: HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASS'N (HICHEM)
Lisbon, Portugal

OFFICERS

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Abraham Herman

Vice-Presidents
Jacob Massel
Albert Rosenblatt
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Mrs. Rose Tabachnick
Abraham S. Wilk
Louis Zatz

Women's Council
Mrs. Herman J. Lofert

February 10, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In accordance with your request, we take pleasure in submitting, for your consideration, a number of suggestions which, we hope, may be helpful in the speedy implementation of the refugee rescue program which has been outlined in the President's Executive Order of January 22nd, 1944.

The Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), has been active in the field of immigrant and refugee aid work since 1884. As a result of its long experience, it has created and is maintaining an effective apparatus at home and abroad which has been successful in coping effectively with the various phases of the emigration problem and with the task of aiding the refugees since the advent of the Hitler regime. A brief description of the history and scope of our work will be found in subsequent paragraphs.

Cherishing the hope that the President's great humanitarian vision for the fulfillment of which he has called into being the War Refugee Board will be translated into reality at the earliest possible moment and that the rescue program will be furthered in a manner and in a measure commensurate with the urgent need, we are grateful for the opportunity you afforded us to submit such suggestions as may help to pave the way for the development of the initial stages of the rescue work. The suggestions which are listed below have to do with those phases of the task in which our organization can be particularly helpful.

① WORK IN THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES. The effectiveness of the first phases of the rescue program depends, of course, on the cooperation of the neutral countries which are adjacent to the Nazi dominated lands and upon the success of which, we hope, will attend the efforts of the War Refugee Board in securing the friendly cooperation of the respective governments. The number of victims of the Hitler persecution who are likely to make successful attempts at fleeing from their persecutors and reaching the frontiers of the neutral countries

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will, in a large measure, depend upon their knowledge that upon arrival at a neutral frontier they will not be sent back. / On the contrary, they will be received and aided. Assuming that the negotiations of our government to this effect will bring about such effective cooperation on the part of the neutral governments, it may be expected that considerable numbers of people will risk the dangers and make the attempt to find the much sought for refuge and asylum.

(2) In that event, the War Refugee Board will face the task of making the necessary arrangements for the reception and care of the arriving refugees. In this respect, the apparatus of HIAS which has had long experience, can be of considerable value and we hereby place its services at the disposal of the War Refugee Board.

(3) CONTACT WITH THE UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATIONS IN OCCUPIED LANDS. To bring about a continuous flow of refugees from the Nazi occupied lands to the adjacent neutral countries it will be necessary, it seems to us, to make use of certain propaganda methods and establish and maintain permanent contact with the underground organizations and movements in the occupied areas. Special announcements via short wave may be advisable for the purpose of informing the members of the underground and the democratic elements in the respective countries that the government of the United States has set up a special Board "to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe - racial, religious or political - all civilian victims of enemy savagery", and that every act of aid and comfort to a fleeing refugee is an act of humanity and an expression of sympathy for the cause of the United Nations.

However, more specific activities will have to be initiated and maintained for the attainment of the purpose. With this in view, HIAS is happy to be able to place at the disposal of the War Refugee Board a number of valuable contacts and the services of tried and experienced men who will loyally and heroically fulfill the assignments that will be given to them.

In addition, HIAS will be able to help in the implementation of this program with the aid of its former collaborators in France with whom we have had no contact since the total occupation of that country because of the restraints placed upon us by the provisions of the Trading With the Enemy Act. To re-establish contact with these people, through our committees in Portugal and Switzerland, it will be necessary for us to obtain the formal permission of our Government.

May we, in this connection, furnish you with additional details pertaining to a number of key men in the service of our organization who might be particularly helpful. I refer to Dr. Moritz Zingher, the director of the HIAS-ICA office in Bucarest, Rumania; to Dr. Alexander Klein, formerly director of the HIAS-ICA office in Zagreb, Yugoslavia; and Dr. Vittorio Valobra, former president of the HIAS-ICA committee in Genoa, Italy.

We have had information that Dr. Zingher has, on several occasions, endeavored to communicate from Bucarest with our correspondent in Turkey with a view to obtaining permission for the removal of children

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and adult refugees from Rumania to Turkey. At one time, there was current a report that the Rumanian government was prepared to allow the emigration of Jews in consideration of a ransom for each person. It unfortunately proved impossible to follow-up the contact and nothing became of the proposal. It may be worthwhile to make a new effort along this line.

Dr. Klein succeeded in fleeing from the Germans, first to Italy and then to Switzerland where he is at present. Because of his extensive experience and knowledge of this work, Dr. Klein is undoubtedly aware of the ways and means by which it may be possible to establish and maintain contact with the underground in Yugoslavia.

Dr. Valobra fled to Switzerland after the fall of Mussolini. He should be able to be greatly helpful in bringing about the rescue of those refugees who may be saved from the occupied part of Italy.

Similarly, if permission is granted us, contact may be established with the HIAS-ICA office which formerly functioned in Paris and subsequently in Marseille. The Marseille office had enjoyed the cooperation of the Vichy authorities until the occupation of Southern France. In December, 1942, the members of the HIAS-ICA staff in Marseille were obliged to move to Brive-la-Gaillarde, Department of Correze. As far as we know, the HIAS-ICA staff, now comprised of ten members, has compiled valuable information with regard to the refugees in France. The staff is headed by M. Vladimir Schah and M. A. Alexandre, both French citizens.

HIAS-ICA PERSONNEL THAT MAY BE UTILIZED. For handling other phases of the problem at home and abroad we offer the services of the personnel of HIAS and of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association which is comprised of men with many years of experience in this field.

The head of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal, is Dr. James Bernstein, a physician and social worker of New York, who has spent more than a decade in the service of our organization in various countries of Europe.

Dr. David J. Schweitzer, an experienced social worker, who has been in the service of the Joint Distribution Committee for many years and has headed the Dorsa Settlement work in the Dominican Republic, is now on a mission in our behalf in Palestine having accompanied the SS. Nyassa which sailed from Lisbon for Haifa in January and carried to Palestine the first large group (742) of Jewish refugees who left the Continent since the outbreak of the war, for Palestine. Dr. Schweitzer is expected to leave shortly for Turkey and Iran in the interest of our refugee aid program. His services may be made use of at your will. Dr. Schweitzer is an American citizen.

Another American has been recently added to the European staff of our organization. He is Mr. Bertrand Jacobson, a former United States Consul and for many years a representative of the Joint Distribution Committee abroad. Mr. Jacobson is now in the United States and is expected to leave for Europe soon.

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May we respectfully suggest that the effectiveness and usefulness of these men, if and when you decide to entrust them with the task of aiding in the implementation of the War Refugee Board program, would be greatly enhanced if, within the terms of the President's Executive Order, they be given the status as representatives of your Board.

REMOVAL TO TEMPORARY HAVENS; THE SHIPPING PROBLEM. The movement of refugees from occupied countries to neutral lands will be made that much easier if, as the President's Executive Order envisions, immediate steps are taken for the establishment of temporary havens in Spain, Portugal and North Africa, and if simultaneously steps are taken for the immigration of considerable numbers to Palestine, South and Central American countries and, for those in whose behalf U.S. immigration visas may be obtained, to the United States.

In Spain, where the HIAS-ICA organization has representatives, the services of the personnel there is available to the War Refugee Board. the HIAS-ICA affiliate in Zurich, Switzerland is, we understand, charged by the Swiss government to supervise the refugee aid activities. Switzerland being landlocked, it may prove to be impossible to remove any of those who now enjoy the hospitality of that country. However, arrangements may be made to move refugees from Switzerland to the Spanish border in sealed cars. The German authorities, on other occasions, had permitted such transfers. The refugees in Spain can easily be moved to North Africa and Palestine. In North Africa, where camps have already been established for the maintenance of refugees, HIAS-ICA has an office in Casablanca and Algiers, the services of which could be made available.

The provisions of the British White Paper with regard to Palestine keeps the doors of that country open to the immigration of over 30,000 Jews. Our recent experience with the SS. Nyassa could easily be duplicated many times.

The Canadian government recently consented to admit, for the duration refugee-family units from Portugal and Spain. The Canadian government can perhaps be prevailed upon to include individual refugees as well. Likewise, Mexico, Cuba and other western countries may be induced to accept refugees for the duration. Our own country will, undoubtedly, continue to admit immigrants within the quota immigration laws.

Of course, the question of limited shipping facilities is of paramount importance. However, it has been our experience that even during war time the problem can be overcome, particularly if the organizations engaged in this work will have the benefit of your Board's good will and cooperation. Here, again, with special reference to the chartering of neutral ships, the services of trained men may be invoked. Our committees abroad have had vast experience in arranging the transportation of refugees on neutral ships plying to Latin America and to these shores. This program of chartering neutral ships has been carried on by us, in cooperation with the Joint Distribution Committee since 1941. The Nyassa trip across the Mediterranean has been the most recent and notable example of what can be accomplished. Nor should sight be lost of the great boon that may come to the rescue program if the War Refugee

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Board will make available the space on those U.S. government ships which return from the European zone.

(b) RESCUE OF CHILDREN AND AGED PERSONS. It is difficult for helpless children under 14 years and persons over 60 years to leave an occupied country. There may be a possibility, on the urgent appeal of neutral countries, such as Switzerland, Sweden, Spain and Turkey, to have the German authorities consent to the departure from German dominated countries of these two categories of refugees. From an economic and military point of view, the persons concerned can serve no good purpose to the enemy.

Apparently there has been some discussion with regard to moving a large number of children from France to Switzerland. In December, 1944, HIAS received from its office in Lisbon the following cable:

NOT FOR PUBLICATION STOP INFORMED GOOD AUTHORITY
SWITZERLAND AUTHORIZED 1500 FRENCH JEWISH CHILDREN
ENTER COUNTRY STOP WILL CABLE WHEN NEWS CAN BE
RELEASED STOP TOO EARLY RELEASE MAY HARM PROJECT

The Government of Argentina has issued about a year ago, a Presidential decree under which that country expressed its readiness to admit 1,000 children. Several other South American countries have expressed similar willingness.

The action of our State Department in granting permission to the United States Committee for the Care of European Children for the admission of 5,000 children into the United States, is well known to you. The British government has repeatedly given expression to its readiness to admit children and adults into Palestine even under the provisions of the White Paper. The Canadian government has stated that it is prepared to permit the entry of at least 1,000 children. Unfortunately, none of these plans have materialized. All of these possibilities may again be revived by the action of the War Refugee Board.

RESCUE OF JEWISH CITIZENS OF NEUTRAL COUNTRIES. Information has come to us that there are a number of Jews of Turkish nationality in France who could be rescued if the Turkish Consulates in France cooperate in the issuance of certificates as to their Turkish nationality. A successful intervention with the Turkish government would make it possible for several hundred Jews to escape from Nazidom. As an example, in August, 1943, several groups of Spanish and Portuguese Jews were permitted by the German authorities in France to proceed to Spain and Portugal instead of being deported to "unknown destinations".

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF HIAS. May I, in conclusion, submit for your general information, the following brief history of HIAS and the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association. The purpose of HIAS, briefly stated, is to prepare European emigrants for settlement in new lands, to facilitate their lawful entry, assist and protect them enroute and to meet them upon their arrival in the countries of immigration and to provide them with food and shelter. To carry out its program, HIAS maintains branches in the United States and an agency for overseas work.

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The overseas agency is the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association, commonly known by its abbreviated name HICEM. Its headquarters now are located in Lisbon, Portugal. Branch offices are maintained in the European countries, North Africa, the Far East and in the Central and South American countries.

In countries overseas, HICEM maintains offices in emigration, transit and immigration countries. In the emigration and transit countries the services include - assistance to prospective emigrants in obtaining the various documents required by the consular services for the issuance of immigration visas; representation before governmental and consular authorities; efforts to locate on behalf of emigrants their relatives and friends and to obtain from the latter financial aid; transportation arrangements.

In the immigration countries, branch offices are maintained to receive immigrants upon arrival; to provide them with food and shelter and to assist them until they get a foothold. These offices also represent the immigrants before governmental authorities when the occasion arises; and endeavor to obtain favorable interpretations of the immigration laws.

Appreciating the courtesy you have extended to us and assuring you of our cooperation,

Respectfully yours,

Isaac L. Asofsky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AG

Encls

000584

OFFICES IN NORTH AMERICA

HEADQUARTERS:

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
425 Lafayette Street, New York

U. S. A.

HIAS, 1317 "F" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

HIAS, 1201 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

HIAS, Eutaw and Monument St., Baltimore, Md.

HIAS, 10 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.

HIAS, 130 N. Wells St., Chicago, Ill.

HIAS, 593 Market St., San Francisco, Calif.

HIAS, Smith Tower Annex, Seattle, Washington

HIAS, Ellis Island, New York Harbor, N.Y.

CANADA

Jewish Immigrant Aid Society of Canada (JIAS)
4806 Park Avenue, Montreal

JIAS, 455 Spadina Avenue, Toronto

JIAS, 616 Main Street, Winnipeg

OFFICES IN CENTRAL AMERICA

MEXICO: Comité Central Israelita de Mexico
Calle Cuba 81, altos, Mexico, D. F.

CUBA: Centro Israelita de Cuba
Calle Egido 504, Havana

OFFICES IN SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina: Sociedad de Protección a los Inmigrantes Israelitas
Calle Pueyrredon 633, Buenos Aires

Brazil: Jewish Colonization Association
Praça 15 Novembro 38A, Rio de Janeiro

Chile: Comité de Protección a los Inmigrantes Israelitas
Casilla 1196, Santiago de Chile

Uruguay: Sociedad de Protección a los Inmigrantes Israelitas
Calle Maldonado 1130, Montevideo

Paraguay: Comité Pro Inmigración y Colonización (Comicoel)
386 Calle Chile, Asunción

Colombia: Comité de Protección a los Inmigrantes Israelitas
Apartado aéreo 3819, Bogotá

Venezuela: Comité Israelita Pro-Refugiados
Apartado 513, Caracas

Ecuador: Comité de Protección a los Inmigrantes Israelitas
Casilla 837, Quito

Peru: Comité de Protección a los Inmigrantes Israelitas
Jirón Unión 808, Lima

Surinam: Commissie voor Oorlogsvluchtelingen
P.O.B. 7, Paramaribo

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PERSONNEL IN THE UNITED STATES AVAILABLE FOR ABROAD

Bertrand Jacobson: American citizen. Former American Consul in France, Egypt and Norway. With the United Seamen's Service in London as regional director in England. Representative of the Joint Distribution Committee in Balkan countries from 1940 to 1942.

Abraham Rockmore: American citizen; attorney, in charge of the Philadelphia office of the HIAS.

Ilja DiJour: Polish citizen, first papers; Executive Secretary of the Hias-Ica since 1927. Author of numerous studies on migration problems.

Leon Alter: Polish citizen. From 1921 to 1925, important official in the Repatriation and Emigration Department of the Polish Ministry of Labor and Social Security. From 1925 to 1927, Director of the Hias office in Warsaw; from 1927 to 1939, Director of the Hias-Ica affiliated committee in Warsaw; from 1939 to 1940, served in the Hias-Ica in France. Now in the United States, doing research work for the Polish Government-in-Exile.

Alexandre Shapiro: Stateless. Member of staff of the Hias-Ica in Paris, Marseille and Lisbon. Previously with the Agrofjoint and Joint Distribution Committee.

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PERSONNEL ABROAD

- Dr. James Bernstein: American citizen, Hias representative in Europe since 1924. Co-Director of the main office of the Hias-Jca in Paris 1927-1940; in charge of our European offices since June, 1940. Now in Portugal.
- Dr. David J. Schweitzer: American citizen, Honorary Consul of the Dominican Republic, Director of the European Council of the J.D.C. 1920-1939; Director General of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association (DORSA) 1941-1942. Representative at large of the HIAS-JCA since June 1943. Now in Palestine
- Raphael Spanien: French citizen, war veteran. In the service of the Hias-Jca in France since 1933; in charge of our office in Casablanca during the year 1941; secretary of our Lisbon office since Pearl Harbor. Now in Spain.
- Jacques Oettinger: French citizen, war veteran; presently engaged in military service, but allowed by his superiors to supervise our work. Now in Casablanca.
- Elie Gozlan: French citizen, director of our committee in Algiers for many decades. Now in Algiers.

VOLUNTEERS ABROAD

- Professor Amzalak: Portuguese citizen, President of the local committee in Lisbon; industrialist, closely connected with government circles, especially with Premier Salazar. Now in Portugal.
- Helene Benatar: French citizen, Avocat a la Cour. Connected with the Hias-Jca main office in Paris since 1930. President of the local committee in Casablanca taking care of the Jewish refugees for the account of the J.D.C. Now in Casablanca.
- Charles Passman: Palestinian citizen, in charge of the colonization work of the Jca in Palestine.
- Sylvain Guggenheim: President of Committee in Zurich, Switzerland
- Vittorio Valobra: Italian citizen. Attorney and former president of the Italian Jewish Immigration Committee in Genoa. Now in Switzerland.
- Dr. Alexander Klein: Former director of the committee in Zagreb. Now in Switzerland.
- Dr. Moritz Zingher: Roumanian citizen, attorney; in charge of committee in Bucarest since 1939. Understand he is still in Bucarest.

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OFFICES IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

France: Union Generale des Israelites de France 6eme Direction
(HICEM)
Brive (Correze)

Affiliated Committees in Marseille, Nice, Bordeaux,
Lille, Le Havre, Strasbourg, Lyon, Toulouse, Perpignan,
Limoges.

Belgium: Comite d'Assistance aux Refugies
25/27 Rue Roger Van der Weyden, Brussels

EZRA
155 Rue Longue d'Argile, Antwerp

Holland: Comite voor Joodsche Vluchtelingen
366 Lijubaansgracht, Amsterdam

Italy: Delegazione per l'Assistenza agli Emigranti Ebrei
(DELASEM)
Via Colombo 7/5, Genoa

Yugoslavia: Hias Jca Emigration Association (HICEM)
Ul. Palmoticeva 16, Zagreb

Rumania: Hias Jca Emigration Association (HICEM)
28 Strada Cauzasi, Bucarest

Hungary: Magyar Israelita Partfogó Iroda
Bethlen Gabor Ter 2, Budapest

Czechoslovakia: Judische Kultusgemeinde
Josefstaedlergasse 9, Prague

Poland: JEAS
Pl. Grzybowski 10, Warsaw
Affiliated committees in 10 cities.

Lithuania: Hias-Jca Emigration Association
Kestucio g-ve 63, Kaunas

Latvia: Hias-Jca Emigration Association
Meierovica Blvd 18, Riga
Also office in Libau

Finland: Juutalainen Seurakunta
Helsinki

Shanghai: Far Eastern Jewish Central Information Bureau
P.O. Box 1426, Shanghai

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ACTIVE OFFICES IN EUROPE AND AFRICA

EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS:
PORTUGAL

HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION
Rua Rodrigo da Fonseca 49, Lisbon, Portugal

Spain:

Dr. Samuel Sequerra, Portuguese citizen.
Address: Hotel Bristol, Barcelona.

French Morocco:

HIAS-JCA EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION
35 Rue du Pas de Calais, Casablanca

Algeria:

Comite d'Aide Aux Refugies
2, Impasse Bresnier, Algiers

Mozambique:

Council for Refugee Settlement
P.O. B. 940, Lourenco Marques

South Africa:

Council for Refugee Settlement
102 London House, Loveday Street
Johannesburg

Turkey:

Mr. Goldin (Zahavi)
Representative of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul,
and correspondent of the Hias-Jca

Switzerland:

Verband Schweiz. Juedische Fluechtlingshilfen
Lavaterstrasse 57, Zurich 2

Sweden:

Mosaiska Foersamlingen
Wahrendorgatan 3, Stockholm

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DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND
THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE CONCERNING THE REQUEST FOR CHILDREN'S ADMISSION
TO ARGENTINE

DECRETE No. 136320

Document 34-343-942

Buenos Aires, November 20, 1942

Considering the steps taken by the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations in order to obtain the admission to this country of children who are presently in concentration camps in Europe, whom these Associations engaged themselves to maintain and guard until their majority; and

WHEREAS in view of the information afforded on the dangerous situation of said children, the request may be satisfied and the necessary measures taken in view of the youths' identification

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE NATION

D E C R E E S :

Art.1.- The Direction of Immigration is authorized, on the request of the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations, to give instructions to the Argentine Consulates General nearest to the concentration camps on the European continent, where children under fourteen years of age are interned, so that they authorize their immigration to Argentine, provided individual files are established, comprising photographs, fingerprints and documents afforded by the children themselves. In case the latter cannot present any documents concerning their identity, the Consulates will establish the files on the basis of the corresponding information. The number of children to be admitted under these conditions is limited to 1,000, who are to immigrate until the end of 1942 and during the year 1943.

Art.2.- The above functionaries shall not grant visas to children who do not fulfill the health conditions demanded by the Immigration Law or the regulations effective in this respect.

Art.3.- Through the intermediary of the Defensor of Minor Children, the youths who arrive on the basis of this decree will be entrusted to persons whose solvency is recognized, and who are proposed by the Argentine Jewish Associations. Until this is completed, the children will remain in the Immigrants' Hotel.

Art.4.- The expenses involved by the conveyance of the children to the said homes, as well as by their sojourn in the Hotel, will be charged to the Argentine Jewish Associations, who are also obliged to support them until their majority.

Art.5.- To be transmitted to the Direction of Immigration and to whom it may concern, for application.

Signed : CASTILLO
AMADEO Y VIDELA

100591

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO VICHY
AND MR. EUGENE SCHAH, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HICEM OFFICE, BRIVE
CONCERNING 1,000 CHILDREN FOR ARGENTINE

- 1/ Age.- According to the decree only children under 14 years of age are concerned.
- 2/ Origin.- Jewish children of various nationalities (German, Polish, etc. from countries presently occupied by the Axis) but all of them originating from the European continent.
Most of these children are presently in the colonies of the 3rd Direction of the Union Générale des Israélites de France, and the majority come from the internment camps of Gurs, Rivesaltes, Nexon, etc.
- 3/ Documents.- The U.G.I.F. will collect all the documents which the children now possess; on the basis of these documents, the Consulates will be in a position to establish individual cards comprehending personal data, photographs and fingerprints.
- 4/ Medical examination.- The children will be presented to physicians to be designated by the Consulates of the Argentine Republic.
- 5/ Argentine immigration visas, transit visas and French exit visas.- They will be affixed on the travelling documents extended by the Consulates, or on the safe-conducts issued by the French authorities.
- 6/ Procedure.- The medical examination, the establishment of cards, the affixing of visas will be arranged by the Consulates in accordance with the instructions which will be issued to them by the Embassy of the Argentine Republic. In view of the location of the children colonies in France, where the interested children reside, the Argentine Consulates which are nearest to their present domicile are those of Lyons, Nice, Pau.
- 7/ Conveyance.- To the Spanish frontier, the children should be accompanied by conveyors of the "Health" Direction of the U.G.I.F. and Red-Cross nurses, or by the latter only. At the frontier, they should be entrusted to the medico-social personnel from Lisbon or Buenos-Aires.
- 8/ Departure.- In principle, the children will leave on one single Portuguese or Spanish ship, especially chartered for that purpose. They will leave France in groups of about 100 at a time, if possible.
- 9/ Place of exit from France.- Corbère or Hendaye. In the second case, after agreement of the authorities of occupation, it will be necessary to obtain a special authorization for the crossing of the demarcation line, and transit via occupied zone.

Made in Vichy
June 8, 1943

000592

FEB 9 1944

Dear Mr. Herman:

Your letter addressed to President Roosevelt concerning the new War Refugee Board has been referred to this office.

The interest of your organization in the President's new program of help to the persecuted minorities of Europe is deeply appreciated. I assure you that everything in our power will be done to see that effective action is taken to carry out the policy of this Government to save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

Your offer of service and help to the Board is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Abraham Herman,
President,
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society,
425 Lafayette Street,
New York 3, N. Y.

JW ✓
YHodel:hd 2/8/44

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HEBREW SHELTERING and IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

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TO: Mail & Files

ANS.

NO ANS. REQ.

INITIAL



425 LAFAYETTE ST., NEW YORK 5, N. Y.
Telephone ALgonquin 4-2900

Overseas Central Office: HIAS-ICA EMIGRATION ASS'N (HICEM)
Lisbon, Portugal

January 27, 1944

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Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

The Board of Directors of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society wishes to express its profound appreciation for your executive order establishing a War Refugee Board charged with the responsibility for the inauguration of effective means for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, and the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims.

Your executive order, which is in full accord with the humanitarian tradition of the American Government, has evoked nationwide approval and enthusiasm, in which we most heartily join.

The Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society has been active in the field of immigration and Americanization for six decades and has exerted every possible effort to save many thousands of people from the persecution abroad by helping them to find havens of refuge.

In its desire further to aid these oppressed people, and in accordance with Paragraph 4 of your executive order, the Board of Directors has the honor to inform you that it has resolved to place at the disposal of the War Refugee Board the services of its offices and personnel at home and abroad, and to offer its participation in the cost of the undertaking. In accordance with this resolution, it has this day forwarded to the War Refugee Board a contribution of \$100,000.

Very respectfully yours

Abraham Herman

President

AG

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

TO Mr. Pehle
FROM L. S. Lesser

January 31, 1944

On Friday afternoon, January 28, 1944, the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society donated \$100,000 to the War Refugee Board for the purposes of the Board and offered the facilities and services of the Society to the Board in its work. On Saturday morning and part of Saturday afternoon, I conferred in New York with Isaac L. Asofsky, the Society's Executive Director, and Miss Elizabeth Lesser (the writer's aunt), President of the Society's Womens' Division. The purpose of the discussions was to ascertain what facilities and services the Society had which might be utilized, directly or indirectly, by the Board.

The Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, known as HIAS, is the result of a merger in 1909 of the Hebrew Sheltering House Association, organized in 1884, and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society which was founded in 1902. The basic purpose of HIAS in the United States has been to assist American residents to help their relatives abroad in immigration matters. This included arranging for passports and visas, transportation to points of embarkation, providing shelter enroute, arranging for steamship accommodations, reception and shelter at the place of debarkation pending departure for permanent place of settlement, the procurement of employment and advice, assistance and education with a view to naturalization. Mr. Asofsky told me that while the organization had no nationally known names among its officers or trustees, it was nevertheless able to function efficiently and to secure the necessary funds because there were in the United States 500,000 or more persons whom it had helped, directly or indirectly, in immigration matters. The Society does identical work on behalf of immigrants to Latin America.

In order to effectuate its purpose, the Society maintains headquarters at 425 Lafayette Street, New York City (the former Astor Library) and branches in Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco and Seattle. Its general counsel maintains his office in Washington, D. C., where he spends his time working out visa, passport and other immigration problems with the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Society also maintains offices in practically every Latin American country, for the most part staffed by citizens of the countries in which they are located.

In Europe, the Society is a participant with the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA) in the Hias-Ica Emigration Association, commonly known as HICEM, which prepares prospective immigrants for immigration by helping them

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obtain passports, visas and transportation to whatever country they want to go and which will permit their entry. At the present time, since all prospective immigrants are refugees and most of them are penniless, the Society, in conjunction with the JDC, has made available a fund which is used to help refugees who lack the means of purchasing their own transportation. Thus, the Society recently advanced \$70,000 toward defraying the expense of the current voyage of Nyassa from Lisbon to Palestine. The Society is not a relief organization and dispenses relief only to the extent of making available sheltering facilities to immigrants at or about the places of embarkation and again at the places of debarkation, until more permanent settlement arrangements can be made.

The Society maintains its principal European office at Lisbon. This office is in charge of Dr. James Bernstein, an American citizen, and a staff of Portuguese experienced in immigration work. Affiliated branch offices are maintained at Barcelona, Casablanca, Algiers and Zurich. Affiliated correspondent offices are maintained at Stockholm and London. Prior to enemy occupation, offices were also maintained at Marsailles and Shanghai and in Poland, Holland, Rumania and Hungary. The New York headquarters has no information as to whether the offices in occupied countries are still in existence. It has been learned, however, that the Marsailles office has been moved "inland." The opinion was expressed that the people in Zurich might know whether these offices still function in any way. It was stated, however, that the Society would know how and with whom to communicate in Poland, Holland, Rumania and Hungary to ascertain whether a nucleus of the organizations still remains.

David M. Schweitzer, a United States citizen who was formerly associated with the JDC in its Dominican settlement project, is now enroute to Palestine, as a representative of the Society and he will proceed throughout the Near East (Turkey, Iran, etc.) to ascertain generally what can be done to bring relief to refugees in Russia, principally relatives or friends of American citizens. In this connection, the Society has for some time been taking a census of the names and last known addresses of relatives and friends of American citizens who were located in enemy-occupied territory, and has comprehensive files of such information. Periodically, the Society receives from Switzerland lists of refugees arriving there, with a statement of the age, nationality, and religious affiliation of each.

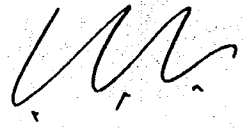
The Society has never engaged in "unlawful" or "clandestine" operations. It has at this time no contact with any underground. It does, however, have agents in strategic places who may be able to communicate, if such communication be permitted by the United States Government, with any number of persons known to the Society in occupied-territory.

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As a practical suggestion for the Board's modus operandi, Mr. Asofsky suggested that the Board ask all private organizations having an interest in its work, to operate jointly through a liaison officer appointed by the Board. Mr. Asofsky stated that this technique, used by UNRRA, will not save the Board from every inter-organization squabble, but will save the Board from most of the petty ones. In other words, Mr. Asofsky said that if each organization were required to discuss any project or program it might have with the liaison officer and representatives of all the other organizations, the Board will be spared the unnecessary work of dealing with a great many hair-brained ideas. On the other hand, Mr. Asofsky said the liaison officer and the conference of organizations, over which he would preside, should not have the power to prevent an organization from presenting to the Board a program which the conference disapproved; it should merely act as a first sounding board for the individual ideas of the organizations.

Mr. Asofsky told me that there was presently in the United States a member of the Society's staff, a Mr. Gotschall, who, as I understand it, has recently returned from abroad and is fully cognizant of the present situation and the problems which are to be met. I gathered that Mr. Gotschall might also have some ideas as to how to meet them.

Mr. Asofsky would very much like to come down with Mr. Gotschall and one of the principal officers of the Society and discuss the whole matter with you. They will only come down if requested. I strongly urge such a request be made today.



1/29/44 2:00 P.M.

Received from Mr. Pehle's office check to
War Refugee Board, dated 1/27/44, for
\$100,000.00 from Hebrew Sheltering and
Immigrant Aid Society.

L. G. Williams
(in Mr. Collins' office)

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HEBREW SHELTERING AND
IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

425 Lafayette St., New York 3, N. Y.

January 27, 1944

War Refugee Board
c/o Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We are pleased to send you herewith our check for \$100,000. as a contribution towards furthering your efforts to save the victims of enemy oppression and the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims.

We are also enclosing, for your information, copy of our letter to President Roosevelt.

Respectfully yours,
(signed) Abraham Herman
President

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RECEIVED
JAN 29 1944

January 27, 1944

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

The Board of Directors of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society wishes to express its profound appreciation for your executive order establishing a War Refugee Board charged with the responsibility for the inauguration of effective means for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, and the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims.

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In its desire further to aid these oppressed people, and in accordance with Paragraph 4 of your executive order, the Board of Directors has the honor to inform you that it has resolved to place at the disposal of the War Refugee Board the services of its offices and personnel at home and abroad, and to offer its participation in the cost of the undertaking. In accordance with this resolution, it has this day forwarded to the War Refugee Board a contribution of \$100,000.

Very respectfully yours,

President

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