Given below is the substance of a cable which was sent to Lisbon on May 8, 1944 as our No. 107.

We refer herewith to your cable dated May 4, 1944, No. 65.

It is requested that the following message from Islambek Khan, Counsellor, Afghan Legation, Bern, be delivered to Mr. Joffo:

I am very happy to know that you have arrived in Lisbon. It is difficult to travel. I am attempting to obtain the visas needed. I would like to know how long you expect to remain.

I am at your disposal to be of any possible service under the circumstances. Regards.

The officer of the Legation was informed by Islambek that it would inevitably take time to obtain the visas for which application was needed; that he would like to see Mr. Joffo, regarding whom he spoke in very friendly terms; five weeks were required for him to obtain German permission to proceed from France to Switzerland where he is also assigned as Counsellor of the Legation. Furthermore, there recently arrived here from Vichy the Afghan Minister who is accredited to both countries and neither expect to return.

The foregoing message is in reference to Bern's cable of May 3, 1944.

No. 2800.

DECLASSIFIED

HARRISON
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMBASSADOR, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington, D.C.
Dated: May 3, 1944.
NUMBER: 2800

Department's telegram of April 22, 1944, no. 1402 is referred to herewith.

Given below is the substance of cable sent to Lisbon on May 3, 1944 as no. 103.

Following for WRB's attention.

David P. Joffo, expected at Palace Hotel, Lisbon, May 3, may be informed by you that Isambek Khan has been contacted by Bern and Joffo's message was delivered.

HARRISON
FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO HARRISON, BERN.

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to IslamDak Khan, Afghan Legation, Bern:

"Quote Proceeding abroad on business expect to arrive Palace Hotel, Lisbon, May 3. Please come and see me in Lisbon as soon as possible. Signed: David Paul Joffo. Unquote."

HULL
CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Islambek Khan, Afghan Legation, Bern: "Proceeding abroad on business expect to arrive Palace Hotel, Lisbon, May 3. Please come and see me in Lisbon as soon as possible. Signed

David Paul Joffo."

* * * * * * * * *

Attached hereto is a cable to Minister Harrison, Bern, which I would appreciate having transmitted promptly. The files of the State Department will show that Mr. Joffo is an American citizen and that a passport has been issued to him. They will also show that Mr. Shipley requested the Portuguese Legation to expedite the issuance of a visa to him. While Mr. Joffo is going abroad for private reasons, we have accepted his kind offer to be of assistance. Mr. Joffo tells us that Mr. Islambek Khan is an old personal friend of his and the attached message is in connection with Mr. Joffo's program of assistance in the refugee problem.

LSLesserials 4/18/44
Dear Mr. Dexter:

This will introduce Mr. David Paul Joffe, an American citizen, who is in Lisbon on private business.

Mr. Joffe desires to aid the Board and in this connection, any assistance you may extend to him will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

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

Dr. Robert C. Dexter
Special Representative
for Refugee Board
American Legation
Lisbon, Portugal
Mr. Joffo was in this afternoon, but you were busy. He is leaving on Friday by boat for Lisbon. He wants us to send a message to Isambek Khan, Afghan Legation, Berne, Switzerland, the message to read as follows:

"As a courtesy to Mr. David Paul Joffo, we are sending you this message: I am proceeding abroad on business. Please come and see me in Lisbon as soon as possible. Arriving May 3 Palace Hotel."

He would like a letter to Dexter in Lisbon which he could take with him. The letter, signed by Pehle, should be sent to him at Hotel Paris, West End Avenue at 97th Street, New York 25, New York, in time for his departure for Philadelphia on Friday. The text, I suggest, should read as follows:

"This letter introduces Mr. David Paul Joffo, an American citizen, who is going to Lisbon on private business. He is interested in the refugee problem. I shall appreciate any courtesy you may care to show him."

In view of my ignorance of the cable procedure and the need for editing, I wonder whether you would be good enough to proceed from this point.

A.A.
As a courtesy to Mr. Joffe, we are sending you this message. I am proceeding abroad on business important to his country. It is of importance that I should call at the Hotel in his honor. Arriving May 3 please see me as soon as possible.

ISLAMABAD KAHAN
AFGHAN LEGATION
BERNE, SWITZERLAND

Letter to Mr. Joffe

J. O. E.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

April 15, 1944

Mr. David Joffo is considering going to Europe on business and because of his deep interest in refugees and because of connections outlined below, he is anxious to do something to save a group of refugees who are persons of some distinction on the intellectual level rather than "bourgeoisie". He claims that he has had close and friendly relations with high officials of Afghanistan, which is a neutral country and which has a representative in Switzerland and one in Turkey, both intimate friends of Joffo. Joffo feels that he can arrange for the release of several hundred people by asking these friends to intervene with high Germans who in turn are friends of Joffo's friends. Joffo insists that there is no ideological affinity between his friends and the top Germans. His optimism as to results is based on his success in a similar venture in the '30s, as a result of which several hundred refugees of distinction were saved. These are now living in all parts of the world, including India, where Joffo has connections. Although Joffo himself is a White Russian, he is an American citizen, is a friend of Congressman Rabot of Michigan and already has a visa and passport for Portugal.

He is undecided as to whether to go through with his trip now, in view of his hunch that the war may soon be over. He has given several inventions to our government. He has several others that are quite promising for the immediate post-war period and he would hate to be in Europe when the opportunity arose to cash in on these. He is going to make up his mind in the next few days and let us know. If he goes to Lisbon, he is asking us to do the following:

1. Send a message to his friend in Switzerland to meet him in Lisbon.
2. Write a letter to Dexter in Lisbon.
3. Expedite his travel as much as we can.

He also requested that we keep an eye on his business (especially on the problem of when raw materials become available) and to insure him quick transportation back to this country should the war suddenly end while he is abroad. We gave him no assurance at all on the first point and told him we would do what we could on the second, but could guarantee nothing.

Mr. Lesser was present during that part of the conversation when the numbered points above were mentioned.

cc: L.S. Lesser
Part II.

April 17, 1944.

Mr. Joffo came in today and advised that he is leaving for Lisbon by boat Friday. He has asked us to send a message to his friend in Switzerland (see attached copy) and to give him a letter to Dexter.

cc: L.S. Lesser
PROPOSED CABLE TO ISLAMBEX KHAN, AFGHAN LEGATION
BERNE, SWITZERLAND

"AS A COURTESY TO MR. DAVID PAUL JOFFO, WE ARE SENDING
YOU THIS MESSAGE: I AM PROCEEDING ABROAD ON BUSINESS. PLEASE
COME AND SEE ME IN LISBON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ARRIVING MAY 3
PALACE HOTEL."
DAVID PAUL JOFFO
o/o HOTEL PARIS
NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

REGRET MY UNAVAILABILITY REMAINDER THIS WEEK. WILL COMMUNICATE NEXT TIME
I AM IN NEW YORK. PHOTOSTATS IN MAIL.

ALBERT ABRAHAMSON
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board

Signed
4/12/44
W3 (FIVE) 10
ND NEW YORK NY APR 12 1944 152P
ALBERT ABRAHMS, ASST DIR WAR RELIEF BOARD
RM 194 1/2 TREASURY BLDG WASH DC
PLEASE CONFIRM WHATEVER TIME AVAILABLE TOMORROW WASHINGTON OR
NEW YORK THANKS
DAVID P JOFFO
147P
Mr. Albert Abrahamson, Assistant Executive Director War Refugee Board Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Abrahamson:

Re: your wire of today's date, I regret that I could not reach you over the phone on Monday and yesterday. I also regret that I did not have the opportunity of seeing Mr. Pehele or yourself good soon after I wrote to Mr. Pehele on March 30th, for I have then made my plans accordingly and to be at Mr. Pehele's convenience.

It so happens that I am not certain as to whether I will be able to be helpful to your organization and the fine cause it serves, if I cannot clear up the matter this week or the latest by Monday—any hour. It will therefore be helpful when you inform me promptly as to whether anyone else in authority can take up the matter before Monday and whether you are certain that yourself good can meet me here or in Washington on Monday. I will then make my plans accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

David Paul Joffo
Mr Albert Abrahamson, Assistant Executive Director War Refugee Board Treasury Building - Room 194 1/2

WASHINGTON, D.C.
DAVID PAUL JOFFO  
c/o HOTEL PARIS  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK.  

CAN SEE YOU THREE O'CLOCK TUESDAY, ROOM 1943, TREASURY BUILDING.

ALBERT ABRAMSON  
Assistant Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board.

April 10, 1944

W4 (FIVE) 9

O ND NEW YORK NY APR 10 1944 235 P

ALBERT A RAHAMSON, ASST TO JOHN PEHLE EXECUTIVE DIR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD TREASURY BLDG WASH DC

CAN COME TO WASHINGTON TOMORROW AFTERNOON ANY HOUR CONVENIENT
DAVID P JOFFO.

304 P
April 7, 1944.

DAVID PAUL JOFFO
HOTEL PARIS
NEW YORK

AT MR. PEHLE'S SUGGESTION, I SHALL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU
ON MONDAY, APRIL 10 OR ANY MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME THEREAFTER.
PLEASE ADVISE.

ALBERT ABRAMSON
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
W4 (FIVE) 15 2 EXTRA
ND NEW YORK NY APRIL 3 1944 205P
HON JOHN W PEHLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WAR REFUGEE BD, U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT, ASH CT, DC

RELATIVE MY LETTER OF MARCH 30 WILL APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT REPLY.
PLEASE WIRE COLLECT.

DAVID PAUL JOFFO, HOTEL PARIS

232P
Honorables John W. Fehle,
Executive Director War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Fehle:

While in Europe, before the outbreak of this War, I have been doing the very same humanitarian service your Office is now designated to carry on—except, of course, that it was on a small scale, since I have been doing it on my own resources, initiative and contacts. And because of the above, I have been led to combine my limited aid with expediency: getting out of Germany chiefly Scientists and Inventors who I knew would be helpful and needed in our war efforts.

I am contemplating a trip abroad, and would be happy to answer the appeal of our humanitarian and great President, the admiration for whom I felt since the time of his Governorship, and am glad to offer you my assistance in this great humanitarian and urgent task. I am enclosing a few copies of letters as to the above.

I will not go into describing in this letter as to the manner and contacts through which I succeeded in effecting the humble aid I rendered. I prefer to discuss this and the ways I believe I can be helpful in your task in a personal interview with you. You will therefore be kind to inform me as to your earliest convenience, and I will be glad to come out to Washington.

Very sincerely yours,

David Paul Joffo.

P.S.

I live in Flint, Michigan, where to I have to return as soon as possible to complete an invention I am working on. It will therefore be helpful if you inform me forthwith of the date of the appointment.

P.P.S.

The depleted part of one of the letters pertains to an invention and you will, I am sure, understand and appreciate the reason of the depletion.

Enclosed seven photostat copies of letters to be returned.

David Paul Joffo.
Honorable John W. Pehle
Executive Director War Refugee Board
Treasury Building.

WASHINGTON, D.C.