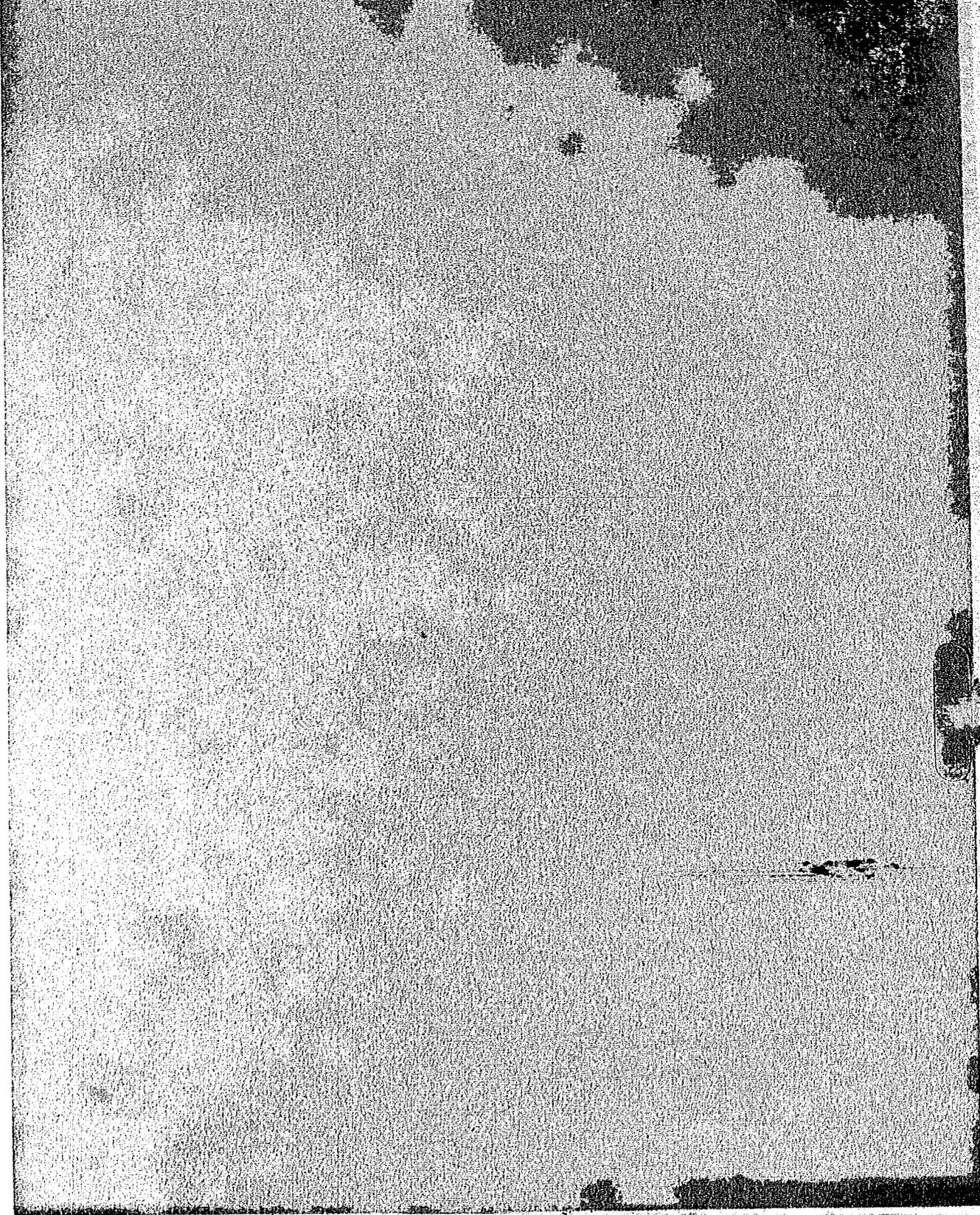


ITALY, Vol. 2
(Folder 2 of 2)

000433



000434

AIR MAIL

AMERICAN EMBASSY

London, August 17, 1944.

No. 17537

Subject: **British Policy Regarding Escape of Refugees to Italy from the Balkans and Activities of Representative of War Refugee Board in Italy.**

CONTROL COPY

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegram No. 5529 of July 14, 7 p.m., instructing this Embassy to take up with the Foreign Office certain discrepancies claimed by the War Refugee Board between the policies of the British Foreign Office and those of other branches of the British Government regarding the escape of refugees from the Balkans into Italy, as well as certain objections raised by the War Refugee Board against conditions said to have been imposed by the British authorities on the activities of the Board's representative in Italy. Reference is also made in this connection to the Embassy's telegram No. 6601 of August 16, 7 p.m., outlining the reply of the Foreign Office to the representations made by the Embassy in this connection.

- 1/ There are enclosed herewith copies of the Embassy's letter to the Foreign Office presenting the views of the War Refugee Board and copies of the reply of the Foreign Office together with the enclosures thereto.
- 2/

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Howard Bucknell, Jr.,
Minister-Counselor.

Enclosures:

- 1/ Copy of letter dated July 17, 1944, to the Foreign Secretary, in triplicate.
- 2/ Copy of letter of the Foreign Secretary to the Embassy dated August 14, 1944, with enclosures, in triplicate.

SHB:dm

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 5 1972**

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 17532 of 8/17/44

from the Embassy at London, England.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

London, W.1

July 17, 1944.

Dear Mr. Eden:

I have the honor to advise you that the Embassy has received a cable from the War Refugee Board pointing out certain alleged contradictions between the policy of the British Foreign Office regarding refugees in Italy, as set forth in the Foreign Office's Memorandum of June 26, 1944, and actions said to have been taken by other branches of the British Government.

The War Refugee Board states that on May 27, in response to its request for permission to appoint a special representative in Italy, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Theater consented, with the single condition that the representative be attached to the Headquarters of the Allied Control Commission. The War Refugee Board agreed immediately to this condition and proposed to designate Mr. Leonard E. Ackermann as its special representative in Italy. However, the War Refugee Board has now been advised by the United States War Department that the British Joint Staff Mission, acting on instructions from London, has attached the following additional conditions to confirmation of Mr. Ackermann's appointment:

- (1) Ackermann's activities shall not cause an increase of the flow of refugees into Italy to an extent which would place any additional burden on the British military authorities there.
- (2) Ackermann must therefore maintain close liaison with the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and the representative of the Intergovernmental Committee.

(3)/

The Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P.,
The Foreign Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

000436

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 172 of 27/7/44
from the Embassy at London, England.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1

No. WR 597/12/48

14th August, 1944

My dear Ambassador:

I have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's letter of the 17th July regarding the appointment of a representative of the War Refugee Board in Italy and certain alleged contradictions between the policy of the Foreign Office set forth in our memorandum W 9839/21/48 on the 26th June and to the action stated to have been taken by other branches of the British Government concerning refugees in Italy.

The conditions attached to the appointment of Mr. Ackerman as special representative of the War Refugee Board with Headquarters in Bari were submitted through the Joint Staff Mission, Washington, for agreement by the Combined Chiefs of Staff in the light of the Foreign Office memorandum to which you refer. It was not, I need hardly say, the intention of the British military authorities to discourage in any way the escape of refugees to Italy from the Balkans and I regret that the War Refugee Board should have misconstrued the intention of the conditions under which their representative was appointed.

It may clarify matters if I deal in turn with points 1, 2 and 3 in paragraph 2 of your letter, recapitulating the grounds on which the military authorities considered it necessary to define carefully the limits of Mr. Ackerman's operations. I would like to point out, however, that the 3 conditions made by the military authorities are interdependent upon each other, and though dealt with separately, should be considered together.

POINT 1.

This condition was not intended to limit in any way the flow of refugees into Italy provided that flow did not increase to such an extent as to overtax the supply and transport arrangements in Italy nor place any additional

His Excellency
The Honourable /
John G. Winant.

DECLASSIFIED ~~Sweden/~~
By Authority of British
Govt telegram, 1-12-72
By REHP Date SEP 5 1972

000438

burden on the military authorities in respect of the refugee camps in the Middle East and North Africa. The military authorities felt it essential to impose this condition in view of the fact that the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre, had already informed the Combined Chiefs of Staff that existing facilities in Italy could not be expanded owing to the operational situation and that the question of accommodating in the Middle East and North Africa any additional refugees over and above the numbers for whom provision had already been made must depend on adequate assistance being forthcoming from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. In this connexion I beg to refer you to telegrams WAT 201, 214 and 222 from the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre, to the Combined Chiefs of Staff, copies of which are attached for ease of reference.

POINT 2.

In view of the fact that the movement of refugees of any category and nationality in Italy forms part of the administrative problem under the particular supervision of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and of the military authorities in general it appeared advisable that (as I am pleased to note the War Refugee Board is willing should be the case) Mr. Ackermann should co-operate closely with the Commission. The representative of the Inter-Governmental Committee, Sir Clifford Heathcote Smith, likewise deals with problems not unrelated to those coming within the scope of Mr. Ackerman's activities. It was therefore felt that without in any way subordinating him to the authority of either of these two bodies, it was essential that he should co-operate with them closely, so that they could add their recommendations when the time came to formulate plans as the result of Mr. Ackerman's investigations.

POINT 3.

It was certainly not the intention of the British military authorities to confine Mr. Ackerman to investigation only. In transmitting the War Refugee Board's request to the Supreme Allied Commander, it was clearly stated that Mr. Ackerman would be able to negotiate with enemy aliens to effect rescue of refugees, to which the Supreme Allied Commander agreed.

The liaison with the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees suggested

in/

000439

in connexion with Point 2, was intended to ensure that such negotiations with enemy aliens should be undertaken after due consideration by other organisations concerned with the administration of refugees, in order that the limited facilities at the disposal of the Supreme Allied Commander should not be overburdened.

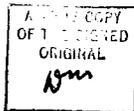
I venture to suggest that the War Refugee Board has not been fully informed and has therefore been led to place a too limited construction on the third condition imposed on Mr. Ackerman's activities.

I can assure you that the anxiety of the War Refugee Board not to discourage the escape of refugees and to provide accommodation for them is shared by His Majesty's Government which hopes very much that any unavoidable limitation in these directions imposed by the exigencies of the military situation may be removed at a very early date by the assistance which U.N.R.R.A. may be able to provide.

Finally, I feel that it should be borne in mind that the conditions which the military authorities felt themselves obliged to lay down regarding the regulation of the flow of refugees were conceived in the most helpful and co-operative spirit. Their object is largely to define the difficulties which attend upon the refugee problem in Italy and to indicate the most appropriate lines for the avoidance of the obstacles which may lie in the way of its smooth and satisfactory solution. I trust, therefore, that this survey of our attitude to the War Refugee Board's problem in Italy will adequately clarify such difficulties as may be inherent in Mr. Ackerman's work, but which, should they not resolve themselves in practice, I shall be very ready to examine them afresh.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Eden



(COPY)

INCOMING MESSAGE
ETOUSA

MAT 201
Dated 241551B'44
Recd. 242355B'44

From: Algiers
To: AGWAR

MAT 201

24th May, 1944

"EDITED LITERAL TEXT"

INTERIOR ADDRESSES: From: Algiers signed Wilson
cite FIMGS.
Action to: AGWAR for Combined Chiefs
of Staff.
Rptd to: ETOUSA for info British
Chiefs of Staff.
Unity
Fairbanks
Ref. No.: NAT 706

Subject: Participation UNRRA in refugee problem Italy and
French North Africa (FNA).

1. To date some 30,000 Yugoslav refugees received in Italy.
Of these about 26,000 evacuated Mideast and arrangements made
acceptance gross total 40,000 same area. Mideast cannot
accept above total 40,000.

2. Arrivals Yugoslav refugees in Italy average over 1,850
per week for past 8 weeks. Flow Yugoslav and others likely
continue with large majority of women and children.

3. Accommodation Italy limited and cannot now contemplate
holding permanently over 8,000.

4. Now investigating possibility acceptance refugees in FNA.
Due shortage Allied military personnel for camp supervisory
and medical staffs, desired obtain very early non-military
assistance, presumably UNRRA, if other factors permit accept-
ance refugees. On basis accommodation 40,000, of which
accommodation 20,000 to be prepared forthwith, following are
estimated requirements:

- a. Supervisory administrative and welfare personnel.
Initially 40, on scale 8 to each group of 5,000
refugees plus 8 overall directing staff. On ex-
pansion camps to accommodate further 20,000 to
complete total 40,000 estimated, additional 30
required.
- b. Medical personnel. For each group of 5,000 refugees,
1 Medical officer and skeleton personnel to staff
medical inspection room. For each group of 15,000
refugees, staff for 300 bed hospital.

DECLASSIFIED

J.C.S. Regrading Memo 27-71

5./

By RHP Date 11-6-72

000441

5. In case it should prove impracticable to accept refugees FNA, also desired ascertain whether UNRRA would be prepared to assist on same scale in Italy should it later prove possible to accept greater numbers that country.

6. Grateful for early indication what assistance may be expected and when available. Will advise shortly whether possible to accept refugees FNA from point of view of factors other than personnel.

000442

(COPY)

INCOMING MESSAGE
ETOUSA

MAT 222
Dated: 141100.44
Recd.: 150931.44

From: Algiers
To: AGWAR

MAT 222

14th June, 1944

"EDITED LITERAL TEXT"

INTERIOR ADDRESSES

From: FREEDOM ALGIERS signed WILSON cite FHGEG & FHGAO.
Action to: AGWAR for Combined Chiefs of Staff.
Rptd to: ETOUSA to British Chiefs of Staff. Unity, Mideast,
ACC MAIN, NADIST.
Ref: TAM 188, MAT 201, MAT 214, MAT 203, NAF 706.
Subject: Participation UNRRA in Refugee Problems French
North Africa.

Reference your radio TAM-188 and our MAT 201 and MAT 214.

Following factors condition present situation:

1. Mideast cannot accept over 40,000 of which not more than 30,000 can be accepted until UNRRA medical personnel received (see MAT 203). Mideast holding Yugoslav refugees 26901 on 3 June.
2. In Italy up to 10,000 can be held on transit basis. Evacuation greater part 3,313 in Italy on 3 June will complete Mideast present quota of 30,000 and enable further 10,000 to be brought into Italy on transit basis.
3. When UNRRA medical personnel arrive Mideast accumulation in Italy up to total 10,000 can be evacuated and transit facilities reutilised to full extent.
4. Intended that by time Italian facilities under para 3 exhausted probably end July camp FNA will be open with initial capacity 10,000 and 600 bed hospital for later expansion if necessary to capacity 40,000 with 1250 bed hospital (see MAT 214).
5. It will be seen therefore that problem is one of timing dependent upon provision from your end of UNRRA medical personnel for Mideast and our ability open FNA camps with or without UNRRA assistance. Estimate from now on maximum 2,000 refugees can be accepted per week for 5 months (weekly average to 3 June 1480) provided:

(a) Within 4 weeks UNRRA medical personnel (see MAT 203) are provided for Mideast.

DECLASSIFIED
J.C.S. Regrading Memo 27-71 (b)/
By REP Date 11-6-72

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MAY 19 1951

(b) Within 8 weeks UNRRA medical personnel (as in para 6) are provided for FNA. Should UNRRA assistance not be forthcoming in accordance this program military exigencies might compel restriction free flow refugees.

6. Accommodation N Phillipeville area FNA for 10,000 with 600 bed hospital now being prepared from military and other local resources. Military responsibility cannot be contemplated after end September from which time UNRRA should be fully responsible. Recommend that nucleus UNRRA personnel with an organising executive be sent forward earliest remainder within 8 weeks to allow time take over from Army. Personnel requirements on basis camp for 10,000 refugees with 600 bed hospital estimated as follows:

(a) For control Headquarters 8.

(b) For camp. Administrative 18. Medical 2 doctors, 1 nurse, 2 dispensers.

(c) For hospital. Doctors 10 to include 2 surgeons, 1 anaesthetist, 1 gynaecologist. Nursing staff in proportion 1 male to 2 female - 90. Administrative personnel - 20.

(d) Foregoing details amend requirements in MAT 201.

7. Necessary equipment for project including hospital being provided by Army. Detailed equipment required to be furnished by UNRRA will be notified separately together with suggestions relative disposal military property to UNRRA.

8. Position to be revised in 4 months when it may be necessary that FNA project be expanded to capacity 40,000 as envisaged MAT 201 or that separate camps should be established in Italy. Presence UNRRA representative with A.F.H.I. as suggested in NAF 706 would greatly facilitate planning and ensure UNRRA informed of requirements in advance.

000444

(COPY)

INCOMING MESSAGE
ETOUSA

MAT 214
Dated 091518B44
Recd. 092007B'44

From: FREEDOM
To: AGWAR

MAT 214

9th June, 1944

EDITED LITERAL TEXT

INTERIOR ADDRESSES

From: FREEDOM ALGIERS signed Wilson cite FHGEG
Action to: AGWAR for Combined Chiefs of Staff
Rptd to: ETOUSA info British Chiefs of Staff. SHAEF.
Ref. No. TAM 188, TAM 191, MAT 201

Participation UNRRA in refugee problems Italy and French North Africa (FNA).

1. Refer TAM 188.

a. Plans now proceeding for camp at Philippeville (FNA) for initial number 10,000 refugees and for 600 bed hospital. First of group for accommodation 40,000 with 1,200 bed hospital. French attitude not yet ascertained but planned to confer with them earliest.

b. Existing facilities Italy cannot at present be expanded due operational situation.

2. Refer TAM 191. Following are details MAT 201 amended to 28 May.

- a. In Italy 5642 plus 1904 ex-internees various nationalities.
- b. Received Italy to date 35,566.
- c. Evacuated ex Italy to Mideast 26,901.
- d. Arrivals Italy since 1 January average 1497 per week.

3. Prime need here and in Mideast is for medical personnel and nursing staffs at earliest date.

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J.C.S. Regrading Memo 27-71
By RMP Date 11-6-72

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*I was by Board
and Kelle*

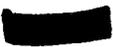
CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: August 16, 1944

NUMBER: 6601
X 

*noted
JBF*

Reference is made herewith to the July 14 cable No. 5529 from the Department.

Foreign Office reply to note from Embassy conveying WRE's objections to alleged contradictions in British policy with respect to escape of refugees from the Balkans to Italy, is being forwarded via airmail by the Embassy.

Fact that refugees must not be discouraged from escaping to Italy is reiterated by Foreign Office and it regrets that intention of conditions under which Askermann was appointed to Italy should have been misconstrued by the War Refugee Board.

However, the Foreign Office is in agreement with military authorities that influx of refugees into Italy should not increase to an extent that additional burden would be placed on military in respect of operation of camps for refugees in North Africa and the Middle East, nor to overtax supply and transport in Italy. Attention is called to fact that Combined Chiefs of Staff had already been informed by Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean that unless adequate assistance from UNRRA were forthcoming there could be no expansion of existing facilities.

In addition

RECORDED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Data, SEP 5 1972

000446

In addition Foreign Office explains that there was no intention of subordinating Ackermann to Sub Commission Displaced Persons or to restrict his activities to investigation only, and that in this connection conditions mentioned were rather to ensure that before he might undertake any negotiations with enemy aliens he would consult other organizations concerned and to ensure his cooperation with other bodies dealing with refugees.

WINANT

^{2/31}
DCR:LBI 8/19/44

000447

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM MESSAGE

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMEMBASSY, LONDON
DATED: July 14, 1944
NUMBER: 5529
X

Please refer to your 5104 of June 28.

The War Refugee Board notes with satisfaction that the British Foreign Office is in whole-hearted agreement with the President that the escape of refugees from the Balkans to Italy must in no way be discouraged. Recent action taken in London indicates, however, that other branches of the British Government may not be fully conforming with this Foreign Office policy.

Indicative of such non-conformance is the action taken by the British Military in interposing conditions to the appointment of the War Refugee Board's Special Representative in Italy.

Early in May at the War Refugee Board's request, the War Department sent a cable to the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Theater stating that the Board deemed it imperative to have a Special Representative in Italy who would investigate for the Board all possibilities which may exist in areas adjacent to Italy for the rescue and relief of minority groups in enemy occupied territory who are in imminent danger of death. Permission was requested for the Board to designate such a representative who would work closely on refugee problems with the representative of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in Italy.

On May 31, the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Theater consented to the appointment of a Special Representative of the War Refugee Board for territories adjacent to Italy subject only to the condition that the Board's Special Representative be attached to ACG headquarters. The War Refugee Board immediately agreed and proposed to designate as its Special Representative in Italy, Mr. Leonard E. Ackermann, who is now attached to the staffs of both Ambassadors Murphy and Wilson as the Board's special representative for the Mediterranean area. The Board understood that the final designation of Ackermann by the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean Theater awaited only formal notification by the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington.

The War

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-78

By E. H. Parks Data SEP 5 1972

000448

-2- #6522, AMEMBASSY, LONDON, July 14, 1944

The War Department has now advised the Board that the British Joint Staff Mission acting on instructions from London has proposed the following additional conditions to the confirmation of Ackermann's appointment:

- (1) Ackermann's activities in Italy must not increase the flow of refugees to such an extent as to place any additional burden on British Military Authorities.
- (2) Ackermann must therefore maintain close liaison with the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and the Intergovernmental Committee's representative.
- (3) Ackermann's activities must be strictly confined to the investigation of all possibilities of rescue and relief of minority groups in imminent danger of death in enemy territory.

Please advise the appropriate British officials that the Board objects to the imposition of additional conditions to Ackermann's appointment, for they would seriously interfere with the War Refugee Board's program of rescuing victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death. Particularly objectionable is the first condition which is inconsistent not only with the view of the President (our No. 4413 of June 3) but also with the concurring view expressed by the British Foreign Office that in no way should the escape of refugees from the Balkans to Italy be discouraged.

With respect to the second condition, the Board fully intends that Ackermann will cooperate to the fullest extent with the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and the Intergovernmental Committee representative in Italy. It objects to having such cooperation made a condition to his appointment if it is intended thereby to subject or subordinate him to the authority of those agencies.

Although the functions of the Board's Special Representative in Italy will consist primarily of investigation of all possibilities for rescue and relief of minority groups in imminent danger of death in enemy territory, the third condition is objectionable insofar as it contemplates that his activities will be quite strictly confined to investigation. This limitation might well make it impossible for the Board's Special Representative in Italy to take action, not inconsistent with the successful prosecution of the war, necessary to carry out the President's mandate to the Board (our circular cable 654 of January 25).

In order to

100449

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 26, 1944
NUMBER: 5104
X

We have just received from the Foreign Office a memorandum with respect to the wish of the War Refugee Board and the Department to remove refugees escaped from enemy territory to southern Italy, as set forth in Department's cable of June 3, No. 4513. The memorandum goes into detail with respect to the points which Randall, head of the Refugee Department of the Foreign Office, mentioned as reported in Embassy's cable of June 7, No. 4557. There follows the substance of the memorandum:

1. The anxiety of the President and the State Department for the speedy removal from southern Italy of refugees who have escaped from enemy territory is shared by the British Government. It is stated by the Foreign Office that it was aware of the large number of refugees arriving from Yugoslavia in Italy and that it agrees emphatically with the view that in no way should the escape of refugees from the Balkans to Italy be discouraged. Marshal Tito has promised cooperation and such measures as are possible to alleviate the plight of Jews in Hungary have been taken by the British authorities.

2. The British military authorities in the Middle East were prepared and willing to accommodate 40,000 Yugoslav refugees in Egypt but since UNRRA has not been able as yet to secure the necessary medical staff the military authorities doubt that they can accommodate more than the 25,000 who have arrived in Egypt already.

Therefore, the Foreign Office has requested the European Headquarters of UNRRA to expedite provision of a medical staff.

Every effort to carry out plans already completed to save as many Jewish refugees as possible from the Balkans is being made by the British authorities. As soon as the Hungarian Red Cross, the Swiss authorities in Romania, and the International Red Cross in collaboration with the Jewish Agency for Palestine at once the necessary arrangements, a British ship can be sent at 30 days notice to proceed to Constanta for the evacuation of Jewish refugees. However, it seems that in all probability the German

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 5, 1972

000451

the British Government will not grant the necessary safe conduct in this case any more than in that of the SS TARI for which the American Embassy to Turkey had negotiated. However, we will actively pursue the matter.

4. The establishment of a refugee camp in Tripolitania has been agreed to by the British Government and it is examining the proposal that Sicily should become a destination for refugees.

5. It is agreed to by the Foreign Office that camp Lyabtey at Fedhala should not be opened to refugees from Italy as it must be kept available for those refugees coming from Spain.

6. Concerning the proposal that the British Government should grant Palestine immigration certificates to Jewish refugees in liberated Italy, the British while they do not doubt the desirability of moving them for operational reasons, nevertheless feel that since they are in an area where they are safe from enemy persecution, they should give preference for rescue under the limited quotas allotted for immigration into Palestine to those Jews who are still in danger of their lives and can be got to safety out of enemy controlled territory.

The Foreign Office concludes by saying that this means that while considerable numbers of Yugoslav refugees from Italy have already been received in Palestine, in order that Palestine may be kept available for Jews escaping in increasing numbers through Turkey from places of danger, the alternative places of refuge should be used to the greatest extent.

WHAHT

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Leaser, Lufford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Seib, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, E. D. White, Zehle, Files

000452

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 7, 1944
NUMBER: 4557
X

W. A. Rief
Bd
(Mr. Pohl)

CONTROL COPY

The considerations set forth in Department's cable dated June 7, No. 4517, concerning removal of refugees from Southern Italy, have been discussed in detail by the Embassy with the Foreign Office. The head of the refugee department of the Foreign Office, Randall, was very sympathetic and remarked that there would be no fundamental objection on the part of the British Government to facilitating the entrance of Jews now in Southern Italy to Palestine, suggested in Department's cable. It was pointed out by him, however, that the facilities in Palestine for the reception of such refugees were not unlimited and that it had been the British Government's policy to facilitate the entry primarily of those refugees who were in immediate danger of their lives, such as those in Hungary now. It was stated by him that within the past month nearly a thousand Jewish refugees have entered Palestine via Turkey, having escaped from areas in which their lives were endangered seriously. It was also pointed out by Randall that the UNRRA camps in the Middle East were able to take 25,000 refugees in addition to those who had arrived before May 1, and he was hopeful that these camps might play a part in relieving pressure on Southern Italy. As pointed out in Embassy's cable

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THE
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STATE
JUN 10 1944

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 5 1972**

No. 4556

000453

War Ref Bd
Omn. Petition
1 copy only

CORRECTION ON
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: June 7, 1944
NUMBER: 4557

CONTROL COPY

In line 7 delete the word "not". That sentence should then read "The head of the refugee department of the Foreign Office, Randall, was very sympathetic and remarked that there would be no fundamental objection on the part of the British Government to facilitating the entrance of Jews now in Southern Italy to Palestine, suggested in Department's cable."

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MAY 10 1944
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE
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DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 5 1972

000454

No. 4686, the British have now agreed to the opening of a camp in Tripolitania which should accommodate about 1600 people.

We left a paraphrase of pertinent sections of Department's cable with Randall and he promised that he would give serious and immediate consideration to the matter.

WINANT

WASHINGTON, D.C.
AIR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED

JUN 2 9 23 AM '45

000455

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: June 3, 1944
NUMBER: 4418

Facilities in southern Italy for caring for refugees who have escaped from enemy territory are becoming so over-crowded that it is essential to remove refugees rapidly to other areas. It is particularly important that this be done without delay so that the flow of refugees into southern Italy is not in any way discouraged or impeded. The following cable which has been sent to Robert Murphy in Algiers indicated more fully the nature of this problem and its importance:

"Our information indicates that refugees have been arriving from Yugoslavia to Italy at the average rate of over 1800 per week and that this flow is expected to continue and may well increase. It also appears that unless these refugees can be removed rapidly to other areas, the military authorities are fearful that the facilities in southern Italy for refugees may become seriously over-taxed.

The whole matter has been discussed with the President who has made it clear that under no circumstances should the escape of refugees to Italy from the Balkan countries be discouraged. The flow of refugees from Yugoslavia to Italy is important not only from the standpoint of saving the lives of Yugoslavs but also in order that as many refugees as possible from other Balkan countries may be able to escape through Yugoslavia. In this connection, Cable No. Yuges 102 from Cairo, dated April 29, indicates that support in rescuing Hungarian Jews has been promised by Tito. In view of the plight of Jews today in Hungary, it is essential that we do what we can to facilitate their escape.

We recognize that the crux of this matter is finding suitable places to which these refugees can be removed. In this connection, the following should be borne in mind:

(1) As many as possible of these refugees should be moved to camps in the Middle East. UNRRA is making every effort to supply sufficient medical and other personnel.

(2) In so far as Jewish refugees are concerned, present plans to move as many as possible to Palestine should be carried out without delay. In this connection it should be borne in mind that in the case of Turkey, the British have adopted the policy that all Jews

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State Dept. Letter 11/1/75
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000456

escaping into Turkey from the Balkan countries will be permitted to go to Palestine. These refugees are then placed in camps in Palestine where they are checked for security purposes.

(3) For some time we have been pressing the British to establish with our cooperation havens of refuge for these people in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica; but without any results to date.

(4) The President suggested the possibility that some of these refugees might be taken to Sicily. This should be carefully explored together with the possibility of a substantial expansion of facilities on the Italian mainland.

(5) While we do not consider it desirable to bring refugees from Italy to Camp Iquater at Fedala since all of the accommodations of that camp must be kept available for refugees from Spain, the possibility of establishing other camps in French North Africa for refugees from Italy should, of course, be borne in mind.

Bearing in mind that the flow of refugees into Italy from the Balkan countries must not be interfered with, you are requested to submit as soon as possible your views and recommendations as to all possible havens of refuge in which these people might be temporarily placed.

Please convey the contents of this cable to representatives of UNRRA and Ackermann of the War Refugee Board, as well as the appropriate military authorities. You should discuss this whole matter with them and cooperate with them in solving this most urgent problem."

According to the best information available there are in southern Italy several thousand Jewish refugees. The prompt removal of these refugees to Palestine would constitute an important step in helping to solve the problem indicated. Accordingly, the Department and the War Refugee Board would like to know at the earliest possible moment whether the British Government will grant Palestine certificates to these Jewish refugees and will facilitate their prompt removal to Palestine.

In taking up this matter with the British Government you should bear in mind the following:

Since the closing of the Bulgarian-Turkish frontier in May 1943, the British Government has been following the policy of authorizing, after a preliminary security check in Turkey, the onward transport to Palestine of all Jews who succeed in escaping to Turkey from enemy territory. Once in Palestine the British place these people in camps where another security check is made, and if found satisfactory, they are gradually released as legal immigrants to Palestine against the current half-yearly immigration quota. It is apparent that the

100457

Application of a similar policy in the case of Jews now in southern Italy would make possible the prompt removal of such refugees to Palestine.

Please advise us urgently of the attitude of the British Government in this matter.

This message has been repeated to Murphy, Chapin and Ackerman in Algiers.

SYRINIA
(Acting)

collected: Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cahn, Dubois, Friedman, Garton, Koff, Laughlin, Lesser, Lufford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, Rosenzweig, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fohle, Filson.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

JUNE 3, 1944

MIS Distribution of true reading only by special arrangements.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE JUN 6 1944 DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

AMREP, For security reasons the message must be read by ALGIERS 1762 For information of Murphy, Chapin and Ackermann.

CONTROL COPY

Contents Department's 1169 of May 27 repeated to London which has also been advised supplementarily as follows:

QUOTE Several thousand Jewish refugees, according to best information available, are now in southern Italy. An important step in helping solve the problem indicated would be taken by prompt removal of these refugees to Palestine. Information desired therefore at earliest possible moment whether Palestine certificates will be granted these Jewish refugees and their prompt removal to Palestine will be facilitated by the British Government.

The following should be borne in mind in taking up this matter with the British Government:

The British Government, since closing of the Bulgarian-Turkish frontier in May 1943, has been following the policy of authorizing the onward transport to Palestine of all Jews who succeed in escaping from enemy territory to Turkey, after a preliminary security check in the latter country. Another security check is made in camps in Palestine in which the British place these people. If found satisfactory, they are gradually released against the current half-yearly immi-

DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72 By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972 gration

000459

-2- #1762, June 3, Midnight, to Aghiers
immigration quota, as legal immigrants to Palestine. The
application of a similar policy in the case of Jews now in
southern Italy would make possible the prompt removal to
Palestine of such refugees. An early report of the attitude
of the British Government in this matter is urgently requested.
UNQUOTE.

STETTINIUS
ACTING
(GHW)

S/GR

WRB:MMV:KG
6/1/44

BC

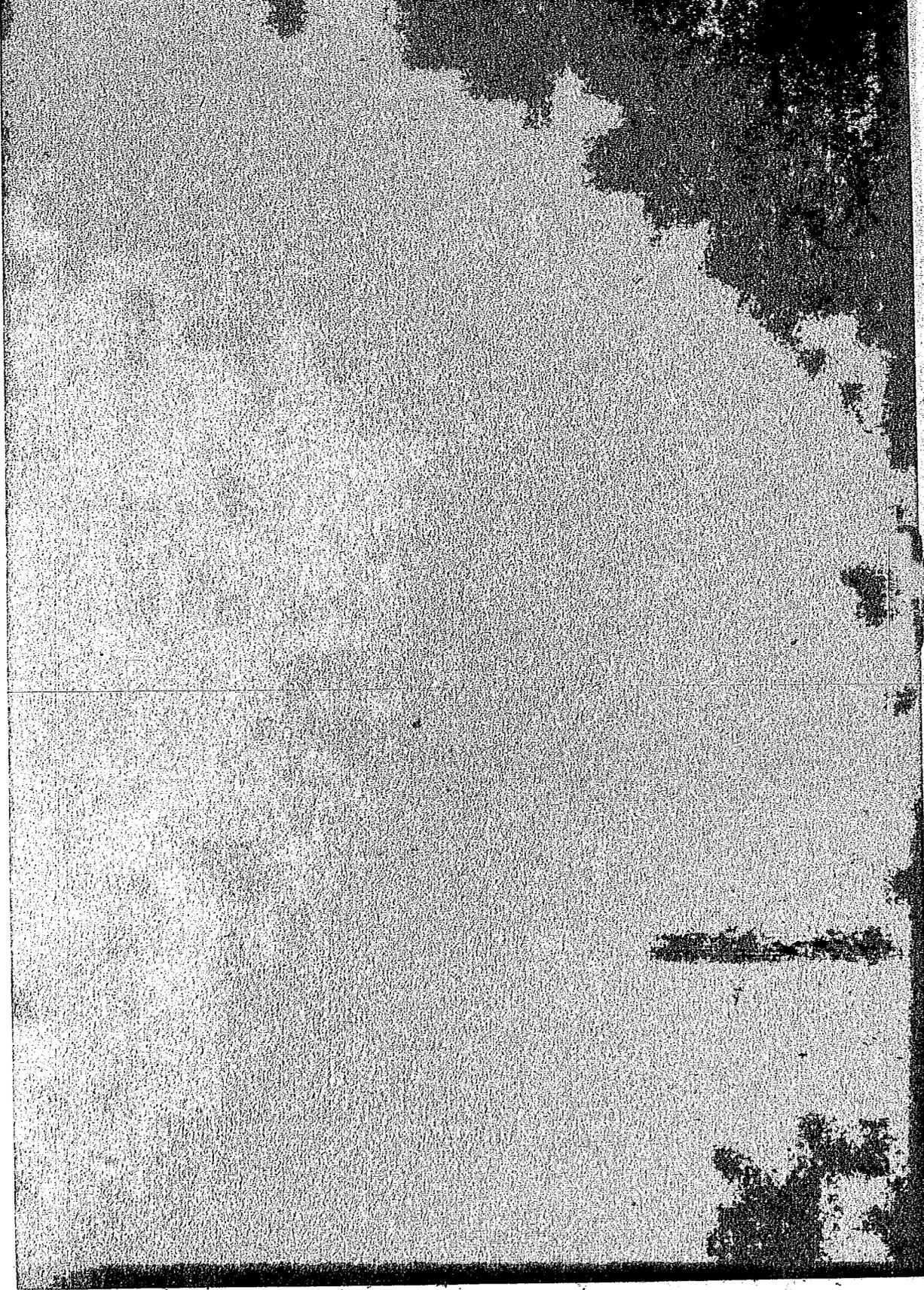
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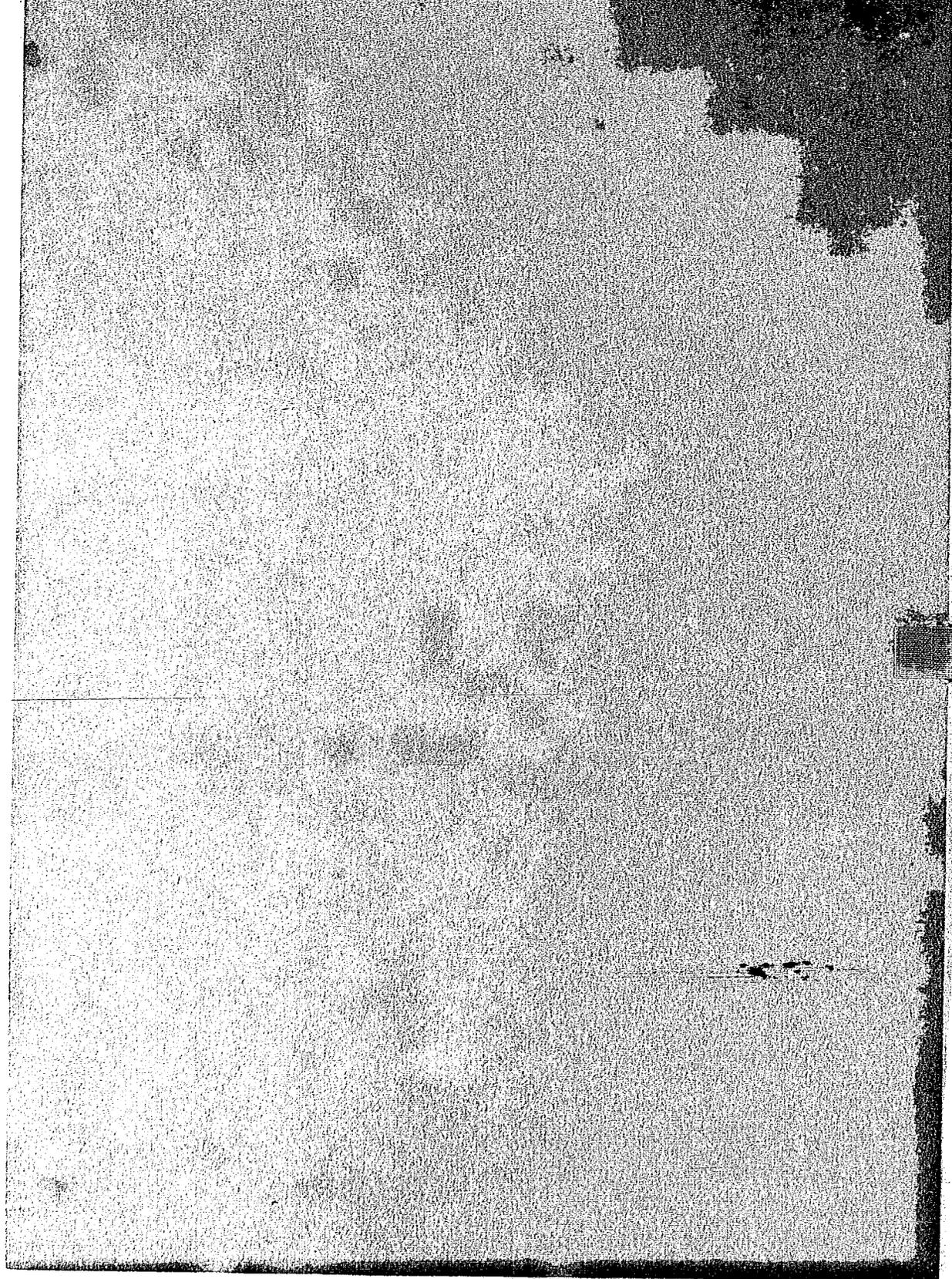
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BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000460



000461



000462

*I want to see
Parker*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
DATED: September 18, 1944.
NUMBER: 7885.

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made to telegram from the Department, dated August 30, Number 6938, and to message from the Embassy, dated August 26, Number 6952.

The Embassy has been advised by the Foreign Office to the following effect:

The Pope was approached further, but the report is from Rome that the matter of intervention by the Pope has come to an impasse for the German Government has informed the Pope that the matter of refugees in northern Italy concerns the Fascist Republican Government and that for the reason that the Vatican has no relation with the Fascist Republican Government, the Pope is in no position to intervene.

WINANT.

LCW
DCR;LCW 9-19-44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SFP 8 1972

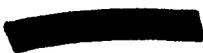
000463

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*2 War Ref Ref
Poble*

FROM: AMERICAN DELEGATION, Rome
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 8, 1944
NUMBER: 317 X

CONTROL COPY



See my 302, September 4, 5 p.m. and Department's 114,
dated August 30, 7 p.m.

The following information was obtained from a note dated the eighth of September from the Holy See: The Pope's approach through Vatican channels to the Government of Germany requesting that approximately 9000 refugees in Northern Italy be released and transported to Southern Italy or elsewhere was made by Nuncio in Berlin (see Taylor's 309). The result of this request was that Germany claimed that in the Italian Socialist Republic lay the authority for these individuals. It was further indicated by the Vatican that with that body they had no communication. A complete text via air follows.

KIRK

DCR:EMS
9-11-44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000464

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

H. W. R. P. L. L.
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

AMT-688
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Vatican City

Dated September 4, 1944

Record 21

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington.

^X302, September 4, 5 p.m.

FOR THE SECRETARY FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

In response to your telegram No. 114, dated
August 30, 7 p.m., I would advise that I promptly
renewed the approach to the Holy See again supporting
an appeal by His Holiness the Pope to the German
authorities requesting the release from Northern Italy
and the transfer to Southern Italy or elsewhere of about
9000 Jewish refugees. It is my understanding that the
British are again supporting such an appeal.

TAYLOR

LMS

000465

L. W. ...
...

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Delegate, Rome
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 2, 1944
NUMBER: 2827

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made herewith to your cable of August 30, no. 117, to American Delegate.

Taylor's no. 295.

Today we have renewed our request of the Pope to press the appeal already made to him to the German authorities to release all those refugees north of the battle line in Italy and assurance has been given that they would find refuge in liberated Italy or elsewhere. His Holiness made the approach to the German representatives at the time of our previous advice. We have received no answer. The renewal of the request will now be undertaken promptly.

KIRK

DCR:VAG 9/5/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000466

MEM
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (S)

August 30, 1944

7 P.M.

AMDEL,
ROME,

114

The cable below is for Taylor.

Please refer to your 237, of July 17, the Department's
No. 16 of July 24, and your 267 of August 2.

As a result of negotiations with the British, the following
cable was received from Ambassador Winant at London:

QUOTE Attention of the War Refugee Board.

This morning discussed with refugee section of the
Foreign Office the Papal intervention on behalf of refugees of
northern Italy.

Sir Noel Charles' reply to inquiry as to accommodations
was received this morning by the Foreign Office. According to
Charles's report, an additional five thousand refugees may be
accommodated in liberated Italy and use of North African camps
was also suggested.

It is the understanding of the Foreign Office that there
are far more than five thousand refugees north of the battle
line, but since it believes the military situation is changing
so rapidly that the problem of accommodating this five thousand
additional will not arise, it feels that it will be safe to
give assurances of accommodation without numerical limitation.
The Foreign Office, however, does not know whether or not the
Pope has already appealed to German authorities and whether
we will take parallel action, they will take the following
steps:

Issue instructions to Charles to ascertain whether or
not an appeal has been made by the Pope. Provided he has not,
to request him to do so with assurance that the persons men-
tioned will be cared for and received by Allied authorities.
Provided he has made an appeal, to suggest that these assu-
rances be repeated by him.

It is hoped by the Foreign Office that this action will
meet with the approval of WFO and that appropriate instructions
will be issued to our representative in Rome.

Shaw Dean, London, 11-7
By E. H. [unclear] SEP

000467

Mr. [Name], August 20, 1944; / P.M. 10 [Name]

The above action suggested by the British is satisfactory both to the War Refugee Board and the Department. Accordingly, please join with your British colleagues in taking the action called for in the above quoted cable.

WILL

(117)

WRB:MMV:RD

8/30/44

EE

EE

Miss Chassey (for the Sec'y), Abramson, Alida, [Name], [Name], Drury, Friedmann, Harten, Hodel, Langhin, Lesser, [Name], [Name], Fable, Sargey, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

000468

laws has denationalized all Italian Jews so that some 20,000 "Italian" Jews should be added to the above 5,000 foreign Jews.

(4) President Roosevelt initiated the refugee camps for the thousand stateless persons now being shipped from Italy to the United States. Could therefore the President be approached to intervene on behalf of these persons in German camps and possibly for this purpose utilize the Pope, if thought advisable, as intermediary? It is suggested the Axis would be asked to deliver at a named port in the North Atlantic all internees and notably all stateless persons. A mercy ship would be sent to that port to collect them; and this ship, until all had been removed to safety, could carry on a shuttle service to some near port in liberated Italy. If the United States of America found it impolitic provide a temporary home for any of these refugees, then as regards their eventual disposal they could be kept, many thousand of them, in Italy and if required there could be made available in Algeria several huge camps.

(5) If the inter-Governmental Committee took a successful initiative in this operation this would be directly in accordance with the essence of its mandate which is to take steps to preserve (repeat preserve) and maintain refuge. Similarly rescue work has pride of place for the American War Refugee Board.

(6) Immediacy of the problem. Never before has there been such a probability of success nor such urgency. It is clear this suggestion of mercy ships is not original; the question is whether this is psychological moment to try again. German policy of deportation is well established. If we do not move quickly total (repeat total) deportation may be carried out. On the other hand Germany is now on the defensive and hard pressed and has just declared this publicly and frankly. This comparatively small act of decent behavior which incidentally will saddle the Allies with several more thousand mouths to feed may be welcomed by the Germans as an opportunity to gain some grace.

(7) Success in this eleventh hour attempt to save extermination some few thousand lives might permit later successful repetition elsewhere.

(8) No immediate threat. It is suggested that only

000469

after eventual rejection should threats be used; but that the invitation itself should be merely courteous and direct and that Germany should be informed beforehand that we hold the names of the majority of those who were interned in Italy.

(9) This mercy ship suggestion formed the subject of a talk I had with Myron Taylor. He said that he would encourage the plan and would cable the appropriate authorities in Washington accordingly.

Note by Myron Taylor: this idea is similar, of smaller scope but more definite than one discussed by Nehle, President War Refugee Board, with the President's Advisory Committee at a luncheon meeting in New York in April. Whether it is practical depends on transportation and military consideration as well as the political features involved.

TAYLOR

WCB
RE

Mrs. Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Borenstein, Cohn, Danole, Friedman, Goston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCowan, Nehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinlein, H. E. White, Files.

000470

BAS-437

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

Vatican City

Dated July 17, 1944

Rec'd 10:25 a.m., 18th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

237, July 17, 10 a.m.

The following is the substance of a telegram dated July 15 sent from Rome to Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees London from the Committee's resident representative in Italy, Sir Clifford Heathcote Smith.

The subject of the telegram is the saving of the lives of foreign internees in Italy notably Jewish whom the Germans threatened with imminent deportation and murder; and the despatch of mercy ship.

(1) There have been discovered in Italy the originals of German official orders dated April 22, 1944, by which all internees except Belgian, Dutch, Norwegian, French, Greek, ex-Polish and ex-Yugoslav, were to be sent northward into Germany (repeat Germany) concentration camps. The order stated specifically that Jews of all nationalities presumably Italian also were included. A corroboration of this is found in the fact that 43 British Jews were thus suddenly removed in April at noon one day at a few minutes notice to a German camp at Campi near Modena.

(2) The monstrous fact that large numbers are deported to Germany and liquidated is disclosed by evidence scarcely less complete. This fate must have been that of thousands of men, women and children from Italy alone. This bestial carnage should clearly be stopped forthwith if this, without injury to the war effort of the Allies, can be achieved.

(3) The size of the problem. There should have been sixteen to twenty thousand internees today in republican Italy so it is estimated, but including all Christians and an outside maximum of 5,000 foreign Jews, there may be alive today thereunder 9,000 what with a large scale repatriation of Yugoslavs and deportation of Jews and others. Republican Italy with her Fascist

000471

DEPARTMENT

PEROF
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OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

August 30, 1944
7 p.m.

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

SEP 1 1944
COMMUNICATIONS

War Ref Bd

AMPOHAD,

CASERTA.
BBX

CONTROL COPY

The following for Ackermann is WRB 43.

Please refer to our 431 of August 4, 1944.

Mr. Reble

For your information the British have agreed to a joint approach to the Pope to request him to appeal to the German authorities to release refugees deported from Allied Italy, if he has not already done so, and to assure him that Allied authorities will receive and care for all such persons released by the Germans. The text of the cable received from ambassador Winant is as follows:

QUOTE Attention of the War Refugee Board.

This morning discussed with refugee section of the Foreign Office the rapid intervention on behalf of refugees of northern Italy.

Sir Noel Charles' reply to inquiry as to accommodations was received this morning by the Foreign Office. According to Charles' report, an additional five thousand refugees may be accommodated in liberated Italy and use of North African camps was also suggested.

It is the understanding of the Foreign Office that there are far more than five thousand refugees north of the battle line, but since it believes the military situation is changing

BO
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000472

-2- #86, August 30, 7 p.m., to Caserta.

so rapidly that the problem of accommodating this five thousand additional will not arise, it feels that it will be safe to give assurances of accommodation without numerical limitation. The Foreign Office, however, does not know whether or not the Pope has already appealed to German authorities and presuming we will take parallel action, they will take the following steps:

Issue instructions to Charles to ascertain whether or not an appeal has been made by the Pope. Provided he has not, to request him to do so with assurance that the persons rescued will be cared for and received by Allied authorities. Provided he has made an appeal, to suggest that these assurances be repeated by him.

It is hoped by the Foreign Office that this action will meet with the approval of WRB and that appropriate instructions will be issued to our representative in Rome. UNQUOTE

We have advised the British that the proposal is satisfactory to the Board and the Department and instructions have been cabled to Myron Taylor to join with his British colleague along the lines suggested in the above quoted cable.

HULL
(GHW)

WRB:MRV:KG
8/30/44

SE

BC

000473

CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO ACKERMANN, AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
NAPLES, ITALY.

Please refer to our 431 of August 4, 1944.

For your information the British have agreed to a joint approach to the Pope to request him to appeal to the German authorities to release refugees deported from Italy, if he has not already done so, and to assure him that Allied authorities will receive and care for all such persons released by the Germans. The text of the cable received from Ambassador Winant is as follows:

QUOTE Attention of the War Refugee Board.

This morning discussed with refugee section of the Foreign Office the Papal intervention on behalf of refugees of northern Italy.

Sir Noel Charles' reply to inquiry as to accommodations was received this morning by the Foreign Office. According to Charles' report, an additional five thousand refugees may be accommodated in liberated Italy and use of North African camps was also suggested.

It is the understanding of the Foreign Office that there are far more than five thousand refugees north of the battle line, but since it believes the military situation is changing so rapidly that the problem of accommodating this five thousand additional will not arise, it feels that it will be safe to give assurances of accommodation without numerical limitation. The Foreign Office, however, does not know whether or not the Pope has already appealed to German authorities and presuming we will take parallel action, they will take the following steps:

Issue instructions to Charles to ascertain whether or not an appeal has been made by the Pope. Provided he has not, to request him to do so with assurance that the persons rescued will be cared for and received by Allied authorities. Provided he has made an appeal, to suggest that these assurances be repeated by him.

It is hoped by the Foreign Office that this action will meet with the approval of WRB and that appropriate instructions will be issued to our representative in Rome. UNQUOTE

We have advised the British that the proposal is satisfactory to the Board and the Department and instructions have been cabled to Myron Taylor to join with his British colleague along the lines suggested in the above quoted cable.

THIS IS WRB CABLE NO. 48

9:35 a.m.

August 30, 1944

Miss Chauncey (Per the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lawblin, Loss, Mann, Mannon, McComaack, Cable Control Files
MSargoy:dh 8/25/44

000474

NOTE TO: MR. TOLSON
FROM: MR. [unclear]
SUBJECT: [unclear]

RECEIVED
AUG 11 1944

ORIGINAL COPY OF MEMORANDUM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Consulate General, Naples
DATED: August 4, 1944
NUMBER: 431



FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO ACKERMANN.

Please refer to your No. 102 of July 29th in reply to our No. 36 July 21.

The following is for your information:

It is assumed that you have seen Heathcote-Smith's cable to Emerson of July 15, copy of which was transmitted to the War Refugee Board by Myron Taylor as cable No. 237 of July 17, concerning Heathcote-Smith's suggestion among others that the German Government be requested to release refugees deported from Allied Italy and to deliver such refugees to Allied authorities at a North Atlantic port whence they would either be returned to Allied Italy or taken to temporary havens of refuge elsewhere.

After receiving Taylor's message, the Board cabled Emerson in London referring to the President's pronouncement of March 24 and his message to Congress concerning the 1000 refugees, both of which make clear this Government's willingness to cooperate with other sympathetic Governments in finding havens of refuge for all victims of enemy persecution able to leave German-occupied territory. We also advised Emerson that this Government was prepared to cooperate in every way with the British and other Governments in facilitating any feasible plan of action in regard to the matter referred to by Heathcote-Smith, even though it is quite possible that many of the deportees from Italy have already been executed. The following is an extract of the Board's cable to Emerson:

QUOTE It is our view that any approach to the Germans should indicate the willingness of the Allied Governments with due regard to military necessities, to consider measures for the reception in Allied and neutral territory of any Jews in German occupied territory, and should not be limited to deportees from Italy. This Government has recently advised the British Government of its willingness to join in such an approach to the German Government. However, we are prepared to consider sympathetically any plan designed to meet the Italian problem referred to by Heathcote-Smith. In the circumstances it would appear most feasible for the Intergovernmental Committee to determine the practical problems involved and discuss the matter with the British Government.
UNQUOTE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Pugh Date SEP 8 1972

100475

The Board received a reply from Emerson suggesting that the intervention of the Vatican be requested by the British and American Governments in approaching the German authorities with a request that non-Italian civilian refugees held in North Italy be released. Emerson also suggested that the British and American Governments assure the Vatican that they would make arrangements for the maintenance, care and transportation of the refugees involved in the event that the Vatican's efforts prove successful.

The Board is cabling Emerson that his proposal is completely acceptable to the American Government and suggesting that Emerson now discuss the matter with the British Government and secure its consent to requesting the Vatican to intervene, on the understanding that the British will share with the American Government the responsibilities indicated by Emerson in the event that the Vatican's efforts prove successful.

THIS IS WRE CABLE TO NAPLES NO. 40.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akstin, Bernstein, Brenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hotal, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.

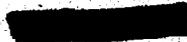
000476

*I was Rep. by
Mr. Hull*

RECEIVED
ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: August 30, 1944
NUMBER: 6968

CONTROL COPY



Please refer to your 6952 of August 26.

The proposed action of the British Foreign Office meets with the approval of the War Refugee Board and the Department. Please advise the British Foreign Office that Myron Taylor is being advised to join with his British colleague in taking the steps suggested by the Foreign Office.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000477

CABLE FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENT TO AMBASSADOR WINANT,
LONDON, ENGLAND.

Please refer to your 6952 of August 26.

The proposed action of the British Foreign Office meets with the approval of the War Refugee Board and the Department. Please advise the British Foreign Office that Myron Taylor is being advised to join with his British colleague in taking the steps suggested by the Foreign Office.

9:00 a.m.
August 30, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

md *aa* 87
MBargey:dh 8/29/44

000478

Ivanly Ed. Park

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 29, 1944
NUMBER: 2979
X

CONTROL COPY

Cable to McClelland.

Reference is made to your 5068 paragraph two. We assume that your reference to Italian Slovakian rescue plans refers to your 4666 of July 21 and 5079 of August 7. If assumption incorrect, please clarify.

We approve of your support (including financial aid) of project described in your 4666 and you are authorized to continue such support at your discretion.

Regarding your 5079 please refer to Department's 2817 of August 16.

This is WRB Bern Cable No. 150.
X

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 8 1972**

000479

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON FOR MCGLELLAND, BASEL, SWITZERLAND

Reference is made to your 5068 paragraph two. We assume that your reference to Italian Slovakian rescue plans refers to your 4666 of July 21 and 5079 of August 7. If assumption incorrect, please clarify.

We approve of your support (including financial aid) of project described in your 4666 and you are authorized to continue such support at your discretion.

Regarding your 5079 please refer to Department's 2817 of August 16.

THIS IS WRB BERG CABLE NO. 160

2:45 p.m.
August 28, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedma, ~~Hodel~~,
Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

BA. ZH ✓
BAKzin:EHoddl:ar 8/26/44

000480

*I was
war by Board
Lester*

CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 26, 1944
NUMBER: 6952 x



Reference is made herein to your cable of August 23, No. 6722.

Attention of the War Refugee Board.

This morning discussed with refugee section of the Foreign Office the Papal intervention on behalf of refugees of northern Italy.

Sir Noel Charles' reply to inquiry as to accommodations was received this morning by the Foreign Office. According to Charles' report, an additional five thousand refugees may be accommodated in liberated Italy and use of North African camps was also suggested.

It is the understanding of the Foreign Office that there are far more than five thousand refugees north of the battle line, but since it believes the military situation is changing so rapidly that the problem of accommodating this five thousand additional will not arise, it feels that it will be safe to give assurances of accommodation without numerical limitation.

The Foreign

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000481

The Foreign Office, however, does not know whether or not the Pope has already appealed to German authorities and presuming we will take parallel action, they will take the following steps:

Issue instructions to Charles to ascertain whether or not an appeal has been made by the Pope. Provided he has not, to request him to do so with assurance that the persons rescued will be cared for and received by Allied authorities. Provided he has made an appeal, to suggest that these assurances be repeated by him.

It is hoped by the Foreign Office that this action will meet with the approval of WRB and that appropriate instructions will be issued to our representative in Rome.

WINANT

DCH:MAS:FB 8/28/44

000482

CABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO MYRON TAYLOR,
VATICAN CITY

Please refer to your 237, of July 17, the Department's No. 16
of July 24, and your 267 of August 5.

As a result of negotiations with the British, the following
cable was received from Ambassador Winant at London:

QUOTE Attention of the War Refugee Board.

This morning discussed with refugee section of the Foreign
Office the Papal intervention on behalf of refugees of northern
Italy.

Sir Noel Charles' reply to inquiry as to accommodations was
received this morning by the Foreign Office. According to Charles'
report, an additional five thousand refugees may be accommodated in
liberated Italy and use of North African camps was also suggested.

It is the understanding of the Foreign Office that there are
far more than five thousand refugees north of the battle line, but
since it believes the military situation is changing so rapidly that
the problem of accommodating this five thousand additional will not
arise, it feels that it will be safe to give assurances of accommoda-
tion without numerical limitation. The Foreign Office, however, does
not know whether or not the Pope has already appealed to German author-
ities and presuming we will take parallel action, they will take the
following steps:

Issue instructions to Charles to ascertain whether or not an
appeal has been made by the Pope. Provided he has not, to request
him to do so with assurance that the persons rescued will be cared
for and received by Allied authorities. Provided he has made an
appeal, to suggest that these assurances be repeated by him.

It is hoped by the Foreign Office that this action will meet
with the approval of WRB and that appropriate instructions will be
issued to our representative in Rome. UNQUOTE

The above action suggested by the British is satisfactory both
to the War Refugee Board and the Department. Accordingly, please join
with your British colleague in taking the action called for in the above
quoted cable.

9:35 a.m.

August 30, 1944

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

msd cea
MSargoy:dh 8/29/44

000483

*I was by Bill
Mrs. Pills*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: August 23, 1944
NUMBER: 6722 X

CONTROL COPY

FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD
FOR
FROM WINANT

Please refer to your 6521 of August 14 dealing with the plight of refugees in German-occupied Italy and with the views of Heathcote-Smith and the Foreign Office on this matter.

We are frankly shocked by the position which the Foreign Office is taking. While we do not know whether any real possibilities exist of rescuing any Jews who may still be alive in northern Italy, we feel strongly that every effort should be made to effect a rescue if this is possible, and we agree with the statement attributed to the Pope that neither our conscience nor history would forgive us if we failed to make this attempt.

If the attitude of the German Government is such that it is possible to effect the rescue of any of these people, which frankly we very much doubt, we are confident that the resources and ingenuity of the American and British Governments are such as to avoid a situation in which these human beings, who otherwise would be rescued, would be consigned to deportation and death.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000484

RECEIVED
WASHINGTON, D. C.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
AUG 23 1943

Accordingly, you are requested to press this matter actively with the British Government with a view toward a joint request by the British and American Governments to the Pope to appeal to the German authorities that rescue be permitted, with the assurances that any persons rescued will be received and cared for by the Allied authorities.

Please advise DuBois of this cable and if you deem it advisable, also advise Emerson.

HULL

000485

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

HIS-975
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [redacted] (W)

Caserta via Naples
Dated August 22, 1944
Rec'd 10:43 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

AUG 24 AM 10 18

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington.

X
182, August 22, 10 a.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM ACKERMANN No. 106

Had already been discussing possible aid to
refugees in Northern Italy also France when your 44 of
August 16 arrived. OSS advises that good contacts
already established by them with resistance groups
both places but believe that refugee aid will be more
effective in Italy and that there is greater need there.
They advise that I deal through them rather than Italian
Government in Rome. At present supplies brought to
Italian resistance by planes which are hardly sufficient
for military aid. It appears that if refugees are to
be assisted to hide in mountains, et cetera, food and
clothing are an urgent necessity as resistance groups
do have enough for themselves. If additional planes can be
allocated for this specific purpose believe that assistance
can be given. After discussion with Murphy believe
that nothing can be done here to secure such planes

and that

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000487

2-#182, August 22, 10 a.m., from Caserta via Naples

and that directive and allocation must come through
combined chiefs of staff. Please advise possibilities
your end. In the meanwhile will continue investigation
here to see what can be done without additional planes.

MURPHY

WSB

000488

2 was by Ed. Ball

CONTROL COPY

RECEIVED
ORIGINAL TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: August 16, 1944
NUMBER: 2817 X

FOLLOWING FOR HOLLAND:

We are requesting Aokermann, the War Refugee Board representative in Italy to take up with the appropriate Italian officials in Rome the matter referred to in your 5079 of August 7.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 126^X

000489

CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO MINISTER HARRISON FOR MCCLELLAND,
BERN, SWITZERLAND.

We are requesting Ackermann, the War Refugee Board representative
in Italy to take up with the appropriate Italian officials in Rome
the matter referred to in your 5079 of August 7.

THIS IS WEB BUREAU CABLE NO. 125

10:00 a.m.
August 16, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman,
Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files
MJMarksiro
8/11/44.

MJM 807

000490

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CH
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be properly classified August 16, 1944

CONTROL COPY

AMPOLAD.

CASERTA (ITALY).

AUG 18 1944

39 X

The following for Ackermann is WRB 44.

McClelland, the War Refugee Board representative in
Bern, suggests that plans for the assistance of refugees
in German-occupied Italy would be facilitated if the
Board were to express to appropriate Italian officials
in Rome its approval of and interest in any rescue
operations on behalf of Jewish refugees in German-occupied
Italy which might be undertaken by the Italian resistance
movement insofar as such operations are consistent with
the satisfactory carrying out of the regular military
program.

If there is no objection from competent Allied mili-
tary authorities, please take this matter up with the
appropriate Italian officials in Rome, and report to the
Board the action taken.

HULL
(CLM)

WRB:MMV:KG
8/16/44

SE

WE

S/CR

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

100491

CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO ACKERMANN, AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
NAPLES, ITALY.

McClelland, the War Refugee Board representative in Bern, suggests that plans for the assistance of refugees in German-occupied Italy would be facilitated if the Board were to express to appropriate Italian officials in Rome its approval of and interest in any rescue operations on behalf of Jewish refugees in German-occupied Italy which might be undertaken by the Italian resistance movement insofar as such operations are consistent with the satisfactory carrying out of the regular military program.

If there is no objection from competent Allied military authorities, please take this matter up with the appropriate Italian officials in Rome, and report to the Board the action taken.

THIS IS WRB CABLE NO. 44

10:00 a.m.
August 16, 1944

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

JWP
Remarks: JWPehle:dg 8/15/44

000492

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON
TO: Secretary of State; Washington
DATED: August 14, 1944
NUMBER: 6521
X

See Department's telegram 5791 of July 24, midnight;
Embassy's telegram 6292 of August 5, 10 p.m.; Department's telegram
6097 of August 2, midnight; Embassy's telegram 6005 of July 28,
5 p.m.

From Heathcote Smith, a copy of telegram number 9,
dated the fourth of August concerning Papal intervention on behalf
of non-Italian refugees in Northern Italy has been furnished the
Embassy by IGC. The following is the gist of this communication:
Taylor had an audience with the Pope and supplied him with the
data in all the wires which were exchanged with Washington on
this question. On the second of August Heathcote Smith saw the
Pope who will ask the German Ambassador to try to stop additional
deportations and to supply the Vatican with figures on the numbers
of Jews and others still awaiting deportation in Northern Italy.
It will also be suggested by the Pope that the Axis should allow
these people to reach some asylum. The above petitions will be
made as though the Pope himself originated them. To Heathcote
Smith the Pope made the statement that neither his conscience
nor history would forgive him if he failed to make this attempt.
A report from the Papal Nuncio in Switzerland reached Heathcote
Smith to the effect that near Modena in a concentration camp fifty
Jews were murdered the thirty first of July by Axis officials.

This wire was communicated to the Foreign Office by IGC
and the eleventh of August IGC received the following telegram
the substance of which is as follows: (In paraphrase) "From
Heathcote Smith's telegram number 9 dated August four it is noted
that the Pope will take up with the German officials the question
of internees in the north of Italy.

Meanwhile His Majesty's High Commissioner in Rome has
been requested by us to advise us as to what accommodation, if any,
may be found for these refugees in freed Italy, but we are aware
that there our resources are greatly strained and our military
officials insist that there is a definite limit to the number
of refugees which can be brought in.

Obviously Heathcote Smith is at the present time not too
well informed concerning the problems which we are facing. The
likelihood of a substantial influx of refugees from the Balkans
confronts us; in addition, we are encountering considerable
difficulties in connection with arrangements for supplies and

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72 medical personnel. Until
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000493

-2- #6521 From London, dated August 14, 1944

medical personnel. Until a solution can be found for these problems, the military officials are not apt to agree to the maintenance of many thousands of refugees in Italy.

You will be advised of the reply of Sir Noel Charles which I hope will be favorable, but as I have pointed out, there are many obstacles to be overcome." In its telegram of today the IGC summed up the whole situation to Heathcote Smith, of which the following is a paraphrase.

"The eighth of August your telegram number nine dated August four concerning the rescue of internees who are threatened with deportation was received. We have received your report of July eighteen and your telegram dated July fifteen, the twenty fifth and nineteenth of July respectively, but until the thirty first of July your July fourteen telegram was not received. On the twenty-sixth of July we proposed to the British and American Governments that they should ask for the intervention of the Vatican for the relief of foreign civilian refugees who are detained in northern Italy giving assurance that they would make arrangements for transportation to southern Italy or elsewhere and that either through IGC or in some other way they would make arrangements for maintenance. On the twenty-ninth of July the American Government supplied us with a message which they repeated to Taylor and they further advised us on the fifth of August that our proposal was found to be acceptable by them. We had, in accordance with their suggestion, a three cornered discussion with representatives of the American Embassy and the Foreign Office and to both Governments copies of your latest telegram have been furnished. From the Foreign Office we today received a letter stating that Charles has been requested to make a report as to what accommodations if any may be available in Italy south of the battle line. The possibility of a large influx from the Balkans simultaneously with difficulties concerning supplies and medical personnel are emphasized by the Foreign Office. By the way of the American Embassy, British opinion is being transmitted to Washington. On your successful negotiations with the Pope we extend our congratulations to Taylor and you. Of additional developments we will advise you.

WINANT

8-16-44
DCR:EMS:mg

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Azkin, Borenstein, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

000494

CONTROL COPY

*2 was Ref Board
Intelle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: August 7, 1944
NUMBER: 5079X

McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.

It would help our planning here, in line with Legation's cable of July 4, no. 4239, if the WRB would express to appropriate Italian officials in Rome its approval of and interests in any rescue operations in behalf of endangered Jewish refugees in German occupied Italy which might be undertaken by the Italian resistance movement in so far as such operations are consistent with the carrying out of their regular military program satisfactorily.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

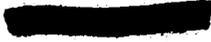
000495

*I was Ref Be -
Keller*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Delegate, Rome
TO : Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 5, 1944
NUMBER: 104

CONTROL COPY



Reference is made herewith to my cable of July 17, no. 237 and Department's answer of July 24, no. 16.

Taylor's 267.

Last week I forwarded the properly paraphrased copies of both messages to the Cardinal Secretary of State for the consideration of His Holiness the Pope. The plan that the Pope approach through appropriate channels the necessary German authorities proceeding the release from Northern Italy of interned refugees mainly Jews as well as the larger plan heretofore advanced by the War Refugee Board relative to the release of all Jews in Germany at Atlantic ports was proposed by Sir Clifford Heathcote Smith, author of the first message, in an audience with His Holiness on Thursday.

In my audience with His Holiness yesterday I supported his plan with encouraging results for I was assured unhesitatingly by His Holiness that at the earliest moment he would make such an approach. His sympathetic and deep interest in all humanitarian projects for the relief of distressed persons is obvious. Naturally the method of approach is a matter within his own discretion. I did not make any inquiry as to any plan he might have had in mind or propose a method.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

KIRK By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000496

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 5, 1944
NUMBER: 6292
*
██████████

Following is for the attention of the War Refugee Board.

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of August 2, no. 6097.

This morning at a meeting between Vice-Director IGC, Henderson of the Refugee Section Foreign Office, and Browns, they discussed intervention by the Vatican on behalf of non-Italian refugees in Northern Italy.

It was stated by Henderson, who was given paraphrase of no. 6097, that he would have to secure definite answer from higher authorities in the Foreign Office. He advanced his own informal opinion that the British Government might not feel that it had enough facilities available at once for transportation, maintenance and care of these refugees to give the Vatican necessary assurance on this point.

It was stated most confidentially by the Vice-Director that proposal for Vatican intervention originated with the Vatican itself. He asserted that the proposal was still approved by IGC but emphasized most strongly the necessity that the American and British Governments have care, maintenance and transportation facilities available prior to requesting the Vatican to act as otherwise the Vatican would regard the request as insincere and would refuse to intervene.

It was also stated by him that IGC desired this particular Italian refugee problem kept separate from the larger Hungarian problem even though dealt with by the same methods. He felt that because of the following differences from the Hungarian situation it could be kept separate: smaller number of refugees, relative ease of their transportation to safe territory, the Vatican's special interest and the likelihood of success being greater.

WINANT

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000497

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

W. B. ...
Kelle

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: August 2, 1944
NUMBER: 6897
6097

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
8S 11 MA 2 20A AM

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMBASSADOR WINANT.

Please refer to your 6005 of July 38 concerning the suggestion made by the IGC Director that the Vatican be asked by the British and American Governments to intervene with the German Government for the release of non-Italian civilian refugees held in North Italy.

As mentioned in our 5791 of July 24, the American Government has made clear to the world its willingness to cooperate with other sympathetic governments in finding havens of refuge for victims of enemy oppression able to leave German occupied territory. Therefore, Emerson's proposal is completely acceptable to this Government.

It is suggested that Emerson now discuss this matter with the British Government and secure its consent to requesting the Vatican to intervene, on the understanding that the British will share with the American Government the responsibility of making arrangements for the maintenance, care and transportation of the refugees involved in the event that the Vatican's efforts prove successful.

The Board would appreciate being advised as soon as the British Government has signified its consent.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Pavis

SEP 8 1972

000498

CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON.

Please refer to your 6005 of July 28 concerning the suggestion made by the IGO Director that the Vatican be asked by the British and American Governments to intervene with the German Government for the release of non-Italian civilian refugees held in North Italy.

As mentioned in our 5791 of July 24, the American Government has made clear to the world its willingness to cooperate with other sympathetic governments in finding havens of refuge for victims of enemy oppression able to leave German occupied territory. Therefore, Emerson's proposal is completely acceptable to this Government.

It is suggested that Emerson now discuss this matter with the British Government and secure its consent to requesting the Vatican to intervene, on the understanding that the British will share with the American Government ^{the} responsibility of making arrangements for the maintenance, care and transportation of the refugees involved in the event that the Vatican's efforts prove successful.

The Board would appreciate being advised as soon as the British Government has signified its consent.

11:00 a.m.
August 1, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,
Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files
MSM a.a.

HJMarks:AA:css 7/31/44

000499

JUL 26 1944

Dear Dr. Wise:

The following message for the World Jewish Congress from Dr. Riegner has been received through the American Legation, Bern, under date of July 21, 1944:

"Information has been received by Czechoslovak official at Geneva to effect that there is a disposition on part of Slovak resistance movement to assist in rescue of Jews from Hungarian dominated territories by bringing them to Slovakia to be enrolled in Slovak Maquis or to be hidden. We are cooperating with action being undertaken (?) dnazidov Bratislava. \$30,000 is required by program for expenses which will be covered by various sources; participation of Congress ten thousand dollars to be transferred urgently to Geneva in Swiss francs is being asked. This is most serious proposal and we are awaiting your urgent reply."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Stephan S. Wise
World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York, New York

FHodel:ms 7/26/44 JSD -

000500

CONTROL COPY

*Placed
in
4-11-72
clearing
2796
7/26/44
Message sent
to W.S.C.
Jot*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 21, 1944
NUMBER: 4000
X

Belleville d sends the following for WRB, from Riegner for
International World Jewish Congress.

Information has been received by Czechoslovak official
at Geneva to effect that there is a disposition on part of
Slovak resistance movement to assist in rescue of Jews
from Hungarian dominated territories by bringing them to
Belleville to be enrolled in Slovak Maquis or to be hidden/
We are cooperating with action being undertaken (?)
Benešov Bratislava. \$50,000 is required by program for
expenses which will be covered by various sources;
participation of Congress ten thousand dollars to be
transferred urgently to Geneva in Swiss francs is being
asked. This is most serious proposal and we are awaiting
your urgent reply."

Note by Legation: This proposition has been discussed
with Minister Kopecky and consider that support is merited.
Initial contribution equivalent ten thousand dollars from fund
of WRB in Swiss francs is being made. Francs will be deposited
to account of Czech resistance movement in Switzerland.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72 HARRISON
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

ECB:MBL
7/20/44

000501



000502

CROSS REFERENCE ON . . . ITALY . . .

FOR:

- Amendment to this License
- Extension of this License
- Renewal of this License
- Correspondence concerning this application .
- Other (Specify)

1. FOR MATERIAL RELATIVE TO THIS BREAKDOWN

SEE: 1. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES; INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

000503

2 was by BH Pella

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: September 16, 1944
NUMBER: 3199 x

CONTROL COPY

[REDACTED]

Cable to McClelland.

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Jarblum Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland, from Leon Kubowitzki, 1834 Broadway, New York, New York:

QUOTE Number 132 learned 700 Jews deported from Fossoli camp to Germany. Have repeatedly requested Interredcross demand from fascist authorities in northern Italy right include Jews deprived freedom movement within scope of its work since Italians always conceded application POW Treaty to civilian internees. Suggest you urge Interredcross make formal representation fascist authorities.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
LEON KUBOWITZKI UNQUOTE

This is WRB cable to Bern No. 168

SEP 20 1944

HULL
GEORGE BOYD
RECEIVED

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000504

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON FOR MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Jarblum Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland, from Leon Kubowitzki, 1834 Broadway, New York, New York;

QUOTE Number 132 learned 700 Jews deported from Fossoli camp to Germany. Have repeatedly requested Interredcross demand from fascist authorities in northern Italy right include Jews deprived freedom movement within scope of its work since Italians always conceded application POW Treaty to civilian internees. Suggest you urge Interredcross make formal representation fascist authorities.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
LEON KUBOWITZKI UNQUOTE

THIS IS WED CABLE T BERN NO. 168

3:40 p.m.
September 12, 1944

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

BAKzin:sr 9/11/44

Copy sent
to WJC 9/12/44
RS

000505

from
fascist authorities in
Northern Italy

August 25, 1944

NLT

Jarblum Riegner
37 Quai Wilson
Geneva (Switzerland)

Number 133 Learned 700 Jews departed from Fossoli camp
to Germany stop Have repeatedly requested Interredcross
demand Italian fascist government right include Jews
deprived freedom movement within scope^{of} its work since
Italians always conceded application POW Treaty to
Civilian internees stop Suggest your urge Interredcross
make formal representation fascist authorities.

Leon Kubowitzki

59 words
ABK:ef
Charge: World Jewish Congress

Via Western Union

Censor: Marc Jarblum and Gerhart Riegner are our Geneva
representatives. We inform them that 700 Jews have been
deported from Fossoli concentration camp in Northern Italy
to Germany and ask them to urge the International Red Cross
to make formal representations to the Italian fascist
authorities since in our opinion the Jews deprived of their
freedom of movement are entitled benefit by analogy from
the 1929 Geneva Convention for Prisoners of War.

000506

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

GEK-707

CONTROL COPY

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

PLAIN

London

Dated August 17, 1944

Rec'd 9:10 a.m., 18th.

*6 - War Ref
Bul (Mr.
Pelle)*

Secretary of State,
Washington.

6663^x, seventeenth.

LONDON TIMES of today carries article stating that Italian Government has approved in principle request by IGC that certain non-Italian refugees in Italy be naturalized as Italian citizens and be allowed to remain there. Vice Director IGC states this Italian action was taken after representations by IGC representative in Italy who acted on request of certain non-Italian refugees.

WINANT

JT

000507

Edward R. Kelly
Wm. P. Kelly

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Consulate General, Naples
DATED: August 4, 1944
NUMBER: 431 X

CONTROL COPY



FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO ACKERMANN.

Please refer to your No. 102 of July 29th in reply to our No. 36 July 21.

The following is for your information:

It is assumed that you have seen Heathcote-Smith's cable to Emerson of July 15, copy of which was transmitted to the War Refugee Board by Myron Taylor as cable No. 237 of July 17, concerning Heathcote-Smith's suggestion among others that the German Government be requested to release refugees deported from Allied Italy and to deliver such refugees to Allied authorities at a North Atlantic port whence they would either be returned to Allied Italy or taken to temporary havens of refuge elsewhere.

After receiving Taylor's message, the Board cabled Emerson in London referring to the President's pronouncement of March 24 and his message to Congress concerning the 1,000 refugees, both of which make clear this Government's willingness to cooperate with other sympathetic Governments in finding havens of refuge for all victims of enemy persecution able to leave German-occupied territory. We also advised Emerson that this Government was prepared to cooperate in every way with the British and other Governments in facilitating any feasible plan of action in regard to

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72 the matter
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000508

the matter referred to by Heathcote-Smith, even though it is quite possible that many of the deportees from Italy have already been executed. The following is an extract of the Board's cable to Emerson:

QUOTE It is our view that any approach to the Germans should indicate the willingness of the Allied Governments, with due regard to military necessities, to consider measures for the reception in Allied and neutral territory of any Jews in German occupied territory, and should not be limited to deportees from Italy. This Government has recently advised the British Government of its willingness to join in such an approach to the German Government. However, we are prepared to consider sympathetically any plan designed to meet the Italian problem referred to by Heathcote-Smith. In the circumstances it would appear most feasible for the Intergovernmental Committee to determine the practical problems involved and discuss the matter with the British Government.

UNQUOTE

The Board received a reply from Emerson suggesting that the intervention of the Vatican be requested by the British and American Governments in approaching the German authorities with a request that non-Italian civilian refugees held in North Italy be released. Emerson also suggested that the British and American Governments assure the Vatican that they would make arrangements for the maintenance, care and transportation of the refugees involved

100509

RECEIVED
MAIL ROOM
NOV 10 1944

involved in the event that the Vatican's efforts prove successful.
The Board is cabling Emerson that his proposal is completely acceptable to the American Government and suggesting that Emerson now discuss the matter with the British Government and secure its consent to requesting the Vatican to intervene, on the understanding that the British will share with the American Government the responsibilities indicated by Emerson in the event that the Vatican's efforts prove successful.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO NAPLES NO. 40.
X

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

000510

August 2, 1944
5:20 p.m.

CABLEGRAM FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO ACKERMANN, AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
NAPLES, ITALY.

Please refer to your No. 102 of July 29th in reply to our No. 36 of July 21.

The following is for your information:

It is assumed that you have seen Heathcote-Smith's cable to Emerson of July 15, copy of which was transmitted to the War Refugee Board by Myron Taylor as cable No. 237 of July 17, concerning Heathcote-Smith's suggestion among others that the German Government be requested to release refugees deported from Allied Italy and to deliver such refugees to Allied authorities at a North Atlantic port whence they would either be returned to Allied Italy or taken to temporary havens of refuge elsewhere.

After receiving Taylor's message, the Board cabled Emerson in London referring to the President's pronouncement of March 24 and his message to Congress concerning the 1000 refugees, both of which make clear this Government's willingness to cooperate with other sympathetic Governments in finding havens of refuge for all victims of enemy persecution able to leave German-occupied territory. We also advised Emerson that this Government was prepared to cooperate in every way with the British and other Governments in facilitating any feasible plan of action in regard to the matter referred to by Heathcote-Smith, even though it is quite possible that many of the deportees from Italy have already been executed. The following is an extract of the Board's cable to Emerson:

QUOTE It is our view that any approach to the Germans should indicate the willingness of the allied governments, with due regard to military necessities, to consider measures for the reception in allied and neutral territory of any Jews in German occupied territory, and should not be limited to deportees from Italy. This Government has recently advised the British Government of its willingness to join in such an approach to the German Government. However, we are prepared to consider sympathetically any plan designed to meet the Italian problem referred to by Heathcote-Smith. In the circumstances it would appear most feasible for the Intergovernmental Committee to determine the practical problems involved and discuss the matter with the British Government. UNQUOTE

The Board received a reply from Emerson suggesting that the intervention of the Vatican be requested by the British and American Governments in approaching the German authorities with a request that non-Italian civilian refugees held in North Italy be released. Emerson also suggested that the British and American Governments assure the Vatican that they would make arrangements for the maintenance, care and transportation of the refugees involved in the event that the Vatican's efforts prove successful.

The Board is cabling Emerson that his proposal is completely acceptable to the American Government and suggesting that Emerson now discuss the matter with the British Government and secure its consent to requesting the Vatican to intervene, on the understanding that the British will share with the American Government the responsibilities indicated by Emerson in the event that the Vatican's efforts prove successful.

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

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

WREB/CALL TO NAPLES NO. 40

000511

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MS-17
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (~~RESERVED~~)

Maples via war

Dated July 29, 1944

Rec'd 6:11 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington

CONTROL COPY

29, July 29, 1944

FOR WRB FROM ACKERMAN 102.

Subject matter of your 36, July 21, was discussed
with Heathcote-Smith at Rome last week. I examined
some records but not some unavailable because of
further checking. From this material and other
memoranda prepared by him I am reasonably certain many
refugees formerly in central Italy were moved north-
wards to unknown destination shortly before Allied advance.
Evidence does not indicate present whereabouts so as to
aid rescue but we have name of at least one Italian-
official involved. While I do not feel too optimistic
that our propaganda campaign has been successful so
far and think it should be continued. Best procedure
seems to be for a board member or other high official
to give public warning coordinated with OWI to assure
widest publicity. Copy of Heathcote-Smith telegram and
memoranda will be sent by air pouch probably not
arriving

000512

-2- #29, July 29, 4 p.m., from Naples via war.

arriving for 10 days.

MURPHY

RR

000513

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 28, 1944
NUMBER: 6005x

The following is for WRB's information.

With reference to Department's cable of July 24, No. 5791, Embassy has been supplied with text of Hoathcote-Smith's telegram by IGC.

The suggestion that the intervention of the Vatican be requested by British and American Governments in approaching the German authorities with the request that non-Italian civilian refugees held in North Italy be released has been made by IGC Director. The Director feels that assurance should be given Vatican that British and American Governments would make arrangements for maintenance and care and transportation of refugees involved, in this connection, in the event the efforts of the Vatican are successful.

WINANT

DCR:GFW

7-29-44

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000514

*I am referring
m. Kille*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

CONTROL COPY

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Consul, Naples
DATED: July 21, 1944
NUMBER: 401X



The following message has been received from Emerson, IGO:

QUOTE A message has been received recently from our representative in Italy which states, in effect, that there have been discovered records which are now available in Italy and which give complete lists of names of more than 15,000 individual refugees--Yugoslavs who are not Jews, Jews, and other people--who have been, at one time or another since the start of the war, in Italy. To trace many of them now is impossible. Other data is available which gives the names of refugees at free detention places and those held at certain camps at certain times. Our representative suggests that notification be given the Axis authorities that this information is in the possession of the Allies and that due punishment will be inflicted upon those responsible for the ill treatment or death of these people. I am referring this matter to you, since agreement has been reached with Washington that the field of action of the Inter-governmental Committee does not cover psychological action of this kind. Since it would possibly be of special interest

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000515

-2-
RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON
DEC 11 1945

interest to the War Crimes Commission, the information has also been sent to the British Foreign Office. UNQUOTE
Please consult Heathcote-Smith, IGC Representative. If possible examine records to determine their usefulness either for psychological purposes as indicated, or for purposes of initiating action that might result in the rescue or relief of persons whose names and whereabouts may be available.

THIS IS WRB CABL TO NAPLES NO. 36.
X

HULL

000516

SECRET
LATERAL

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, NAPLES, FOR ACKERMANN
FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

The following message has been received from Emerson, IGO:

QUOTE A message has been received recently from our representative in Italy which states, in effect, that there have been discovered records which are now available in Italy and which give complete lists of names of more than 15,000 individual refugees -- Yugoslavs who are not Jews, Jews, and other people -- who have been, at one time or another since the start of the war, in Italy. To trace many of them now is impossible. Other data is available which gives the names of refugees at free detention places and those held at certain camps at certain times. Our representative suggests that notification be given the Axis authorities that this information is in the possession of the Allies and that due punishment will be inflicted upon those responsible for the ill treatment or death of these people. I am referring this matter to you, since agreement has been reached with Washington that the field of action of the Inter-governmental Committee does not cover psychological action of this kind. Since it would possibly be of special interest to the War Crimes Commission, the information has also been sent to the British Foreign Office. UNQUOTE

Please consult Heathcote-Smith, IGO Representative. If possible examine records to determine their usefulness either for psychological purposes as indicated, or for purposes of initiating action that might result in the rescue or relief of persons whose names and whereabouts may be available.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO NAPLES NO. 36

5:00 p.m.
July 20, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,
Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

(cbs)

A. Abrahamson:mb 7/19/44
amb *L.S.X.*

000517

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: July 24, 1944
NUMBER: 5791

FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD BY SIR HERBERT HASTINGS

Myron Taylor has transmitted to the Department the substance of a telegram dated July 15th sent to the Inter-Governmental Committee, London, by Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith.

The cable in question as understood by us describes the organized deportation by the Germans of Jews and other refugees from Italy to concentration camps with the ultimate purpose of their extermination. This shocking action of the Nazis in Italy is typical of the murderous extermination campaign which has been carried out in all occupied territory and which today is being executed on a large scale in Hungary.

This Government has in recent months made clear to the world that it is prepared, in cooperation with other sympathetic governments, to find havens of refuge for all victims of this persecution who are able to leave German occupied territory. This policy of our Government was enunciated by President Roosevelt in his statement of March 24th as well as in his special message to Congress announcing the bringing of 1,000 refugees to this country.

The situation described in the cable in question appears to be another aspect of the general problem and, while it is possible that many of the deported persons have already been executed, this Government will cooperate in any way with the British Government and other governments in facilitating any feasible plan of action. Heathcote-Smith's suggestion however would involve an approach to the German Government asking them to release refugees deported from Italy and to deliver such refugees to allied authorities at a point adjacent to the coast where they would be returned to Italy or taken to temporary centers of refuge elsewhere.

It is our view that any approach to the German Government requires the willingness of the allied governments, with due regard to military necessities, to furnish resources in the occupied or allied and neutral territory of any form to finance such a territory, and should not be limited to dependent areas. This Government has recently declared the American Government's willingness to join in such an approach to the German Government. However, we are prepared to consider suggestions for

000518

-2- #5791, To London, July 27, 1942

plan designed to meet the Italian problem referred to by Heathcote-Smith. In the circumstances it would appear most feasible for the Inter-Governmental Committee to determine the practical problems involved and discuss the matter with the British Government.

We would appreciate being advised of further developments in this matter.

It will be appreciated if Emerson will make available to Ambassador Winant the cable from Heathcote-Smith in order that Winant may be fully informed.

Repeated to Myron Taylor, Vatican City as Department's No. 16.

HULL

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aikin, Berenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lederer, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Rohls, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

000519

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

war ref - red - Riple
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

BAS-437

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

Secretary of State,
Washington.

^x
237, July 17, 10 a.m.

The following is the substance of a telegram dated July 15 sent from Rome to Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees London from the Committee's resident representative in Italy, Sir Clifford Heathcote Smith.

The subject of the telegram is the saving of the lives of foreign internees in Italy notably Jewish whom the Germans threatened with imminent deportation and murder; and the despatch of mercy ship.

(1) There have been discovered in Italy the originals of German official orders dated April 22, 1944, by which all internees except Belgian, Dutch, Norwegian, French, Greek, ex-Polish and ex-Yugoslav, were to be sent northward into Germany (repeat Germany) concentration camps. The order stated specifically that Jews of all nationalities presumably Italian also were included.

A corroboration of this is found in the fact that 43 British Jews were thus suddenly removed in April at noon one day at a few minutes notice to a German camp

at Carpi

Vatican City
Dated July 17, 1944

CONTROL COPY

Rec'd 10:25 a.m., 18th

Copy only

Division of State
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JUL 19 1944

COMMUNICATIONS

000520

-2- 237, July 17, 10 a.m., from Vatican City

at Carpi near Modena.

(2) The monstrous fact that large numbers are deported to Germany and liquidated is disclosed by evidence scarcely less complete. This fate must have been that of thousands of men, women and children from Italy alone. This bestial carnage should clearly be stopped forthwith if this, without injury to the war effort of the Allies, can be achieved.

(3) The size of the problem. There should have been sixteen to twenty thousand internees today in republican Italy so it is estimated, but including all Christians and an outside maximum of 5,000 foreign Jews, there may be alive today there under 9,000 what with a large scale repatriation of Yugoslavs and deportation of Jews and others. Republican Italy with her Fascist laws has denationalized all Italian Jews so that some 20,000 "Italian" Jews should be added to the above 5,000 foreign Jews.

(4) President Roosevelt initiated the refugee camp for the thousand stateless persons now being shipped from

Italy

000521

-3- #237, July 17, 10 a.m., from Vatican City.

Italy to the United States. Could therefore the President be approached to intervene on behalf of these persons in German camps and possibly for this purpose utilize the Pope, if thought advisable, as intermediary? (It is suggested the Axis would be asked to deliver at a named port in the North Atlantic all internees and notably all stateless persons.) A mercy ship would be sent to that port to collect them; and this ship, until all had been removed to safety, could carry on a shuttle service to some near port in liberated Italy. If the United States of America found it impolitic provide a temporary home for any of these refugees, then as regards their eventual disposal they could be kept, many thousand of them, in Italy and if required there could be made available in Algeria sever huge camps.

(5) If the inter-Governmental Committee took a successful initiative in this operation this would be directly in accordance with the essence of its mandate which is to take steps to preserve (repeat preserve) and maintain refuge. Similarly rescue work has pride of place for the American War Refugee Board.

(6) Immediacy

100522

-4- #237, July 17, 10 a.m., from Vatican City.

(6) Immediacy of the problem. Never before has there been such a probability of success nor such urgency. It is clear this suggestion of mercy ships is not original; the question is whether this is psychological moment to try again. German policy of deportation is well established. If we do not move quickly total (repeat total) deportation may be carried out. On the other hand Germany is now on the defensive and hard pressed and has just declared this publicly and frankly. This comparatively small act of decent behavior which incidentally will saddle the Allies with several more thousand mouths to feed may be welcomed by the Germans as an opportunity to gain some grace.

(7) Success in this eleventh hour attempt to save extermination some few thousand lives might permit later successful repetition elsewhere.

(8) No immediate threat. It is suggested that only after eventual rejection should threats be used; but that the invitation itself should be merely courteous and direct and that Germany should be informed beforehand that we

000523

-5- #237, July 17, 10 a.m., from Vatican City.

that we hold the names of the majority of those who were interned in Italy.

(9) This mercy ship suggestion formed the subject of a talk I had with Myron Taylor. He said that he would encourage the plan and would cable the appropriate authorities in Washington accordingly.

Note by Myron Taylor: this idea is similar, of smaller scope but more definite than one discussed by Peble, President War Refugee Board, with the President's Advisory Committee at a luncheon meeting in New York in April. Whether it is practical depends on transportation and military consideration as well as the political features involved.

TAYLOR

WSB
RR

000524

*J. Board Refugees
B-1-Pelle*

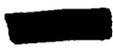
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 4, 1944
NUMBER: 4239 >

CONTROL COPY

1073

File



The following message is from Riegner by McClelland to the War Refugee Board for the World Jewish Congress.

In answer to your various cables regarding the situation of the Jews in Northern Italy, there is no change in this zone. With the aid of certain Jewish collaborators who remained with false identity papers and also with the help of Catholic priests, Delasem is continuing its activities from Genoa. Notably in the regions of Emilia, Liguria, Tuscany, Lombardy and Piedmont is relief reaching the Jews. Joint is financing this work adequately. Rabbi Otto Lenghi is at his post in Venice and the recent news from Venice and Florence is satisfactory. In several other towns especially in Genoa, Turin and Milan, arrests of Jews continue. The people who have been arrested are in prisons, especially prison San Vittore in Milan and in camps as follows: San Martino di Rosignano, Monte Ferrato, Province Alessandria; Cesareo, Province Parma; Fossoli near Garpi, Province Modena. When the camps are full the people are deported from them. From San Vittore, Milan, transports of deportees left for Poland and Germany as follows: On December 6, 230 people and on January 30, 556 people. Five hundred and eighty people were deported from

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

Fossoli

000525

Fossoli on the 22nd of February and the end of March, approximately 500 were taken away. Although specific details are lacking, deportations have continued. Due to lack of food and also to brutal treatment, the situations in camps is extremely bad. Penetration to the camps is permitted to neither priests nor to the Red Cross. With the aid of members of Italian resistance movements, aid to the detainees must be assured. Because of more severe control by Italians and Germans at the frontier the arrival in Switzerland of Italian Jews has decreased recently. I am trying to initiate rescue action in Northern Italy in contact with members of Italian resistance, in agreement with Valobra and Salvatore Donati. Included in this program are the following: (1) the transferring of people in hiding to security zones such as the valleys controlled by Maquis to Switzerland or to the southern zone; (2) aid to detainees in camps in the provinces of Pia Cenza, Parma and Modena, with assistance of resistance movements also; (3) preparation of liberation at the appropriate moment by force of detainees in camps. An initial contribution of ten thousand dollars is needed for this program. Your urgent reply is being awaited.

HARRISON

*9/12/44
 message sent
 to World Jewish
 Congress
 Jot.*

DCR:MPL
7/6/44

000526

JUL 12 1944

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Riegner was received from the American Legation, Bern, under date of July 4, 1944:

"In answer to your various cables regarding the situation of the Jews in Northern Italy, there is no change in this zone. With the aid of certain Jewish collaborators who remained with false identity papers and also with the help of Catholic priests, Delasem is continuing its activities from Genoa. Notably in the regions of Emilia, Liguria, Tuscany, Lombardy and Piedmont is relief reaching the Jews. Joint is financing this work adequately. Rabbi Otto Lenghi is at his post in Venice and the recent news from Venice and Florence is satisfactory. In several other towns especially in Genoa, Turin and Milan, arrests of Jews continue. The people who have been arrested are in prisons, especially prison San Vittore in Milan and in camps as follows: San Martino di Rosignano, Monte Ferrato, Province Alessandria; Cesareo, Province Parma; Fossoli near Carpi, Province Modena. When the camps are full the people are deported from them. From San Vittore, Milan, transports of deportees left for Poland and Germany as follows: On December 6, 230 people and on January 30, 556 people. Five hundred and eighty people were deported from Fossoli on the 22nd of February and the end of March, approximately 500 were taken away. Although specific details are lacking, deportations have continued. Due to lack of food and also to brutal treatment, the situations in camps is extremely bad. Penetration to the camps is permitted to neither priests nor to the Red Cross. With the aid of members of Italian resistance movements, aid to the detainees must be assured. Because of more severe control by Italians and Germans at the frontier the arrival in Switzerland of Italian Jews has decreased recently. I am trying to initiate rescue action in Northern Italy in contact with members of Italian resistance, in agreement with Valobra and Salvatore Donati. Included in this program are the following: (1) the transferring of people in hiding to security zones such as the valleys controlled by Maquis to Switzerland or to the southern zone; (2) aid to detainees in camps in the provinces of Pia Cenza, Parma and Modena, with assistance of resistance movements also; (3) preparation of liberation at the appropriate moment by force of detainees in camps. An initial contribution of ten thousand dollars is needed for this program. Your urgent reply is being awaited."

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Rescue Department
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York. *EBT*
EBTowler:agr. 7-11-44

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
JAT

000527

*War Refugee Bd
J.M. Keller
copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The Allied Control Commission, Naples
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 29, 1944 *Rec'd May 5-*
NUMBER: 3590

CONTROL COPY

Murphy sends the following message.

At the suggestion of the Combined Chiefs of Staff a study of the civilian relief problem in Italy has recently been made and completed by Patrick Malin, Vice President of the inter-governmental Committee on Refugees. With regard to non-Italian persons in Italy especially Jews, Malin although he found arrangements satisfactory for the relief of Italians, considered that further steps should be taken with a view to ensuring the dispensation of adequate relief and to arranging their evacuation or repatriation where possible.

The following recommendations which ACC and AFHQ have approved are put forward by Malin to supplement the foregoing:

One. Sir Clifford Heathcote Smith, late British Consul General at Alexandria, to be appointed as resident representative in Italy of IGCON refugees.

Two. To work in Italy under Heathcote Smith on the issuance of Palestine immigration certificates, the appointment of a representative of a Jewish agency which the Government of Palestine has approved.

Thres.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000528

2- #3590 from Naples

Three. The authorities of France to be asked to accommodate some 750 Jewish refugees in a camp established at Fedhala by UNRRA.

Four. The present policy of excluding organizations other than British and American from Italy Allied Red Cross to be maintained.

UNSTGND

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF WAR
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 2 1944

DCR:MPL
5/5/44

000529