

International Rescue and Relief Committee

SEP 12 1945

Dear Dr. Kingdon:

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

Dr. Frank Kingdon,  
International Rescue and Relief  
Committee,  
Suite 902,  
103 Park Avenue,  
New York 17, N. Y.

Enclosure.

74  
FH:nd 9/5/45



# Bulletin

News from the  
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE and RELIEF COMMITTEE

June-July, 1945

Vol. 1, No. 2

## MATERIAL AID VITAL FOR REFUGEES

JUST APPOINTED an accredited agency for the distribution of Intergovernmental Committee funds, the IRRC Paris office has received an initial grant of 75,000 francs for distribution to German and Austrian refugees. This sum covers a two and one-half month period. The grant has enabled the IRRC to add twenty urgent cases to the list of those families receiving the bulk of their maintenance from the Committee.

Living conditions, especially in the large cities, have in no way improved during the last few months, writes the Paris office. Acute shortages of almost every commodity place additional burdens on the hundreds of refugees who have only recently emerged from prisons or work camps, and who are in need of clothing, housing and medicines as well as jobs.

Housing is one of the major problems. An apartment with a kitchen, renting at reasonable rates, is almost unheard of in Paris. "One is considered lucky," the Paris report declares, "to have unearthed a filthy dark hole in a dreadful hotel at 700 francs a month. As there is no way to prepare meals, or do washing, meals must be taken in restaurants and about 400 francs a

month must be paid for laundry."

Restaurant food and prices make it almost impossible for those without cooking facilities to be adequately fed. Factory canteens provide lunches at about 20 francs, but the minimum charge for a meal at a private restaurant is 50 francs, and that meal is satisfying only to those with very small appetites. For 100 francs, what is now known in Paris as "a decent meal" may be procured. A typical menu at that price would be a small bowl of fish soup, an omelet made with one egg, spinach and bread. The IRRC food packages, which contain many ready-to-eat items such as tinned meat, are especially valuable for refugees without kitchens.

As far as clothing is concerned, all textiles are scarce and expensive, but the most critical need is for shoes. Since last month, the IRRC has been buying shoe repair kits for the Paris office, in addition to the shoes contributed by members and friends. Each repair kit contains soles, heels, nails, wax thread, and other necessary cobbling tools. Current prices for men's shoes are about 3,000 francs per pair, and repairs cost from 1,000 to 2,000 francs.

### IRRC Planning Greek Program

Now awaiting the final go-ahead signal from UNRRA is the IRRC's Greek project, designed to supplement the UNRRA program of aid to refugees and displaced persons in that country. As soon as official approval has been obtained, Melvin and Pauline Blum, IRRC workers now in Greece, will be released by UNRRA to begin work on the Committee's projects.

UNRRA has already agreed to cooperate with the Committee in coordinating the two programs to provide the most complete and well-rounded plan of assistance possible.

Although the program as a whole is necessarily tentative at this time, it seems certain that the payment of resettlement costs in special cases, and the provision of additional aid to those whose need exceeds the limitations of shelter assistance, will be among the most valuable of the services which the Committee will offer in Greece.

### Food and Clothing Needs Still Urgent

Even a United States dollar is less valuable to a refugee in Europe today than a pair of second-hand shoes, or a food package containing sugar, cocoa, rice, tinned meat, or another of the essential products now almost unprocurable abroad, report IRRC observers in Paris and Rome.

The IRRC's year-round clothing drive so far has yielded sufficient clothing for three shipments, in a slow but steady progression towards the aim of supplying each person on the IRRC lists with one complete summer, and one winter outfit. Of no small help, in reaching this goal, was a recent gift of 240 pairs of women's stockings in perfect repair, collected over a period of months by an IRRC member of long standing.

Supplementary food supplies are a

### Priority Put On Spanish Relief

A graphic picture of the straits in which Spanish Republican refugees in France now find themselves is revealed in the latest report from the IRRC Paris branch, now in full charge of the Committee's Spanish relief program in Europe.

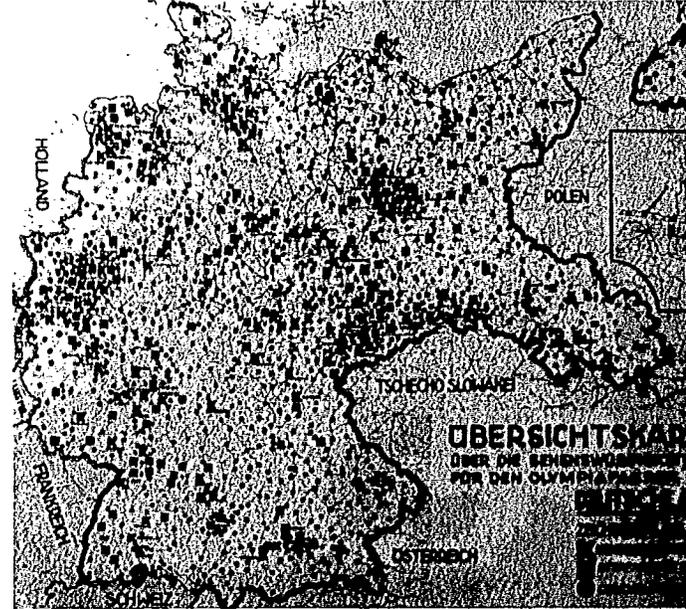
Of the 685 cases studied by the Committee, 89 per cent are seriously maimed, disabled or blind, tubercular, or partially disabled and consequently unable to work without interruption. Only 6 per cent were temporary cases, needing help to tide them over a period of illness or unemployment. The remaining 5 per cent are war widows with large families, or the wives and families of men deported from the Vernet camp in France, or still in prison in Spain.

Among these cases are many of particular interest and pathos, notably that of the veteran who escaped unscathed from the Spanish war only to be totally disabled while fighting with the French resistance movement.

There is an unusually large number of minor children on the Committee's lists, calling for a special type of aid. Most of these children have received no schooling at all, having lived until recently in concentration camps and internment camps. In addition to food, clothing and medical care, these children must be enabled to attend school regularly.

Two-thirds of the Spanish Republicans now being assisted by the Committee are manual workers. The balance are writers, scholars, and intellectuals.

more difficult problem. Besides bulk shipments of food sent whenever possible from both the United States and Switzerland, individual food packages are being mailed to Paris in an effort to ensure regular supplies.



### THE FORGOTTEN VETERANS

This is a map of pre-war Germany: of Hitler's Reich in 1936, ostensibly at peace except with its own citizens, as can be seen from the number of jails and concentration camps needed to hold those caught by the Gestapo. And some of these early opponents of Hitler have survived, in the camps, to emerge into a free world in which their magnificent history of resistance is forgotten, and their very existence denied.

Were all Germans pro-Hitler, out of fear if not conviction? These pitiful remnants of the immense army of active anti-Nazis in Germany confound that careless judgment. The victims of the concentration camps, the anti-Nazis who fled Hitler's Gestapo to find precarious refuge in other countries of Europe, are all veterans of the war against fascism. But they are veterans

without decorations, without recognition, without a GI bill of rights.

These veterans, like all others more than most others, need making the transition to a normal life. The IRRC is one of the organizations now planning, possible, to do relief work for concentration camp victims in Germany. But they are being lumped with the mass of Germans, receiving a food ration which is inadequate at best, disastrous to people who have been undernourished and mistreated.

The material needs of these veterans must be recognized. They have a claim on the democracies for food, and medical care. But beyond that, they need and they deserve full recognition for what they have done, as democrats as brave men, and as Germans.

## Notes from the Field...

**ROME**—Second of the Committee's American representatives to arrive in Western Europe, Edna List is now in Rome to direct and supervise the work of the IRRC's Italian office.

Miss List is an experienced social worker, with extensive training in international case work. In her first cable from Rome, she reports that food scarcities and the lack of men's clothing are the immediate difficulties to be tackled. One of the projects now being developed, said Miss List, is that of opening a restaurant for mass feeding of IRRC cases in Rome.

At the head of the IRRC's Italian Committee is Emilio Lussu, who holds the position of Minister of Postwar Relief in the new Italian cabinet.

**MEXICO CITY**—At the suggestion of a group of IRRC members in Mexico, most of whom are European refugees for whom the Committee procured entrance to Mexico, a food package service for needy refugees abroad is now being set up.

Food will be purchased in bulk from Venezuela, Guatemala, and other South and Central American countries where

food supplies are not only plentiful but inexpensive. These supplies will be packaged and sold, at a nominal profit of one dollar per package, to those wishing to send material aid to their relatives or friends in Europe. The profits will then cover the cost of food packages sent by the IRRC to refugee families having no friends in Mexico.

**STOCKHOLM**—Added to the relief projects of the Swedish Committee only six months ago, the vocational training and educational program carried out by the Stockholm Stads Committee for Stateless Refugees, with funds provided by the IRRC, has so far proved an unqualified success.

In this first period, 56 young people have benefited from the program by receiving technical training or continuing with general education, at an average cost of \$116 for the six-month course. Among the fields chosen for training were agriculture, social work, nursing, photography, and beauty culture. Fourteen of the 56 attended high schools, and twelve attended "technical" schools, which in the United States would be considered high schools specializing in scientific subjects.

## INTERNATIONAL RESCUE and RELIEF COMMITTEE

103 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17  
LExington 2-7916

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FREDA KIRCHWEY, *Vice-Chairman*  
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DOROTHY THOMPSON  
OSWALD O. VILLARD



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

International Rescue and Relief Committee,  
Suite 902,  
103 Park Avenue,  
New York 17, New York.

EBT:inp 6/26/45

MAY 24 1945-

Dear Miss Strunsky:

There is enclosed herewith a photostatic copy of a report received from Mrs. Klise Ottesen-Jensen which was received from our representative in Sweden through the United States Legation in Stockholm.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel  
Acting Executive Director

Miss Sheba Strunsky,  
Executive Secretary,  
International Rescue and Relief Committee,  
109 Park Avenue,  
New York 17, New York.

Enclosure.

EBT EBT:inp 5/22/45



LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

848/ICO/MET

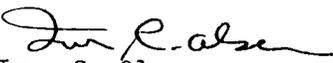
April 27, 1945

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

After numerous attempts, we have finally been able to obtain a report from Mrs. Elise Ottesen-Jensen, covering her activities on behalf of the International Rescue and Relief Committee. It would be appreciated if the Board would make a copy of this report available to Miss Strunsky.

Sincerely yours,

  
Iver C. Olsen  
Special Attaché for  
War Refugee Board

Attachment - 1

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE AND RELIEF COMMITTEE,

New York. -

I have been asked by Mr. Iver O. Olsen of the American Legation to give a full report regarding the disposal of the contributions received from your Committee. Enclosed is a list of refugees who have received relief through our Committee, and some brief information. I have worked out this list in cooperation with Mr. Peter Blackstein, and I hope it meets your requirements.

Most of these refugees have been active in the struggle against the Nazis, and several have been in concentration camps and prison during the war years. Many of them have escaped two or three times from the Nazis in order to find at last a safe refuge in Sweden. Many of them have lost their relatives, wives, parents, sisters and brothers, as victims of Nazism. The poor health conditions among them is more or less a result of all they have suffered and the bad treatment received during these years.

The Committee's relief has been of the utmost importance, and the retraining, which it has also been possible to give to many of the refugees, will be of a great help to these people in their attempts to find work after the war and to make themselves useful citizens. We have been able to give help to the sick refugees which has helped to cure them and make them again fit for work.

The refugees are most grateful to the Committee for all of its support, and hope they will be able to count on American helpfulness in the future.

When the war is over most of these refugees will probably try to return to their own countries. It would certainly be a great help to them if the Committee could find ways and means to give them some financial support to enable them to get a new start as it will certainly be most difficult to provide a new existence in destroyed and impoverished Europe.

On behalf of the supported refugees, I consider it would be of the greatest value if we could continue to get the monthly contribution of \$1,000.00.

As I have never received any instructions from you as to the disposal of the money, I would greatly appreciate your ad-

vice in this matter, and whether I should continue to dispose of it as I have up to now.

Individual contributions have varied from 50 to 100 Swedish kronor per month, in a few cases more. After the disbursements for February we still have at our disposal about 27,500 Swedish kronor.

At this time I wish to advise you that a cable of February 28 has reached me and that Paul Baudisch has been informed about his wife's residence. Mr. Baudisch's residence is now: Konstgjutarevägen 44, Enskede.

Sincerely yours,

Elise Ottesen-Jensen  
(sign.)

INFORMATION CONCERNING PERSONS HAVING RECEIVED  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE RESCUE AND  
RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Paul Dietrich: Stateless, former German citizen, about 35 years old, political refugee. Tailor by profession. Due to illness it was necessary to change his profession, and Committee financed various courses he has taken.

René Modeano: French citizen. He and his wife arrived in Sweden after having been civil internees in Germany. They have been self-supporting through teaching and other intellectual work. However, they had many difficulties at the beginning, and the Committee gave them some support during the first months.

Hanna Herz: Stateless, former German citizen. Mrs. Herz has been working as a housemaid. However, during periods of illness she was partly supported by the Committee. She now has a better job and is completely self-supporting.

Peter Blackstein: Stateless, former German citizen, about 33 years old, political refugee. He is now self-supporting. However, during long periods he received support from the Committee to receive treatment for tuberculosis.

Ernst Galanty: Stateless, former German citizen, about 34 years old, political refugee. He has occasionally had work in the metal industry, but owing to infirmity is now unemployed.

Siggi Neumann: Polish citizen, about 35 years old, political refugee. He has been a worker in metal, but during long periods has been without work and been supported by the Committee.

Hertha Platschek: Stateless, former German citizen, about 50 years old, political refugee. She lives under very difficult conditions and the relief of the Committee has been of the very greatest importance.

Kurt Piecenik: Stateless, former German citizen, refugee from Denmark. He is taking a training course to become a photographer, and during this period is getting support from the Committee.

Walter Pietsch: Stateless, former German citizen, 31 years old. He is sick and needs money for medical treatment.

Karl Popper: Stateless, former Austrian citizen, 31 years old, is sick and in need of money for medical treatment.

Alfred Schoeler: Stateless, former German citizen, political refugee from Denmark. Arrived in Sweden the end of 1943. Has wife and child to support. Now works in rubber industry and will probably be able to support himself and family in the future.

Fritz Steincke: Stateless, former German citizen, political refugee. He has had various jobs but through infirmity has had great difficulty supporting his wife and children. The Committee's support has prevented hard suffering.

Yvonne Leunbach: Jewish refugee from Denmark, about 25 years old. On her arrival she was given training by the Committee as a social curator and now has a good job and is self-supporting.

J.H. Leunbach: Danish doctor, about 60 years old. He escaped after release from a concentration camp. He has been active in the struggle against the Nazis for a long time and succeeded in bringing his wife and children with him. He has been employed part of the time but suffers from deep depressions and has been in the hospital and the Committee has helped when he was unemployed.

Friederiche Lubinger: Stateless, former Austrian citizen, first woman doctor in Austria, Jewish, about 75 years old. Because of anti-Nazi activity she had been in a concentration camp for 18 months. She receives regular support from the Committee.

Inga Junghanns: Jewish, about 60 years old, Danish translator. After escaping from Denmark she suffered a nervous breakdown. Through intellectual work she has been able to support herself although the Committee has helped her to get recreation and have her teeth looked after.

Carl Hartwig: Jewish refugee from Denmark, stateless. He has had a breakdown and spent much time in the hospital and has received help from the Committee.

Rudolf von Hinauer: Ph.D., stateless refugee. Married and one child. Escaped from a concentration camp. He has done all possible to be independent of financial support but during some periods of unemployment received help from the Committee. Through Mrs. Alva Myrdal it seems we will now be able to provide work for him.

Lotte Bernstein: Norwegian citizen; former German, Jewish doctor. Has received relief from the Committee to have her

teeth looked after.

Fritz Neufeld: Stateless, former German citizen. Arrived in Sweden from Norway where he had fled in 1938 from the Nazis in Germany. Political refugee, about 43 years old. Received support during the first few months, but now has good work.

Erich Kohn: Stateless, German citizen, Jewish refugee. Escaped from Germany to Denmark, then to Norway from where he had to escape to Sweden in 1942. After an operation in Norway in 1940, he is complete invalid and can not move. He is 37 years old. Has had regular support from Committee and lives in a hospital where he receives proper attention.

Martin Mörz: Stateless, former German citizen, 36 years old. Arrived as a refugee from Denmark in 1940 after having been in prison in Germany for two years. Has received relief from the Committee during illness.

REPORT ON THE RESCUE AND RELIEF COMMITTEES CONTRIBUTIONS  
DISBURSED BY STOCKHOLM STADS COMMITTEE FOR STATELESS REFUGEES.

Stockholm Stads Committee for Stateless Refugees was established June 10, 1944.

The Committee consists of:

Chairman: The financial Stipendiary Alderman  
Mr. Zeth Höglund.  
Vice Chairman: Professor Åke Holmbäck.  
Secretary: Miss Astrid Regnell.  
Other members: Director Gunnar Josephson.  
Mrs. Rina Branting  
Mrs. Tove Filseth  
Prime accountant, Mr. Hans van Heland.

On June 10, 1944 the Committee decided to ask the War Refugee Board, through Mr. Iver C. Olsen, for a contribution of \$10,000 for the purpose of starting retraining of stateless, especially young people and children.

On October 13, 1944, International Rescue and Relief Committees Relief Section in Stockholm transferred 25,900 Sw. Kronor to the Stockholm Stads Committee for Stateless Refugees.

Up to now the Committee has spent 25,569,50 Sw. Kronor of the contribution.

The stipends have been distributed to 56 refugees. Of these, 35 have been 20-30 years old, 10 over 30 years, and 11 under 20 years old. There have been 37 men and 19 women.

The training purposes have varied as follows:

Practical training

Social training.....	7
Mechanical.....	6
Sewing and cutting out courses.....	3
Laboratory.....	3
Nursing.....	2
Hairdresser and beauty treatment...2	
Photography.....	2
Farmers school.....	1
Domestic-economy school.....	1
Goldsmith.....	1
Monotype.....	1
Organist.....	1

Total 30

Theoretical training.

Middle school.....	4
High school.....	7
Peoples High School.....	3
Technical Institute.....	9
Commercial school.....	1
Navigation school.....	2

Total 26

There have been no expenses for administration.

As the demand for training, schools and education is so enormous, and so many have applied for assistance, it would be of very gre t help in this work if the War Refugee Board could afford further transfers of money to this Committee.

The monthly contribution which the Stockholm section of the International Rescue and Relief Committee receives of \$1,000 covers more than the monthly budget of the Committee, their funds increase each month.

If another contribution could be transferred to Stockholm Stads Committee for Stateless Refugees, it could be spent for this special purpose of retraining young people and children.

Stockholm, April 1945. .

Tove Filseth  
signed.

*International Rescue & Relief Committee*

MAY 22 1945

Dear Mr. Howard:

There are enclosed for your information copies of an exchange of correspondence between this office and Miss Sheba Strunsky, Executive Secretary, International Rescue and Relief Committee.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel  
Acting Executive Director

Mr. W. S. Howard,  
Special Disbursing Agent  
of the United States Legation,  
Cairo, Egypt.

Enclosures.

EST RBH  
RBH:inp 5/19/45

*International Rescue and Relief Committee*  
Incorporated

103 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LExington 2-7916

May 16, 1945

Honorary Chairman  
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Chairman  
L. Hollingsworth Wood

Vice-Chairmen  
Freda Kirchwey  
Sterling D. Sporo  
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Executive Secretary  
Sheba Strunsky

National Committee  
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John Haynes Holmes  
William H. Kilpatrick  
Wesley C. Mitchell  
Reinhold Niebuhr  
William Allan Neilson  
John Dos Passos  
Cecilia Rozovsky  
Abba Hillel Silver  
Upton Sinclair  
Dorothy Thompson  
Oswald G. Villard

Miss Florence Hodel  
Acting Executive Director  
Executive Office of the President  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

In reply to your letter of May 12th, 1945, in which reference is made to two letters addressed to us on December 1, 1944, and February 27, 1945, by Mr. W.S. Howard, Special Disbursing Agent of the United States Legation at Cairo, we would like to inform you that we have in our files the letter dated December 1, 1944, charging us for 2 telegrams as follows:

No. 3211, October 26, 1944, 39 Code  
groups from Legation at Cairo to  
Secretary of State \$ 9.89

No. 3399, November 23, 1944, 26 code  
groups from Department of State to  
Legation at Cairo \$ 6.36

Total \$16.25

On February 4, 1945, we forwarded our check No. 2021 in the amount of \$16.25 to the order of the Secretary of State to Mr. D.W. Corrick, Chief Accounts Branch, Division of Budget and Finance, Department of State, Washington D.C.

We have informed Mr. Howard about the settlement of this account.

Very sincerely yours,

*Sheba Strunsky*  
Sheba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary

SS/eb

Registered with President's War Relief Control Board  
Member Agency of the National War Fund through affiliation with Refugee Relief Trustees

MAY 12 1945

Dear Miss Strunsky:

Reference is made to letters addressed to you on December 1, 1944, and February 27, 1945, by Mr. W. B. Howard, Special Disbursing Agent of the United States Legation at Cairo, concerning two messages which were sent by the Legation on behalf of Mr. Leon P. Daisenberg at a cost of \$16.25.

Since it appears that this account remains unsettled, it will be appreciated if you will inform Mr. Howard whether arrangements have been made to forward the funds involved to the Department of State.

Very truly yours,

(Signed: Florence Hodel)

Florence Hodel  
Acting Executive Director

Miss Sheba Strunsky,  
Executive Secretary,  
International Rescue and Relief  
Committee,  
103 Park Avenue,  
New York, New York.

EBT:inp 5/11/45

*Copy*

Cairo, Egypt  
February 27, 1945

The International Rescue  
and Relief Committee,  
123 Park Avenue,  
New York.

ATTN: Miss Shiba Strunsky

Dear Miss Strunsky:

Here is attached a copy of my letter of  
December 1, 1944 which was mailed to Washington  
and which perhaps did not reach your New York  
office. The letter is self explanatory and if  
the matter has not been taken care of may I  
request that you arrange to forward \$16.25 to  
the Department of State in accordance with the  
last paragraph of the letter.

Very truly yours,

W. S. Howard  
Special Disbursing Agent

*Miss Henderson:*

*Please request Miss Strunsky  
to inform me whether arrangements  
have been made to forward  
the funds involved to the Department  
of State*

*Many thanks*

*W.S. Howard*

*Copy*

Cairo, 1st December, 1944

The International Rescue  
and Relief Committee,  
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the Treasurer of the United States  
the sum of \$16.25 expended on behalf of Mr. Leon P. Denenberg  
Special Representative between the Legation at Cairo and  
the Department of State concerning the validation of Mr.  
Denenberg's passport. The telegrams in question are as  
follows:

No. 7211, October 23, 1944, 30 code groups Legation at Cairo to Secretary of State	\$9.29
Telegram No. 3349, November 23, 1944, 26 code groups from Department of State to Legation at Cairo.	<u>\$6.36</u>
Total	\$16.25

You are requested to forward a remittance of the  
amount involved to W.A. Corrick, Chief Accounts Branch,  
Division of Budget and Finance, Department of State,  
Washington, D.C., together with a copy of this letter.

Very truly yours,

W. S. Howard  
Special Disbursing Agent

APR 24 1945

Dear Miss Strunsky:

I wish to thank you for your letter of April 13, 1945, advising me of Mr. L. Hollingsworth Wood's election to succeed Dr. Kingdon as chairman of your committee. I am sure that Mr. Wood brings an able performance to his new duties and that the Committee will continue to do excellent work under his leadership.

I note with interest your plan to begin publication of a monthly news bulletin on the progress of your relief programs abroad, and I look forward to receiving copies of the bulletin.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel  
Assistant Executive Director

Miss Shoba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary  
International Rescue and  
Relief Committee  
103 Park Avenue  
New York 17, New York

EBT EBowler 4/24/45

*International Rescue and Relief Committee*  
*Incorporated*

103 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LExington 2-7916

April 13, 1945

Honorary Chairman  
Charles A. Beard

Chairman  
Frank Kingdon

Vice-Chairmen  
Freda Kirchwey  
Sterling D. Spero  
Ingrid Warburg  
L. Hollingsworth Wood

Treasurer  
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Margaret De Silver  
John Dewey  
Lewis Gannett  
Harry Gideonse  
James G. Heller  
John Haynes Holmes  
William H. Kilpatrick  
Wesley C. Mitchell  
Reinhold Niebuhr  
William Allan Neilson  
John Dos Passos  
Cecilia Razovsky  
Abba Hillel Silver  
Upton Sinclair  
Dorothy Thompson  
Oswald G. Villard

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

Dear Miss Model:

We are very happy to announce that L. Hollingsworth Wood, a vice-chairman of the International Rescue and Relief Committee since its foundation, has been elected chairman of the Committee in place of Dr. Frank Kingdon, who, to our regret, resigned earlier this month.

Mr. Wood, as you may know, was one of the founders of the Civil Liberties Union, has been a prime mover in the National League on Urban Conditions among Negroes, and is a member of the Executive Committee of Fisk University. We are confident, that under his direction, the work of the Committee will continue to grow in importance and effectiveness.

We take this opportunity to announce, as well, that this month the Committee will start publishing a monthly news bulletin, to report to its members and friends on the progress of our relief programs abroad.

Your first copy of the IRRJ Bulletin should reach you within a few weeks.

Very sincerely yours,

*Sheba Strunsky*  
Sheba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary

Registered with President's War Relief Control Board

Member Agency of the National War Fund through affiliation with Refugee Relief Trustees

files

International Rescue and Relief Committee  
Incorporated

103 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LExington 2-7916

January 5, 1945.

Honorary Chairman  
Charles A. Beard

Chairman  
Frank Kingdon

Vice-Chairmen  
Freda Kirchwey  
Sterling D. Spero  
Ingrid Warburg  
L. Hollingsworth Wood

Treasurer  
David F. Seiferheld

Executive Secretary  
Sheba Strunsky

National Committee  
Roger Baldwin  
Paul F. Brissenden  
Stuart Chase  
George S. Counts  
Frank Crowninshield  
Margaret De Silver  
John Dewey  
Lewis Gannett  
Harry Gideonse  
James G. Heller  
John Haynes Holmes  
William H. Kilpatrick  
Wesley C. Mitchell  
Reinhold Niebuhr  
William Allan Neilson  
John Dos Passos  
Cecilia Razovsky  
Abba Hillel Silver  
Upton Sinclair  
Dorothy Thompson  
Oswald G. Villard

Mr. J. A. Little  
Executive Director  
American Refugee Council  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Little:

Thank you so much for the transmission of the reports from our Istanbul Committee.

I am sure you will agree that they are doing an excellent job.

Very sincerely yours,

*Sheba Strunsky*  
Sheba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary

Sir

# A REPORT ON 1944

JANUARY 1, 1945

*International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc.*  
108 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

# International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc.

103 Park Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

CHARLES A. BEARD.....Honorary Chairman  
FRANK KINGDON.....Chairman  
FREDA KIRCHWEY  
STERLING D. SPERO } .....Vice-Chairmen  
INGRID WARBURG }  
L. HOLLINGSWORTH WOOD }  
SHEBA STRUNSKY.....Executive Secretary  
DAVID F. SEIFERHELD.....Treasurer

## National Committee

ROGER BALDWIN	JAMES G. HELLER
PAUL F. BRISSENDEN	JOHN HAYNES HOLMES
STUART CHASE	WILLIAM H. KILPATRICK
GEORGE S. COUNTS	WESLEY C. MITCHELL
FRANK CROWNINSHIELD	REINHOLD NEIBUHR
ELMER DAVIS	WILLIAM ALLAN NEILSON
MARGARET DE SILVER	JOHN DOS PASSOS
JOHN DEWEY	ABRA HILLEL SILVER
LEWIS GANNETT	UPTON SINCLAIR
HARRY GIDEONSE	DOROTHY THOMPSON

OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD

## The International Rescue and Relief Committee in 1944

After a period of enforced silence we can now tell our friends and supporters something of the activities of the International Rescue and Relief Committee during the crucial months from June to December, 1944.

From France, Switzerland, Italy and Turkey come the reports of our representatives, all telling the tale of courageous, democratic men and women who worked steadfastly for the defeat of the Nazi-fascist tyranny. Slowly we are learning the full story of the tragic fate of millions of Jews, and of countless political refugees—scholars, scientists, trade unionists, artists and writers—relentlessly hunted by the Gestapo since 1939.

## France—

We recently received a cable informing us that two of our most valuable collaborators in France, Daniel Benedite and Dr. Paul Schmierer, who directed our work after the total German occupa-

tion, have come safely through two years of silence. Daniel Benedite was several times imprisoned by the Vichy authorities in the course of his work, and in the early summer of 1944 was seized and held by the Germans for his activities in the resistance movement. In the confusion of the sudden German retreat following the Allied landings in the south of France last August, he had the good luck to escape. The courage and integrity of these two men and of those who worked with them during more than four years in Nazi-dominated or Nazi-occupied Marseilles, deserve record among the heroic deeds of this war. We are proud that their association with us will continue.

The reestablishment on a legal footing of our work in France enlarges enormously the field of our useful effort in that country. The International Rescue and Relief Committee now has its main French office in Paris, which will serve as the center from which aid will go out to other parts of France.

There are thousands of refugees remaining in France who are completely destitute. Their number will increase considerably as those who escaped to Switzerland return to the homes which they made for themselves in France after fleeing from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and other parts of Europe. Particularly grave is the plight of orphans and homeless children whose relatives were killed by the Nazis.

There are no statistics on the exact number of Spanish Republican refugees remaining in France, but all the world knows of the valiant help they gave in the liberation of southern France, fighting alongside the French maquis. The meager reports just received tell us that thousands have survived seven years of starvation, filth and utter misery. The International Rescue and Relief Committee has sent regular assistance to these men and women, transmitting several thousand dollars per month for their help. That amount, however, is pitifully inadequate and we hope that in the near future it will be possible to do more.

## Switzerland—

Switzerland has been the focal point of our work in Europe throughout the years of occupation, thanks to her neutrality, her nearness to France and German-occupied Italy, and the comparative freedom accorded by her government to democratic refugees. Our office maintained close contact with our workers in France throughout the German occupation.

Even now that France is liberated, we cannot tell the whole story of the means employed by our French and Swiss representatives to smuggle refugees across the Franco-Swiss border. This and many other aspects of our close collaboration with the various anti-Nazi underground and resistance movements in Europe we hope to describe in greater detail at some future date when we are certain that our co-workers are no longer in danger.

The following excerpts from a report which recently arrived from Switzerland shed light on some of these activities:

When we here in Switzerland received your first encouraging cable informing us that your assistance would enable us to continue the work, we all agreed that our first consideration should be to help those of our comrades who were left behind in France. Our own escape from France in November, 1942, had, in addition to our personal rescue, the object of doing everything in our power to assure and improve the contact between our underground representatives in France on the one hand, and you on the other, and thus make possible the continuation of their work. Thanks to your generous support from America, we could carry out this purpose without any interruption, first with the funds left in France, and now with the funds sent us, so that contact between you and our friends in France has never discontinued, despite tremendous difficulties."

The report goes on to describe the manner in which funds were transferred to France to refugees hiding in various parts of the country. . . . Additional help were the 'Swiss Parcels' which were sent to those who were completely deprived of any means of subsistence. For these alone we spent approximately 15,000 Swiss francs."

We also continue to extend substantial aid to those men, women and children who managed to reach Switzerland from France. Almost all of them have lived through horrifying experiences. Their physical resistance and morale were considerably impaired, and for many the years of undernourishment and internment had resulted in serious illness. For these reasons our Swiss Committee strove, wherever possible, to have our cases passed from camps, even though the conditions in the Swiss camps are often better than in others. When the refugees cannot be released because of Swiss regulations, they receive additional supplies. We have been especially successful in obtaining the release of students and scholars to continue their work and research.

## Turkey—

Ever since the beginning of our rescue work, many of the most important and valuable activities carried on by our representatives abroad have necessarily involved the strictest secrecy to ensure success. Only after their immediate mission had been completed and purposes achieved could any details be made known.

Last spring we sent a representative to Turkey to rescue democratic men and women in Axis-dominated countries whose lives were endangered by their active opposition to totalitarianism. For seven months he worked in close contact with the various anti-Nazi underground movements in the Balkans, returning to New York in December to make a full report. We can now announce that his efforts resulted in the saving of scores of scholars, journalists, labor leaders and underground workers who were on the death-lists of the Gestapo.

In the month of August, 1944, following the break of German-Turkish diplomatic relations, our representative was approached by a group of Austrian, Czech and German anti-Nazis in Turkey who were threatened with deportation to Germany. "These refugees," he reports, "charged that on the request of the Gestapo, persons who opposed the Nazi regime and rendered service to the Allies were being deported by force to Germany where they faced certain death.

"I investigated those charges and found them to be true. I saw an authentic document, written by a prominent Nazi agent in Turkey now interned by the British, indicating that the Gestapo had given the Turkish police a list of pro-Allied refugees whom they wanted to have deported to Germany. Before I had a chance to intervene a number were deported, but we managed to save several hundred. The Turkish Government was not aware of the situation, and the deportations were an illegal act perpetrated by a number of pro-Nazi police officials.

"Following my appeal to the Allied authorities and after the Turkish Government in Ankara was made aware of this crime, the deportations stopped. The action of several American correspondents who cabled the story, thus bringing it to the attention of the Turkish Prime Minister, helped to clear up the situation, but unfortunately not soon enough to save a German woman artist of pronounced anti-Nazi views. She went into hiding with my knowledge and assistance, but was caught by the Istanbul police and placed on a train bound for Bulgaria, then dominated by the Germans, on August 14. I heard later that the train was attacked by Yugoslav detachments and all political prisoners were freed."

We have today in Istanbul a sub-committee of outstanding refugee intellectuals—Austrians, Bulgarians, Czechs, Germans, Greeks, Hungarians, Rumanians and Yugoslavs—which carries out our relief program in the Balkans and Southeastern Europe. It also helps several hundred pro-anti-Nazis, who are now interned in Turkey as a result of the break in Turkish-German relations.

## Italy—

In the atmosphere of bitter confusion and distress which prevails today in Italy, the physical needs of the people, particularly of those who for years suffered because of their active opposition to fascism, are growing daily.

It is beyond our power to hope to relieve the general want and prevailing in that country, we have followed our long-established in attempting to aid first those who find themselves in need as a remarkably of their past political and democratic records.

In the month of October, 1944, a representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee visited Rome, where he set up a committee empowered to act in our name until a permanent American director is appointed in Italy. It consists of three distinguished Italians, whose political activity during the past two decades is an unquestioned guarantee of devotion to the democratic cause: Matteo Matteotti, the son of the liberal Senator murdered by the fascists in 1924; Giuseppe Modigliani, the grand old man of the Italian socialist movement; and Emilio Lussu, a former Deputy and political prisoner of Mussolini, whose unflinching work in exile was of immense importance in keeping alive the spirit of resistance to fascism. To Lussu, as head of the Action Committee, the liberal elements in Italy look today for leadership.

Long before the outbreak of the war, in fact immediately following Hitler's ascent to power in Germany, numerous anti-Nazi refugees found a haven in Sweden.

## Sweden—

For years we have continuously had there a group of stateless refugees from Austria, Czechoslovakia and Germany. After the occupation of Norway by the Nazis they were joined by many Norwegians, and a little over a year ago their number was increased by refugees who had fled from Denmark when the Germans began their persecution of Jews and trade unionists in that country.

Once again our main task was to aid political exiles. Recently, however, our Committee was invited by the War Refugee Board to participate in a relief and educational project being launched in Sweden. Thus, in addition to our own independent work, we are now cooperating with the "International League for Relief of Stateless Refugees," an association which is supported by the community of Stockholm.

According to the latest reports, there are at present over 100,000 refugees in Sweden, including 40,000 children evacuated from Finland. One of the chief purposes of the Stockholm organization is to make available to these children the educational and medical care of which they have long been deprived.

## Mexico—

For several years the Mexican representatives of the International Rescue and Relief Committee have been helping anti-fascist Central Europeans and Spaniards in exile in that country. In the early spring

of 1944 our Committee learned that among the Germans interned in a concentration camp in Mexico were twenty-one anti-Nazis who had been separated from the rest because they were so persecuted by the pro-Nazi internees. Our investigation showed that these men had refused to accept money supplied by the German Government for extra food and clothing and had refused to participate in the Nazi celebrations in the camp.

Our Committee sent them clothing and funds and began to work for their release. After lengthy negotiations with the Mexican State Department, and the assumption by our Committee of moral and financial responsibility for these men, they were released on July 9th, 1944. When they were leaving the camp the Nazi internees attempted to attack them, but were prevented from doing so by the active interference of the Mexican police.

Subsequently, with the help of our Committee, these twenty-one released anti-Nazis have been able to establish themselves on a self-supporting basis in Mexico City.

## UNRRA—

The International Rescue and Relief Committee has lent five workers to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Four of them are already doing important work in Egypt,

and one is completing her course at the UNRRA training school.

Miss Augusta Mayerson, now in Cairo, is one of the foremost experts in the Displaced Persons Division of the UNRRA, and is in charge of setting up the Central Location Bureau for all displaced persons in the Middle East. Our other representatives are doing excellent work in the refugee camps under the Welfare Division.

## Material Aid—

As soon as France and part of Italy were liberated, and the possibilities for food and clothing shipments were reopened, we issued an appeal to our friends for used clothing to be shipped to Europe.

The response to our appeal was very gratifying. But the need is without limit. According to reports from our representatives in the Balkans, the Middle East, Italy and France, clothing is the most urgent necessity of the moment. We welcome and shall continue to welcome all clothing and shoes in good condition that our friends can spare. Packages may be sent to us collect by Railway Express, addressed to the International Rescue and Relief Committee Warehouse at 180 Orchard Street, New York 2, N. Y.

... 1945

This in brief is the record of our activities during the year 1944. Although for security reasons we cannot tell the full story, we hope that in the near future it may be possible for us to do so.

Hitherto our funds have been used for the rescue of democratic men and women whose lives were directly endangered because of their active opposition to Nazism, or who had managed to find a temporary haven in neutral countries. With the liberation of many parts of Europe, our problem goes far beyond immediate relief or rescue; we now face an overwhelming task of rehabilitation and repatriation.

The havoc and destruction wrought by the Gestapo and the Nazi armies is gradually being revealed to us. The liberation of Europe by the Allies is but the first phase in a long and tortuous process of reconstruction. The problems of dispersed families, of homeless men and women without any means of subsistence, and of nearly twenty million dislocated persons, may not be solved for many years.

It will take the aid of all government and private relief agencies to alleviate some of the suffering that prevails in the countries once ruled by the Axis. In this struggle for human decency, the International Rescue and Relief Committee will continue its work for those not-to-be-forgotten fighters for freedom whom it set out to help and who still need our aid so desperately.



**Participating in the  
NATIONAL WAR FUND**

The work of the International Rescue and Relief Committee receives full financial support from the National War Fund. In the year 1944 we had grants totalling more than \$390,000 from this source; for the current year, 1945, we have been allocated the sum of \$450,000.

The *National War Fund* is a fund-raising, philanthropic federation operating throughout the country, which has endorsed the work, and assumed responsibility for the budgets, of twenty-two agencies designed to relieve various forms of human need and distress arising out of the war.

The International Rescue and Relief Committee is a member agency of the *National War Fund*, through its affiliation with Refugee Relief Trustees, Inc., a committee to coordinate the work of three cooperating agencies in the field of refugee relief.

7  
DEC 29 1944

Dear Dr. Kingdon and Miss Strunsky:

Enclosed herewith are several reports, prepared by the Istanbul committee representing your organization, which were received for you through the United States mission in Istanbul.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Frank Kingdon  
Miss Sheba Strunsky  
International Rescue and Relief Committee  
105 Park Avenue  
New York, New York

Enclosures

Epst RBHatchinson:inp

12/29/44



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, December 1, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am enclosing herein several reports prepared by the Istanbul committee representing the International Rescue and Relief Committee of New York. If you have no objection, will you please have them delivered to Dr. Frank Kingdon and Miss Sheba Strunsky of the IRRRC, 103 Park Avenue, New York City.

I have had these reports copied and enclose a complete set thereof for your files. I draw your attention to the financial statements, which you might wish to regard as an accounting in accordance with the terms of the Treasury license under which the \$5000 were transmitted by the IRRRC to Istanbul. You will note that all the funds were expended in Turkey for relief purposes here.

If you require any further information on any of the matters touched upon in the reports, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

*Herbert Katzki*  
Herbert Katzki

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

Enclosures: Letter and reports

MED. PH. SCHWARTZ

ISTANBUL, November 27th, 1944

ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY.

Frank Kingdon  
Miss Sheba Strunsky,  
Executive Secretary  
International Rescue and Relief Committee  
103 Park Avenue  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Dear Miss Strunsky,

First of all, may I ask you to convey my and all my friends' thanks to the IRRC for having made possible the formation of a subcommittee in Istanbul and also for the trust which your committee has shown us through Mr. L.P. Denenberg. To-day we send you the first report on the work so far done by us.

Our committee was founded with Mr. Denenberg's participation on August 17, 1944. Due to the development on the various battle fronts no help could as yet be extended to friends in Austria, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Roumania, Jugoslavia, Bulgaria and Greece. In Turkey numbers of emigrants have been living since Hitler's accession to power; but most of them were able to tackle their existence singlehanded, so that at first much relief activity did not seem to be necessary, here. However, when the Turkish-German break in diplomatic relations took place, in the beginning of August, the local IRRC found itself confronted with very important tasks, namely:

- a) to prevent the deportation of anti-nazis from Turkey to Germany,
- b) to aid emigrants who suddenly lost their jobs and incomes because of the measures of internment the Turkish Government took against them.

Work on both tasks was started already by Mr. Denenberg himself. Thanks to his energy, many an emigrant was saved from extradition and, thus, from death. According to our informations, there was but one case in which all efforts were wasted.

The Turkish Government discriminated between two categories of German subjects, i.e. persons of German or Austrian origin who were liable to internment:

A. Persons in German Government service who were ready to return to Germany, but could not do so because of the development on the Balkan front; these were interned and kept under isolation in Istanbul and Ankara.

B. Persons who had declared to the Turkish Authorities that they did not wish to return to Germany; these were deported to three places in Anatolia (Yozgad, Corum and Kirsehir) without further discrimination. In this second category, there are from our

of view three distinct groups:

1- Persons who remained in Turkey with the consent of the German Government, so that they could, if necessary, keep up or reestablish political, commercial and cultural relations between Turkey and Germany.

2- Persons who, up to the present, had given themselves wholeheartedly to Nazism, but now, confronted with the catastrophic end of the adventure, preferred not to return to Germany.

3- Emigrants, some of them most pronouncedly anti-nazis.

Up to the present, Mr. Denenberg is the only foreigner who has succeeded in getting the permission to visit one of the internment centers; as you can see from his own report, our help, naturally granted only to people in the third group, is vital. It may be mentioned, that most probably the internment will be maintained till the end of hostilities, if not till much later.

In the meantime, Bulgaria and Greece have been freed of the German yoke. Dr. Bretholz, a member of our committee has already been to Bulgaria since, as a correspondent of Swiss and Swedish newspapers. He reports, that for the present our committee can do no work in Bulgaria, but that it is very possible, that in the course of time many people among the liberal intellectuals will have to be supported by external help.

We have also come in contact with Greek personalities. I have attempted through Mr. Voutsaras, Naval Attache to the Greek Embassy here, who left for Athens last week, to establish communications with Mr. Alexander Pallis. This is a well-known Greek journalist, member of the British Royal Society for Foreign Affairs, whom I know personally. I want to arrange to let you have through us, or even better directly from him, his opinion on the prospect and possibilities of work of a subcommittee eventually to be founded in Greece. We are convinced, that the formation of subcommittees will become necessary also in Bulgaria, Roumania, Jugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Austria and Germany, successively.

A further task of our committee is giving moral help to emigrants; this consists in advice, intervening with the Authorities for procuring visas, residence and travelling permits, and also for liberation from internment. We have already taken steps in this direction, and we will keep you informed as to the results.

This then, is an outline of the present and future activities of our committee as we see them. The program is one which will absorb considerable funds.

Prof. A.B. Schwarz, member of our committee and Professor of Law at the Istanbul University, is about to work out a project for the foundation of an International Research Institute for the Study of the History of Fascism and National-Socialism. It is to find

REPORT

of the Acting Secretary of the Istanbul Subcommittee of the IRRG.

The Istanbul Subcommittee of the IRRG has been founded on August 17, 1944. It has held six meetings since then.

Shortly after its foundation, the break-down of German-Turkish relations occurred. Therefore, the possibility of save anti-nazi-emigrants from Germany and German-occupied countries was cut completely.

At the same time, a new wide and urgent field of activity opened up for the committee by the decision of the Turkish Government that all German subjects were to be interned in three places in Central-Anatolia (Yozgad, Çorum and Kirsehir). Exception was made only for professors at the University and some persons holding official position in Turkish Service. Deported were also persons for whose political reliability Allied Authorities had given formal guarantees to the Turkish High Authorities.

Therefore, many an experienced combattant against fascism and nazism was deported. Among them was Dr. Wilbrandt (and his family) whom we had chosen as Secretary of our Subcommittee. Many of these emigrants are facing extremely delicate economical situations, as they are finding themselves deprived of all resources and means to cover their living expenditures.

Accordingly, the Subcommittee has decided, to send relief to the deported antinazis and has conveyed monthly 1000.Ltq to Dr. Wilbrandt's care in Yozgad and 500.-Ltq each, to the respective trustees in Kirsehir and Çorum. Moreover, most urgently needed medicaments representing an amount of 159.75 Ltq were dispatched to Yozgad.

As the strong Anatolian winter approaches, and the reserves of the deported emigrants are getting progressively used up, the difficulty in the situation of these people will grow increasingly. Our monthly aids may thus have to be augmented considerably before long.

Thanks to Mr. Denenberg's energy, he succeeded against all difficulties in getting the permission to go and see for himself the internees in Yozgat and talk over their situation with Dr. Wilbrandt.

Dr. Bretholz, a member of our Committee is about to try now to get the permission to go to Kirsehir in order to look after the impending affairs, there, on behalf of the committee. We are, moreover, in touch with friends who will intervene with the Turkish Authorities in order to get 1- the postal blockade imposed on the internees lifted, 2- an official Turkish aid granted and 3- the release from internment decreed of at least the following categories: a) persons whose reliability was guaranteed by the Allies, among them Dr. Wilbrandt; b) Free Austrians and c) all persons over 60 years of age or seriously ill.

As it is to be seen from the enclosed accounts, the first granted 5000.- \$ Will have been used up by the beginning of December, and there may arise the need of supplementary funds, even beyond the 5000.- \$ newly granted for the next quarter, when other emigrants had to be cared for after the final liberation of the Balkan countries.

At length, the appointment of a paid secretary will become unavoidable, by the fact, that the various activities of the subcommittee would be looked after by its members singlehanded only during the University vacations.

(Signed) Alexander Rüstow

MINUTES

Meeting of the Istanbul subcommittee of the IRRG,  
Thursday, October 5, 1944, at 13.30 p.m. in Prof. Ph. Schwartz  
Institute.

Were present: Reuter, Rüstow, Ph. Schwartz, Vali.

I. GRANTS.

1- Motion Rüstow-Ph. Schwartz:

Dr. Peter Ladewig, German emigrant known to be strong anti-nazi; for years in contact with Allied circles in this country; his salary is regarded as not sufficient to cover the expenditures of a family with wife, 1 child and mother-in-law. It is agreed to give him for the moment a single grant of 300.-Ltq.

2- Motion Rüstow-Ph. Schwartz:

Prof. Dr. Karl Süssheim, a well-known orientalist from the University of Munich, dismissed by the Nazis; had to accept as an emergency measure, a position as scientific collaborator here; he has wife and two girls of school age. He receives a monthly grant from the emergency fund of the emigrant professors at the Istanbul University. Following illness, he has had extra-expenditures, which could not be covered by this money. It is agreed to give him a single grant of 300.Ltq.

II. MISCELLANEOUS.

3- In Yosgad, medicaments are urgently needed, particularly against malaria and intestinal troubles. Prof. Ph. Schwartz has succeeded in procuring these medicaments. It is agreed to pay the costs of 159.75 Ltq.

4- Prof. Ph. Schwartz finds it necessary to inform the Rector of the Istanbul University about the existence of this committee particularly with regard to the professors.

5- Prof. Ph. Schwartz refers to personal conversations with Prof. A.B. Schwars, where the latter had put forth the idea, that the causes and phenomena of Fascism and Nazism ought to be studied thoroughly and scientifically, in order to save the world in future from similar dangers. In the course of the issuing discussion, everybody present agrees, that this question is to be regarded as being of outstanding importance, but that it could only be put into practice, if a special Research Institute with a sufficiently large staff of collaborators would become available for this purpose.

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Istanbul Subcommittee of the IRRG,  
on Friday, October 13, 1944 at 15.30 in Prof. Ph. Schwartz' Institute.

Were present, Reuter, Rüstow, Ph. Schwartz, A. Schwarz.  
Not Present: Bretholz (in Sofia), Ofner (ill), Wilbrandt (interned in  
Yozgad, Vali (hindered).

I. GRANTS.

1- Motion Ofner, -Vali- A. Schwarz:

Dr. Ladislas Badios, a Hungarian catholic and antifascist, came to Istanbul as representative of the Hungarian News Agency. After the occupation by the Germans of Hungary and the formation of a Fascist Government, B. left his post under protest. His reserves are now used up and he remains without living means. It is agreed on, to give him a monthly aid of 100. Ltq., beginning with September 1944.

2- Motion Rüstow-A. Schwarz:

As Dr. de Frutos has not yet found work and he has become liable to new expenditures, it is agreed on, to give him a single extra-bonus of 100. Ltq.

II. MISCELLANEOUS.

3- Communications with the deported have become extremely difficult because of the postal blockade imposed by the Turkish Authorities.

4- On October 6, 1944, highly alarming news appeared in the morning papers, saying that the Nazis interned in Istanbul and Ankara together with the persons deported to Anatolia would be sent to Germany via Barcelona in exchange against the Turks interned in Germany, and this by a boat sailing from Istanbul already on October 8th. As informations asked from official circles in Istanbul, did not give a clear picture, Mr. Rüstow, immediately, rang up the colleagues concerned in Ankara. They received, in turn, the firm assurance from the proper Ministries that the exchange of internees, reported by the papers, would not take place. It seems, however, that negotiations have been going on about a Turkish-German exchange of Officials either via Barcelona or via Göteborg, but they have so far remained without result due to the difficulties in arranging the voyage. As to the question, whether or not deportees were included into the exchange scheme, no clear answer could be received. Although the actual danger may be regarded as passed, for the time being, everybody present agreed, that nothing ought to be left undone, in order to get reliable anti-nazi emigrants released, for whom the deportation to Germany would mean death.



MINUTES

of the meeting of the Istanbul Subcommittee of the IRRO,  
on Wednesday, October 25, 1944 at 15.00 in Mr. Ph. Schwartz' Institute.

Were present: Bretholz, Reuter, Rüstow, Ph. Schwartz, A.B.Schwarz, Vali.  
Not present: Ofner (ill), Wilbrandt (interned in Yozgad).

I- The situation in the three deportation centers is discussed in full with regard to written and personal reports which have come in. In Yozgad, Wilbrandt has succeeded to put to work a common scheme of help "MUTUAL AID", by which all grants etc. are distributed after thorough study of the individual cases; with the collaboration of deported Austrian nuns, a common kitchen has been instituted, where 40 persons in need can get food free of charge; there has been prepared a common warm-room for the winter as well, because of the impossibility to get all individual rooms heated. Therefore, mutual understanding among the deported and general humour are satisfactory, according to the different reports.

Communications with Gorum are much more difficult; but from there, too, reports are relatively favourable. Mr. Blümel, our trustee there, looks after the distribution of our funds with extreme care.

Less favourable are reports coming in from Kirsehir, and Bretholz will try to go there from Ankara and have a personal look at things. In case he does not succeed, Reuter has declared his willingness to make, later on, a similar attempt.

In November, again, 1000.- Ltq shall be sent to Yozgad and 500.-Ltq each, to Gorum and Kirsehir.

None of the interventions addressed to the Turkish High Authorities on behalf of the release of internees and which we know of, has met with anything like success. They will, however, be continued.

According to information at our disposal, the Turkish Government has agreed to grant help to internees in need; so far, only preliminary and purely informal steps have been taken at the three places concerned. Up to the time, where such an aid may become effective, it is to be reckoned with as a fact that the difficult situation in the deportation centers (sited more than 3000 ft. a.s.l.) will deteriorate from the moment where Anatolian winter starts with temperatures sometimes below -30 °C.

2- Exact files shall be prepared containing all necessary informations about the persons receiving IRRO grants in the three deportation centers.

3- A.B.Schwarz accept the proposition to prepare a draft project for the foundation of a Research Institute for the Study of the History of Fascism and National-Socialism, according to the ideas put forth by him previously.

4- Mr. Ph. Schwartz's motion:

A fund of 500.-\$ was to be given by our subcommittee on behalf of victims of the German occupation in Greece at the disposition of the Greek Embassy in this country as a token of solidarity and in accordance with the aims of the IRRG. During the issuing debate, it was brought forth, that the means, at present available, are not sufficient to accomplish our own immediate obligations.

L I S T

of the emigrants to whom individual grants  
were given.

PAID OUT BY MR. DENENBERG

Ltg

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1- <u>Dr. Oscar Pöffl</u> and wife (2), Austrian.....  | 150.- |
| 2- <u>Dr. Louis de Frutos</u> and wife (2), Spanish Socialist,<br>emigrated to Roumania; before the German occupation<br>had to flee to this country; is waiting for his vi-<br>sas, already promised, in order to leave for Oran;<br>intends to go back to Spain, as soon as political<br>circumstances allow him to do so. Here completely<br>without living means ..... | 150.- |

PROPOSALS BY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 2a- <u>Dr. de Frutos</u> , furthermore .....   | 400.- |
| 3- <u>Dr. Ernst Engelberg</u> and wife (2), German socialist<br>and trade-unionist; sentenced by the Nazis to pe-<br>nal servitude, together with his wife, for illegal<br>socialist activity; succeeded to escape to Switzer-<br>land after having completed the sentence; studied<br>in Geneva with a Rockefeller scholarship and took<br>his degree; left Switzerland for being threatened<br>by internment. His wife is now awaiting a child ..... | 450.- |
| 4- <u>Dr. Ladislav Badics</u> (1), Hungarian catholic and<br>antifascist; came to this country as a representa-<br>tive of the Hungarian News Agency; left his post<br>after the occupation of Hungary by the Germans<br>under protest; has now used up his reserves and re-<br>mains without living means .....   | 300.- |
| 5- <u>Dr. Peter Ladewig</u> with wife, one child and mother-<br>in-law (4); emigrant from Germany; staff-member of<br>the Cancer Institute at the Istanbul University. For<br>years in close contact with official Allied circles ....   | 300.- |
| 6- <u>Prof. Dr. Karl Süsheim</u> with wife and two daughters,<br>(4), well-known orientalist from Munich University;<br>dismissed by Nazis; was obliged to accept posi-<br>tion as scientific collaborator at Istanbul Univer-<br>sity; getting permanent monthly grant out of emer-<br>gency fund of emigrant professors at Istanbul Uni-<br>versity, however inadequate to cover extra-expen-<br>ditures in case of illness etc. ....                | 300.- |

ACCOUNTS  
of Istanbul Subcommittee  
of IRRC  
(up to Nov. 1st, 44.)

RECEIVED through Mr. Denenberg ..... \$ 5.000.- ..... netto Ltq 5.882.09  
=====

SPENT:

A. Sent to Yozgad ..... Ltq 2.000.-  
Corum ..... 1.000.-  
Kirsehir ..... 1.000.-  
4.000.-  
Medicaments for Yozgad ..... 159.75  
Expenditure for INTERNEES, so far 4.159.75

B. Individual Grants to  
1) Dr. Pöfl (2) ..... 150.-  
2) Dr. de Frutos (2) ..... 150.-  
2a) do. .... 400.-  
3) Dr. Engelberg (2) ..... 450.-  
4) Dr. Badios (1) ..... 300.-  
5) Dr. Ladewig (4) ..... 300.-  
6) Prof. Süsseheim (4) .... 300.-  
Expenditure for INDIVIDUAL GRANTS, so far 2.050.-

C. Expenditure for ADMINISTRATION, so far 65.14

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ..... 6.274.89  
=====

Balance on cash (Nov. 1, 1944) 2.607.20  
=====

TO BE SPENT:

(payable on Dec. 1st, 1944)

A. Expenditure for INTERNEES ..... 2.000.-

B. Expenditure for INDIVIDUAL GRANTS ..... 400.-

2.400.-

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FROM CREDIT ..... 8.674.89  
=====

Balance on cash (Dec. 1st, 1944) 207.20  
=====

Checked and found correct:

ss. Andreas B. Schwarz  
ss. D. F. Vali

The Acting Treasurer:

ss. Alexander Rüstov

DEC 29 1944

Dear Miss Strunsky:

There is enclosed herewith a letter in duplicate which was received for you from Mr. W. S. Howard, of the United States Legation in Cairo.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Sheba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary  
International Rescue and Relief Committee  
Suite 902  
103 Park Avenue  
New York 17, New York

Enclosure

*EBT* RBHutch:inp- 12/28/44

*No enclosure unless  
returned in file*

File  
JH

FRANK KINGDON  
EIGHT WEST FORTIETH STREET  
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

December 27, 1944

Dear Miss Hodel:

I take great pleasure in inviting you to join the members and friends of the International Rescue and Relief Committee at a luncheon, to welcome, and hear a report from, two men who have just arrived in the United States. Both have had excellent opportunities to observe the latest political developments in Europe, and each has himself rendered distinguished service to the democratic cause.

Our first speaker will be Captain Paul Weill, a well-known lawyer in Paris before the war; after the Petain Armistice a voluntary exile and member of General de Gaulle's resistance forces. In August of this year Captain Weill took part in the Allied invasion of southern France, as an officer in the French forces attached to the American Seventh Army. Through October and November he was in Paris, a close observer of the difficulties and triumphs of the Provisional Government. He will speak on the events of the last five months in France.

Our second speaker will be Mr. Leon Dennen, the recent representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee in the Near East, who has just returned to this country. Mr. Dennen spent eight months in Egypt and Turkey, finding means of escape for anti-fascist refugees placed in utmost danger by the sudden German maneuver in the Balkans last summer. He will give us first-hand information on the current situation in Turkey and the Balkan states, analyzing the conflicting elements at work in those countries today.

We shall meet for luncheon in the West Ballroom of the Hotel Commodore, Lexington Avenue at Forty-second Street, on Thursday, January 4th, promptly at 12:30 o'clock. If you will write to me at this address, or telephone my secretary, Miss Fielding, at Lackawanna 4-3872, she will be glad to hold a place for you. The price of the lunch will be \$2.50.

There will be no appeal for funds at this meeting. We shall have ample opportunity to hear from, and to question, two distinguished speakers, each of whom has recently seen, under differing forms and in widely separated regions, the Nazi power in retreat.

I look forward to greeting you on this occasion.

Cordially yours,

*Frank Kingdon*

OCT 19 1944

Dear Miss Strunsky:

I am pleased to send you herewith information relating to the rescue and relief activities of your representative in Turkey, Mr. Leon Danenberg, which was reported by him to the War Refugee Board Representative in Ankara under date of August 29, 1944. I am sure you will appreciate the confidential nature of this information.

Following his arrival in Istanbul on June 8, 1944, Mr. Danenberg learned that many of his underground contacts had been discontinued -- in Hungary due to the occupation of that country by the German Army, and in Rumania as the result of Allied bombings. While these contacts were being reestablished, he began the preparation of lists of people in whose welfare the International Rescue and Relief Committee was interested, and by various methods established contacts with certain of these persons. Mr. Danenberg described one of the methods by which he was able to locate certain refugees in whose rescue and relief he was interested. He stated that on July 10 and again on August 9 he interviewed at length many Jews who arrived from Rumania on the SS KARBON and the SS KURUM. Although he was unable to reveal the manner in which he boarded the trains, since Jews arriving by sea were held virtually incommunicado by the Turkish authorities, Mr. Danenberg stated that he traveled with the immigrants from Fenech, a station near Baydar Pasha, to Samsun, the first journey lasting eight hours and the second ten hours. The purpose of both trips, he explained, was to gather information regarding the situation in German-occupied countries of non-Jewish pro-Allied persons, and through such interviews invaluable information was compiled, some of which he carried to the United States.

Mr. Danenberg reported that on August 3 a group of Austrian, German and Czech scholars and intellectuals in Istanbul, headed by Professor Alexander Rustow, appealed to him as representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee to intervene on behalf of a number of anti-Nazi scientists, journalists, socialists, writers, etc., who were threatened with deportation to Germany as a result of the break in diplomatic relations between Turkey and Germany. Mr. Danenberg stated that Professor Rustow was known to him from the time of his arrival in Istanbul, had cooperated with him in his rescue activities, and, together with Dr. Ernst Reuter, former Socialist Mayor of Stuttgart, represented in Istanbul an organization of anti-Nazi German intellectuals who have long been cooperating with the Allies. It was contended by Professor Rustow that, as

the request of the Gestapo in Turkey, persons opposed to the Nazi regime were being forced to return to Germany where they faced certain death. These charges were investigated by Mr. Dannenberg, who was convinced of their truth. He reported that the Istanbul Chief of Police, Demir Bey, had actually deported by force several refugees having long records of opposition to the Nazis. Mr. Dannenberg states that he communicated this information to the War Refugee Board Representative on August 7, at which time he also submitted a list of 45 persons in Turkey who were in danger of such deportation. This list -- which subsequently lengthened to 70 individuals -- included non-Jewish persons and persons of Jewish origin who were not registered as Jews in their Turkish residence permits. The majority of these refugees, ignorant of their fate, were worried about the situation, and daily, Mr. Dannenberg reported, he received Austrian, Czech and German anti-Nazis who feared deportation to Germany because the Istanbul Police had informed them that their turn might come next. Even teachers at the University of Istanbul feared they were in danger, although the Turkish Government had promised that they would be neither deported nor interned. (The subsequent internment in Anatolia of some University personnel proved that their fears were not unfounded.) Mr. Dannenberg reported that he immediately intervened on behalf of these refugees with the American and British authorities in Turkey. He made specific reference to and expressed his gratitude for the rescue of Arthur Roth, an anti-Nazi in imminent danger of deportation, for whom the British Consul granted a visa to Syria following Mr. Dannenberg's appeal on his behalf. American newspapermen, by cabling a report of this situation to the United States, brought the matter to the attention of the Turkish Premier, which Mr. Dannenberg felt helped in a large measure to stop deportations from Turkey to Germany. Unfortunately this action occurred too late to save Marie Thams, a German sculptress of pronounced anti-Nazi views, who was on Gestapo List No. 1. Mr. Dannenberg stated that, with his knowledge and encouragement, and with funds provided by him for her shelter, she went into hiding, but was finally found and deported to Germany on August 14.

Mr. Dannenberg stated that the list of refugees in Turkey needing assistance is constantly growing. In addition to his activities on behalf of refugees in Turkey already reported, he mentioned that he has aided two Spanish Republicans who escaped from Spain to Crete, then to Russia, finally reaching Istanbul on June 22. Assistance was also given to a former editor of the "New Wiener Journal" and to a prominent Bulgarian lawyer and journalist who reached Istanbul on July 6, after being arrested four times, spending six months in an internment camp, and living illegally for seven months. This Bulgarian, of Jewish origin, had been attacked by the then Nazi-controlled Bulgarian radio, "Obedient Bulgaria," as a pro-allied propagandist. Mr. Dannenberg reported that, on July 18, at his request, the Bulgarian refugee sent by courier two letters to Sofia -- one to Professor Zeko Turboff -- the other to Rechtsanwalt Adolf Meyersoff -- instructing them to distribute to a number of pro-democratic persons in



4 -

continued to be an important center for rescue and relief operations and stated it was for this reason that on August 17, 1944, he organized a committee of outstanding refugee intellectuals in Turkey who will assist the International Rescue and Relief Committee in extending all forms of relief to persons who fall within the scope of its activities in the Balkans and southeastern Europe. This committee is composed of one Czech, one Austrian, one Yugoslav, two Hungarians and two Germans. Mr. Dannenberg stated it is contemplated that in addition to its other activities the committee will provide relief to all bona fide and long-standing anti-Nazi Germans now interned in Anatolia.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Sheba Strunsky,  
International Rescue and  
Relief Committee,  
103 Park Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

JW ✓

FHhd 10/18/44



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Istanbul, September 6, 1944

7/25  
FBI - [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]

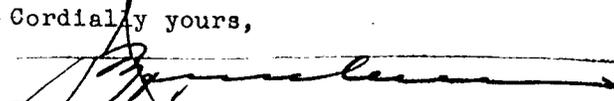
Dear John:

As I was unfamiliar with the efforts and accomplishments of the representatives in Istanbul of the International Rescue and Relief Committee and of the Emergency Committee for the Rescue of Jews in Europe, and in view of certain responsibilities of the Board connected with their activities, on August 17 I asked Mr. Denenberg if he would care to submit a report of his activities. On September 5, the report of Mr. Denenberg dated August 29 was handed to me, which I am forwarding to you.

While Mr. Katzki and I have had no way of checking point for point on the accuracy of the statements contained in the report, we are compelled to say that much of it, from knowledge available to us, appears to be in the realm of hyperbole.

We are passing it on to you for your information.

Cordially yours,

  
I. A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache

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

Enclosure

International Rescue and Relief Committee

Report to the War Refugee Board

by LEON DENENBERG, Representative of the IRRG in Turkey

Istanbul, August 29, 1944.

As you requested, I am submitting to the War Refugee Board a report on my activities for about nine weeks -- from June 8, when I arrived in Istanbul, to August 15th.

You are of course aware of the fact that my organization is primarily interested in the relief and rescue of democratic individuals or groups of anti-totalitarians, regardless of race or religion, whose lives are in danger because of their active opposition to Nazism and Fascism. In view of the changed international situation, particularly in the Balkans and South Eastern Europe, the question of such type of rescue is now academic. My report, therefore, can be only of "historic" interest. According to my information many - not all, to be sure - of the politically active progressives and democrats will not want to leave their countries at this critical period. Moreover, some of the Rumanian people and parties, on whose behalf I appealed to the Rumanian Minister, Gretzeanu, through the War Refugee Board, are now forming the new Rumanian Government. The same is true of Bulgaria. Tomorrow it will also be true of Hungary.

This does not mean that Turkey will cease being a haven for refugees. The situation in the Balkans, in South

Eastern Europe and in the Eastern Europe is at present so complicated that one cannot predict when progressive and democratic men and women may once more have to leave their countries and seek places of refuge. Also, the problem of relief to democratic intellectuals, labor people, scholars, scientists, etc., who were the greatest sufferers because of their active opposition to Nazism, is now assuming ever greater proportions.

For this reason, I organized in Turkey a Committee of outstanding refugee intellectuals, who will assist the International Rescue Committee to extend all forms of relief to the men and women who fall within the scope of our activities. This Committee which is composed of a Czech, an Austrian, a Yugoslav, two Hungarians and two Germans, will carry on our relief activities in the Balkans and South-Eastern Europe. Our Committee will also take charge of the distribution of relief to all bonafide and long standing anti-Nazis who are now interned in Anatolia as a result of the break in German-Turkish relations.

Following the Turkish-German break, I engaged in a rescue action which embraced a number of pro-Allied and pro-democratic elements in Turkey. Besides my efforts to rescue democratic elements from German-dominated territory, I was faced with the task of preventing the Turkish authorities from deporting anti-Nazi refugees to Germany.

On August 3rd, a group of Austrian, German and Czech scholars and intellectuals, at present in Istanbul,

headed by Alexander Rustow, appealed to me as a representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, to intervene on behalf of a number of anti-Nazis - scientists, journalists, socialists, writers, etc. - who were threatened with deportation to Germany as a result of the German-Turkish break in the diplomatic relations.

I have known Professor Rustow since my arrival in Istanbul and cooperated with him in my rescue activities. Together with Dr. Ernst Reuter, former Socialist Mayor of Magdeburg, he represents here an ~~organization~~ organization of anti-Nazi German intellectuals who have long been cooperating with the Allies. It was Professor Rustow's contention that, on the request of the Gestapo in Turkey, persons opposed to the Nazi regime were being sent by force to Germany, where they faced certain death. I investigated these charges and found them to be absolutely true. The Istanbul Chief of Police, Demir Bey was threatening to deport by force refugees who have a long record of opposition to the Nazi regime (several he did deport). On August 7th, I communicated this to the War Refugee Board in a letter to which I also attached a list of non-Jewish persons and also persons of Jewish origin who were not registered as Jews in their Turkish residence permits. Originally the list included 45 persons. Gradually, however, it grew to over 70. Not all of these people were endangered in an equal measure. I have

- 4 -

seen an authentic document indicating that the Germans had several lists of "undesirable refugees" and only those on lists number 1 and 2, were in immediate danger. (The author of this document, a prominent Nazi official in Turkey, is now in an Allied country). However, most of the refugees, ignorant of their fate, were worried about the situation and I used to receive daily dozens of Austrian, Czech and German anti-Nazis who feared deportation to Germany because they had been informed by the Istanbul Police that their turn may come next. Even some of the people teaching at the University of Istanbul who were promised by the Ankara Government that they would be neither deported nor interned feared that they were in danger. The subsequent internment in Anatolia of some of the University people proves that their fears were not altogether unfounded.

After I convinced myself that Professor Rustow's charges were based on fact, I immediately intervened on behalf of these people with Mr. Kelly, our Charge d'Affaires, with our Security Officers and with the War Refugee Board and soon I also appealed to the British Authorities for help.

The action of some American newspapermen who cabled the story to America, thus bringing it to the attention of the Turkish Premier, helped in a large measure to stop the deportations but, unfortunately, not soon enough to save Marie Thanos, a German sculptress of pronounced anti-Nazi views who was on Gestapo list number 1. She went into hiding with my knowledge

and encouragement. I also paid for her shelter. Unfortunately she was hounded by the Istanbul police and had to change her hiding places frequently, until I lost contact with her. While I was attempting to establish contact with her I was informed that she was found by the police and deported by force on August 14th.

I want to take this occasion to express my gratitude to our Security Officers, to the Refugee Board, and to all Americans who helped to save the life of another anti-Nazi, Arthur Roth. You will recall that when I first introduced Roth to you, at the Park Hotel, he was already accompanied by a Turkish Secret Policeman who guarded all his movements. Only a British visa to Syria could have saved his life.

My deepest gratitude is therefore due to Major Whittall, the British Consul, who, at my request promised to grant a visa to Mr. Arthur Roth to Syria and finally did grant it, thus saving the man's life.

X X X X X

When I left New-York City on March 17, 1944 Hungary was still more or less an independant country and we all felt that Turkey would be a good spot from which to rescue active pro-democratic elements. Unfortunately, while I was on the way the German Army occupied Hungary and tightened its rule.

in Rumania and Bulgaria.] By the time I reached Istanbul - after having travelled a whole month by ship to Alexandria and having waited several weeks in Cairo for my Turkish visa - many of my underground contacts were disorganized - in Hungary due to the butchery perpetrated by the Germans in the latter part of March and early in April and in Rumania due to Allied bombings.

While they were being reestablished my problem was to get lists of people in whose rescue and relief my organization was interested, and also to establish contact with them. [My lists were finally compiled in the same manner as one creates a mosaic - name by name.] I shall not describe here all the methods by which I established the whereabouts of my people, except one; on July 10 and again on August 9, 1944, I was the only American who interviewed at length many of the Jews who arrived from Rumania on the Kazbek and Morina. I travelled with them all the way from Pendik, a station near Haydar Pasha, to Eskisibir (the first time 8 hours, the second time 10 hours). Since the Turkish Authorities held all Jews arriving by sea virtually incommunicado I cannot reveal at the moment how I managed to get on the trains. The purpose of both trips, as I indicated, was to gather information about the situation of non-Jewish pro-democratic and pro-allied people in the Nazi-occupied countries. The information I thus received was invaluable. Some of it I cabled to the United States where, I understand, it was published. Incidentally, while riding the trains I en-

countered a number of evils committed against the immigrants which I subsequently reported to the War Refugee Board.

About six weeks ago I also sent a man to Hungary to arrange the illegal crossing of people from Hungary to Rumania. This man is a Yugoslav who also works for an Allied Power. Unfortunately he had a German "fremden passport" and the Turkish-German break in relations may prevent his return to Istanbul.

One of the men in whose rescue I was particularly interested and for whom I offered a substantial sum, was the Hungarian Nobel Prize Winner and noted liberal, Professor Szent-Gyorgyi. I induced the Chemistry Department of the University of Istanbul to issue an invitation to Professor Szent-Gyorgyi which, I have reason to believe, was one of the factors which helped to ease his situation in Hungary.

On July 27 I submitted to the Jewish Agency a list of over 200 Hungarians with a request that they be granted Palestine Certificates. The list was compiled in Istanbul with the help of most of the pro-democratic Hungarians here. Although primarily one of the Jewish intellectuals, labor people and in general of progressive and pro-democratic men and women the list also contains names of non-Jewish men and women and also of persons who are regarded as Jews only by the diseased Nazi minds.

It is interesting to note that on August 15, I received through the State Department an excellent list of about

230 progressive Hungarian statesmen, authors, journalists, labor leaders, scientists, etc., recommended by the International Rescue and Relief Committee for Palestine certificates. Compiled independantly in New-York the list included many of the names mentioned in my letter to you of July 24, and also in the list I submitted to the Jewish Agency.

All persons on whose behalf I intervoned received Palestine Certificates.

X X X X X

As for Rumania, I understand that you submitted my list to the Rumanian Minister and that he promised to intervene on behalf of our people. I had a similar promise from the Rumanian Press Attache in Ankara, Theodor Solacola, (with whom I was in contact through an Allied Power) who also agreed to compile for me a list of all pro-democratic Rumanians who were in jails and concentration camps.

At the same time, through a courier and by letter, I established contact with several people in Galatz and Bucharest who were to help me to evacuate my people from Rumania on the ship which Mr.Griffel and I were contemplating to send.

X X X X X

In Bulgaria I was in the process of establishing contact with the leaders of the Democratic, Peasant and Social

Democratic Parties. (See my letter of August 4th).

On July 6th a prominent Bulgarian lawyer and Journalist of Jewish origin reached Istanbul after he had been arrested 4 times, spent 6 months in an internment camp, lived for 7 months illegally and was attacked by the Bulgarian Nazi-controlled radio, "Obedinnena Bulgaria" as a pro-Allied propagandist. On the 18th of July this man, upon my request, sent by courier two letters to Sofia - one to Professor Zeko Torboff and the other one to Rechtsanwalt Adolf Hayomoff - instructing them to distribute to a number of pro-democratic persons in Bulgaria funds which he had hidden. We agreed that I would reimburse him only upon receipt of confirmation that the money reached its destination. As yet I received no such confirmation.

X X X X X X

In Istanbul I have aided a number of persons including two Spanish Republicans who escaped from Spain to Oran then to Rumania and finally to Istanbul, reaching this city on June 22, the above-mentioned Bulgarian, the former Editor of the "Neue Wiener Journal", Marie Thaens, etc. The list of refugees in Turkey who need help is constantly growing. I have also sent food packages to a number of non-Jews in Warsaw who, according to my latest information, are still alive.

X X X X X X

The scope of my activities and primary interests you will also find in my letter of July 24, where I submitted a

list of prominent Hungarian pro-democratic anti-Nazis in whose rescue and relief the International Rescue and Relief Committee is interested, of July 28, when I submitted a list of Rumanians of a similar category, and of August 4 which lists a number of Bulgarians - socialists, peasant party leaders, democrats, intellectuals, labor people, etc. - who were at that time confined in Bulgarian-Nazi jails and concentration camps, and also a general list of pro-democratic Bulgarians and the parties they represent.

I take the liberty of quoting the following excerpt from letter of July 28th which describes briefly my interests and activities as representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee in Turkey:

" The International Rescue and Relief Committee is doing all within its power to rescue and bring relief to active pro-democratic and anti-totalitarian Jews. You are probably aware of the fact that the project for a separate non-Jewish Agency ship which is to evacuate Jews from Rumania on a non-party basis - a project which I understand you approved - is largely the work of Mr. Griffer and myself.

" But ours is the only relief agency operating in this part of the world which is working for the relief and rescue of non-Jews. Moreover, whereas the rescue of the tragic survivors of the Jewish people - due to the pressure exerted upon Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria by our Government and others - is now relatively a simple matter, aid to non-Jewish anti-Nazis faces unsurmountable obstacles because most people of this kind are either in hiding or in jails and concentration camps. It is extremely difficult to communicate with them or to receive information about them. You will agree with me, I am sure, that despite all difficulties men and women who suffer for the cause of human freedom must not be forgotten.

" I spent many weeks in preparing the Hungarian and Rumanian lists. Each name had to be checked and re-checked. Even now they are far from being complete and in a few days

I shall be in a position to give you additional names.

" In connection with Hungary, you will recall, I told you that an Allied Catholic Power is glad to recommend me to the Papal Nuncio in Turkey who, I know, exerts great influence on Hungarian governing circles. Upon your advice I have so far refrained from establishing contact with the Nuncio. I also informed you that through an Allied Power I had word from the Rumanian Minister in Turkey, Cretzeanu, that he is ready to assist in the release of active Rumanian anti-Nazis. I have, of course, no illusions as to the reason of Mr. Cretzeanu's generosity. But when it concerns the saving of lives, particularly lives of active anti-totalitarian and pro-Allied men and women - which I regard as a distinct contribution to our war effort - all avenues ought to be kept open.

" I have been informed by you that I have no right to contact enemy nationals, especially diplomats. You, on the other hand, have been authorized to do so by our Government. I therefore appeal to you to contact the Rumanian Minister at once. Perhaps a few of the "forgotten anti-Nazis" may thus be saved. The Nuncio, of course, is not an enemy but I shall await word from you before contacting him.

" The other day I informed my office in New-York that you are also interested in the rescue of non-Jews and that you will also intervene on behalf of Leizer Landau and seventy-six refugees from Poland who are stranded in Rumania and may be the first on the list of deportees to Poland should the internal situation in Rumania change. I have a copy of a letter from Landau's group - a desperate cry for help - which I shall be glad to show you if you are interested."

I am happy to inform you that 60 of the Polish refugees in Rumania on whose behalf I intervened were finally given places on the Bulbul. Unfortunately, 16 of the remaining roles went down with the Mefkure.

*Leon Denenberg*  
Leon Denenberg.

SEP 2 1944

Dear Miss Strunsky:

There are attached hereto copies of cables which the War Refugee Board has requested the State Department to dispatch in your behalf.

Very truly yours,

*(Signed) Florence Hadel*

Florence Hadel  
Assistant to the Executive Director

Miss Shepa Strunsky,  
Executive Secretary,  
International Rescue and  
Relief Committee,  
103 Park Avenue,  
New York 17, New York.

25  
E.S.D.  
9/3/44

No attachments  
when placed in file



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Istanbul, September 1, 1944

Dear John:

Among the activities which Mr. Leon Denenberg, representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, has undertaken in Istanbul is the establishment of a local committee which might act for the International Rescue and Relief Committee in the distribution of funds to categories of refugees in which the IRRIC is interested. Such a committee has been established, and I am enclosing herein a copy of the protocol dated August 17, 1944, which was drawn up at the time the committee was organized.

The only member of this committee whom I know personally is Professor Alexander Rüstov. I have great confidence in him as a man of integrity. I understand from him that the other members of his committee likewise are responsible persons.

I am sending this memorandum to you as I believe that in due course Mr. Denenberg will recommend to the IRRIC that they transmit directly to the Istanbul Committee such funds as they might have available for relief purposes for their special cases. This would occur in the event that Mr. Denenberg should withdraw from Istanbul.

Mr. Denenberg informed us verbally that the committee which he has established will concern itself with refugees, not only in Turkey but in other countries in the Balkans. It is for that reason, according to Mr. Denenberg, that he selected committee members who are nationals of various Balkan countries, and who, under those circumstances, would be presumed to know something of the background of the intellectual, political, and other groups of refugees for whom the IRRIC would be willing to provide funds.

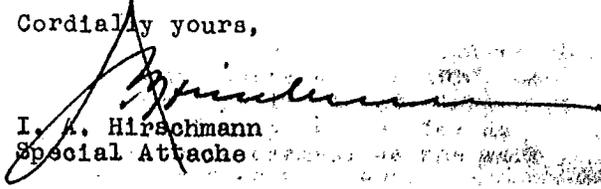
While, as I have stated above, I have complete confidence in Professor Rüstov and his statements regarding the committee, I have no way of determining

whether such a committee can function as set forth under the auspices arranged for it. In my discussion with Dr. Rüstov, I requested of him that he inform us of the steps and progress of the committee after it has met and undertaken to solve some of its problems, that we will be in a better position to learn of its activities.

Under separate cover, you are receiving from me a full report of the activities of the War Refugee Board from June 19 to August 19. It was my intention to include in this report a record of the activities of the Emergency Committee for the Rescue of Jews in Europe, represented by Mr. Jabotinsky, and the International Rescue and Relief Committee, represented by Mr. Denenberg. I invited both of these representatives to submit a program of their activities to be included in my report, which they agreed to do. To date, nothing has been submitted, although they agreed to do so three weeks from the above date. I am led to believe that there are no activities of any substantial nature which can be reported, aside from the above, and the proposal from Mr. Jabotinsky about which I telegraphed and wrote to you. If any other data are submitted by them, they will be forwarded promptly to you.

With warm personal regards,

Cordially yours,

  
I. A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache

John W. Pehle, Esquire  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Encl.

Upon the suggestion of Mr. Leon Denenberg, representative of the International Rescue and Relief Committee of USA (IRRC), the following personages assembled at Mr. Denenberg's flat at 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 17:

- Dr. Wolfgang BRETHOLZ of Ankara, former editor of the "Berliner Tageblatt", at present representative for the Near East of the "Basler Nachrichten" and the "Svenska Dagbladet";  
(Czechoslovak)
- Prof. Ernst REUTER of Ankara, former member of the German Reichstag and Mayor of the city of Magdeburg, at present professor at Ankara School of Political Science;  
(German)
- Prof. Dr. Alexander RÜSTOW of Istanbul, former Referent of the German Ministry of Economics, at present professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Istanbul;  
(German)
- Prof. Dr. Andreas B. SCHWARZ of Istanbul, former professor at the Faculties of Law of the Universities of Leipzig, Zürich, and Freiburg i.B., at present professor at the Faculty of Law of Istanbul University;  
(Hungarian)
- Prof. Dr. Philipp SCHWARTZ of Istanbul, former professor at Frankfurt University, at present professor of the Faculty of Medicine of Istanbul University (was prevented by illness from attending the meeting).  
(Yugoslav)

Upon the proposal of the representative, those assembled resolved to form a Sub-Committee for Turkey and South-East Europe of the IRRC, and in this capacity to aid the IRRC in its operations in aid of victims of Nazism and Fascism, fugitives and emigrants in Turkey and, as far as possible, in neighbouring countries; to take upon themselves the work arising in this connection, and to act on behalf of the IRRC. Appropriate funds for the discharging of its functions will be placed at the disposal of the Committee.

It was agreed in principle that only persons whose political outlook can be definitely established as being opposed to Nazism and Fascism are eligible for assistance, while within this definition no discrimination on national, racial, religious, or social grounds shall be admitted. It will be incumbent upon the Committee to establish in each case the worthiness and degree of indigence of those applying for assistance, and to grant or recommend such aid accordingly. The first immediate task of the Committee is to be to compile a comprehensive register of all fugitives and emigrants in Turkey.

The members of the Committee resolved to secure the collaboration as a member of

Dr. Hans WILBRANDT  
(German)

of Istanbul, former Referent at the Institute for Agricultural Market Research of Berlin School of Agriculture, at present businessman at Istanbul.

To fit the Committee to take up its functions, it was resolved to appoint as Chairman Professor Philipp Schwartz, as Deputy Chairman Professor Alexander Rüstow, and as Secretaries Professor Ernst Reuter and Dr. Hans Wilbrandt. In electing the secretaries the question of residence was taken into account in view of possible cases to be dealt with at Ankara.

The minutes in English of each Committee meeting will be forwarded to the International Rescue and Relief Committee of USA.

The next meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 7.

Istanbul, 17 August, 1944.

Istanbul Secretary: Dr. Hans Wilbrandt,

Istanbul-Galata  
Minerva Han

Tel. 44770  
Telegram Address TANLIN/  
ISTANBUL.

Ankara Secretary

Prof. Ernst Reuter,

Ankara-Bahçeli Evler  
Uçuncu iniş 14

Tel: 7185-61  
Telegram Address: REUTER  
BAHÇELIEVLER ANKARA

Handwritten text in Turkish, rotated 90 degrees counter-clockwise, including the name 'Prof. Dr. Ernst Reuter'.

*International Rescue and Relief Committee*  
*Incorporated*

103 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LExington 2-7916

August 10, 1944.

Honorary Chairman  
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Executive Secretary  
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National Committee  
Roger Baldwin  
Paul F. Brissenden  
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James G. Heller  
John Haynes Holmes  
William H. Kilpatrick  
Wesley C. Mitchell  
Reinhold Niebuhr  
William Allan Neilson  
John Dos Passos  
Cecilia Razovsky  
Abba Hillel Silver  
Upton Sinclair  
Dorothy Thompson  
Oswald G. Villard

Mr. I.M. Weinstein  
Special Assistant to the  
Executive Director  
Executive Office of the President  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Your letter of April 18th regarding a list and information about European scientists, scholars, artists and technologists who came to this country had been mislaid.

We would appreciate your informing us whether you would still be interested in this material in which case we would be very glad to compile it for you.

I regret the delay in this matter which was caused by the fact that we moved and your letter arrived in our new quarters before the furniture had been placed.

Very sincerely yours,

*Sheba Strunsky*  
For Sheba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary

SS/ir

*Sheba Strunsky*  
*file*

April 18, 1944

Dear Miss Strunsky:

We are interested in obtaining information about the achievements of the European scientists, scholars, artists and technologists who have come to this country since Hitler's rise to power. We believe that such information, particularly the contributions made by scientists and technologists to the American war effort, would be helpful to us in our work.

We understand that you have a list containing the names of all such accomplished persons referred to above. We would very much appreciate it if you forwarded their names, addresses and present connections, together with such biographical material as you may have.

Very truly yours,

I. M. Weinstein  
Special Assistant to the  
Executive Director

Miss Sheba Strunsky,  
International Rescue & Relief Committee,  
103 Park Avenue,  
New York, New York.

IMWeinstein/sg 4/18/44

*Refer to Mr. Weinstein  
yale  
attached copy  
not need  
in files*

JUN 30 1944

Dear Iver:

It will be appreciated if you will deliver the enclosed letter to Mrs. Elise Ottesen-Jensen from the International Rescue and Relief Committee.

Sincerely,

*W. John*

Mr. Iver O. Olsen,  
Financial Attache,  
United States Legation,  
Stockholm, Sweden.

Enclosure.

*EBP*

*JA*  
Reference: 6-29-44

*no customer  
when received  
no files*

HEBA STRUNSKY, INTERNATIONAL RESCUE AND  
RELIEF COMMITTEE, 2 West 43d Street, NEW YORK CITY

Istanbul, June 27, 1944

Dear Sheba:

If I could only write of my experiences during the past three months in greater detail. I have quite a story to tell. Unfortunately there are always a number of obstacles in the way. If mailed through regular post office channels, it would take at least two months for a letter to reach you. And what about the censors? Even by diplomatic pouch it takes from three to four weeks. The price of cables, on the other hand, is quite prohibitive. Nevertheless, if we are to maintain intimate contact we can do it only by cable--that is, to employ the facilities of the State Department. One thing I must impress upon you, Sheba: henceforth you will have to make extensive use of your ability to read between the lines.

Wartime travel, particularly in the Near East, is no picnic; to live in a Levantine country which is at the moment suspended on the political tight-rope of neutrality is extremely difficult. Should Turkey enter the war--personally I don't think she will--I shall have to pack my suitcase and seek "greener" pastures, if I manage, that is, to cross the sea and reach Asia Minor in time. Nevertheless, there are also a number of compensations. Much of postwar history will be made and is being made in this part of the world. I have learned how much misinformation there is in the United States on the subject of this Islamic desert. Indeed, all we have is vague ideas and deeply seated prejudices. We still think of the Near East as a passive region between Europe and Asia which is but a pawn of the Great Powers. The tragedy is, however, that life and politics are governed by their own laws. The Middle East is now undergoing profound social and

economic changes. Soon, too, we shall awaken to the realization that while the Middle East and the Balkans are a pawn all right--they are a pawn not of the Great Powers but of one Great Power. Here this aspect of the international situation is clear beyond the shadow of a doubt.

The relief and rescue situation as seen from Istanbul is, at the moment, very discouraging. Last March the Germans took over completely the governments of the Balkans and South-Eastern Europe. Until then communication with Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary was relatively easy and it was possible--on a small scale--to rescue individuals, particularly Jews. The situation has changed drastically. Both the Germans and the Turks are now making great difficulties. Some of the people here--the Poles, etc.--are exerting every effort to reestablish contact with Hungary and in this connection I cabled you about my project to send a man (possibly a Turkish journalist) both to Hungary and Rumania. But it all takes time. Things move slowly here. Nothing less than the patience of a Job would do in Turkey. For weeks, perhaps months, one's labors seem fruitless and then one day things begin to happen. I hope so. If the present conditions prevail things may never happen. This, however, applies primarily to Hungary. Conditions in Rumania are somewhat better. It is possible to send money into Rumania and to communicate with people more or less freely. Negotiations are also going on now for the removal of some thousands of Rumanian Jews to Palestine. It is not yet certain whether they will go by Turkish or Rumanian ships. In either case, I have the solemn promise of the Jewish Agency people to give a number of places on the ships to the type of people--non-Jewish or Jewish non-Zionist

labor leaders, journalists, scholars, trade unionists (in general active anti-totalitarians)--in whom the IRRO is interested. We shall of course pay for transportation, living expenses, etc. Let us hope this project which, while extremely difficult in itself is complicated even more because of the rivalry of a number of Jewish relief agencies here (J.D.C. vs Jewish Agency, etc) may eventually become a reality. In the meantime I need names of people (even if their present whereabouts is unknown) and also the name of one reliable person whom I could use as my representative in Rumania. Dr. Kissman of the Jewish Labor Committee, I think, may be able to furnish you with such names.

In addition to patience one also needs money--money for rescue and relief work as well as for baksheesh which is a flourishing industry in this part of the world. This, too, is easier said than done. The official rate of exchange is one Turkish Lira and twenty-nine Kurus for a dollar. Fantastically low. At this rate of exchange your entire budget will not cover my needs, when and if they arise. The diplomatic rate of exchange is 1.80 for a dollar. But where there is a will there is a way. Don't be surprised if some of these days I ask you to deposit money in my name in New York or to transfer some money to a number of people in Switzerland. In the meantime please cable me, through the State Department \$10,000.00 (ten thousand). (By the time you receive this letter you will have had a number of cables from me regarding this matter.) Send the money on my name to the American Consulate General in Istanbul. Incidentally, my letter of credit is not recognized in Turkey and I had to borrow money for personal expenses.

I have already told you of the difficulties in general; mine are doubly so. The people we want to help are either in concentration camps or in hiding. Then, I am not of the "Tenth" period. A rare animal even here. Mr. Berry, the American Counsel General in Istanbul, an extremely charming person who is certainly cooperating with the "rescue squad" in Turkey (Jewish Agency, Joint Distribution Committee, Emergency Committee to Save Jews, Hicem, Orthodox Rabbis-- Vaad Haazola--and what not--) tells me that our kind of people-- liberal scholars, socialists, etc., etc. --may soon be out of danger: if Russia should occupy Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria this type of people, he thinks, will be charged with forming the new free governments. This, too, is the view of the various OWI people in Istanbul. I hope they are right. In the meantime, however, the Russians are making a drive for Berlin leaving the Balkans and South Eastern Europe-- for the moment at least--in charge of various partisan and free groups. And while the Red Army is still engaged elsewhere these anti-Nazis need help, if it is possible to help them. Unfortunately, of non-Jews only the Greeks receive some aid, American aid. Others are completely neglected. I hope you will transmit this information to the Unitarian Committee, the Christian Refugee Committee and even to the League for Human Rights. (At this point give my regards to Suzanne La Follette, Bluestein and so on.)

1. Several days ago I met an official of the Rumanian Legation in Turkey (Conseiller de presse Theodore Solacolo). He claims that he is ready to help us and furnish me with a list of people who are now in Rumanian concentration camps. (THIS IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL). If Ambassador Steinhardt, whose aid to the refugees is indeed historic

and ought to be made public some day, approves Salacolo will also introduce me to the Rumanian Minister in Turkey. Please ask about this Salocolo who claims to be a friend of one George Boncesco who works for the State Department.

2. I am also in contact with Laszlo Posfay, until recently Hungarian Counsel in Istanbul. He resigned in protest to Germany's action in March. This Posfay as well as Dr. Francois A. Vali, professor of Law of the University of Budapest, who is now in Istanbul suggested that the following Hungarians be helped--if possible, of course: Charles Peyer, leader of the Social Democratic faction of the Hungarian Parliament, Count George Apponyin, deputy of the Democratic Party, Bajcsy-Zsilinszky, Deputy of the Agrarian Party and the socialist deputies Arpad Szakasits and Mrs. Anne Kethly. Ask Ignac Schultz and Professor Halasi about them.

3. I am now in the process of forming an informal committee to help me with my work. If approved by you the committee is to consist of Professor Philip Schwartz, formerly of Frankfurt-am-main and at present of the University of Istanbul. Professor Schwartz was the moving spirit behind the "Notgemeinschaft Deutscher Wissenschaftler" (Zurich and London) which was instrumental in rescuing many of the German scholars now in Turkey. Also Dr. Francois A. Vali of Budapest, trustworthy and more than interested in our work, and Professor Ernst Reuter, former Socialist Oberburgmaster of Magdeburg and at present at the University of Ankara. (I am enclosing a letter from Reuter to Max Brauer or Gerhardt Seeger. The New Leader will contact them for you.) These people are ready to help me now and also to represent the IRRG after the war. They say with justice that the

needs of our kind of people will be even greater after the war. They are thoroughly familiar with the situation and ready to carry on for us should I leave Turkey. Cable me your reaction without, however, mentioning names.

---

The situation of the Jews in Hungary is desparate. Eyewitnesses report that ten thousand Jews are being deported weekly to Poland-- which means death. (Thus far, about 400,000 have been deported). The other day I also saw a group of Bulgarian Jews pass through Turkey on the way to Palestine. They were a miserable lot. All Jewish property in Bulgaria has been confiscated. Sofia is now Judenrein and all Jews concentrated in special districts. In Rumania the situation is a trifle better. Recent arrivals tell me that during the recent American bombing of Bucharest the Jewish quarter--by accident or by design--has been spared. This made a tremendous impression upon the Rumanians. They now seek shelter in the Jewish quarter during an air raid. In general one could come to an understanding with the Hungarians, Rumanians, Bulgarians, etc. Unfortunately the real bosses are the Germans. But even the Germans are weakening. Ambassador Steinhardt recently transmitted to the State Department the proposal of two Hungarian agents of the Germans, Brandt and Georgy who claim that the Germans are ready to free Jews in return for Allied favors. These two agents came here by plane illegally and their proposal which I read sounds fantastic. Nevertheless there may be a grain of reality in it.

---

I live at the Park Hotel. From my balcony I have a beautiful view of the Marmora and the Bosphorus. Exotic is the word for it.

This plus the presence of German, Rumanian and "other" agents at the Hotel makes me feel as though I were living on the pages of an E. Phillips Oppenheim novel. Unbelievable--at first I refused to believe it myself--but, alas, true. I'm afraid that every scrap of paper I throw into the wastebasket is being carefully examined. The friends of humanity are here, too. At the beginning the whole thing used to disturb me but now I'm used to it and know how to cope with the situation. At least I think I know.

---

Please tell Harry Rogoff of the Jewish Daily Forward that it is extremely difficult to communicate with him by letter. There is a wealth of material here but he can have it by cable only. The same applies to Liston Oak, Danny Bell and Levitas. At your discretion you may let them use the informative and descriptive portions of this letter--if they find them interesting.

Tell also Seiferheld that I met his man Donald. I was sitting on the terrace of Beirut's St. George Hotel, watching the Lebannon as it descends into the Mediterranean when my attention was distracted by a man sitting not far from me. Instinctively I felt that this was the man. Cautiously I asked him whether he knew a Seiferheld in the States. "David", exclaimed the man with evident pleasure. Donald may soon come to Istanbul. We spoke only for a few minutes because I had to catch the Toros Express for Ankara.

I just heard from Berle, through Cummings, that all you received from me was one cable from Cairo and one from Jerusalem. I can't understand it. I have sent you a number of letters (one by diplomatic pouch from Cairo) and at least five cables. And what about the long

- 8 -

cable of June 14 I sent from Istanbul through the consulate? On the other hand, I haven't as yet heard from you. You don't know how important it is for me to hear from you regularly. So won't you please write and telegraph as frequently as possible.

Incidentally, my draft exemption is expiring in August. Please apply for an extension. Anne will help you. Greet Mac, Elsa, Ray, Kingdon, Pat, Dubinsky, Montana, Stout our entire staff and if you ever see Berle give him my best regards.

Best Wishes,

/s/ Leon

---

June 27, (Night)

I just met a German who recently arrived from Germany and expects to return there. I cannot mention his name. He promised to do everything possible for the IRRG but it may take months before there are any results. (I shall send you a detailed report in a few days.) Also met a Hungarian who is completely trustworthy. He tells me that all the people I mentioned earlier are held incommunicado--if they are still alive--and no one knows where they are. He also tells me that the situation of Jews who are not citizens of Hungary is horrible beyond imagination but that the Hungarian Government is vigorously resisting the attempts of the Nazis to deport Jews who are Hungarian citizens.

L

In reply please  
refer to: 984

JUN 13 1944

Dear Miss Strunsky:

Thank you for your letter of May 29, 1944,  
quoting from a letter to you from Mr. Dennen in Cairo.

The Board is presently working on the prob-  
lem presented in your letter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Sheba Strunsky,  
Executive Secretary,  
International Rescue and  
Relief Committee, Inc.,  
Room 901,  
103 Park Avenue,  
New York 17, New York.

EB

RBHutchison:agr 6-9-44

JWS

International Rescue and Relief Committee  
Incorporated

Combining: Emergency Rescue Committee, Inc.  
International Relief Association, Inc.

127 WEST 43rd STREET NEW YORK 18, N.Y.

Rm. 901, 107 Park Ave.  
New York 17, N.Y.  
EXington 2-7916

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Ans. 6/13/44 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date \_\_\_\_\_

May 29, 1944

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Abba Hillel Silver  
Upton Sinclair  
Dorothy Thompson  
Oswald G. Villard  
William Allen White

Dr. John H. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Main Treasury Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We feel that you would be interested in having the information contained in the following excerpt from Mr. Dennen's first letter which came from Cairo:

"There is little or no evacuation of individuals or small groups of anti-Nazis whose lives are in danger. All evacuation is done on a mass scale. So is relief. Unfortunately, even mass evacuation and relief has not been very effective. UNRRA is only now stepping into the picture. It is still in a formative state. How long this process of organization will continue only God knows. (Blame the objective forces and certainly not the people in charge of it.) In the meantime little is being accomplished.

"UNRRA is being merged today with MERRA. Now MERRA, because it has been longer on the scene, has already done something in the matter of relief and evacuation. Its Director, an Englishman who has now assumed the duties as head of UNRRA in the Middle East, is quite familiar with the situation. I had several talks with Mr. W. T. Matthews and he has given me

some useful information. The British, for their own reasons, are helping primarily Greeks and Yugoslavs -- and only a certain category of Yugoslavs. MERHA has helped a few Jews, too. They will have nothing to do, however, with anti-Nazis who are subjects of enemy countries. Matthews admits that the plight of these people is horrible beyond description but he will or can do nothing about it. The military authorities will not permit this type of refugee to settle in the Middle East. The only hope is Turkey.

"Let today Homer Davis, an exceedingly intelligent American who is working for the State Department in Ismir, Turkey, and Harry Hill, first Secretary of the American Embassy to Greece and Yugoslavia. Both men are familiar with the work and scope of the President's War Refugee Board (too bad that they are rare exceptions) and are vitally interested in the problem of rescue and relief.

"The administrators of the Greek and Yugoslav camps (John H. and Elbert) would welcome with open arms any kind of private relief supplies. Their needs are enormous. They need text books, toys, medical supplies, travel papers, accosts, candy -- anything, in fact. They would welcome the contribution they would welcome it. You don't even need it to run schools for thousands of children without black boards, pencils or even a piece of paper.

"The Jewish situation in the Balkans is desperate. Two thousand Jews in Greece, until recently under the protection of the Spanish and Argentine governments, are being deported to Poland which means -- death. This is apparently done with the consent of the governments of Spain and Argentina."

Does not something to do with the Spanish and Argentine governments to find some measure of protection to these Jews in Greece?

Very sincerely yours,

*Sheba Strunsky*

Sheba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary

33

SS'ir

RECEIVED

File 74

# International Rescue and Relief Committee

Incorporated  
Combining: Emergency Rescue Committee, Inc.  
International Relief Association, Inc.

Rm. 901, 103 Park Ave.  
New York 17, New York  
EXington 2-7916

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John Haynes Holmes  
William H. Kilpatrick  
Wesley C. Mitchell  
Reinhold Niebuhr  
William Allan Neilson  
John Dos Passos  
Cecilia Razovsky  
Abba Hillel Silver  
Upton Sinclair  
Dorothy Thompson  
Oswald G. Villard  
William Allen White

April 12, 1944

Dear Mr. [Name]:  
I am pleased to have you as Executive Director  
of the [Organization] and  
hope you will find it an interesting  
and profitable experience.  
Sincerely,  
Shoba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary

Thank you so much for  
your letter of the 10th and for our office  
to have you as Executive Director here in New  
York.  
May I remind you to  
keep in touch with all people and Relief  
Committees in the United States regarding  
their work and how they can be helped abroad?

Very sincerely yours,  
*Shoba Strunsky*  
Shoba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary

cc: Mr.



JUN 6 1944

Dear Miss Strunsky:

I enclose herewith copies of the two cables  
which you requested.

Very truly yours,

*181 7/10/44* *F. Hodel*

Florence Hodel  
Assistant to the Director

Miss Sheba Strunsky,  
The International Rescue  
and Relief Committee,  
Suite 902,  
103 Park Avenue,  
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

*FH*

FH:lab 6/5/44

*76 enclosures under  
received in file*

JUN 6 1944

Dear ~~Mr. Kingdon~~

The enclosed letter for you, dated April 26, 1944, from Mrs. Elise Ottesen-Jensen, has been received through the American Legation, Stockholm.

Very truly yours,

RESPECTFULLY,  
J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

~~Mr. Kingdon~~  
The International Rescue  
& Relief Committee,  
Suite 902,  
103 Park Avenue,  
New York 17, New York.

Enclosure.

8/27 RBHutchinson:agr 6-3-44 JWP



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

856

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
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848/ICO/MET

AMERICAN LEGATION  
Stockholm, Sweden  
May 15, 1944

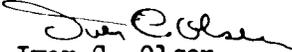
Mr. John W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I attach a letter to the International Rescue and Relief Committee, New York, from Mrs. Elise Ottesen-Jensen, Stockholm.

It is requested that the letter in question be delivered to the aforementioned Committee.

Sincerely yours,

  
Iver C. Olsen  
Special Attaché for  
War Refugee Board.

Enclosure - 1

Elise Ottesen-Jensen.  
John Ericssongatan 6,  
Stockholm.  
Postadress: Box 474,  
Stockholm 1.  
Tel: 534916, 109070.

Stockholm den 26 april 1944.

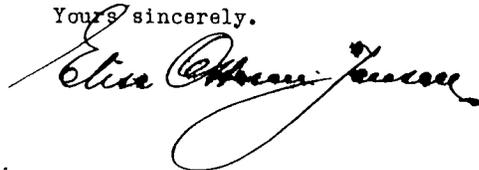
Dear Mr. Olsen.

Enclosed we send you a letter which we would be very thankful if you would send it on to the International rescue and relief committee in New York.

We hope that there is no danger in writing the full names of all the persons we have given the money to, otherwise we could write a new letter. Please let us know if that is necessary.

Thanks for the help.

Yours sincerely.



P.S. If I am not in my office or at home, you can speak with my secretary, miss Forslund. if we have to write a new letter. D.S.

1944 29 PM 4 32

Mr. John W. Pehle  
International Rescue and Relief Committee  
2 West 43 rd Str.  
New York City  
U.S.A.

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

*International Rescue and Relief Committee*  
*Incorporated*

Combining: Emergency Rescue Committee, Inc.  
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1 Exington 2-7916

~~145 WEST 145th STREET, NEW YORK 17, N.Y.~~

Rm. 902, 103 Pk. Ave.  
NY 17. NY

~~NEW YORK 17, N.Y.~~

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Upton Sinclair  
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Oswald G. Villard  
William Allen White

April 28, 1944

Miss Florence Hodel  
Assistant to the Executive Director  
of Refugee Board  
Room 190  
Main Treasury Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

I am sending you herewith that part of the cable we received this morning from Switzerland which refers to the transmission of funds:

"...YOUR TRANSMITTANCE 10,000 DOLLARS THROUGH BANQUE NATIONALE SUISSE RECEIVED AT OFFICIAL EXCHANGE STOP I RETURNED TO YOU THE 10,000 DOLLARS YOU CABLED ME VIA UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND BECAUSE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RECEIVE FROM THE BANQUE NATIONALE SUISSE THE DEBLOCKING OF THESE 10,000 DOLLARS BANQUE NATIONAL SUISSE DOES NOT DEBLOCK DOLLARS AT THE OFFICIAL RATE UNLESS WITH A RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT POLITIQUE SUISSE WHICH EXAMINES EVERY REFUGEE CASE AND DOES NOT GIVE A FAVORABLE ADVICE IF THIS REFUGEE DID NOT ENTER SWITZERLAND BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1942.

IN THE FUTURE DON'T SEND ME BLOCKED DOLLARS BUT PROCEED THE WAY USED VIA BANQUE NATIONALE SUISSE OR OTHER PREVIOUS SENDINGS."

From the tone of the cable and the detailed report on specific cases, we gather that Mr. Bertholet is able to proceed with the rescue work and that the difficulties he encountered were purely technical in connection with the type of

fund transfer permitted by the Swiss  
Government.

Thank you once more for your  
assistance.

Very sincerely yours,

*Sheba Strunsky*

Sheba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary

SS/ir

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT**

**INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**DATE**

April 25, 1944

**TO :** Miss Hodel

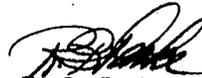
**FROM :** R. B. Parke

**Subject:** New address of International Rescue and Relief Committee.

Miss Struński, Executive Secretary of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, informed this office by telephone this morning that the offices of the Committee have been moved to new quarters at the following address:

103 Park Avenue, New York, New York.

Telephone: Lexington 2-7916

  
R. B. Parke

**ON MONDAY, APRIL 24TH**

**THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE & RELIEF COMMITTEE**

**MOVED FROM**

**2 WEST 43RD STREET**

**TO**

**SUITE 902**

**103 PARK AVENUE**

**NEW YORK 17, N. Y.**

**OUR NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER IS LEXINGTON 2-7916**

100-3337  
: Miss Hodel

April 25, 1944

: R. B. Parke

Subject: New address of International Rescue and Relief Committee.

Miss Strunsky, Executive Secretary of the International Rescue and Relief Committee, informed this office by telephone this morning that the offices of the Committee have been moved to new quarters at the following address:

103 Park Avenue, New York, New York.

Telephone: Lexington 2-7916

R. B. Parke

RBP: jfh 4-25-44

International Rescue and Relief Committee  
Incorporated

Combining: Emergency Rescue Committee, Inc.  
International Relief Association, Inc.

2 WEST 43rd STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LOngacre 5-4229

527  
W. R. B.  
Filing Authority  
To: Files  
And  
No. of Req.  
Date

*no  
ans req*

- Honorary Chairman  
Charles A. Beard
- Chairman  
Frank Kingdon
- Vice-Chairmen  
Freda Kirchwey  
Sterling D. Spero  
Ingrid Warburg  
L. Hollingsworth Wood
- Treasurer  
David F. Seiferheld
- Executive Secretary  
Sheba Strunsky
- National Committee  
Roger Baldwin  
Paul F. Brissenden  
Stuart Chase  
George S. Counts  
Frank Crowninshield  
Margaret De Silver  
John Dewey  
Lewis Gannett  
Harry Gidoonse  
James G. Heller  
John Haynes Holmes  
William H. Kilpatrick  
Wesley C. Mitchell  
Reinhold Niebuhr  
William Allan Neilson  
John Dos Passos  
Cecilia Razovsky  
Abba Hillel Silver  
Upton Sinclair  
Dorothy Thompson  
Oswald G. Villard  
William Allen White

March 29, 1944

Mr. Lawrence Lesser  
War Refugee Board  
Room 164  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of today. As I understood it, you will see me on Monday at 3:30 PM if you are back in Washington and if you do not expect to be back you will telephone me on Friday at LOngacre 5-4229 or Saturday morning at CHelsea 2-5693.

Since I would like to discuss a very urgent matter with you I will appreciate being able to see you either in New York on Friday or in Washington on Monday.

Very sincerely yours,

*Sheba Strunsky*  
Sheba Strunsky  
Executive Secretary

SS/ir

March 24, 1944

Dear Ira:

This will introduce Leon P. Demenberg who is going to Turkey for the International Rescue and Relief Committee. I understand Mr. Demenberg can be of substantial assistance to you in furthering the purposes of the War Refugee Board and that he has a great many very useful contacts and connections. I am sure you will cooperate with him fully.

With personal regards and congratulations on the fine job you are doing, I am

Very truly yours,

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

Mr. Ira Hirschmann,  
c/o The American Consulate,  
Ankara, Turkey.

 JWP:ngt 3/24/44