Dear Mr. Pehle:

The enclosed translation regarding man-power losses suffered by Poland was made from an article which appeared in the Istanbul newspaper "La Republique" on January 22, 1945. We have no way of verifying these figures from here, but they give an indication of the magnitude of the losses which Poland has had to sustain, and of the losses among the Jewish people of that country.

If you wish to verify these figures, perhaps you may have some possibility for doing so, either in Washington or through the Polish authorities in London.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

J. W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director
War Refugees Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Encl: Translation of newspaper article
The Losses in men suffered by Poland

As soon as the winter offensive was unloosed by the Red Army, Warsaw was liberated on January 17 from German occupation. Among the many capitals occupied during the course of the war, it was the unfortunate fate of Warsaw to be the first to feel the bitterness of occupation and the last of them to be liberated. There remain yet two capitals which await the day of their liberation: those of Norway and Denmark, Oslo and Copenhagen. A correspondent who went to Warsaw declares that the city is in a state of ruin in every meaning of the term. Unfortunate Warsaw, which commenced in September 1939 by an attack of German air forces, had recourse once more to arms against the Germans on the 29th of September, 1944 at the time of the approach of the Red armies at her gates. After bloody fighting which was prolonged with great heroism for 63 days, from the first of August to the third of November, she was again finally obliged to surrender. Finally, after a period of enslavement and of calamity which lasted five years, three months and nineteen days, her liberation appeared.

There is no doubt that the country which has suffered the most in this war is Poland, and that in spite of the liberation of Warsaw the sufferings endured by the Polish nation are not yet at an end; because a part of her territory is still in the theatre of combat.

According to information furnished by the Agency PAT, the losses in men suffered in the course of the war are extremely high. At the time when Poland entered into the second world war her population was 35 million souls. The list below indicates the losses in men of the Polish army:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dead and wounded in battles in 1939 with the German army</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead and wounded in battles with the Soviet army</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prisoners taken by the German army in 1939</td>
<td>420,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prisoners captured by the Red army in 1939</td>
<td>181,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interned in neighboring countries</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total losses suffered in 1939</td>
<td>831,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead and wounded in battles in Norway</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead and wounded in battles in France (1940)</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interned in battles for France</td>
<td>10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead and wounded in battles in Libya in 1941</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead and wounded in battles fought by naval and air forces (1940-1944)</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead and wounded on the fronts of Italy and Normandy</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead and wounded in sabotage struggles undertaken by internal Polish forces up to March 1944</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

886,700 grand total
There are not included in this grand total the losses suffered by the Polish patriots during the internal struggle subsequent to March 1944, and notably during the battles which were fought during the 63 days of last summer at Warsaw.

Outside of the civilians of the population of a million and a half inhabitants of the city, the deaths in the internal forces reached at this period the figure of 50 thousand.

As to the deaths among the civilian population, according to the latest figures published by the Polish Government their number amounts at least to five million people, of whom 2,600,000 are Polish Jews. These losses constitute 14% of the population of Poland before the war. Of the 5,000,000 persons who died during the occupation, the great majority succumbed to hunger, illness, and mistreatment which were inflicted upon them in the concentration camps. It has been established that the internees died on an average within nine months from the day of their internment.

In addition, great numbers of Poles were sent to concentration camps in Germany, and 2,400,000 were taken to that country for heavy forced labor.

These figures furnished by the Agency PAT prove that Poland is the country that has suffered the heaviest losses in men during the second world war.

Independently of that, the villages, the towns and the cities, and at their head Warsaw, have been in a great measure destroyed.

I stayed several days in Warsaw in 1936. Although she might not have been on the same level as the other great cities of Europe, she was sufficiently prosperous. One could see that the Poles had expended great efforts to restore their historic capital. While now, there are no longer in Warsaw any houses which have not been burned or torn down.

ABIDIN DAV'ER
A Scrap of Paper Carries the Odor of Death From Maidanek Across the World to U. S. A.

First Reporter Returns Here With Evidence of Nazi Murder Camp

By RAYMOND A. DAVIES
Correspondent for Jewish Telegraphic Agency and Saturday Night, Canadian Weekly

THE WORLD

PM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1944

Within the space of a few days, three stories came to us on a single topic from independent sources. The first came from Raymond A. Davies, JTA correspondent and broadcaster for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., who has just returned here from the USSR. His story, as told to a P.M. staff man, is the first eyewitness account of the death camp at Maidanek to be brought back personally to this country. He brought back several exhibits which we reproduce with his story.

The second story, detached Moscow, is from P.M.'s regular correspondent there, Ralph Parker, who gives the first extended account of the death camp at Tremblaba. The third story, a sidelight on Parker's, comes direct from Treblinka.

We present the stories and exhibits on the last and following two pages. We think that together they present as powerful an editorial on the nature of the enemy as any this newspaper has ever printed.

Raymond A. Davies

The height and width of a medium-sized Minor, film projector, oven burner, brick, a small brick furnace. Each was perhaps

...the height and width of a medium-sized Minor, film projector, oven burner, brick, a small brick furnace. Each was perhaps

The second story, detached Moscow, is from P.M.'s regular correspondent there, Ralph Parker, who gives the first extended account of the death camp at Tremblaba. The third story, a sidelight on Parker's, comes direct from Treblinka.

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Raymond A. Davies

...the height and width of a medium-sized Minor, film projector, oven burner, brick, a small brick furnace. Each was perhaps...
He Doesn't See Why He Should Be Hanged

"Eastern." Russian names headed the list; the French, as I remember, were second. There was apparently no Jew on the list. I was told the Nazis kept no permanent record of Jewish victims.

Mass Burial

From the camp we were driven, in the jeeps, to nearby Trempitsky forest, a wonderful pine forest. It was good to get away from the stench of Maidanek. But at one point in the forest road our cavalry stopped and the smell was with us again.

The Russians had uncovered a mass burial ground. I saw the remains of one woman who still clutched an infant to her breast. The infant’s skull was crushed, but there was no mark of violence on the woman. The Soviet doctor told us that “the only conclusion he drew was that the woman was buried alive... if she had been gassed, she could not have kept hold of her child.”

It was in this Trempitsky forest where, as you probably have been told, the Soviet say the Nazis killed 18,000 Jews in one day. On this day, according to these stories, the camp loudspeakers played Strauss waltzes hour after hour while volleys of shots came from the forest.

It was the Trempitsky forest bur-

Here are three more items I picked up at Maidanek. On the left is a visit of the camp hospital. Eupfan is generally given by hypodermic as a sedative. But an overdose kills quickly, and I was told the Nazi gave overdoses frequently.

It is tough that I picked up the little piece of brown paper, with its scrawled message, that is reproduced with this story. (See next page.) It was lying near the body of a young boy, perhaps 10 years old. The paper is scraggly old, but it isn’t torn where it has been by the smell. (The odor is unmistakable—V. Sh. R.)

The wind-up of the tour was an interview with a minor Nazi camp official where the Russian had confessed. I do not know exactly how to describe him. Shall I say he looked like a typical German butcher? I suppose that is a prejudiced statement. He was big and grizzled.

Here are some of the questions I and other correspondents asked him, and the answers he gave:

Q. Did you kill people in the camp?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you poison them with gas?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you bury them alive?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you bury them alive?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you know the Russians will hang you?
A. (Shutting his eyes) Why should they? What have I done?

Q. What did you think of what was going on?
A. It was bad at first, but we got used to it.
Q. Do you know the Russians will hang you?
A. (Shutting his eyes) Why should they? What have I done?

I found this teddy bear (reproduced here actual size—R.) in the warehouse, too. I picked it up from a pile of similar dolls, mostly rag or cloth like this, but a few of china. Aside from masses of clothing and shoes and dolls, the warehouse also contained reams of literature mostly with Jewish names printed on them, and thousands of Catholic Bibles. No one can say that the Nazis at Maidanek showed favoritism towards any age or any religion.
Nazis Killed 2,764,000 Jews
At Treblinka Death Camp

Pole Tells
How He Escaped Gas Chamber

By RALPH PARKER

MOSCOW, Nov. 11—An unblinking, gray-faced Pole who had been found in Treblinka, Poland, by the Allies, has told his story to Foreign Policy magazine.
Hitler Unveils His Latest

The most monstrous weapon of World War II, an explosive-carrying rocket that can be fired up to a speed of 1000 miles an hour to any point on the globe, has been unveiled to the world by Germany during the very day that Hitler's announcement was timed to be heard on radio stations over all Europe. The German leader's atrocity was a bombshell in the war, and Hitler's abhorrent行为 has sent shock waves throughout the world.

**WEEK OF WAR:**

V-2 Robot Bombs Hit England at 1000 Miles Per Hour... 3d Army Heads Toward Saar... Russians Keep Nazis Guessing

Hitler unveiled his latest weapon, the V-2 rocket bomb, which can travel at 1000 miles per hour and is capable of devastating cities and infrastructure.

**Europe-West**

Patton's Army Lets Loose

For weeks German military commanders had been planning an offensive against the Allies in Europe. On the morning of December 17, 1944, Patton's Army launched its attack, breaking through enemy lines and advancing rapidly. This was the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, which would become one of the most important battles of World War II.
The following for Hann is LRB 20.

Assume you are forwarding material mentioned in second paragraph of your No. 8135 of September 29. Please advise at once.

STETTIN 18

(Sh.1)

LRB: HNV: KG

11/8/44

DECASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parker Date
CABLE TO WINANT, LONDON, FOR MANN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Assume you are forwarding material mentioned in second paragraph of your No. 8133 of September 29. Please advise at once.

THIS IS WRB LONDON CABLE NO. 20.

11:15 a.m.
November 3, 1944
Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, Dauth, Friedman, Hodel, Leaser, Mannon, Meier, Pines

[Signature]

Filed 11/2/44
The Evening Star  
OCT 25 1944  

Execution of 12,400 Warsaw Women and Children Reported

By the Associated Press.  

MOSCOW, Oct. 25. — A horrible aftermath of Warsaw's last fight for freedom is being staged by German executions at Ostrovice, the notorious concentration camp 39 miles west of Krakow.

Reports received from underground channels today said the first Polish civilians evacuated from Warsaw after the Insurrection there were reached Ostrovice October 14 and were killed in gas chambers the same day. It is estimated that this group totaled 12,400, mostly women and children.

All Polish males between 16 and 69 capable of physical labor were sent on to Germany for slave gas service.

The Soviet-sponsored Polish Committee of National Liberation yesterday gave this version of what happened to the people of Warsaw.

Of the original population of more than a million, there were 480,000 Jews. These were exterminated during the years of German occupation.

When fighting broke out in Warsaw August 1, the Germans removed up to 300,000 civilians to the Pruszkow camp on the road to Lodz.

A quarter of a million Poles are believed to have perished in the city during the 63-day struggle. They died from bombings, shelling, fire, famine and disease.

About 250,000 still were alive when the Germans compiled deportation of the liberation forces.

The Poles at Pruszkow and those removed from the ruins of the city this month were divided into two groups: those fit for work and those not.

At Oswiecim, meanwhile, the German SS (Elite Corps) massacre began on October 7. "Making room" for vast numbers of new inmates. This camp had an estimated 160,000 prisoners. 160,000 of them were Poles. About 10,000 Poles were killed as a kind of "practice" for truly large-scale slaughter as soon as the Warsaw survivors began to pour in.
New York Telegram
Oct 19, 1944

Few Polish Jews Escaped Nazis

Only a few thousand of Poland's 3,000,000 Jews have survived Nazi torture, the Yiddish Scientific Institute said today in a statement made public at its headquarters at 38 W. 123rd St.

"Ninety-five per cent of Polish Jews have died in gas chambers of the annihilation centers or were slaughtered during the numberless "liquidation campaigns" of the Germans," the statement said, and despite the fact, all Jewish educational and cultural activities were banned by the oppressors, the Polish Jews carried on an underground educational program. The report added that underground Jewish newspapers were issued throughout the occupation.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM
To: Secretary of State, Washington
Date: October 19, 1944
Number: 4263

For URB 93.
See 2014 from the Department of the eleventh of October.

Our attempts to have message conveyed to German officials have not been successful as the private individuals who have access to Himmler have announced that they would not dare communicate to him such a message. See 4206 from the Legation of the sixteenth of October. It is concluded by the Swedish Foreign Office that the only means of conveying the message would be by radio or through the protecting tower.

JOHNSON
An appeal has been made to President Roosevelt by the American Federation of Polish Jews for his help in providing transport planes to carry needed foods, medicines and medical instruments to the liberated areas of Poland where 20,000 Jews have been saved by the Red Army advance, the federation announced yesterday.
Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to refer to the conversation I had this morning over the phone with Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser concerning the German plans to wipe out the inmates of the concentration camps of Oswiecim, Birkenau, Buchenwald and others.

I wonder whether advantage should not be taken of the presence of Messrs. Churchill and Mikolajczyk in Moscow, and whether the American Ambassador in Moscow should not be requested to place before them as well as before Mr. Stalin the suggestions which we have submitted to you at several occasions on this matter.

It was my privilege to inform you in my letter of October 1st of conversations I had had with Messrs. John J. McCloy and Alexander Kapustin. A copy of the letter in question is hereewith attached. I have since received the following message from Mr. Jan Masaryk, Czechoslovak Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs:

"Thank you for telegram. I hasten to assure you that the Czechoslovak Government has for some time past devoted careful attention to the matter in question and has already approached other Allied Governments in the view to possible action. Contents of your telegram have now been communicated to them. Difficulties, of course, are considerable. (signed) - Masaryk"

I also attach a copy of my letter of July 1st, in which the matter of the destruction of the death installations was discussed at some length.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

A. Leon Rubowitski
Head, Rescue Department
In reply refer to No. 126.

Hon. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I come back to the suggestion I made to Mr. Lesser in the course of the Conference I had with him on June 28.

Discussing the apparent determination of the German Government to speed up the extermination of the Jews, I wondered whether the pace of the extermination could not be considerably slowed down if the instruments of annihilation — the gas chambers, the gas vans, the death baths — were destroyed. You will remember that in August and October, 1943, respectively, revolting Jews set fire to installations in Treblinka and Sobibor. The revolt culminated in the escape of a large number of Jews from these camps.

Three governments are directly interested in stopping the massacres: the Soviet Government, whose captured soldiers are being exterminated in the Oswiecim gas chambers, according to a cable received by the Polish Information Center on June 22, a copy of which is attached; the Czechoslovak Government, whose citizens are being murdered in Birkenau; and the Polish Government, for obvious reasons.

The destruction of the death installations can not be done by bombing from the air, as the first victims would be the Jews who are gathered in these camps, and such a bombing would be a welcome pretext for the Germans to assert that their Jewish victims have been massacred not by their killers, but by the Allied bombings.

I submitted to Mr. Lesser that the Soviet Government be approached with the request that it should dispatch groups of paratroopers to seize the buildings, to annihilate the squads of murderers, and to free the unfortunate inmates. Also that the Polish Government be requested to instruct the Polish underground to attack these and similar camps to destroy the instruments of death.

May I add that I think it would be useful to approach also the Czechoslovak Government, so that it may use its influence with the Soviet and Polish Governments to support our request.

May I express the hope that you will consider the suggestion made in this letter as deserving to be acted upon without delay.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitcz
Head, Rescue Department

P.S. I attach a report, “Three Years in Oswiecim Hell,” published by the Polish Jewish Observer on June 16.
In reply refer to: No. 366

Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I received from Dr. I. Schwarzbart, member of the Polish National Council in London, the following cable under date of September 23rd:

"Confered again Polish Authorities and American Embassy matter Oswiecim. Promised my request will be at once transmitted there. Please urge."

As I understand the cable, Dr. Schwarzbart informs me that he urged once more the Polish Authorities to instruct the Polish underground that the Oswiecim death camp be attacked, its garrison annihilated, and its inmates liberated, and that he was promised that instructions to this effect would be transmitted to the Commander of the Polish Underground Army. It appears that Dr. Schwarzbart was also assured by the American Embassy in London that it would support his suggestions pertaining to the destruction of the death camps.

May I inform you in this connection that I was received on September 28th by Mr. John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War, who confirmed that the Allied Mediterranean Commander had been fully informed of the situation obtaining in the death camp areas and promised that the War Department would call once more his attention to the gravity of the recent developments. He advised me, however, to ask our friends in London to press the matter with the British War Office which is in a better position to advise General Sir Henry Matland Wilson on the steps which would be taken along the lines we propose.

I also took up with Mr. Alexander Kapustin, Counsellor at the Soviet Embassy, our suggestion concerning the use of Soviet paratroopers for the destruction of these camps. Mr. Kapustin informed me that the Ambassador had already cabled to Moscow on this matter after a talk he had had with Dr. Goldmann and promised to convey anew to Moscow our recent information and our request.

I would be obliged to you for transmitting to Dr. Schwarzbart the following message through the facilities of the State Department:

"To: Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, 45 Queens Court, Queensway, London.
From: Dr. Kubowitzki.


Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department
Secretary of State
Washington

4206, October 16, 7 p.m.

Substance of Department's 2041, October 12, midnight (WRB's 105) has been communicated to Eric von Post, head of Political Department Swedish Foreign Office) (This is our 93 for URB) and he has undertaken to make every effort to have the message conveyed to the German authorities.

JOHNSON

RB

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972
We do not presently have effective channels for transmitting a message of the character suggested in WRB's 10 (Department's 2041, October 11, midnight) but are making efforts to develop such channels to the end that this statement may be transmitted at the earliest possible moment. (THIS IS OUR WRB 91).

You may wish to consider, in view of the urgency of the matter, the feasibility of making a public statement in the United States along the line of the reference telegram and similar to the recent public statements put out in the United States with respect to other prospective acts of liquidation by the Germans of persons in their concentration camps.

JOHNSON

WJF
WMB

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 7/14-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.
3149, October 14

This WRP 221

Taking steps through available channels convey substance your telegram 2701, October 10, to German authorities Lisbon. Will report result later.

NORWEB

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-17-72
By E. H. Burke Date SEP 8 1972
The cable below for Kirk and Ackermann is HRA 63.

The substance of following message has been sent to Bern as Department's 3461 of October 7:

QUOTE Information received by Department indicates that Jews in three concentration camps of Birkenau, Mauaus and Oswiecim have been ordered to be exterminated. This probably involves some 68,000 Jews.

Please convey to the German Representative at Bern through any available channels the information that the United States has been advised of this and also understands that Himmler has personally authorized this death order which certain other officials will carry out. There is thus a fixation of direct responsibility for this proposed crime. Appropriate consequences will follow in accordance with the policy this Government has declared, and will attach to all participants, if this proposed crime is carried out.

QUOTE

Please make use of whatever channels may be available to you to convey a similar message to German authorities. You should add that the warning applies with equal force to crimes committed at camps other than those specified.

Reports of all developments in this situation submitted.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP. 6 1972
-2-238, October 12, 6 p.m. to Caserta.

immediately after you learn of them, would be appreciated.

Hull

(SEA)

WRB: MMO: KG
10/10/44

SE GE
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR KIRK, AMPOLE, CASERTA, AND AUFKEMANN

The following message has been sent to Bern as Department's
3461 of October 7:

QUOTE The Department has received information in-
dicating that orders have been given to exterminate the
Jews in three concentration camps, namely Cassel, Gal-
kenau, and Nausa. Probably some 45,000 Jews are in-
volved.

QUOTE You are requested, through any channels avail-
able to you, to convey to the German Representative at Bern
that the United States has this information and further under-
stands that the death order has been personally authorized
by Himler, to be carried out by certain other officials.
Direct responsibility for this proposed crime is thus fixed, and
if it is carried out appropriate consequences will follow
in accordance with the declared policy of the United States
Government, and will attach to all participants. UNQUOTE

Please make use of whatever channels may be available to you to
convey a similar message to German authorities. You should add that the
warning applies with equal force to crimes committed at camps other than
those specified.

Please report all developments in the situation as soon as they
become known to you.

THIS IS WIRE CABLE TO CASERTA NO. 53

10:55 a.m.
October 10, 1944

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

LS Lesser: 10-3-44 Y.S. L.
AELIGATION

STOCKHOLM
2041 K

The cable below for Johnson and Eisen is TAB 105.

The substance of following message has been sent to Bern as Department's 3461 of October 9:

QUOTE Information received by Department indicates that Jews in three concentration camps of Birkensh, Nassee and Osiecin have been ordered to die by extermination. This probably involves some 60,000 Jews.

Please convey to the German Representative at Bern through any available channels the information that the United States has been advised of this and also understands that Himmler has personally authorized this death order which certain other officials will carry out. There is thus a fixation of direct responsibility for this proposed crime. Appropriate consequences will follow in accordance with the policy this Government has declared, and will attach to all participants, if this proposed crime is carried out. UNQUOTE

Please make use of whatever channels may be available to you to convey a similar message to German authorities. You should add that the warning applies with equal force to crimes committed at camps other than those specified.

Reports of all developments in this situation, submitted immediately.

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972
-8-8041, October 11, Midnight, to Stockholm.

immediately after you learn of them, would be appreciated.

HULL
(327)

HRB: REV: KG
10/10/46

H05

Mon., Feb. 10, 1946
10:00 A.M.
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT STOCKHOLM AND GLEN

The following message has been sent to Bern as Department's 3461 of October 7:

QUOTE The Department has received information indicating that orders have been given to exterminate the Jews in three concentration camps, namely Oswiecim, Birkenau, and Treblinka. Probably some 65,000 Jews are involved.

QUOTE You are requested, through any channels available to you, to convey to the German Representative at Bern that the United States has this information and further understands that the death order has been personally authorized by Himmler, to be carried out by certain other officials. Direct responsibility for this proposed crime is thus fixed, and if it is carried out appropriate consequences will follow in accordance with the declared policy of the United States Government, and will attach to all participants. UNQUOTE

Please make use of whatever channels may be available to you to convey a similar message to German authorities. You should add that the warning applies with equal force to crimes committed at camps other than those specified.

Please report all developments in the situation as soon as they become known to you.

THIS IS WES STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 205.

11:00 a.m.
October 10, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DiBols, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

LSLesserithh 10-9-44 L.S.R.
AMEMBA 39X

LISBON 2701X

6 p.m.

The cable below for Norweb and Dexter in WRS 108.

The substance of following message has been sent to Bern as
Department's 3461 of October 7:

QUOTE Information received by Department indicates that
Jews in three concentration camps of Birkenau, Mauus and Oswisin
have been ordered to be exterminated. This probably involves some
65,000 Jews.

Please convey to the German Representative at Bern through
any available channels the information that the United States has
been advised of this and also understands that Himmler has per-
sonally authorized this death order which certain other officials
will carry out. There is thus a fixation of direct responsibility
for this proposed crime. Appropriate consequences will follow in
accordance with the policy this Government has declared and will
attach to all participants, if this proposed crime is carried out.
UNQUOTE

Please make use of whatever channels may be available to you
to convey a similar message to German authorities. You should
add that the warning applies with equal force to crimes committed
at camps other than those specified.

Reports

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-74
By R.H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

CONTROL COPY
Reports of all developments in this situation, submitted immediately after you learn of them, would be appreciated.

HULL
(CIMW)

WRB:NAV:KG
10/10/44
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR NORMAN AT LISBON AND DEXTER

The following message has been sent to Bern as Department's S401 of October 7:

QUOTE The Department has received information indicating that orders have been given to exterminate the Jews in three concentration camps, namely Oswiecim, Birkenau, and Mauthausen. Probably some 65,000 Jews are involved.

QUOTE You are requested, through any channels available to you, to convey to the German Representative at Bern that the United States has this information and further understands that the death order has been personally authorized by Himmler, to be carried out by certain other officials. Direct responsibility for this proposed crime is thus fixed, and if it is carried out appropriate consequences will follow in accordance with the declared policy of the United States Government, and will attach to all participants. UNQUOTE

Please make use of whatever channels may be available to you to convey a similar message to German authorities. You should add that the warning applies with equal force to crimes committed at camps other than those specified.

Please report all developments in the situation as soon as they become known to you.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 105

11:00 a.m.
October 10, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser,annon, McConnack, Files

LSLesser:tmh 10-9-44 L S L
The cable below for Steinhardt and Katz in WBB 116.

The substance of following message has been sent to Bern on Department's 3461 of October 7:

QUOTE Information received by Department indicates that Jews in three concentration camps of Birkenau, Mauthausen and Oswiecim have been ordered to be exterminated. This probably involves some 65,000 Jews.

Please convey to the German Representative at Bern through any available channels the information that the United States has been advised of this and also understands that Himmler has personally authorized this death order which certain other officials will carry out. There is thus a fixation of direct responsibility for this proposed crime. Appropriate consequences will follow in accordance with the policy this Government has declared, and will attach to all participants, if this proposed crime is carried out. UNQUOTE

Please make use of whatever channels may be available to you to convey a similar message to German authorities. You should add that the warning applies with equal force to crimes committed at camps other than those specified.

Reports
-2-070, between 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Reports of all developments in this situation, submitted immediately after you learn of them, would be appreciated.

Yours,
(M.M.)

M.M.
10/10/44
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHART AT ANKARA AND KATHRYN

The following message has been sent to Bern as Department's 3461
of October 7:

QUOTE The Department has received information indicating that orders have been given to exterminate the Jews in three concentration camps, namely Oswiecim, Birkenau, and Mauers. Probably some 65,000 Jews are involved.

QUOTE You are requested, through any channels available to you, to convey to the German Representative at Bern that the United States has this information and further understands that the death order has been personally authorized by Himmler, to be carried out by certain other officials. Direct responsibility for this proposed crime is thus fixed, and if it is carried out appropriate consequences will follow in accordance with the declared policy of the United States Government, and will attach to all participants. UNQUOTE

Please make use of whatever channels may be available to you to convey a similar message to German authorities. You should add that the warning applies with equal force to crimes committed at camps other than those specified.

Please report all developments in the situation as soon as they become known to you.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO ANKARA NO. 116

11:00 a.m.
October 10, 1944.

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

LHLesser:tmh 10-9-44 L.S.L.
AMERICAN EMBASSY,
LONDON
OCT 10, 1944

The cable below is WAB 10.

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, 40 Queens Court, Queensway, London:


HILL

CONTROL COPY
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Dr. Ignacy Schmarchart, 43 Queens Court, Queensway, London:


THIS IS NEW CABLE TO LONDON 10

10:00 a.m.
October 7, 1944

Shlisselovitch 10-3-44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, Dinkin, Friedmann, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannin, McCormack, Files
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, 46 Queens Court, Queen'sway, London:


THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LONDON 10

10:00 a.m.
October 7, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahams, Cohn, DaBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

LW LeSseretich 10-8-44  L.S. L.
October 7, 1944

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: J. W. Pehle

It will be appreciated if you will arrange for appropriate clearance and prompt despatch in cipher of the attached cable to London. For your information there is enclosed a copy of a letter dated October 1, 1944, received from the World Jewish Congress. It is suggested that you may wish to clear the proposed message with the War Department.

The cost of the cable and any reply thereto should be charged to the World Jewish Congress, 1934 Broadway, New York 23, New York.

Signed J. W. PEHLE

Attachments.
In reply refer to: No. 2166

Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I received from Dr. I. Schwarzbart, member of the Polish National Council in London, the following cable under date of September 23d:

"Conferred again Polish Authorities and American Embassy matter Oswiecim. Promised my request will be at once transmitted there. Please urge."

As I understand the cable, Dr. Schwarzbart informs me that he urged once more the Polish Authorities to instruct the Polish underground that the Oswiecim death camp be attacked, its garrison annihilated, and its inmates liberated, and that he was promised that instructions to this effect would be transmitted to the Commander of the Polish Underground Army. It appears that Dr. Schwarzbart was also assured by the American Embassy in London that it would support his suggestions pertaining to the destruction of the death camps.

May I inform you in this connection that I was received on September 28th by Mr. John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War, who confirmed that the Allied Mediterranean Commander had been fully informed of the situation obtaining in the death camp areas and promised that the War Department would call once more his attention to the gravity of the recent developments. He advised me, however, to ask our friends in London to press the matter with the British War Office which is in a better position to advise General Sir Henry Wilson on the steps which would be taken along the lines we propose.

I also took up with Mr. Alexander Kapustin, Counsellor at the Soviet Embassy, our suggestion concerning the use of Soviet paratroopers for the destruction of these camps. Mr. Kapustin informed me that the Ambassador had already cabled to Moscow on this matter after a talk he had had with Dr. Goldmann and promised to convey anew to Moscow our recent information and our request.
I would be obliged to you for transmitting to Dr. Schwartzbart the following message through the facilities of the State Department:

"To: Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, 45 Queens Court, Queensway, London.
From: Dr. Kubowitski.


Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Sincerely yours

[Signature]

A. Leon Kubowitski, Head
Rescue Department
FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch, St. Gallen, Switzerland, from the Vaad Mahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE CABLED YOU 428, 816 SWISS FRANCS FOR RESCUE WORK. RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM GRIFFEL IN WHICH HE REQUESTS YOUR FINANCIAL AID. LEAVING SOONLY FOR RUMANIA CONTACT HIM FOR DETAILS RESCUE PROJECTS AND GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT. RECEIVED ALARMING REPORT 45,000 CIVILIAN PRISONERS AT CONCENTRATION CAMP IN OSWIECIN POLAND IN IMMINENT DANGER EXTERMINATION. VITALLY NECESSARY ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE CONTACTS TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH OSWIECIN AS WELL AS BOZINEN AND OTHER CONCENTRATION CAMPS TO ARRANGE FOR RELEASE OF THOSE HELD IN THESE CAMPS. ALSO CABLED YOU 85,410 SWISS FRANCS THROUGH POLISH LEGATION FOR RABBI SZMULEWICZ IN SHANGHAI TO BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG RABBIS SCHOLARS THERE. PLEASE DISPATCH TO HIM WITH INSTRUCTIVE MESSAGE AND CABLE US WHEN DISPATCHED. UNQUOTE.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 264.
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch, St. Gallen, Switzerland, from the Vard Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE CABLED YOU 428, 616 SWISS FRANCS FOR RESCUE WORK. RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM GRIFFEL IN WHICH HE REQUESTS YOUR FINANCIAL AID LEAVING SOONLY FOR ROMANIA CONTACT HIM FOR DETAILS RESCUE PROJECTS AND GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT STOP RECEIVED ALARMING REPORT 45,000 CIVILIANS PRISONERS AT CONCENTRATION CAMP IN OSWIECIM POLAND IN IMMEDIATE DANGER EXTREMATION STOP VITALLY NECESSARY ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE CONTACTS TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH OSWIECIM AS WELL AS KROSCHINGEN AND OTHER CONCENTRATION CAMPS TO ARRANGE FOR RELEASE OF THOSE HELD IN THESE CAMPS STOP ALSO CABLED YOU 65,416 SWISS FRANCS THROUGH POLISH LOCATION FOR RABBI SZMULEWICZ IN SHAMBAL TO BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG RABBIS SCHOLARS THERE. PLEASE DISPATCH TO HIM WITH INSTRUCTIVE MESSAGE AND CABLE US WHEN DISPATCHED UNQUOTE.

THIS IS WAR CABLE TO HAIN NO. 204

9:00 a.m.
October 6, 1944

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

FHhd 10/6/44 Charee 10/7
MESSAGE TO ISAAC STERNBACH, ST. GALLEN, SWITZERLAND

THROUGH AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN

CABLED YOU 428, 816 SWISS FRANCS FOR RESCUE WORK. RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM GRIFTEL IN WHICH HE REQUESTS YOUR FINANCIAL AID LEAVING SHORTLY FOR ROUMANIA CONTACT HIM FOR DETAILS RESCUE PROJECTS AND GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT STOP RECEIVED ALARMING REPORT 45,000 CIVILIAN PRISONERS AT CONCENTRATION CAMP IN OSWIECIM POLAND IN IMMEDIATE DANGER EXTERMINATION STOP VITALLY NECESSARY ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH GERMAN AGENTS IN THIS AREA KOTKINGEN AND OTHER CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND DEAL DIRECTLY FOR THE RANSOM OF THOSE HELD IN THESE CAMPS STOP ALSO CABLED YOU 85,410 SWISS FRANCS THROUGH POLISH LEGATION FOR RABBI SEMULEWICZ IN SHANGHAI TO BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG RABBIS SCHOLARS THERE. PLEASE DISPATCH TO HIM WITH INSTRUCTIVE MESSAGE AND CABLE US WHEN DISPATCHED

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

RABBIS ARON KOTLER
ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)
To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
October 10, 1944

Dear Sirs:

The following message for Hassaad, Baorwald and Schwaerts from Dr. Magen was received through the American Consul in Jerusalem under date of October 6, 1944:

"233. A member of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, Emil Sommerstein, as representative of Polish Jews, cabled the Jewish Agency under date of August 25 and September 21, requesting urgent aid for approximately 10,000 Polish Jews, the majority of whom are sick, aged, exhausted, and children in need of food, medicaments and clothing.

"It was also stated by Sommerstein that supplies should be sent through Teheran which we assume would have to be given in bulk to the Russians who would furnish transportation. We also think Sommerstein would supervise distribution, in cooperation with the Jewish Committee.

"Since our supplies in Teheran, which are mostly Lend-Lease goods, are the only goods available for immediate shipping, the Jewish Agency asked us to sell them supplies for $100,000, which would be sent by them as Sommerstein requested. We indicated that the primary question is whether the Government of the United States would be in agreement to our making available the goods, particularly those of Lend-Lease, for distribution by the Polish Committee of National Liberation.

"It is our understanding that the Jews in liberated Poland are in a more difficult condition than the refugees in Russia and it is therefore important that help be given to them at once. We suggest therefore that this matter be taken up with the State Department by you.

"It is also our opinion that if we are permitted to use our supplies in Teheran for this purpose, the JDC should extend the relief at its own expense. Your 1944 Teheran budget would not have to be increased as a result of this since after meeting the 1944 parcels service program, we shall have a surplus of supplies.

"It is reported by Sagall, on a short visit here from Teheran, that Polish refugees in the northern part of Asiatic Russia are now being transferred to the Polish Ukraine. The relief needs in Poland may..."
be increased by this and revision of the parcels program may be necessary. Please reply immediately."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (DELETION)

Secretary of State,
Washington.

October 6, Noon.

MAGNES REQUESTS TRANSMISSION FOLLOWING TO JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE NEW YORK FOR PAUL BEARWALD AND JOSEPH SCHWARTZ.

"233. Emil Sommerstein, member of Polish Committee of National Liberation, as representative of Polish Jews cabled Jewish agency on August 25 and September 21 asking for quick help for about 10,000 Polish Jews: the greater number being aged, sick, exhausted and children who need food, clothing and medicaments.

Sommerstein also stated that supplies should be sent via Tehran which we presume would have to be turned over in bulk to Russians who would provide transport. We also assume that Sommerstein, together with Jewish Committee, would supervise distribution.

As our supplies in Tehran, consisting primarily of Lend-Lease goods, are the only goods available for immediate despatch the Jewish agency asked that we sell them supplies..."
them supplies for $100,000 which they would send as requested by Sommerstein. We pointed out that the prime question is whether the United States Government would agree to our turning over goods, especially Lend-Lease, for distribution through Polish Committee of Liberation.

We understand that conditions of Jews in liberated Poland are even more difficult than refugees in Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and therefore important that immediate help be extended to them. We therefore suggest that you take up this matter with the State Department.

We also think that if we should be permitted to use our Tehran supplies for this purpose then the relief should be extended by Joint Distribution Committee at its own expense. This would not require increasing your 1944 Tehran budget as we shall have surplus supplies after meeting 1944 parcels service program.

Seagal here on a short visit from Tehran reports Polish refugees northern districts Asiatic Russia now being transferred Polish Ukraine. This may increase relief needs Poland and necessitate revision parcels program. Please answer at once.

PINKERTON
The Department has received information indicating that orders have been given to exterminate the Jews in three concentration camps, namely Oświęcim, Birkenau and Gusen. Probably some 65,000 Jews are involved.

You are requested, through any channels available to you, to convey to the German representative at — that the United States has this information and further understands that the death camps have been personally authorized by Hitler, who is carried out by certain other officials. DIRECT responsibility for this proposed crime is thus fixed, and if it is carried out at appropriate consequences will follow in accordance with the declared policy of the United States Government, and will attach to all participants. Kindly report any developments in the situation as soon as they become known to you.

Hull
(Hand.)

CONTROL COPY
The cable below for Coon is MO 9.

Proposal referred to in your no. 8133 of September 89
has been presented again to our Department for its con-

sideration.

HULL
(GLW)

CONTROL COPY

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.
CABLE TO WINANT, LONDON, FOR BAHN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Proposal referred to in your no. 6133 of September 29 has been presented again to War Department for its consideration.

THIS IS WHEN CABLE TO LONDON NO. 9

4:45 p.m.
October 4, 1944

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

PHila 10/4/44

000515
FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD.

Please deliver the following message to Judah Magnes from M. A. Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE: 'Your 160,000 working with all competent authorities for permission send its own representative from Poland but meanwhile one of our representatives included in proposed UNRRA mission to proceed there areas. Regarding item three your inquiry help to relatives.

France believe this premature time being since Intergovernmental Committee has not yet arranged for its representative to enter that territory. Meanwhile we making every possible effort send our own representative and establish closer contact with our local committees which already functioning. Regarding five we have asked for immediate payment and matter now in hands British Treasury for direct repayment to claimants now Palestine. UNQUOTE

Hull

From War Refugees Board

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date 8-1972
Cable to American Consulate General, Jerusalem, from War Refugee Board

Please deliver the following message to Judah Magnes from W. A. Loevitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

"Quote your JDC working with all competent authorities for permission send its own representative liberated areas Poland but meanwhile one of our representatives included in proposed WRA mission to proceed these areas. Regarding item three your inquiry help to relatives France believe this premature time being since inter governmental committee has not yet arranged for its representative to enter that territory. Meanwhile we making every possible effort send our own representative and establish closer contact with our local committees which already functioning. Regarding item we have asked for immediate payment and matter now in hands British Treasury for direct repayment to Chaimaim now Palestine" unquote

2:30 P.M.
October 3, 1944

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

ABruncy 10/2/44
October 5, 1944

Dear Mr. Cahill:

The following message for Robert Dexter from Moelfield was forwarded for you through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of October 3, 1944:

"It is understood that medical and other supplies are being shipped by Polish groups in the United States to Poland, with the approval of the Lublin Committee. Also I have been approached by Zwiszek Demokratow Polskich W. Swajewski, which is an unofficial Polish Committee here representing several thousand Poles who are interned and who are adherents of the Lublin Committee, with regard to the organization of medical social units for Poland. There is ready to return to Poland at the earliest possible time to work for us a staff of competent social workers, doctors and nurses. I intend soon to send a delegate, in cooperation with the committee hereinbefore referred to, for the purpose of consulting with authorities in liberated territory and making a survey and report. It is possible that this will initiate a program with a great future. It is proposed that you contact Polish groups in America, such as Kosciusko Society, for coordination and financial assistance."

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pahlé

J. W. Pahlé
Executive Director

Mr. Edward Cahill,
Unitarian Service Committee,
25 Beacon Street,
Boston 8, Mass.

RDrury 10/5/44
Following received for Robert Dexter from Hoelfield, Bern. Please repeat for Edward Cahill, Boston. This WRB 207 paraphrased.

"I understand that medical supplies and others are being shipped to Poland by Polish groups in United States with approval Lublin Committee. I also have been approached by Związek Demokratów Polskich W. Szwajcarji, unofficial Polish Committee here which represents several thousand interned Poles who are adherents of Lublin Committee, regarding organization medico social units for Poland. A staff of competent doctors nurses and social workers is ready to return to Poland as soon as possible to work for us. In cooperation with committee referred to above, intend to send soon a delegate for purpose consulting officials in freed territory, making survey and report. Possibly this will

SECRETARy of State,
Washington.

30th October 3, 1944

Following received for Edward Cahill, Boston. This WRB 207 paraphrased.

"I understand that medical supplies and others are being shipped to Poland by Polish groups in United States with approval Lublin Committee. I also have been approached by Związek Demokratów Polskich W. Szwajcarji, unofficial Polish Committee here which represents several thousand interned Poles who are adherents of Lublin Committee, regarding organization medico social units for Poland. A staff of competent doctors nurses and social workers is ready to return to Poland as soon as possible to work for us. In cooperation with committee referred to above, intend to send soon a delegate for purpose consulting officials in freed territory, making survey and report. Possibly
-- 8. #3048, October 3, 1 p.m., from Lisbon:

this will open up program with great future. Propose your contacting in America, for financial support and coordination, Polish groups such as Kosciuszko Society."

NORMED

DU
London, September 30, 1944

No. 18322

Subject: Transmitting Report of the Jewish National Committee in Warsaw.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a translation of a report of the Jewish National Committee in Warsaw, dated May 24, 1944, giving an account of the activities of the Jewish communities in Poland in their effort to escape persecution and death at German hands. The report also contains a good many figures respecting the numbers of Jews held in the various Polish concentration camps and a list of the names of a number of Jews who have been killed, classified according to certain vocations and professions. The report was received on September 29 from Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, a member of the National Council of Poland.

On page 8 of the report it is declared that most of the medical supplies and the food parcels sent to the camps do not reach the internees. The writers furthermore demand that all dispatches of food and medicines to Cracow be immediately discontinued since they fall into German hands, and that all relief funds should be sent to Warsaw.

It is suggested that the Department may wish to make the enclosed report available to the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

/s/ JOHN M. ALLISON
John M. Allison
Second Secretary of Embassy.

Enclosure: 1/ Copy of report.
TRANSLATION OF A REPORT OF

THE JEWISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN WARSAW.

Dated May 24th, 1944.

Dr. Schwarzbart, Ing. Reiss, Dr. Tartakower,

London.

Dear Friends,

We received your letters of February 15, 17th and 18th as well as the cables from Anszelm of March 6th and 22nd. We read them with enormous interest. We see that you are doing everything in your power to help us and to facilitate the rescue of those who have been spared from the blood bath. There are no thanks for your endeavours and toils that would be adequate to express our feelings of deep gratitude to you and to all active Jewish leaders throughout the world who are taking part in the work of rescue. Convey to them this, at least, that we appreciate their great work, and that it is owing to them all that we are able to conduct our extensive activities.

The anniversary of the battles in the Warsaw Ghetto was a great day for all of us who took part or were witnesses of the struggle. Echoes of the beautiful demonstrations and anniversary celebrations in Palestine, the United States and Great Britain, penetrated to us. They moved us deeply. The anniversary was also celebrated in Poland. It was mentioned by the underground press which dedicated special articles to it. Underground stations arranged special broadcasts. Appropriate resolutions were passed by the Polish Underground Organisations headed by the Council for Assistance to the Jews. We celebrated the anniversary by manifestations in our underground circles and by - a mere intensified activity.

Some days ago, on May 10th, a group of fighters who survived the battle celebrated another anniversary, the first anniversary of their rescue. A year ago on that day members of the Jewish Fighting Organisation in the Aryan quarter snatched from the jaws of death by two sorties 80 of their comrades in the ruins of the Ghetto. These were indeed daring feats! The fighters who had already accomplished their tasks were conducted through sewage canals - a nightmarish journey - and were brought to the surface in the Aryan quarter in broad daylight, almost under the eyes of German gendarmes, police and onlookers. They were placed under an armed escort of Jewish fighters into lorries and driven through almost the whole of Warsaw. The lorries smuggled them through a number of German guardposts and the fighters were deposited in the Kampinoska forest. Some days later, at the last moment before the Germans raided the place the fighters were taken thence by oar to the Nadbuszanski woods. A quite unprecedented feat! It succeeded. The forest life of our fighters is a chapter in itself. Many perished. Part of them are still hidden in the forests and villages. Others, about 20 in
number returned to Warsaw and they are now with us. A third attempt to rescue a further group of fighters through the canals had a tragic end. The exits from the canals were already more heavily guarded by the Germans. In this attempt some tens of fighters who had succeeded in forging their way through the canals, lost their lives—weapons in hand—in a street fight with the German gendarmes. The whole heroic episode of the rescue of fighters from the hell of the Ghetto still awaits its bard.

But let us pass from reminiscences to our current work and the present situation. The first three months of the current year were the most difficult period of our activity. We received one blow after another. In the first days of January the Gestapo agents caught in the street Dr. B., member of the Presidency of the Jewish National Committee and representative of the Committee on the Council for Assistance to the Jews. He had been denounced by someone who knew about his activities. The Gestapo were well aware who he was and what his role was. He was saved from certain death by his own alertness, coolness of mind, and, of course, a large ransom. He had to keep quiet for some time and to work in hiding. We have information that the Gestapo are still searching for him. At the end of January the Gestapo began to search for D.K., who had to go into hiding. In February the Gestapo came across traces of the Jewish Fighting Organisation. A disclosure on the periphery of the Jewish Fighting Organisation led to a big haul. Tens of people were killed. The Gestapo began a search for the commander of the Jewish Fighting Organisation, I.C., who had to go into hiding. He, together with his closest collaborators, had to keep quiet for a period. At the end of February, our courageous young collaborator, Abram Warman, a shomer from Eastern Malopolska/Galicia/ was caught in the street and executed! One of our most prominent workers, the creator and director of our Archives, the cultural worker for many years of the Peale Zion Left, the enthusiastic and devoted social worker and historian, Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum, lost his life in March. The Gestapo discovered the subterranean shelter in the Aryan quarter in which he was working busily up to the very last moment. He was executed, together with his wife and small boy and 35 other inhabitants of the shelter. He left a diary and similar papers of great value which are now in our hands. Transmit the tragic news of the death of Dr. Ringelblum to the Headquarters of the IWO and to the Party to which he devoted his whole life.

Others of our collaborators faced death in connection with our social activities. During these months all the members of the Presidency of the Jewish National Committee were caught after by the Gestapo and became totally or partially immobilized. But in spite of this, our work did not cease even for a single day. We owe this in the first place to our staff of devoted collaborators, especially to our women, who day after day continued their perilous social work. At present, despite our partial immobilization, we are working just as before the "police hauls". We move about in disguise. We are like rope dancers over a precipice, treading day and night a borderline between life and death. Each day of our work is a miracle. But the work does not cease, it even increases, and this is the only thing that matters.

What is the atmosphere like that we are working in? The minds of the Germans are still taken up with the Ghetto, although it does not exist anymore. Day in and day out, from dawn to evening, strong detonations are heard in Warsaw: the Germans are blowing up the ruins of the Ghetto. Whole streets
have been literally levelled to the ground. The Germans are operating a special small railway and throughout the day, unceasingly, bricks from the Ghetto ruins, literally soaked in Jewish blood, are carried to the shores of the Vistula. Here and there fragments of blood stained Jewish books are scattered on the banks of the Vistula. The thought that some surviving Jews are hiding in Warsaw still preoccupies the Hitlerites. Blockades of whole districts are becoming more and more frequent. The slogan of the blockades is: "Search for Jews, bandits and arms". The greater part of Zoliborz was blockaded several weeks ago. About 50 Jews were caught. The majority of them are no longer alive. Tens of people fall victims every day to incessant arrests, provoked by denunciations, or to Jew-hunts organised by the Gestapo or the Kripo (Kriminal Polizei) with the help of the drag of the population. During the last weeks there perished in this way the professor of chemistry of the Warsaw University, M. Centnerszew; the lecturer in neurology, W. Sterling and his wife; the economist, Wladyslaw Landau with his wife and daughter; and many others. The number of Jews in Warsaw decreases every day. Those who are caught are being executed in the ruins of the Ghetto, which has become a place of martyrdom for Jews as well as for thousands of Poles. For obvious reasons it is difficult to establish the total number of Jews who are living as Aryans or otherwise hiding in Warsaw. In our estimation, the number does not exceed 15,000. The Council for Assistance to the Jews, the Jewish National Committee, and the Bund, are at present giving help to nearly 10,000 Jews in Warsaw. It may be assumed that a few thousands of people are in no need of help and that some thousands have not yet found their way to any social welfare cell. These figures obviously must not be published.

What is the situation in the provinces? The only "legal" mass centre of Jews in Poland is still the Ghetto in Lodz. In December 1940 and January 1941, some tens of thousands of people were deported from Lodz to meet their death. In the course of the last weeks some thousand of people have been deported from Lodz to the camps in Skarzyski, Kielce and Osteochoch. 80,000 Jews remain yet at the present in Lodz. Only a part of these are Polish Jews, the greater number of the inhabitants of the Ghetto is composed of Jews who have been driven there from almost every country in Europe. Despite our repeated endeavours to establish contact with the Jews in Lodz, either independently or with the help of the Polish underground organisations, we have not succeeded in penetrating the Ghetto. It is an island cut off from the whole world.

All other towns throughout the country have, for a long time, been "Judenrein" (free of Jews). Nevertheless, several thousands of Jews are hiding in the bigger towns and especially in Lvow and Cracow. In Vilno also, according to information in our possession, a certain number of Jews are hiding in the Aryan quarter. But we have not been able to establish contact with Vilno, nor, in general, with the "Ostland" either, in spite of our having twice sent out emissaries. We maintain regular contact with Lvow and Cracow. The situation of the Jews in Lvow is at present undergoing special complications. Owing to bombing, their shelters and hiding places are often being destroyed, and the Jews are compelled to appear before their neighbours the wounded among them not asking to ask for help lest they should be recognized. The same thing will certainly repeat itself in other towns. The blows which are falling on the whole population are, at present striking the Jews with a thousand times greater severity. The majority of
Jews still alive in the so called General Government are leading a miserable vegetative life in concentration camps. The biggest camp with about 12,000 inmates is in Plaszow near Cracow. A month ago, over 100 people were executed in Plaszow. Some days ago the first train of Hungarian Jews, a transport of some thousands, arrived at the camp.

The inmates of the camp in Szebna - 2000 people - were all executed some months ago. Smaller camps in the district of Cracow are in Mielce, Wieliczka, Stalowa Wola and Pułtusk, each containing a few thousands of inmates. The relatively biggest number of camps is in the Radom-Kielce district. The biggest of these is the camp in Skarżysko in which nearly 10,000 Jews herded together from all parts of Poland, are living and working under conditions of galley labour. We have close and regular contacts with this camp as well as with the camp in Plaszow, and we are supplying them with big sums of money.

Apart from Skarżysko, there are big camps in Starachowice /7000/, Płonki /3000/, Góry Świętokrzyskie /1000/. Besides those there are also camps in Radom /town/, Kielce, Pułtusk, and Częstochowa containing several thousands of inmates each. We are in contact with these camps and are helping them. In the Lublin district there were until recently two camps, in Budzyn /2000/, and a smaller one in Krasnik /several hundreds/. Our dear L.L. Bloch is in Krasnik; we correspond with him and are sending them money. Two rabbis of Warsaw, Szpiro and Sztokhamer, the revisionist leader Dr. Wdowinski, the Bundist worker Falk and a number of social welfare workers are among others in Krasnik. We are helping them all as much as we can. The Germans have recently been evacuating these camps in connection with the approaching battle front. 50% of the inmates have already been deported to Plaszow, Mielce, and Wieliczka. Further evacuation is in operation. Only yesterday, letters and 50,000.- Zloty were despatched to the two camps.

In Eastern Malopolska /Galicia/ there are still remnants of camps in Dęblin and Borysław: qualified petrol workers are mostly confined there. These camps are also being evacuated by the Germans to the Cracow and Radom districts in connection with the approaching front. In Podlasie there is one camp, in Biała Podlaska: about 1000 Jews are working within the area of the aircraft factories. This camp is hermetically closed; notwithstanding our endeavours we have gained no access there. Until recently there existed remnants of camps in Silesia in Bendzin and Sośnówiec /in Srodul/. Some months ago the inmates were deported to Oswiecim probably to death. A certain number of Jews are hiding in the Aryan quarters in both towns. We are helping them.

Apart from the bigger camps there exist smaller "stations" in several localities within the General Government, each containing some tens or even some hundreds of Jews. They are employed in work connected with the "clearing" of the areas of the former Ghettos, with burning corpses, with levelling of ruins or in the heavy work of road building. Not long ago, such a "station" in Zamocz was bloodily liquidated by the Germans - 70 Jews were executed. A few camps still exist in Silesia within the "Reich", from which we are entirely cut off. A few thousand Jews are employed in the heaviest work in the
mines of Krolewska Huta. A few thousands also are employed in public works near Myalowice. And some thousands from Holland, Bulgaria, and Hungary are in the camps of Grzebinia, Katowice and near Wadowice. They work 15 hours daily on a miserable food allowance. They are dying rapidly. Cases of suicide occur every day. There have also been cases of whole barracks being affected by suicide mania.

It is clear that in our conditions it is difficult to establish the exact number of Jews who are yet leading a miserable life in camps in Poland. Our hypothetical estimate of the total number of Jews in the camps is 80,000. Together with the 80,000 in the Ghetto of Lodz the total number of Jews "legally" alive in Poland is about 160,000. This number is fluctuating, decreasing every day through executions, and increasing slightly through the influx of a small number of deported foreign Jews, the great majority of whom are immediately executed in the "stoves". We must stress the fact that cases of mass slaughter in the camps were less frequent in the last months than during the past year; the regime however has become everywhere still more severe, resembling that of a galley. Almost all the camps for Jews have assumed the character of punitive concentration camps and are becoming more and more hermetically isolated. It has become therefore ever more difficult to maintain contact with them, and a great amount of labour, energy, and trouble is required for this purpose. In spite of this, we are maintaining contact with about 20 camps and are helping them as much as we can. We do not know whether the partial suspension of mass massacres was caused by the lack of labour or by the desire to leave a certain number of Jews alive as an alibi. We believe, however, from experience, that the Jews in the camps and in the Ghetto of Lodz are doomed; sooner or later they will be killed by the Hitlerites.

It is still more difficult to establish the number of "illegal" Jews who went into hiding. We believe, on the basis of various reports, that about 25 - 30,000 Jews are hiding in towns; about 15,000 in Warsaw, and about 10 - 15,000 in other towns. Contact with them is extremely difficult. We have access, however, through Polish underground organisations, to a certain number of Jews placed among peasants in the districts of Siedlce, Cracow, etc. We are maintaining entirely several groups of Jewish fighters placed in villages in the regions of Warsaw and Czestochow. Our estimate of the total number of Jews who are in hiding is about 40,000. The total number of Jews throughout the country does not exceed 200,000. In the course of the last six months the number of Jews in Poland decreased by nearly 100,000.

We received your questionnaire /of 28 questions/ dated 23rd June 1943, and prepared our replies, but at the moment of sending them we entered a heavy period of persecution and crises. To-day they have lost their actuality. The main questions of the questionnaire are answered by the present report and the enclosures. The questionnaire supplied us with evidence of how little people abroad, in June 1943, were aware of the immense catastrophe to Polish Jewry. Question 26 of the questionnaire referred to schools, at a time, when almost all Jewish children had been murdered. The small handful of children in the existing camps are leading an illegal life, as, according to the conception of the Hitlerite executioners, no Jewish child has the right to live. Whenever an S.S. man or a camp-guard appears within the area of the dwelling barracks in
the camp, the parents in panic conceal their children under bunks, in shelters, etc. Women, and children who are caught become the first victims in all the "selections" that take place in the camps; they are the first to be sent to the "stove", or before the execution squad.

Question 19 of the questionnaire referred to the religious life and the prayer-houses, at a time, when all synagogues and prayer-houses throughout the country had been burned or destroyed, and streets, by German orders, paved with tomb stones taken from Jewish cemeteries. Jewish Communities in some towns had to defray the cost of the petrol used in burning the synagogues.

Regarding some particular questions, we should like to explain that after the liquidation of the Ghetto in Cracow no new Council of Elders has existed in Cracow. The situation of the Jews in Eastern Malopolska /Galicia/ is as desperate as elsewhere throughout the country; during the last months it has become worse there than in other regions, in connection with the approaching battle front. The number of Jewish centres and of Jews therein has been reduced to a minimum. The order of the German Authorities of November 1942 regarding the "concentration" of the Jewish population in 65 localities was one of the most cynical tricks of the Hitlerites, and a trap. All these new Ghettoes have already long ago been bloodily liquidated.

A similar terrible trap was the "camp for foreigners" near Hanover. The Germans, with the help of Jewish Gestapo-men, wereM angling for candidates for the voyage among the Jews hiding in the Aryan quarters. They "guaranteed" that the "camp" was under the protection of the International Red Cross, and that everybody who went there would be safe, etc. We of the Jewish National Committee had a decidedly critical attitude towards this whole affair, we did not help in any way and dissuaded everybody from joining. Nevertheless, several thousands of naive people, hypnotized by the mirage of an "American" passport, or those who had lost their habitations and who had to face death in the streets, fell into this trap. The first transports went indeed to Hanover, but the following went in a circuitous way to Treblinka directly to the "stoves". A few remained in the camp near Hanover existed however only a short time in its entirety. After a while the greater part of Jews were deported from there to Oswiecim. We do not know whether they perished in the gas chambers or are still alive in the camp. A small section was deported to the camp in Bergau near Dresden. A few remained in the camp near Hanover. The address of the camp is: Bergen, Kreis Zelle bei Hanover, Aufenthaltslager fuer Sudamerikaner. Have you any information about those deported to Oswiecim and to the camp near Dresden? Have you information about Perle, Bukebaum and others? What is the situation in Vittel? Have you information from Iochak Kacenelson? Leave no stone unturned to save them! House the International Red Cross. Cable to us about these matters.

We received in due course a cable from you, through the Delegate of the Government, containing a list of people who could be transported to Hungary with the help of the Delegate. Only 3 of the 19 people mentioned in the cable were alive then in Warsaw and able to make use of this offer, namely: Adolf, Emanuel and Lejzor. They were extremely grateful to you for your thought for them, but they rejected the offer, considering it their duty to continue their social work in the country until
the end. We intended recently to send a delegation to Hungary. They were ready to go when, some days before their departure, the catastrophe in Hungary occurred which has stricken us deeply. The first transports of Hungarian Jews have already arrived at Oswiecim and at other death-camps in Poland.

A few words about our internal conditions and relations with other organisations: Our relations with the Polish underground organisations continue to be very close and cordial. The atmosphere in the Jewish National Committee itself is that of a harmonious and brotherly collaboration. Our relations with the Bund are correct and even friendly. We collaborate closely with them in the Council for Assistance to the Jews, in the Jewish Fighting Organisation and in the Coordination Commission. Nevertheless, for the sake of truth, we should like to mention here a few points.

We have the impression, from information which we received from abroad, that the Bund abroad are endeavoring to place the battle of the Ghetto in Warsaw to their own credit by ascribing to themselves the predominant, if not the exclusive role. In the name of historical truth you must explode this false legend and undeserved merit. The battles in the Ghetto of Warsaw as well as in other Ghettos and camps were initiated, organised and conducted by our organisations, in the first place by pro-palestinian organisations of workers and youth: Hechalutz, Dror, Hashomer, Poale Zion Right and Left. These organisations took the leading part in the battles, they supplied the greatest number of fighters and offered the greatest sacrifice of blood.

The Commander of the Jewish Fighting Organisation was our heroic comrade, Mordechai Anielewicz, the leader of the Hashomer Hatzair. We had four representatives and the Bund one in the Command. Of the 22 fighting detachments we had 18, and the Bund 4. The Bund had no more than 18% of the total number of fighters. The Bund's groups within the Jewish Fighting Organisation fought bravely, just as all other groups, without exception, and gave no special colour or character to the battles. At present, the leaders of the Jewish Fighting Organisation too, are our comrades. We were astonished that only Michael Klepfisz, member of the Bund, was awarded the order of Virtuti Militari. Klepfisz fought bravely, but he was one among hundreds of valourous fighters. If it was intended to award the order symbolically to the Jewish Fighting Organisation or to the whole body of heroic fighters, the order ought rather, in our opinion, to have been awarded to the Commander of the Jewish Fighting Organisation.

We are also painfully impressed by the fact /perhaps we are mistaken/ that the Bund abroad has monopolised propaganda among labour organisations, especially in U.K. and in the U.S.A., and that it dominates the American Jewish Labor Committee. Are the organisations of Poale Zion Right and Left taking proper action to inform the appropriate labour circles? Let the world labour organisations in all countries know that the pro-Palestinian labour movement organised and conducted the battle of Warsaw, and that hundreds of fighters fought and died with the thought that their death would form one of the foundations of the socialist future for the Jewish masses in Palestine.

A few words now about the "Juedische Unterstutzungsstellen" and Weichert. The activities of Weichert provoked in us, even before the liquidations started, the utmost abhorrence. He
succeeded in making a "career" thanks to his "plasticity" and perfect knowledge of the German language and "style". He was appointed by the Germans as president of the Jewish Social Welfare Organisation, i.e. the Central Jewish Welfare Organisation controlled by the Germans, which had its headquarters in Cracow under the eyes of the German Authorities. We tolerated this organisation unwillingly, and with reserve and criticism, just as the Polish population tolerated the analogous Central Welfare Council. The methods of Weichert became ever more "German". He carried through determinedly, and with an energy deserving a better cause, the "Deutschschaltung" of the previous Jewish Central Welfare Organisations, such as "Centos", "Tos" and others. He reigned like a dictator against the will of the whole independent Jewish public, who desired to preserve their central institutions, under the cover of which almost the whole independent underground life, social, political and cultural, was concentrated. Weichert imposed the will of the Germans on the Jewish population. All parties, from the Bund to the Aguda inclusively, are combating most strenuously the "policy" of Weichert. Tempestuous scenes have taken place. When the deportations started, the Central Jewish Welfare Organisation ceased to exist. Only after a long time, in the middle of 1943, and after the battles of the Ghetto in Warsaw, we learned that the Germans had created a new institution ... to help the Jews, the "Juedische Unterstuetzungsstelle" /JUS/, with this same Weichert at its head. The fact that a Jew was capable of putting himself at the head of a German enterprise at such a moment was felt by us as a profound disgrace. The calculations of the Germans are obvious: They want to diminish the impression created abroad by their massacres and also to have in their hands an alibi, especially in regard to the International Red Cross. It is obviously a German propaganda trick, and at the same time a good business proposition!

We declare categorically that the overwhelming part of the medical supplies has never reached the camps. The best medicines are taken away by the Germans. Food-parcels do not reach the Jews either! This German speculation is sponsored by Weichert. Through his widely spread foreign "official" correspondence, Weichert spread among Jews in different countries in Europe the illusion that after all the situation of the Jews in Poland was not so bad, if they were able to maintain their own welfare organisation. Weichert is probably using in his correspondence abroad the names of Dr. Hilfstein and Dr. Tisch, ex-members of the presidency of the superseded Jewish Social Welfare Organisation. Let it be known that both these men are acting under compulsion; they are both confined in the hermetically closed concentration camp in Plaszow near Cracow, they are cut off entirely from us and the whole world, and are physically and materially broken. We are helping them in their capacity as Zionist workers with money, but one of our letters has reached them and we have no contact with them. S.O., a lawyer of Cracow, who is well acquainted with the local conditions, is writing to you in more detail about the behaviour of Weichert and about his reputation in Cracow. We stress the fact that our attitude as well as that of the Bund, in the matter of the JUS, is entirely shared by the representatives of the Polish underground organisations and by the Council for Assistance to the Jews, which has expressed its views in the cable to London sent jointly with the Coordination Commission.
We demand that all despatches of food and medical supplies to Cracow through Geneva and the International Red Cross should cease immediately. We demand that all funds without exception should be sent by the Government only to Warsaw. We have direct contact with the provinces and the camps. You must persuade the British and the American Governments that the parcels of food and medical supplies which are being sent, fall into German hands. Governmental credits ought therefore to be placed at your disposal for direct transmission to Poland. Remember that enormous sums are indispensable for our work in the camps and on behalf of the Jews who are in hiding.

Inform Dr. Peker that his daughter is alive and under our protection; she is receiving a fixed subsidy. Mrs. Polian is no longer alive. Dr. M. Brandstätter also is dead. Inform the editor Chaim Pinkelestein that Dr. K. sends him cordial greetings and the message that his younger daughter is alive, in good health and under his protection. We have no information about his wife and elder daughter.

We enclose herewith letters to various parties and organisations, reports about the battles in the Ghetto of Warsaw, journalist impressions, lists of prominent men in the social and fields who have been murdered, and some verses by Jewish and Polish poets dedicated to the martyrdom and battles of the Polish Jews.

We beg you to transmit to the headquarters of all parties and organisations represented in the Jewish National Committee, and to the Jewish leaders and prominent workers throughout the world, this letter and the enclosed material.

We ask you more frequently. Send us letters more often. Every communication from you inspires us with renewed courage for the battle, and strengthens our faith to endure. Inform us in detail about the situation in Palestine.

We are in good health. Convey our cordial greetings to all brotherly organisations.

Warsaw, May 24th 1944.

Jewish National Committee
(signed by five members).
In conversations with members of Polish Government and groups interested in rescue work, they report that they have reliable information from the Polish underground to the effect that the Germans are increasing their extermination activities in all Polish concentration camps.

They urge that the WRB again explore with the Army the possibility of bombing the extermination chambers and German barracks at largest Polish concentration camps which, they state, are sufficiently detached from the concentration camps to permit precision bombing. I assume the Army authorities have maps of such camps. However, the above mentioned persons have promised to furnish me with recent maps which I shall transmit to Washington by air mail. They pointed out that this has been...
has been before the Board before and found impractical. However, at their insistence I am reporting their views.

They also urge again that another warning to those guilty of these atrocities be made. They have reiterated that they are able to furnish the names of persons guilty of atrocities and that the OWI might care to use such names in its broadcasts. In this connection see my letter of September 19.

WINANT

JT
CROSS REFERENCE ON POLAND

FOR:

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

Let. 9/28/44 from WRB (signed J.W.Pehle) to John J.McCloy and Enclosure

SEE: STATEMENT BY GENERAL EISENHOWER (SECRET FILE)
Dear Sirs:

Secretary Morgenthau has referred to me for reply your telegram of September 26, 1944, concerning a message you have received with respect to the imminent danger of civilian internees at Oswiecim.

I wish to assure you that the War Refugee Board is taking every action known to be possible and practicable to save the lives of all Jews still in enemy-occupied territory.

While we have not received confirmation of the report referred to in your telegram, you may be certain that this government will energetically continue to make unremitting efforts to save the lives of the Jews remaining in Europe.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Union of Orthodox Rabbis of
the United States and Canada,
Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York, N. Y.

Original signature by
J. W. Pehle
Copy of same return

Phihd 9/27/44
Please prepare appropriate reply for my signature.

JWP

J. W. Fehle
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
HON HENRY MORGENTHAU JR
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT POLISH UNDERGROUND SENT AN URGENT
HEARTRENDING SOS MESSAGE TO POLISH GOVERNMENT STATING THAT
45000 CIVILIAN PRISONERS IN OSWIECIM CONCENTRATION CAMP IN
IMMINENT DANGER OF BEING EXTERMINATED. AMONG THESE PRISONERS
ARE CITIZEN OF POLAND FRANCE CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OTHER
COUNTRIES. ONLY A STRONG WARNING TO GERMANY AND GERMAN
PEOPLE CAN SAVE THESE UNFORTUNATES. WE APPEAL TO YOU TO MAKE
EVERY EFFORT TO SAVE 45000 LIVES AS WELL AS THE MANY OTHERS
NOW IN VARIOUS CONCENTRATION CAMPS WHO ARE SIMILARLY IN
DANGER. MAY THE ALMIGHTY HELP THAT YOUR EFFORTS BE SUCCESSFUL

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES AND
CANADA RABBIS I ROSENBERG EL SILVER J LEVINTHAL VAAD
HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE RABBIS I M GORDON A
KOTLER A KALMANOWITZ.

204PM

SPS 45000 45000,
FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 27, 1944
NUMBER: 3690

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of September 27, no. 2276.

Today I have expressed to the Foreign Office the War Refugee Board's concern for the safety of the Jews reported to survive in Lodz. I have asked the Foreign Office to keep us informed of any information that they may acquire on this matter.

HARRIMAN

DATE: 9/28/44

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

I AM MAKING A PERSONAL APPEAL TO YOU AFTER HAVING RECEIVED
THE INFORMATION FROM THE POLISH CONSULATE GENERAL THAT 45,000
CIVILIAN PRISONERS DETAINED BY THE GERMANS IN THE CONCENTRATION
CAMP IN OSWIECIM, POLAND ARE TO BE EXTERMINATED. UNDERSTAND
THAT POLISH GOVERNMENT HAS CALLED THE ATTENTION OF THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT AND OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE
AMERICAN CHARVE D'AFFAIRES IN LONDON THAT UNLESS IMMEDIATE
STEPS ARE TAKEN TO WARN THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL
ABOUT IMMINENT PUNISHMENT A NEW WHOLESALE MURDER IS TO BE
PERPETRATED. IMMEDIATE STEPS IMPERATIVE AND I WOULD SUGGEST
TO HAVE GENERAL EISENHOWER ISSUE SUCH A WARNING. WOULD
APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU.

JOSEPH M. POSKAUER, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE.
HON JOHN W PEHLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT POLISH UNDERGROUND SENT AN URGENT
HEARTRENDING S.O.S MESSAGE TO POLISH GOVERNMENT STATING THAT
45000 CIVILIAN PRISONERS IN OSWIECIM CONCENTRATION CAMP IN
IMMINENT DANGER OF BEING EXTERRNATED. AMONG THESE PRISONERS
ARE CITIZENS OF POLAND FRANCE CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OTHER
COUNTRIES. ONLY A STRONG WARNING TO GERMANY AND GERMAN PEOPLE
CAN SAVE THESE UNFORTUNATES. WE APPEAL TO YOU TO MAKE EVERY
EFFORT TO SAVE 45000 LIVES AS WELL AS THE MANY OTHERS NOW IN
VARIOUS CONCENTRATION CAMPS WHO ARE SIMILARLY IN DANGER. MAY
ALMIGHTY HELP THAT YOUR EFFORTS BE SUCCESSFUL

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES AND
CANADA RABBIS I ROSENBERG EL SILVER J LEVINTHAL VAAD
HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE RABBIS I M GORDON A
KOTLER A KALMANOWITZ.

216PM
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

JOHN W. PEHLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WE HAVE JUST SENT THE FOLLOWING APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT

"QUOTE WE ARE ADVISED THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED
AN URGENT SOS STATING THAT THE NAZI AUTHORITIES HAVE ORDERED
THE COMMANDER OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMP AT OSWIECIM — POLAND
TO PROCEED WITH THE EXTERMINATION OF THE REMAINING 45,000
PERSONS IMPRISONED THERE. THE IMPRISONED ARE THE VICTIMS OF
RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION. AMONG THEM ARE JEWS NOT
ONLY FROM POLAND BUT ALSO FROM FRANCE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GREECE,
HOLLAND AND BELGIUM. WE APPEAL TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DO YOUR
UTMOST TO SAVE THE LAST SURVIVORS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES
WHICH BEFORE THE NAZI OCCUPATION NUMBERED SEVERAL MILLIONS.
WE URGE THAT THE PRISONERS OF OSWIECIM BE PUBLICLY
INCORPORATED IN THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS USING AS
PRECEDENT GENEREL EISENHOWER’S PROCLAMATION WHICH
INCORPORATED THE UNDERGROUND FIGHTERS IN THE TERRITORY UNDER
HIS COMMAND IN THE ALLIED ARMIES. THE TWELFTH HOUR IS
STRIKING FOR A WHOLE PEOPLE. MR. PRESIDENT, AND WE TURN TO YOU
IN THE HOPE THAT ACTION WILL BE

"UNQUOTE WE HOPE
THAT YOU WILL SUPPORT OUR REQUEST AND FIND OTHER WAYS OF
STAYING THE HAND OF THE EXECUTIONERS.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE ADOLPH HELD, CHAIRMAN.

2:36 PM

45,000."
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Moscow
DATED: September 23, 1944
NUMBER: 2276

To Ambassador Harriman,

It is reported that many Jews, perhaps 60,000 persons, survive in Lodz, Poland. The Soviet authorities are undoubtedly aware of the danger that the Germans may attempt to exterminate these people before evacuating the city. In view, however, of this Government's deep concern for the safety of victims of enemy persecution, it would be appreciated if you would discuss this matter with appropriate officials of the Soviet Government.

HULL

CONTROL COPY
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN, MOSCOW, U.S.S.R.

It is reported that many Jews, perhaps 60,000 persons, survive in Lodz, Poland. The Soviet authorities are undoubtedly aware of the danger that the Germans may attempt to exterminate these people before evacuating the city. This Government is confident that Soviet authorities will use every means within their power consistent with the military situation to avert such tragedy. In view, however, of this Government's deep concern for the safety of victims of enemy persecution, it would be appreciated if you would discuss this matter with appropriate officials of the Soviet Government.

1:30 p.m.
September 18, 1944

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

Bakzin:LSLesser:ar 9/16/44
SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington,

6299, Twenty-second
Sequence Legation's 5779, second.

Berlin DNB twenty-first makes following propaganda statement regarding alleged conditions Pruszkow Camp for Warsaw refugees: Contrary reports spread by Anglo-Americans, Polish Relief Committee states no difficulties are encountered in extending medical and spiritual assistance to inmates Pruszkow camp where 250,000 Polish men, women and children have been housed since beginning revolt in Warsaw. Camp was visited September 17-18 by Intercross representative Wyss who was acquainted by Chief Polish Relief Committee and doctors, nurses and auxiliary personnel with feeding and medical arrangements and inspected kitchen, lodging and welfare installations Wyss likewise investigated individual refugees cases. Statement appears designed to forestall possible Wyss report.

HARRISON
300,000 in Minsk Massacre

Russian Inquiry Reveals 100,000 Jews Killed, 10,000 Gassed

MOSCOW, Sept. 19 (AP) — Russian newspapers today published a full-page report of an investiga-
tion committee that 100,000 Jews in the Minsk ghetto were tortured and killed during the
German occupation, and 10,000 inmates of a Minsk concentration
camp were asphyxiated by Ger-
man "gas" wagons.

The committee declared that in
another camp six miles outside
Minsk 8,000 persons were killed
and their bodies burned, while
10,000 were shot in trenches at a
third point.

"Altogether the Hitlerites killed
200,000 Soviet citizens in Minsk
and its suburbs," the official re-
touch said.
HONORABLE JOHN W. PEHLE, EXECUTIVE DIR.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD, TREASURY BLDG.

ON BASIS OF SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RECEIVED THAT
exterminations in Hungary and Slovakia continue respectfully
submit following suggestion: stop, inasmuch Allied armies
GAINING CONTROL LARGE NUMBER GERMAN TERRITORIES A NEW
WARNING BY ALLIED NATIONS THROUGH SUPREME COMMAND AGAINST
FURTHER ATROCITIES PERPETRATED BY GERMANS AGAINST CIVILIANS
HELD BY THEM WOULD BE DEEPLY EFFECTIVE THAN
PREVIOUSLY ISSUED GENERAL WARNINGS. STOP. WARNING SHOULD
EMPHASIZE THAT LEADING FIGURES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
WILL BE HELD STRICTLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR ANY VIOLATIONS OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW AND FOR ANY AND ALL PESTIALITIES AND
ATROCITIES PERPETRATED.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE, RABBI ABRAHAM
KALMANOWITZ.

8:35 AM SEP 18 1944.
WU8 142 1 EXTRA
NND NEW YORK NY SEP 17 1944 2232

JOHN PEHLE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD US TREASURY BLDG

WE BEG TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING URGENT SUGGESTION FOR THE
PURPOSE OF SAVING MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JEWS, POLES, CZECHS
APART FROM SOUTH AMERICAN CITIZENS AND OTHER NATIONALS IN
GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND IN SLAVE LABOR CAMPS FROM
IMMINENT ANNIHILATION. STOP. IN THE MIMENT THE ALLIED ARMIES
ARE PIERCING THE SIEGFRID LINE AND LARGE PARTS OF GERMAN
TERRITORY AND GERMAN POPULATION COME UNDER ALLIED OCCUPATION.
A NEW WARNING ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIED SUPREME COUNCIL AGAINST
ANY ATROCITIES TO BE PERPETRATED ON THE INTERNEES IN THOSE
CAMPS PARTLY NOT FAR FROM THE LINE OF ADVANCE WOULD BE
INCOMPARABLY MORE EFFICIENT THAN ANY PREVIOUS GENERAL
WARNING AT FRAIER OPPORTUNITIES. STOP. THE WARNING SHOULD
STRESS THAT THE LEADING PERSONALITIES OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE
UNDER OCCUPATION WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE WITH THEIR LIFE
AND LIBERTY FOR FURTHER BESTIALITIES AND VIOLATIONS OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW.

AGUDAS ISRAEL WORLD ORGANIZATION JACOB ROSENHEIM
PRESIDENT.

931 AM SEP 18 1944.

000546
Subject: Suggested Steps for the Rescue of Jews in Poland.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a memorandum furnished the Embassy and the London Representative of the War Refugee Board by the Council for Rescue of the Jewish Population in Poland. The memorandum was prepared following conversations with the Council and an official of the Polish Foreign Office who is charged with the rescue of refugees from Poland.

The Representative of the War Refugee Board has the following comments to make concerning certain of the items in the memorandum:

Item No. 1. In conversations with the Council great emphasis has been placed by it upon the necessity for financial assistance. It has been pointed out to the Council that there are not unlimited funds for the rescue of persons in danger of death, and that such funds have to be expended where the chances of rescue appear to be best. Also, it has been pointed out that funds are presently being sent into Poland through certain groups interested in the rescue of Jews and others. Apparently rescue work among the various Polish groups is not well coordinated and one group does not seem to know of activities carried out by another. Furthermore, the Council has not been too clear in outlining exactly what could be accomplished should further financial assistance be given. It has only been able to state that there is an active and efficient underground organization to which the funds (in U.S. dollar currency) could be delivered through channels which have been used and found reliable. According to the Council, the funds in Poland would be used to provide food for certain Jews who thus far have avoided apprehension and are in hiding. They have also stated that these funds could be used to affect the escape of such persons to havens of comparative safety. It has also been indicated that parts of the funds could conceivably be used to bribe minor Nazi officials to permit escape from some of the extermination...
extermination centers and concentration camps. However, it is believed that the possibilities of effective rescue operations in Poland at this time are slight. It can only be recommended that financial assistance for rescue operations on the part of the Council be given provided there are funds which are not needed for rescue operations in Hungary and Czechoslovakia where the possibilities of rescue would appear to be better.

Item No. 2 It is recommended that if possible this suggestion be effected. All groups interested in the rescue of refugees emphasize the importance of making another statement of position and warning those persons killing and persecuting Jews and others that they will be brought to justice, while at the same time appealing to people in the enemy territories to give shelter and protection to these unfortunate.

Such refugee groups also emphasize that our overseas broadcasts along the lines described in the above-mentioned paragraph should be increased. Such cannot be done from London since the OWI office here does not plan or direct the broadcasts into the Balkans, Poland and Czechoslovakia; nor are such broadcasts transmitted from here. It is suggested that the War Refugee Board make a study of the possibilities of increasing the broadcasts directed to the Balkans, Poland and Czechoslovakia which have as their objective warning to those persecuting Jews and others and an appeal to the people of those areas to give such unfortunate protection and shelter.

Item No. 3. The necessity in Poland for food, medical supplies, vitamins, etc., cannot be doubted. However, it has been explained to the Council that this matter has been and is being explored by the War Refugee Board. It is hoped that the Board either acting on its behalf or through some other interested agency may be able to arrange for some food, medical supplies and vitamins to be sent in to the unfortunate people in Poland.

It would be appreciated if a copy of this despatch were made available to the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

/s/ JOHN M. ALLISON
John M. Allison,
Second Secretary of Embassy.

Enclosure: 1/ Copy of memorandum.

SHB/JHM/dm
MEMORANDUM

Submitted by The Council for Rescue of the Jewish Population in Poland to the War Refugee Board

The Council for Rescue of the Jewish Population in Poland set up by the Polish Government in London has as its task to assist, help and rescue Polish Jews in Poland, those deported to Poland and Jews Polish citizens wherever they are threatened with death or annihilation.

The Council for Rescue is therefore anxious that everything should be done to extend help which is possible at the moment to those in danger, and that that help should be immediate.

Poland has for five years of occupation been able to establish a very well organized and very efficient underground organization. Spread throughout the country it has been able not only to offer resistance to the lawless enemy and keep on hitting at him wherever they could, but also to organize mutual help and assistance bodies. Within the scope of that work a Council to aid the Jewish population in Poland was established in Warsaw with branches in the provinces.

Through these channels we have been able to keep in constant touch with the people in Poland, to know their needs and what they have been going through. News reaching us from there has only partly been conveyed to the world opinion telling the tale of atrocities and mass murder.

Five years of persecution have created a situation which we have to face today. Remnants of Polish Jews are awaiting urgent and immediate help.

It has been often said, particularly in recent days, that the war approaching to a close, will liberate all oppressed and solve all the problems. It has to be borne in mind, however, that these last months or even weeks may very well be decisive as the retreating enemy will not shrink before most cruel acts which mean or would mean the end of those few who have survived hitherto. The danger is very serious. We therefore feel that everything possible should be done to rescue those still alive at this very late hour.

1. The main road of help is the supply of financial means on the spot. Those still under German occupation can be helped by having at their disposal financial means which would enable them to obtain food, to secure hiding, and even arms, thus to keep themselves alive. The Polish Underground Organization efficient as it is, could get the funds sent and delivered to those in need.

The/
The last cable which reached us from the Council to aid the Jewish Population in Poland states that they are in need of 150,000 dollars a month, which is a minimum in the whole scheme of rescue and relief. If we are able to secure this amount monthly to Poland we shall have achieved a great thing by helping those remnants struggling with death.

The point which ought to be stressed here is, that the dollar currency is in fact the only acceptable for any kind of help. It is therefore that the amounts there to be used and to bring help have to be in dollars.

This makes the first and paramount request which we submit to you, namely, adequate help to be rendered to Jews in Poland.

2. It has been stated already that the present situation is particularly dangerous in view of the ruthless enemy, who while retreating will do his utmost to destroy everything on his road. German crimes are known to the world. Yet not enough warnings were made and not enough pressure was used to make it clear once and for all that those responsible for murder and atrocities will not escape justice. The fright and threat that justice will be meted out to them would have a tremendous effect on their behavior.

We therefore feel that it would be most desirable to follow up the official statements on the subject by series of very strong warnings brought to the notice of the Germans by every way possible. The frequency in which this should be done is of great importance. The repetition of warnings day in, day out, by broadcasts, leaflets, in news bulletins and public announcements would, we feel, lead to some results. They should take the shape of concrete statements, quote names of those responsible and descriptions of their deeds, emphasize that not only those in high office but also everybody carrying out the policy of extermination will be taken to account. Names ought to be quoted. Many of them are in our hands and we could supply them, in every case if desired.

It can be assumed that this would lead to many Germans restricting their actions, while they would hope to plead mercy with the United Nations. It could perhaps even create a split inside Germany.

We suggest therefore that as soon as it is possible a very strong propaganda of warnings with daily broadcasts should be embarked upon, that leaflets should be dropped and appropriate announcements conveyed to the Germans.

3. The International Red Cross working throughout this war has undoubtedly been a blessing to many. Yet its help has not reached great numbers of people in need. Those in concentration camps, forced labor camps and in the ghettos/
ghettos were almost left to themselves. Undernourished, they live in most horrible conditions. They need food, medical supplies, vitamins, all these things to keep them alive, for the last weeks or months of the war. It is worth stating that it is sometimes the last week which counts. Some of the refugees who have escaped from Axis occupied countries and reached safety died several days or weeks later. Years of undernourishment weakened them to such extent that they could not even enjoy the liberty and freedom reached after many hardships.

The same, we fear, may happen with many Polish Jews, who having survived until now may collapse on the eve of their liberation.

We submit therefore that the War Refugee Board take appropriate measures to send food, medical supplies and vitamins to those in need. Technical details of the dispatch could be arranged and we leave them to personal discussions, once the matter is settled in principle.

4. Some of the help needed by the Jewish population in Poland, the most urgent supplies could be dropped by parachutes, in the same way in which arms have and are being supplied. If the War Refugee Board offers its assistance they could reach through the Underground Organization their destination in the very near future.

5. There are at the moment Polish Jews spread in many areas under Axis domination. They are in concentration camps in Germany, in France which has not been liberated on the whole of her territory. Through the help of the S.H.A.E.F. and Civil Affairs officers and other channels help could be arranged for them.

Here again technicalities could be discussed in the particular cases. Installations in death camps could be bombed, etc. In all these cases we request the War Refugee Board to make a last minute effort to save those people.

Submitting the above points for your favorable consideration we sincerely hope that you will give them your immediate attention.

In all of them speed is the essential factor, and if something has to be done, it must be done quickly or otherwise it will surely be too late.

The Council of Rescue of the Jewish Population in Poland trusts that the suggestions above will be carried out, while it puts everything in its power at the disposal of the War Refugee Board in order to facilitate the task.

LONDON, September 15th, 1944.
Secretary of State,

Washington.

U.S. URGENT

7146, September 1, 8 p.m.

FOR DEPARTMENT, FEA AND WRB

IRCC have requested British to assist the more than 100,000 inhabitants of Warsaw now interned at camp in Druszkow. IRCC think that effective help can only be given by direct action of belligerents. They particularly suggest that Soviet Union could assist by parachuting food and medicines. IRCC also suggest that food on way to Gothenburg for prisoners of war in Germany be diverted to this use. British are replying that parachuting of food is impossible but that they would welcome use of parcels now being sent via Gothenburg for civilian internes if distribution can be made by IRCC in Druszkow in same way as IRCC suggested in Bern's 4578, July 18 to Department for other concentration camps.
August 29, 1944

In reply refer
to: No. 235

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I enclose a copy of a letter which Dr. Ignacy
Schwarzbart, member of the Polish National Council,
addressed on June 27th to the Polish Prime Minister
Stanislaw Mikołajczyk.

May I call your special attention to the suggestions
formulated under 2b, 2c and 2d.

The suggestion under 2c in particular impresses me
as deserving immediate action.

I would be grateful to you for letting me know what
your intentions are in this respect.

Sincerely yours

A. Leon Kupowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef
Enc.
Dr. I. Schwarzbart  
45, Queens Court,  
Queens way, London, W2  

The Prime Minister,  
Stanislaw Mikolajczyk,  
London.  

Dear Prime Minister,  

The Germans have intensified during the last weeks their action of cruel and barbaric extermination in regard to the Polish Nation as well as in regard to the remnants of Polish Jewry. They have increased the deportation of Jews from other countries into Poland in order to accomplish there their diabolical deed of the total biological destruction of European Jewry. The last event of 100,000 Jews from Hungary who have been gassed—there were among them without any doubt also Polish Jews who had succeeded in escaping from the German hell—is a link in the chain of barbarities committed by the Germans who have already destroyed in Poland up to date hundreds of thousands of Poles and millions of Jews. The defeat of the Germans approaching infallibly closer and closer will provoke them out of rage and spite to commit further and still more intensified acts of cruelty.

During the last days I have had an opportunity together with eng. Reiss to submit to the Minister of Interior several suggestions regarding the actions to be taken in Poland. Lately I had an opportunity to discuss with the Polish Minister for Foreign Affairs the latest information about the gassing of 100,000 Jews from Hungary and I submitted to him some suggestions regarding the actions to be undertaken in the international field. Both Ministers have manifested a genuine concern for this matter.

As I understand that this matter will be probably discussed today at the meeting of the Cabinet, I should like to submit to you, also in connection with the remarks which I have made yesterday in your presence during the debate in the National Council, my suggestions regarding these two problems for your favourable consideration and for the decisions to be taken by the Cabinet.

1). Regarding the action in Poland:  
   a) Our Army in Poland is now undertaking an extensive action against the Germans. I think that time has come now that in the plans for this action should be included the liberation of victims imprisoned in diverse camps as Oswiecim, Majdanek, Treblinka, Sobibor and many others. It is an impelling necessity to save the lives of those tens of thousands of victims if we want to prevent their being killed by the Germans in this last period of the war. It is known that the slaughter of the Jews by the Germans is part of a systematic plan and the rescue of these remnants as well as of other victims becomes therefore one of the first tasks of our Government and country. Two means of action have been suggested in connection with this: to bomb from the air the administrative buildings in these and to arrange an armed attack on the camps by the units of our Underground Army in order to rescue the victims. Both these tasks are undoubtedly wrought with difficulties. But perhaps some "combined operation" of these means may achieve our purpose.
I think that time has come now to do it. The success of this action may prove indeed to be the only practical means to prevent Hitler from continuing his action of deporting people to Poland, the country which he has selected as the slaughter place of millions of Jews. A successful action against these camps may dissuade the Germans from continuing with their procedure and may free tens of thousands of people. It is not suitable to enter into the details of this problem in a letter and it is rather a matter to be dealt with by the proper factors and not by me as a layman.

b) The further suggestion which has been raised several times is to arm the remnants of Polish Jews in Poland so that they may defend themselves.

c) The third suggestion is that the greatest possible number of Jews should taken in into the armed underground movement.

d) Fourth: means should be assured enabling to hide the Jews in greater extent than hitherto.

e) Fifth: to consider ways and means in order to free people from the forced labour camps which are in fact nothing else but places in which the inmates are starved out before they are killed off.

f) Sixth: special attention should be paid to the problem of rescuing the remnants of Jewish children in Poland, against whom the fury of the Germans is particularly directed as thus the future generations are being destroyed too.

All these suggestions are far from exhausting the problem, but at this moment I am mentioning only these.

2) Regarding the international action.

It appears from many observations experiences and conversations between Jewish Organisations and the representatives of various Governments that the wall of distrust in the received information about the extent of suffering and the losses of population in Poland has been breached. The tragic development of events succeeded, alas so late in the day to convince the leaders of international politics that all this is true. I am transmitting the information which has reached me about the murderous extermination action of the Germans to Jewish Organisations in Great Britain, the U.S. and Palestine and to the Jewish Telegraphic Agencies. I have transmitted to all of them the information about the gassing of 100,000 Jews from Hungary in Auschwitz.

Our Government have several times taken the initiative to awaken the public opinion in the Allied countries as well as of the Allied Governments and they have done on many occasions with considerable success. As these terrible German atrocities are being committed on the soil of Poland it is but natural that our Government should take the initiative in the first place.

It is difficult to find political means of action about which one could state a priori that they will prove successful, because the power so far lies still in the hands of the Germans. But it seems to me that all steps should nevertheless be undertaken at this moment in view of the circumstances which I have mentioned in the beginning. The following suggestions occur to my mind:

a). The Polish Government should approach directly the Vatican in order that the Pope should appeal to the Hungarian people as a Catholic nation asking them to oppose in an active manner the deportation of Polish citizens and of Jews in general to Poland; the Vatican should also raise again their voice in this matter.
b). Our Government should undertake steps in consultation with the British, the U.S.A. and other Allied Governments in order that a renewed solemn and strongly worded warning should be addressed to the Germans in this last period of the war. This warning should not be general but ought in my opinion contain an intimation that the leaders of the Gestapo of all ranks will be held responsible for the murder of the population in Poland, and especially for the action of gassing and deporting into Poland, and that they will be unremittingly punished for their crimes.

c). The initiative should be taken to arrange that on a given day the whole press in the Allied countries should raise their voices in indictment of the Germans for the atrocities committed in Poland at the present moment. The same thing should be arranged regarding the broadcast stations in the Allied world. This can of course be arranged only with the consent and the inspiration of Governmental factors.

d). Millions of leaflets should be dropped over Germany in which the German people should be told of the numbers of the victims killed by the Germans in the European countries up to day. The leaflets should also contain a warning addressed to the German people in case they themselves would not put an end to the mass murder committed by their representatives. It seems to me that at this moment when the German morale is cracking such leaflets may prove to be of a decisive factor.

e). The British and the U.S.A. Governments should consider the advisability of bombing the administrative buildings in the death camps as mentioned above.

It is clear that even these proposals do not exhaust the problem.
In view of the tragedy of the Jews in Poland, which is the most terrible section of the sufferings of all nations, I beg you, and our Government to undertake action in this matter as a continuation of the efforts which have been made so far. I am sending a copy of the present letter to the Minister of Interior and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I beg you to accept the expressions of my highest esteem

I. Schwarczart
INCOMING TELEGRAM

HIS-385

PLAIN

Genova

Dated August 26, 1944

Rec'd 4:14 a.m., 27th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

299, Twenty-sixth

FOR AN CROSS FROM JAMES

"598. Intercross has received urgent appeal from

Polish Cross concerning dire need food for hundred

thousand women children aged persons evacuated Warsaw

region now in camp at Pruzskow and inquires as to

possibility distributing certain quantity SNF

ex-shipments 74 75 to these persons. Intercross

believes could have distribution supervised by delegate."

SQUIL

RR

Miss Cheinney (for the Soc'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Marks, Mamon, McCormick, Pelle, Slices.
In reply refer to: No. 240

Mr. I. M. Weinstein  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

The Polish Jewish Representative Committee affiliated with the World Jewish Congress received today from Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, member of the Polish National Council, a cable from which the following excerpt is of particular interest:

"Urging again matter liberation remaining camps as foremost task. Urging matter appeal to population because hitherto no results."

We interpret this cable as meaning that, in Dr. Schwarzbart's opinion, an appeal should be addressed to the Christian population in Poland, and in particular to the underground, asking them to attack the extermination camps and to liberate their inmates.

May I observe in this respect that the Russian Army is still at some distance from the most dreaded of these camps, Oswiecim.

I would be extremely obliged to you for informing me of any action you would decide to take in this matter.

Sincerely yours

A. Leon Rubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:ef
August 16, 1944

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugee Board
253 Broadway
Room 80F
New York City

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Mr. Grossmann asked me to send you a copy of the letter which Dr. Kสอบות sent on August 9th, to Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director, War Refugee Board, Washington. Please find this copy attached.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs.) Helen Moritz
Acting Assistant
Rescue Department
August 9, 1944

Mrs. John W. Pehle
Executive Director, War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to call your attention to the following information reported by the Independent Jewish Press Service in its bulletin of April 8:

"While Jewish guerrillas operating in Poland's forests in the vicinity of Radom, Kielce and Biakow are reported to have broken through the Nazi militaryordonnance and joined the Polish underground couriers in Warsaw's "battle within" against the harassed German forces, the extreme wing of the anti-Semitic, pseudo-fascist Polish Endek Party is reported to have delivered hundreds of Jews to the Gestapo."

"Wholesale delivery of Jews by the Endeks followed an announcement by Nazi Governor General Frank that he would pay fifty dollars for each hidden Jew and one hundred dollars for each Jewish guerrilla delivered to him. Walls and billboards all over Poland were covered on June 30 with the word announcement and extreme Endeks immediately swung into action as "steal pigeons" for the Nazi secret police, according to a report submitted by Jacob Hazlinsky and David Rotstein representing the Jewish guerrillas of Poland, to Soviet-Jewish Colonel Yoldia Shapiro, who is now a military liaison officer with the Polish Committee of National Liberation with headquarters in Chams, liberated Poland."

May I suggest that the attention of the Polish Government be called to this most serious accusation and that it be
requested to issue a stern warning to the leaders of the National Democratic Party in Poland on the consequences which these crimes, if verified, are likely to have, not only for themselves, but for the Polish name and standing among the nations.

Sincerely yours

A. Leon Robert Stahl
Head, Rescue Department

Weiss Jewish Cong.
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Research and Analysis Branch
R & A No. 6504

AN ESTIMATE OF EARLY JEWISH REFUGEES FROM POLAND
IN FRANCE, PARIS, DHAKA, MEXICO, AND THE NETHERLANDS

Description

Estimates of the number of Polish refugees
now present in certain countries.

25 July 1944

Copy No. 40
SUMMARY

It is estimated that there are between 3,000 and 4,000 non-Jewish Polish refugees in Iran, 1,500 to 1,600 in Palestine, 3,600 in India, 1,400 in Mexico, and a few hundred in Switzerland.

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Since the end of 1941, numerous Polish civilians who had fled or been deported to the Soviet Union have been permitted to leave the country. At the end of 1942, 87,753 Polish civilians had left for Iran, according to the American Red Cross.\(^1\) No additional groups of refugees have been reported since. Only some 5 percent of the evacuees were Jews. According to a confidential report presented on 9 September 1942 to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, by a special representative in Teheran, only 1,300 Jews were officially registered among the 25,760 Polish refugees who had arrived in Iran by 9 September 1942. This number does not include those who had arrived under their own or an assumed name—many Roman Catholics; their number is estimated at 300 to 500. At the beginning of 1943, the number of Jews among the Polish evacuees in Iran was reported as 1,500. (Trend of Events, 5 February 1943). It can be assumed that all the Jewish refugees have by now reached Palestine (the last group of 411 persons arrived in Palestine in January 1944. *Tan Tribune,* New York.\(^2\)

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1. Nearly the same number (87,753) has been given by Andrey Y. Wielinski, Vice Foreign Commissioner of the USSR, in his statement of 7 May 1943.

29 January 1941). In view of the evacuation of the Jews, the following information refers to non-Jewish Polish citizens only, even if the general term "Polish refugees" is used.

By October 1941, after the majority of the Polish refugees had been evacuated from Iran, in particular to Africa, the American Red Cross estimated at 12,000 the number of those who remained in Iran. For the end of April 1943, the estimate of the American Red Cross was 3,500, under the assumption that several additional evacuation plans had in the meantime been carried out. In particular, 3,500 persons were to be evacuated to India and 4,000 to Mexico.

At the beginning of 1944, the Tehran branch of the Polish Ministry of Social Welfare ordered the evacuation from Iran of all Poles not employed with American or British forces or by the Polish Government in Iran. (The Polish Review, 15 February 1944). However, this evacuation order was not wholly carried out.

On 13 July 1944, Mr. Waclaw Kleeck, Financial Counselor in the Relief Department of the Polish Embassy in the United States, estimated the number of non-Jewish Polish refugees still in Iran at 3,000 to 4,000. This estimate appears to be the most accurate.

II. PALESTINE

On 31 June 1942, the British Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Harold Macmillan, stated in the House
of Commons that 2,400 Polish citizens were admitted to
Palestine specifically as war refugees ("persons for whom
a temporary asylum must be found"). Some 60 percent of
the refugees (1,440 persons) were non-Jews.

According to the American Red Cross, 1,516 Polish
Refugees (including 1,100 Polish Boy Scouts) had been evacu-
ated from Iran to Palestine by 1 October 1942. Some of these
youths have since joined the Polish armed forces. It can
be assumed that all these 1,516 persons were non-Jews,
since, as a rule, the Polish Jewish refugees have been
brought to Palestine by the Jewish Agency or the Joint
Distribution Committee on certificates delivered by the
Palestine Administration. Only an insignificant number
of non-Jewish Polish refugees have reached Palestine by
a different route, without first passing through Iran.

III. INDIA

The first group of Polish refugees arrived in India
at the beginning of 1941, from Vilna via Siberia, Japan,
China, and Burma; another group came from the west via
Bucharest, Istanbul, and Baghdad. Almost all of them have
within a comparatively short time found suitable employment
in established small workshops. Their number has not
been ascertained, but it should be fairly large, as they
organized a union of their own and publish a monthly
review called Polish News.

However, the main group of Polish refugees was com-
posed of women and children who arrived in India via Iran.
after their evacuation from Soviet Russia in the spring of 1942. Their number has varied considerably. The temporary camp near Karachi (for 2,000 to 3,000 people) entertains Polish refugees on their way to Africa; they live in tents until sea transportation is provided for them. According to the wife of the Polish Consul General in Bombay, Mrs. Kira Dankinsky, the general resettlement scheme provides for 11,000 Poles evacuated from the USSR, to be settled in India. (The Polish Review, 28 January 1944.)

A report of the American Red Cross of 5 March 1943 speaks of 3,800 Poles in transit camps in India. A report issued by the Polish Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in August 1943 mentions the presence of 5,000 Poles in India. A later Red Cross report speaks of 700 children who were to be permanently settled in India, and of 2,000 refugees housed in camps.¹ Mr. Ilciewicz gives a precise figure for December 1943: 3,605. Among them were almost no Jews.

IV. MEXICO

A report to the International Labour Office dated February 1943 makes mention of 3,000 visas which the Mexican Government considered giving to Polish refugees in Iran. In August 1943, the Polish Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare put the number of Polish refugees in Mexico at 700.

In the agricultural colony of Leon, in the state of Guanajuato, 700 Polish refugees were reported to have been settled (New York Times, 10 August 1943). In December 1943, the

¹ The same figure was given by Mrs. Dankinsky.
Representation of Polish Jewry stated that "705 additional Polish refugees were recently brought to Leon." These refugees came from the Far East and from Iran; among them were only 5 Jews. Altogether, only 26 Jews from Poland are reported to be in Mexico, according to a statement by Dr. Ilya Diijour, Executive Secretary of the Hias-Jica Emigration Association (10 July 1944). According to Dr. Ilczicz, the total of non-Jewish Polish refugees in Mexico amounts to 1,400.

V. SWITZERLAND

The Polish Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare puts the total number of Polish refugees in Switzerland at 3,550, excluding interned military personnel. (August 1943). According to the American Red Cross, on 27 October 1943, there were in Switzerland 3,700 Polish civilian refugees, apart from 10,500 Polish military internes. It can be assumed that the overwhelming majority of these civilian refugees are Polish Jews. Dr. Ilczicz believes that the number of non-Jewish civilian Polish refugees in Switzerland is insignificant.

VI. CONCLUSION

Summarizing the above, the following are the estimated numbers of non-Jewish Polish refugees in the countries considered:

- Iraq: 3,000 - 4,000
- Palestine: 1,500 - 1,600
- India: 5,500 (including 700 children permanently settled)
- Mexico: 1,100
- Switzerland: a few hundred
Dear John:

Here with a copy of the cablegram from Dr. Scherer about which I spoke to you yesterday.

[Signature]
ELECTED BY JUST CREATED COUNCIL FOR RESCUE JEWS IN POLAND TO REPORT BUDGET CONSIDER DUTY CONSULT YOU BEFORE MAKING DEFINITIVE PROPOSALS STOP ACCORDINGLY MY KNOWLEDGE LARGE SCALE FINANCIAL HELP DELIVERED QUICKLY COULD CONTRIBUTE VERY MUCH TO SAVE THOSE STILL ALIVE STOP THIS KIND HELP RELATIVELY EASY STOP THINK BUDGET NOT LESS THAN 2 TO 4 MILLIONS DOLLARS SHOULD BE PROPOSED UNTIL END YEAR FOR RESCUE RELIEF ALL JEWS NOW POLAND NOT ONLY POLISH JEWS STOP HELP JEWISH UNDERGROUND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES APART THIS CABLE DOESN'T DEAL WITH STOP FOR MANY REASONS THINK NOT LESS 60% SHOULD GIVE POLISH GOVERNMENT 40 JEWISH RESOURCES STOP PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR OPINION TO WHAT EXTENT YOUR HELP POSSIBLE STOP BECAUSE MATTER VERY URGENT AWAITING ANSWER QUICKLY STOP

ADDRESS POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL STRATTON HOUSE LONDON W 1 STOP

MATTER STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DR. EMANUEL SCHERER
MEMBER POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL
In reply refer to No. 183

Hon. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to let you have below the text of the cable which was received on July 21 by the Representation of Polish Jewry from the Polish Government in London, through the Polish Consulate in New York:

"ARRIVING FROM HUNGARY TO OS. TENCOM SINCE MIDDLE OF MAY 1944, THIRTEEN TRAINS A DAY CONSISTING OF 40 WAGONS WITH JEWS. THEY ARE GASSED IN TWO CAMPERS -- A THOUSAND PEOPLE AT A TIME. THEY ARE BURNED IN FOUR CEMETORIES AND AT THE STAGE. THE JEWS BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO BE EXCHANGED FOR GERMAN PRISONERS. TWO THOUSAND JEWS WERE DEPORTED TO GLIICHE (GLEANST) FROM WHERE THEY SENT OPTIMISTIC LETTERS TO HUNGARY. ON THE PLATFORM IN OS. TENCOM THERE ARE A HEAP OF VALISES MEASURING 300 METERS IN LENGTH, 5 METERS IN HEIGHT 200 LITTERS IN WIDTH."

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Reseau Department