

JOFFO, DAVID PAUL

000278

*wa Refugee Bd  
and Pella*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 8, 1944  
NUMBER: 2915

**CONTROL COPY**

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.

DCR:IDB:HL 5/10/44

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000879

*was Rejected  
Copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMLEGATION, Bern,  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington,  
DATED: May 3, 1944.  
NUMBER: 2800

**CONTROL COPY**

*File*

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 Islambek  
Khan has been contacted by Bern and Joffo's message  
was delivered.

11 MAY 1944  
WASHINGTON D.C.  
RECEIVED  
MAY 11 1944

HARRISON

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

000000

*Handwritten notes:*  
1 copy only

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: Amlegation, Bern  
DATED: April 22, 1944  
NUMBER: 1402

**CONTROL COPY**



FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO HARRISON, BERN.

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Islambek 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 Joffe. UNQUOTE.

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
RECEIVED  
MAY 25 11 03 AM '44

HULL

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

000221

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: 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

\* \* \* \* \*

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 Mrs. 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.

ca JH

LSLesser:als 4/18/44

000882

APR 19 1944

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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Robert C. Dexter  
Special Representative  
War Refugee Board  
American Legation  
Lisbon, Portugal

a.c. L.S.L.  
LSLesser:als 4/18/44 J.A.

000283

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 17, 1944

TO Mr. Lesser  
FROM Mr. Abrahamson

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 Islambek 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.*

100884

leaving Friday

"As a courtesy to Mr. Joffe, we  
are sending you this message:  
I am proceeding abroad on  
~~business of importance to his~~  
~~country. It is of importance~~  
~~Can you please~~ could and see me  
in his honor at "Arriving Day 3 Palace  
Hotel" as soon as possible.

ISKAMBEIC KHAN  
AFGHAN LEGATION  
BERNE, SWITZERLAND

letter to his honor Deiter

Cable

000285

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 Rabout 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

000286

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.

*all.*

cc: L.S.Lesser

000287

PROPOSED CABLE TO ISLAMBEK 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."

000222

Emergency Fund for the President, National  
Defense, (Allotment to War Refugee Board)  
112/40006(18) 1942-44

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

APRIL 12, 1944

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

*Scat*  
*3:48*

*From Abrahamson  
files*

AAbrahamson; pdk 4/12/44

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1944 APR 12 PM 1 48

ND NEWYORK NY APR 12 1944 132P  
ALBERT ABRAHMSON, ASST DIR WAR RELIEF BOARD

RM 194 1/2 TREASURY BLDG WASHN DC  
PLEASE CONFIRM WHATEVER TIME AVAILABLE TOMORROW WASHINGTON OR  
NEWYORK THANKS

DAVID P JOFFO.

147P

*From Abrahamson file*

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000290

# Hotel Paris

RIVERSIDE-9  
3500

RADIO IN EVERY ROOM - SWIMMING POOL - GYMNASIUM  
RESTAURANT - COCKTAIL LOUNGE - 800 ROOMS



WEST END AVENUE AT 97th STREET  
NEW YORK 25, N.Y.

April 2-44.

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 Pehle or yourself good soon after I wrote to Mr Pehle on March 30th, for I have then made my plans accordingly and to be at Mr Pehle'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

*Sat 3 pm*

*From Abrahamson  
file*

INVEST IN THE UNITED STATES \* BUY WAR BONDS

000291

D. Joffo,

**Hotel Paris**

WEST END AVENUE AT 97th Street  
NEW YORK 25, N.Y.

NEW YORK, N.Y.  
APR 3  
3 AM  
1944  
STA. H.

H

53



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

WASHINGTON, D.C.

000292

Emergency Fund for the President, Natl. De-  
fense, 1942-1944, Allotment to War Refugee  
Bd. from Emergency Fund for the Pres.

April 10, 1944

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

CAN SEE YOU THREE O'CLOCK TUESDAY, ROOM 194 $\frac{1}{2}$ , TREASURY BUILDING.

ALBERT ABRAHAMSON  
Assistant Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board.

*From Abrahamson  
files*

AA:lh 4/10/44

000293

288-2

W4 (FIVE) 9

O ND NEWYORK NY APR 10 1944 235P

1944 APR 10 PM 3 06

ALBERT A RAHAMSON, ASST TO JOHN PEHLE EXECUTIVE DIR

WAR REFUGEE BOARD TREASURY BLDG WASHN DC

CAN COME TO WASHINGTON TOMORROW AFTERNOON ANY HOUR CONVENIENT

DAVID P JOFFO.

304P

*From Al Rahamson's files*

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War Refugee Board-5656

April 7, 1944.

DAVID PAUL JOFFO

HOTEL PARIS

NEW YORK

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

ALBERT ABRAHAMSON  
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

  
Abrahamson:lr 4/7/44

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ND NEWYORK NY APRIL 3 1944 205P

HON JOHN W PEHLE

EXECT DIR WAR REFUGEE BD TREASURY BLDG ASHN DC

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

DAVID PAUL JOFFO HOTEL PARIS

232P

30

*From [unclear] Paris*

000296

# Hotel Paris

RIVERSIDE-9  
3500

RADIO IN EVERY ROOM • SWIMMING POOL • GYMNASIUM  
RESTAURANT • COCKTAIL LOUNGE • 800 ROOMS



WEST END AVENUE AT 97th STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

March 30-44.

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

Dear Mr Pehle:

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 will 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.

ENCLOSURES: 7 photostat copies of letters— to be returned.

MAKE NEW YORK YOUR VACATION CITY

000297

**Hotel Paris**

D. F. Joffo,

WEST END AVENUE AT 97th STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.



**WIA AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY**

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



**WIA AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY**



WASHINGTON, D. C.

000298

**SPECIAL DELIVERY**  
**WIA AIR**

MAR 31  
6 AM  
S.F.O.

G.P.O.

WASHINGTON  
MAR 31  
2:30 PM  
S.F.O.

**NOTICE**

LETTERS MAILED IN HOTEL ENVELOPES  
IF NOT DELIVERED, WILL BE SENT TO THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE;  
UNLESS THE WRITER GIVES A RETURN ADDRESS.  
IF NOT DELIVERED IN \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS, RETURN TO

000299