

POLAND, Volume I  
(Folder 1 of 2)

000468



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, January 25, 1945

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 République" 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*  
Herbert Katzki

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

Encl: Translation of  
newspaper article

000469

Monday, January 22, 1945

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:

200,000 dead and wounded in the course of battles which took place in 1939 with the German army

20,000 dead and wounded during the battles with the Soviet army

420,000 prisoners taken by the German army in 1939

181,000 prisoners captured by the Red army in 1939

10,000 internees in neighboring countries

831,000 total losses suffered in 1939

300 dead and wounded in battles in Norway

6,500 dead and wounded in battles in France (1940)

10,500 internees in battles for France

900 dead and wounded in battles in Libia in 1941

2,500 dead and wounded in battles fought by naval and air forces (1940-1944)

10,000 dead and wounded on the fronts of Italy and Normandy

25,000 dead and wounded in sabotage struggles undertaken by internal Polish forces up to March 1944

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

000471

THE WORLD

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 PM 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, datelined Moscow, is from PM's regular correspondent there, Ralph Parker, who gives the first extended account of the death camp at Tremblinka. The third story, a sidelight on Parker's, comes direct from Tremblinka.

We present the stories and exhibits on this and the 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.

# 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

As Told to VICTOR H. BERNSTEIN



I want to tell only what I saw. Where things were told to me—where interpretations were placed upon things—I will state so plainly, so that you will know what I saw with my own eyes and what came to me second-hand.

About 40 correspondents were flown to Lublin, Poland, from Moscow by Soviet authorities. At Lublin we got into U. S.-made jeeps and were driven along the road to Chelms. About one and one-half miles from Lublin we saw that the road was lined with barbed wired. At intervals appeared insulators of the kind commonly used where wire is electrified.

We drove along this fence for about a mile and swung left into a gate. From this spot we could see the whole Maidanek camp. There were grey barracks reaching as far as the eye could see. Way back we saw a tall brick chimney against the grey sky. Surrounding the camp was the wire fence, and at intervals were wooden watch towers.

### The Shower Room

We drove perhaps 800 yards along a wire-enclosed passage and made several right turns. We came to a U-shaped structure. The first room in it was perhaps 60 feet long, 20 feet wide, 6½ feet long. It was a shower room; 72 shower outlets were visible.

We entered another room, perhaps 40 by 30 feet. It had a square opening in the ceiling. There was only one door to the room. The jamb of the door was insulated all around the door, opening, so when the door was closed, it was airtight.

Our Soviet guide told us prisoners were given showers first, then herded into this room, and the "cyclone" gas—in the shape of crystals which evaporated into poison gas on contact with air—was dropped by the Germans through the opening at the top of the room. The showers, our guide said, made the gas work quicker; it opened the victims' pores.

### Grey Dust

We saw several other smaller rooms. All were hermetically sealed. Typical was one with pipes running around the wall, about three feet above the floor. I followed the pipes to their source. They led to tanks of carbon monoxide gas.

I asked our guides why the Nazis used two different kind of gas. The

Soviet officials guessed that perhaps there was sometimes a shortage of one gas or another, so the "slaughter house" was equipped with both.

We got into the jeeps again and drove on through a camp street, past barracks, and up a gentle slope. On either side were fields of cabbage and tomatoes. The fields were covered with a greyish dust. Some of the reporters thought the vegetables looked exceptionally lush. I didn't think so. I was a farmer once, and this stuff appeared to me burned out, like stuff that's been over-fertilized.

At one point we passed a huge mound of what looked like fertilizer. How big? Oh, perhaps several times as large as a good-sized room. The Soviet official told us the pile consisted of human ash and manure mixed. It looked exactly like the



Raymond A. Davies

grey stuff covering the fields. Our guides told us that no less than 400,000 bodies could have produced such a pile of ash.

### Charred Bones

We came to the top of the slope, left our jeeps, and walked towards the tall chimney. The place smelled awful. Have you ever smelled a rotting corpse? The stench was everywhere.

Near the chimney I saw five brick furnaces. Each was perhaps

the height and width of a moderate-sized modern oil burner, but much deeper. Into the door of each furnace ran two rails, and on the rails a flat vehicle which looked like a stretcher. The stretcher could be shoved along the rails into the furnace.

The furnaces were full of ash. Most of it was powdery stuff, unidentifiable. But I saw some larger pieces readily recognizable as charred bones.

### 'Clean' Clothes Wanted

In front of the furnaces were small piles of rotting corpses. Some had arms and legs cut off. Our Soviet guides told us this was done in order to cram more bodies into the furnaces at once. The furnaces, we were told, could normally take five bodies an hour, but the gas chambers could kill quicker than that. It looked to me like the Nazis had had a problem there.

Near the furnaces was a concrete platform surrounded by a wall about two feet high. On the platform were 50 or 60 corpses in various stages of putrefaction.

I got the ashes shown elsewhere on this page near the furnaces. The cyclone gas power I picked up near the gas chambers.

About 500 yards from the fur-

naces was another barrack building. You must have read of this; it was chockfull of clothes, shoes, orthopedic legs and arms, brassiers, girdles, suitcases—everything imaginable, separated and piled neatly. There were several thousand Catholic bibles.

In the office of this building I saw some letters in German. Typical was a letter from a German boy—a member of the *Jugend*—writing, I think, from somewhere near Munich. He said his group needed so many shirts, so many trousers, so many pairs of shoes. He added: "Please don't send us anything bloodstained."

It was from this warehouse that I picked up the shoe and teddy bear that you see on this page. The teddy bear was one of a little pile of dolls stacked in a corner of the warehouse. Not far away was the pile of suitcases, many with names printed on them. Most of the names seemed to me those of Austrian or German Jews.

I also saw the camp hospital, where I picked up the vial of Evipan. Most interesting was a ledger apparently kept by the Nazis of admissions. I remember roughly the entries for March. There were about 20,000 entries of 17 different nationalities, down to seven Al-

**MORE** →



"You've heard about the warehouse at the Maidanek death camp where the Nazis sorted and stored for shipment to Germany the property of their victims. Well, I found this victim's shoe in the warehouse. (We are reproducing the shoe here actual size because we think it might help to convey to our readers something of the feeling we ourselves had when the shoe was brought to the office, and we held it in our hands and felt its worn leather.—Ed.) I picked it at random from a pile of thousands upon thousands of shoes, all neatly graded for size."

000472

# CONTINUED 'What Have I Done?' a Nazi Killer Sobs

## He Doesn't See Why He Should Be Hanged

banians." Russian names headed the list; the French, as I remember, came second. There were apparently no Jews on the list. I was told the Nazis didn't bother with names of Jews; they were given numbers for day-to-day identification only.

I was told the Nazis kept no permanent record of Jewish victims.

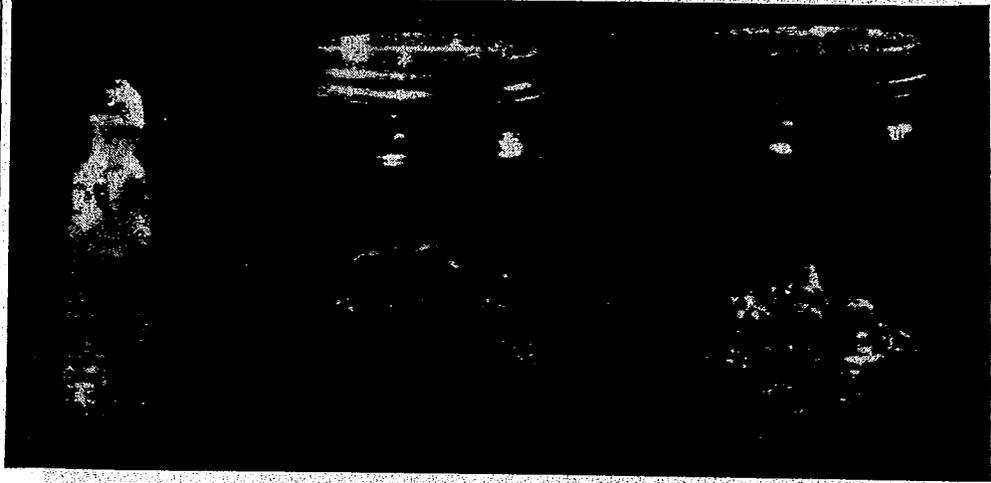
### Mass Burial

From the camp we were driven, in the jeeps, to nearby Trempitzky 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 cavalcade stopped and the smell was with us again.

The Russians had uncovered a mass burial ground. I saw maybe 400 bodies in a huge trench. I saw the remains of one woman who still clutched an infant to her breast. The infant's skull was cracked, but there was no mark of violence on the woman. The Soviet doctor told us that "the only conclusion to be drawn 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 Trempitzky forest where, as you probably have been told already, the Soviets say the Nazis killed 18,000 Jews in one day. On this day, according to witnesses, the camp loudspeakers played Strauss waltzes hour after hour while volleys of shots came from the forest.

It was the Trempitzky forest bur-



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

In the center is a handful of human ash I picked up near the camp crematorium. At right is a little of the famous Cyclone, a crystal which yields a poisonous gas upon exposure to air. The Cyclone was dropped into rooms packed with victims.

ial trench that I picked up the bit of brown paper, with its scrawled message, that is also reproduced with this story. (See next page). It was lying near the body of a young boy, perhaps 10 years old. The paper is months old, now, but you can tell where it has been by the smell. (The odor is unmistakable—V. H. B.)

The wind-up of the tour was an interview with a minor Nazi camp

official whom the Russians had captured. 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 gross-featured.

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. It sometimes happened.
- Q. Were the victims picked from all over Europe?
- A. I suppose so.
- Q. Did you personally help kill people?

- A. Absolutely not. I was only the paymaster in the camp.
- 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. (Bursting into tears) Why should they? What have I done?



I found this teddy bear (reproduced here actual size—En.) 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 mounds of suitcases (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.

000473

# Nazis Killed 2,764,000 Jews At Tremblinka Death Camp

INSIDE GERMANY By Godal

## Pole Tells How He Escaped Gas Chamber

By RALPH PARKER  
Staff Correspondent

(Copyright, 1944, by Field Publications)

MOSCOW, Nov. 11.—An annihilation camp reserved for Jews has been found in Tremblinka, Poland. Those who have visited it and who were familiar with the Maidanek camp at Lublin where, according to the findings of the Polish-Soviet Commission, a million and a half persons were killed, describe the Tremblinka camp as far worse.



Ralph Parker

It is difficult across the Atlantic to realize how highly organized and ferocious is the German attack on the Jewish population of Europe. Man naturally seeks to ignore suffering that seems not to concern him. How many have faced the fact that since 1939 the Germans have wiped out all but a small fraction of the Jews of the Continent?

### Forever Lost

Europe's bomb-blasted cities will rise again, the fields that now bear the sinister zigzag pattern of trenches will some day be harvested. Ten Greek children jumped in the Piraeus harbor when a Red Cross worker threw an apple core into the water. Two or three of

them drowned. Yet, with care, others will grow to be men.

But Jewish life will never be restored to Europe.

I have before me a document describing the place where more European Jews were killed than anywhere else. Perhaps I would not have believed it, had I not seen Maidanek for myself and talked with survivors of the Klooga concentration camp. Perhaps, the author's estimate of the total number of Jews killed at Tremblinka is somewhat exaggerated. It is 2,764,000 and is made up in the following way: from Germany 120,000, from Austria 30,000, from Poland 1,500,000, from Czechoslovakia 100,000, from Bulgaria 14,000, from Russia 1,000,000. We shall soon know. For those Jews existed, and soon Germany will have to answer the question "Where are they now?"

### Glad to Leave

The writer who has put his charge on the record is Samuel Rajzman, formerly employed at the Overseas Export and Import Company of Warsaw. The account of the Tremblinka camp, from which he escaped, is published in the Polish language "Nowe Widnokregi."

Of the preliminaries to incarceration or death at Tremblinka, Rajzman can speak only for Warsaw. There, he writes, the clearing of the ghetto with its 60,000 Jews began in June, 1942.

The evacuation was orderly. At a certain point those accompanied by children were ordered to turn left into town again. The rest were turned right to the station. This arrangement was not unexpected,

and many mothers, desperately anxious to leave Warsaw, chloroformed their babies, wrapped them in bundles and turned right.

Rajzman was among those who left Warsaw. There were between 80 and 90 in the cattle truck in which he travelled. The train drawn by an old fashioned locomotive was shunted to a siding for 12 hours. Twenty hours later it reached Tremblinka. Five women and two men died on the journey.

### Nazi Buildup

The Germans went to great lengths to maintain the deception of the victims that began when they were told that they were being sent to a Jewish settlement. Only when the Germans had them secure behind the hermetically sealed doors of the gas chambers did the mask drop. Till then the most extravagant hopes were entertained. Whether it was to avoid mass action by desperate, panic stricken people, or whether it was part of a "joke," which so many of the Gestapo enjoyed at the expense of the Jews, it is difficult to say. But it is a fact that elaborate precautions were taken at the Tremblinka station to conceal from those arriving there that this was their journey's end.

The station served nothing, except the camp, but notice boards were put up, indicating the way to non-existent ticket offices and inquiry bureaus. The station walls were plastered with schedules of trains that none who came to Tremblinka could ever hope to travel by. A large station clock was installed.

"All change for East," a porter cried when the trains drew in. Later, when Tremblinka's notoriety became widespread, the Nazis changed the station's name to "Obemajdan."

Rajzman—who owes his escape to the fact that he selected to work in the camp, thus avoiding the gas chambers into which most arrivals were directed after stripping for baths—describes how a Viennese surgeon arrived at the station with a freight car load of surgical instruments and hospital equipment. The professor asked the officer in charge to see that the instruments be handled with special care on unloading. The German answered with studied seriousness that after the professor had bathed, the equipment would be delivered to his house. Half an hour later the surgeon was asphyxiated.

### Buried Hair

The same train brought a well-dressed man who complained that, as he was a relative of the psychologist Sigmund Freud, his deportation from Vienna must have been an error. He was assured that he would be allowed to return with the next train and was invited to take a "bath."

The same macabre "sense of humor" was seen in the issue of towels to the victims before they entered the "bath houses" where they were asphyxiated, in the wearing of Red Cross uniforms by the nurses in the hospital for the sterilization of Jewish women and in the selection of highly trained Jewish dentists to extract gold teeth from the corpses.

The Russian writer Vasilii Cross-



"Heil Herr Commander! I would like to be appointed Director of the Education of German Youth for Democracy!"

map, who visited Tremblinka, describes the efforts made by women prisoners to prevent their hair from falling into German hands. Before murdering the prisoners, the Germans shaved the women and used their hair for stuffing naval life jackets. Many instances are known where women cut their own hair and buried it. Crossman describes how during the digging up of the ground around the camp large quantities of human hair were found.

A conspiracy was formed among those prisoners whose lives were spared for work. As at Majanek, a large staff was needed to sort the possessions of the victims of the gas chambers, and Rajzman came in contact with a resistance group in his work of classifying men's underwear.

The conspirators were chosen by Dr. Julian Chorazewski, formerly an officer in the Polish Army. His method was to approach the few prisoners who survived a flogging. Such men, he used to say to Rajzman, have shown their will to live and that is all that is needed to escape from the camp.

### 700 Flee, 12 Survive

The conspirators concentrated on obtaining arms. One of them, a locksmith by trade, was employed to repair the armory door. He obtained an impression of the key and in four months succeeded in making a duplicate. The coup was timed for April 21, 1943, but had to be postponed because of Chorazewski's death. Provoked by a blow from a Gestapo officer, he drew a knife, then, before he could be seized, he swallowed poison.

A fortnight later Dr. Leichert of Wegrowa, Poland, also a former army officer, was chosen as the new leader.

The time chosen for the rising was when Tremblinka was empty, except for its permanent staff of some 700 workers and their German master. A small quantity of grenades and revolvers smuggled from the armory, was hidden under the rubble.

A Czechoslovak mechanic repairing trucks supplied gasoline to a

conspirator, whose daily task it was to spray various parts of the camp with a disinfectant. The gasoline was mixed with the disinfectant and at the signal of a shot, grenades were thrown at the inflammable buildings. The whole camp was soon in flames. Of the 700 workers some 150 escaped, and of these, Rajzman estimates, 12 survived pursuit.

The Tremblinka camp is being investigated and the preliminary accounts bear out Rajzman's story and add much to it. There was, for instance, an experimental department with a staff of German doctors and psychologists, working on "problems arising from a mixture of Aryan and Jewish blood." Here were sent Jewish women made pregnant by Germans.

## Himmler Looked Over the Job

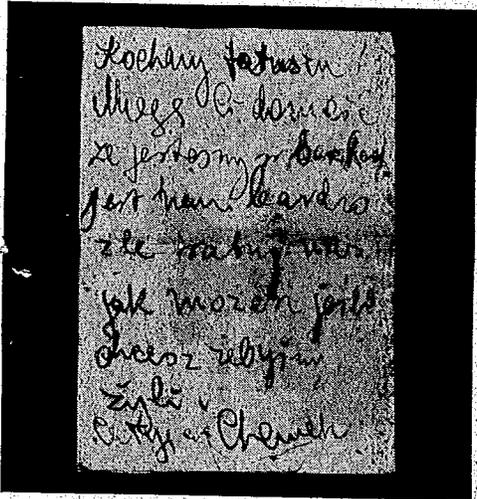
By M. VITZ  
Jewish Independent Press Service Correspondent

TREMBLINKA, Nov. 11.—The exhumation of the bodies of thousands of persons executed at Tremblinka, was done under the personal supervision of Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler, and there are at least five survivors who will be able to put the finger on Himmler if he is apprehended and brought to trial.

Your correspondent has spoken to those men. They are: Stanislaw and Abel Kon; Henrich Brenner, Shaya Lachtman, and Jacob Borax.

The bodies were first buried in the Katyn woods in Poland, but following Soviet revelation of the burial place, Himmler himself came to Tremblinka to see that the orders to burn the bodies and erase the traces of the atrocities be properly executed, your correspondent has been told.

Others to join Himmler in the defendants' row for the Tremblinka atrocities are Capt. Franz Commandant, and Kintner, Chief of the guards of the camp.



"I found this note by the body of a 10-year-old boy buried in a mass grave. The language is Polish; it is scrawled in pencil on a piece of brownish paper 4 1/2 inches long and 2 1/4 inches wide. It reads as follows: 'Dear Father—We are in barracks. We are very bad here. Save us if you can and if you want us to live. I kiss you, Henry.' The message was folded inside another piece of paper addressed to Zelman Zeydevsky. This is likely a Polish- or Russian-Jewish name."

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Max Werner on the Course of the War:

# Danube Victory Will Open Path to Central Reich for Red Army

By MAX WERNER

(Copyright, 1944, by Field Publications)

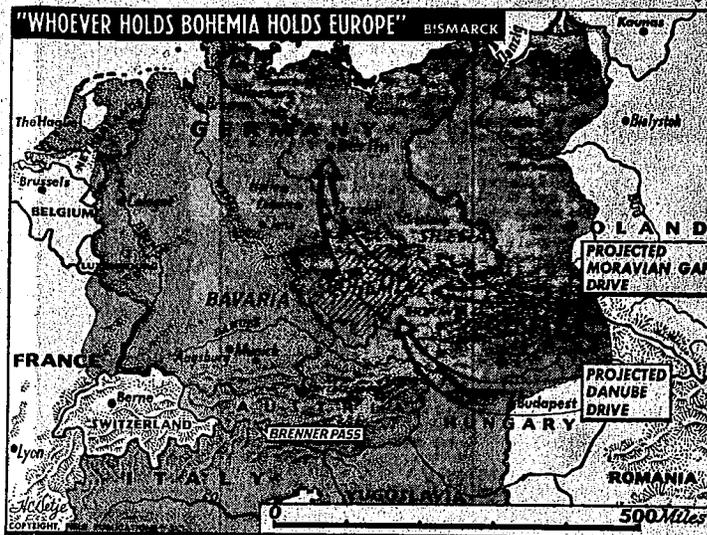
**PM**  
The battle of the Danube is changing the circumstances under which the final battle of Germany will be fought. In two and one-half months, the Red Army advanced 350 miles from Jassy to Budapest. If it covers an equal distance in the further course of its offensive toward the west and the northwest, Russian divisions will have invaded central Germany and occupied almost all of Bavaria.

The real stake in the battle of the Danube is the defense of southern and central Germany.

The Wehrmacht is losing the battle on the Hungarian plain because it has no reserves, no forces with which to build a new front. Its High Command was unable to regroup available forces to secure the defense of the Danube Valley.

As a whole, German defense was favored by the pause on the major fronts in the west and in the east during September and October. Yet the German High Command was unable to prevent the fateful defeat in Hungary. The first consequence of the defeat is that the Danube Valley is becoming a gap through which the Red Army can pour into Austria and Czechoslovakia.

The Red Army has crossed the Carpathians and outflanked the Alps. Thus the Wehrmacht can count on no more natural defenses in southeastern and central Europe. The Red Army has mustered sufficient forces systematically to prepare offensives both on the eastern front proper and on the new southern front. Practicing the strategy of open spaces, the Red Army High Command has parried the stiffen-



ing German resistance on the Vistula with a deployment on the Danube.

This has been one of the most important outflanking operations of the war. Not only is the German defensive position in Silesia outflanked, but also the German defensive front in central Italy. The task of Field Marshal Kesselring's army was to defend the Brenner Pass. But with the Red Army enveloping the entire Alps barrier from the Danube, Kessel-

ring's holding action in Italy has lost meaning.

The continued Russian offensive on the Danube will not be an isolated operation. It will be co-ordinated with a Russian thrust from southern Poland, and Malinovsky's and Konev's armies will join each other on the soil of the Czechoslovak Republic—probably in Moravia, between Slovakia and Bohemia proper.

Of course, the German General Staff must remember Bis-

marck's adage: *Whoever holds Bohemia holds Europe.* The German staff knows the importance of this area from military history.

In the Napoleonic wars the great battle which preceded the Prussian defeat at Jena was fought at Austerlitz near Brno, the capital of Moravia; and the Austro-Prussian war of 1866, which prepared Germany's military hegemony, was won at Koenigsgratz, near Prague.

And now in southern Poland

and at Budapest, the Red Army holds the strategic key to Czechoslovakia.

In the coming battle of Germany, the front on the Danube will be a terrific burden for the Wehrmacht. The German High Command will then face the dilemma of whether to yield in the south or to weaken their defense on the main eastern and western fronts. It can afford to do neither. So German forces will be even more widely dispersed than at present, its front lines will be overextended.

Still, Germany cannot have sufficient forces for successful defense in the south, and pressure there will increase progressively. Furthermore, the Red Army in the Czechoslovak-Austrian theater of war will endanger all the industrial centers of central and southern Germany, from Dresden and Halle to Munich and Augsburg.

Thus the battle of the Danube is preparing the most advantageous conditions for the general offensive of the anti-Hitler armies. Marshal Malinovsky's offensive started and was waged as an independent operation. In the frame of the general offensive, however, the campaign on the Danube will support the U. S. British blows from the west and the Red Army thrusts from the east.

The final ordeal for the Wehrmacht will come when the U. S.-British-Russian offensives are synchronized. In the west, east and south, the Wehrmacht will face far superior enemy forces. Stupendous losses will be inflicted on the German army and many and simultaneous breakthroughs will tear the German defense fronts apart. The widest breakthrough anywhere may be expected on the Danube front.

PM, Nov. 12, 1944

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

### V-2 Hitler Unveils His Latest

The most monstrous weapon of World War II, an explosive-carrying rocket that plunges to earth from 70 miles up at a speed of 1000 miles an hour, was revealed to the world by the Germans during the week.

Berlin's announcement was timed to have the biggest possible effect on German morale. It came Wednesday, the 21st anniversary of Hitler's abortive beer hall putsch and the day after Roosevelt's re-election. Two days later Churchill confirmed that V-2s have been hitting England.

#### Accuracy

Vergeltungswaffen (Revenge Weapon) No. 2, known as V-2, sounds like a Buck Rogers weapon. It has been landing in England for several weeks and the British admit that they have no present defense against it. Its speed, faster than sound, makes it undetectable before it hits. But this same speed minimizes its effect as a terror weapon. "It lands so fast," says UP

correspondent Robert Musel, "that you don't have time to be scared."

The Germans claim that a good part of London has been laid in ruins. Churchill told Commons: "The scale and effects of the attack have not hitherto been significant."

From the first, fragmentary reports, V-2's accuracy is hard to judge. But the Germans make one claim which, if true, may have an effect on the war's duration: They say that heavy damage has been caused to dock and harbor installations at Antwerp by V-2 fire—as well as by the V-1 jet-propelled flying bomb. The importance of Antwerp as a supply port for the Allied armies has been made abundantly clear.

Much of what is known publicly about V-2 comes from so-called neutral sources. These reports and statements in London and Washington, give this picture:

V-2 is a wingless rocket 30 to 50 feet long and carries a ton of explosives. It operates on much the same principle as the rockets kids shoot off on July 4, but instead of powder, V-2 probably uses liquid oxygen and high octane alcohol. Instead of a match, electricity is probably used to light the fuel. When lit, the fuel throws out

behind the rocket a column of gas. The weight of the gas pushes the rocket forward. When it starts falling from a height of 60 to 70 miles it probably hits a speed of 3000 miles an hour. But as soon as it falls through the thicker atmosphere its speed decreases and it strikes the earth at about 1000 miles an hour. Sound travels in normal temperatures about 750 miles an hour.

Ed Haaker, NBC reporter in England, saw a V-2 coming down. "I seen from a distance," he reported, "it looks like a falling star—the tail of a comet."

Cyril Winch of the United Press London staff got even closer. This is his story: "Timber, glass, soot, thick clay, plaster and pieces of roof slating all seemed to hit me at the same time. Along with the shower came a shuddering vibration and a noise unlike anything I had ever heard: I fought hard to keep my feet but the blast was too strong. By a freak piece of luck, not a person was killed."

V-2 apparently has less blast effect than V-1 because it penetrates deeper before exploding. V-2's range probably is 200 to 400 miles.

Churchill told Commons that some of the launching platforms had been overrun by the Allies on Walcheren Island in southwest Holland. It is 150 miles from Walcheren to London.

Some experts in London believe that in time, rocket bombs can be given a range up to 3000 miles, bringing the U. S. east coast within range of Europe.

### EUROPE WEST

#### Patton's Army Lets Loose

For weeks German military commentators had been talking nervously of an imminent offensive by Gen. Patton's U. S. 3d Army in northeastern France toward the rich Saarland. This week Patton turned their words into action.

His offensive started Wednesday with a three-division attack that broke across the swollen Selle River between Metz and Nancy. By Friday eight divisions were in action along a 70-mile front stretching southward from the French-Luxembourg-German border.

According to Berlin, the 3d

Army drive was just the curtain-raiser for the whole Allied Winter campaign. There was no reason to doubt this. Its objectives seemed to be the encircling of the Metz fortress and a simultaneous strike for the Saar fortress city of Saarbruecken.

#### Moselle Bridgehead

North of Metz the Yanks threw a strong bridgehead over the Moselle River and one column reached a point little more than two miles from the German border. Nine miles southeast of the French fortress city another column was within 14 miles of closing the pincers around Metz.

One remarkable fact about Patton's latest drive was that Allied Supreme Headquarters freely identified the divisions in action and told where they were fighting from day to day. In at least one case the regiments were named. This never has been done before in this war; no explanation was given why it should be done now. Divisions in action up to Friday night were identified as the 4th and 6th Armored and the 5th, 26th, 65th, 80th and 90th and 95th Infantry.

The German Command cautiously avoided throwing in large numbers of troops into counterattacks

00475

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

November 3, 1944  
10 p.m.

5 War By [unclear] - [unclear]  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

STA Distribution of text reading only by special arrangement.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
NOV 4 1944  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY

LONDON

9218

The following for Mann is WRB 20.

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

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

STETTINIUS  
ACTING  
(ULW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
11/3/44

BC

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

000476

# 9218-11/3

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, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,  
Lester, Mannon, McCormack, Files

*JH*  
Cleared with Files  
FH:hd 11/2/44

000477

Poland

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 lost fight for freedom is being staged by German executioners at Oswiecim, the notorious concentration camp 30 miles west of Krakow.

Reports received from underground channels today said the first Polish civilians evacuated from Warsaw after the insurrection there was ended reached Oswiecim 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 60 capable of physical labor were sent on to Germany for slave gang 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 400,000

Jews. These were exterminated during the years of German occupation.

When fighting broke out inside Warsaw August 1, the Germans removed up to 250,000 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, shellings, fire, famine and epidemics.

About 250,000 still were alive when the Germans compelled capitulation of the liberation forces.

The Poles at Pruszkow and those removed from the ruins of the capital this month were divided into two groups, those fit for labor in Germany and those not.

At Oswiecim, meanwhile, the German SS (Elite Corps) management

began on October 7 "making room" for vast numbers of new inmates. This camp held an estimated 168,000 prisoners, 100,000 of whom were Poles. About 13,000 Poles were killed as a kind of "practice" for truly large-scale slaughter as soon as the Warsaw survivors began to pour in.

000478

*Poland*

# New York ~~World~~ 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 535 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.

000479

*Calvin*

*2 (over) Ref BE  
Pelle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: October 19, 1944  
NUMBER: 4263

**CONTROL COPY**

For WRB 93.

See 2041 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 power.

JOHNSON

DCR:MLG *MLG*  
10-20-44

NOV 11 1944  
RECEIVED

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

000480

# New York ~~World~~ Telegram

OCT 17 1944

## Polish Jews Seek Aid

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.

000481

# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM            In reply refer  
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471 to No. 259

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W Hon. John W. Pehle  
War Refugee Board  
MEXICO CITY           Treasury Building  
Sonora 1744            Washington, D. C.

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

October 16, 1944

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, Buchenwalde 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 herewith 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,

*A. Leon Kubowitzki*  
A. Leon Kubowitzki  
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

100482

In reply refer  
to No.126

July 1, 1944

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 Kubowitzki  
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:fh

P.S. I attach a report, "Three Years in Oswiecim Hell," published by the Polish Jewish Observer on June 16.

100483

October 1, 1944

In reply refer  
to: No. 246

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 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.

Conferred again matter deathcamps with Soviet Embassy which promised favorable action. Concerning Anglo-American action War Department here informed fully General Wilson Allied Mediterranean Commander. Urge our friends take up matter British War Office. Inform Easternman Reiss."

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:fh

000484

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DMH-709  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

Stockholm  
Dated October 16, 1944  
Rec'd 4:20 p.m.

*To War Ref Sect  
G.M. Pehle*

*Files*

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 WRB) 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

100485

Ref 24

7- War  
Ref Bd  
Dated October 14, 1944  
Rec'd. 8:38 p.m.  
(Mr. Cable)

HM-478  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [redacted] (W)

Stockholm

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
OCT 16 1944

Secretary of State  
Washington

4185, October 14, 9 a.m.

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

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 state-  
ment in the United States along the line of the referencē  
telegram and similar to the recent public statements  
put out in the United States with respect to other pro-  
spective acts of liquidation by the Germans of persons  
in their concentration camps.

JOHNSON

WJF  
WMB

**CONTROL COPY**

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

100486

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

GSS-341  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (U)

Lisbon  
Dated October 14,  
Rec'd 1:21 p.m.

*War Ref*  
*Ad*  
*(Mr. Lehle)*

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

3149, October 14

This WRB 221

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

Taking steps through available channels convey sub-  
stance your telegram 2701, October 10, to German authori-  
ties Lisbon. Will report result later.

NORWEB

HJP

**CONTROL COPY**

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

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

000487

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

October 12, 1944

6 P.m.

*J. Ward R. B. Peple*

AMPOLAD

CASERTA 238

The cable below for Kirk and Ackermann is WRB 53.

The substance of following message has been sent to Bern as Department's 3451 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.

For security reasons the text of this message must be classified as CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

CONTROL COPY

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS OCT 14 1944

000488

-2-#238, October 12, 6 p.m. to Caserta.

immediately after you learn of them, would be appreciated.

HULL  
(CIW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
10/10/44

SE

CE

RECORDED  
INDEXED

000489

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR KIRK, AMPOLAD, CASERTA, AND ADENHARMANN

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 Natzwi. 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 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

LSLesser:tmh 10-9-44 L.S.L.

000490

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Distribution of this reading only by special arrangement.

OUTGOING TELEGRAM  
October 11, 1944  
Midnight

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS  
Swar Ref. Bd  
Mr. Peltz

ALLEGATION

STOCKHOLM  
2041 X

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

The cable below for Johnson and Olsen is WAB 108.

The substance of following message has been sent to Bern as Department's 2481 of October 7:

QUOTE Information received by Department indicates that Jews in three concentration camps of Birkenau, Nauen and Oswiecim have been ordered to ~~be~~ 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. 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, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

000491

-8-#2041, October 11, Midnight, to Stockholm.

Immediately after you learn of them, would be appreciated.

MILL.  
(222)

WRB:MMV:KG  
10/10/46

NOE

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 1946

100492

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT STOCKHOLM AND OLSEN

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 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 WEB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. ~~105~~

11:00 a.m.  
October 10, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,  
Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files  
L.L. Lesser: tah 10-9-44 L.S.R.

100493

Distribution of this  
only by Special  
Agent. (WORKING)  
**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**OUTGOING TELEGRAM**

War Ref 120  
**DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS**

1944 OCT 12 PM 12 16

AMEMBASSY

October 10, 1944

LISBON  
2701X

6 p.m.

The cable below for Norweb and Dexter is WRB 108.

The substance of following message has been sent to Bern as Department's 2461 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 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.

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, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 8, 1972

**CONTROL COPY**

000494

--E--//2701, October 10, 3 p.m. to London.

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

HULL  
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
10/10/44

WE

000495

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR NORWEG AT LISBON AND DEXTER

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 Nacuss. 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, Mannon, McCormack, Files

LSLesser:tmh 10-9-44

L.S.L.

100496

DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DEPARTMENT only by (Circular) OF arrangement. (Check TV) STATE

**OUTGOING TELEGRAM**

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

1944 OCT 12 PM 12:14  
October 10, 1944

AMEMBASSY

ANKARA

070X

The cable below for Steinhardt and Katski is WRB 116.

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, 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

**CONTROL COPY**

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

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

000497

-2- 373, October 10, 6 p.m. to Arizona.

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

WELL  
(RMV)

WRE:MMV:KG  
10/10/44

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 1944  
RECEIVED

000498

**CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT AT ANKARA AND KATKI**

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 Nacuss. 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

LSLesser:tmh 10-9-44 *L.S.L.*

000499

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Distribution of true copy by special arrangement.

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

1944 OCT 12 October 10, 1944  
Midnight

*W. H. K. B. (Mr. Peble)*

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON  
8347 X

The cable below is WRB 10.

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver, the following message to Dr. Ignacy Schwyzbart, 45 Queens Court, Queensway, London:

QUOTE Conferred again matter deathcamps with Soviet Embassy which promised favorable action. Concerning Anglo-American action War Department here informed fully General Wilson Allied Mediterranean Commander. Urge our friends take up matter British War Office. Inform Easternman Reiss. Signed A. Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress.  
UNQUOTE

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

*paraphrase of*

HULL  
(RM)

CONTROL COPY

WRB:MMV:OMH  
10/10/44

AC

EE

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

100500

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, 45 Queens Court, Queensway, London:

QUOTE Conferred again matter deathcamps with Soviet Embassy which promised favorable action. Concerning Anglo-American action War Department here informed fully General Wilson Allied Mediterranean Commander. Urge our friends take up matter British War Office. Inform Easternman Reiss. Signed A. Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LONDON 10

10:00 a.m.  
October 7, 1944

LSLesser:tsb 10-3-44

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

000501

land  
8347-10/10

**CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON**

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, 45 Queens Court, Queensway, London:

**QUOTE** Conferred again matter deathcamps with Soviet Embassy which promised favorable action. Concerning Anglo-American action War Department here informed fully General Wilson Allied Mediterranean Commander. Urge our friends take up matter British War Office. Inform Eastern Reins. Signed A. Leon Kubowitaki, World Jewish Congress. **UNQUOTE**

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LONDON 10

*The McCormack advised 10/11/44 cable  
Respatched by State Oct 10 as no. 8347*

*Copy sent  
WTC 10/18/44*

10:00 a.m.  
October 7, 1944

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

LSL:essert:tnh 10-8-44

*L.S.L.*

100502

COPY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
Washington 25, D.C.

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, 1834 Broadway, New York 23, New York.

Signed J. W. PEHLE

Attachments.

100503

**WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS**  
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM            In reply refer  
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471 to: No. 246

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

October 1, 1944

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 Matland Wilson on the steps which could 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.

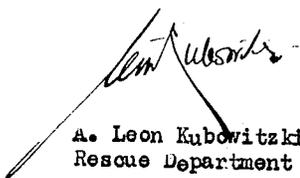
I would be obliged to you for transmitting to Dr. Schwartzbart the following message through the facilities of the State Department:

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

Conferred again matter deathcamps with Soviet Embassy which promised favorable action. Concerning Anglo-American action War Department here informed fully General Wilson Allied Mediterranean Commander. Urge our friends take up matter British War Office. Inform Easterman Reiss.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Sincerely yours



A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

000505

*2 sent by cable*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: October 10, 1944  
NUMBER: 3475X

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

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

QUOTE CABLED YOU 428, 816 SWISS FRANCS FOR RESCUE WORK. RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM GRIFFEL IN WHICH HE REQUESTS YOUR FINANCIAL AID. LEAVING SHROTLY 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 BROTINGEN 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. 204

RECEIVED

HULL

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

8 1972

100506

RECEIVED  
DEPT  
OCT 10 1944  
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

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

QUOTE CABLED YOU 428, 816 SWISS FRANCS FOR RESCUE WORK. RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM GRIFFEL IN WHICH HE REQUESTS YOUR FINANCIAL AID LEAVING SHORTLY FOR ROMANIA 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 IMMINENT DANGER EXTERMINATION STOP VITALLY NECESSARY ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE CONTACTS TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH OSWIECIM AS WELL AS KROTINGEN AND OTHER CONCENTRATION CAMPS TO ARRANGE FOR RELEASE OF THOSE HELD IN THESE CAMPS STOP 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. 204

9:00 a.m.  
October 6, 1944

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

*Copy sent Vaad Hahatzala 10/5/44*  
FH:hd 10/4/44

*cleared with Schoen - 10/4*

*JH*

000507

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET  
(ROOM 819)  
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.  
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

September 28, 1944

MESSAGE TO ISAAC STERNBUCH, ST. GALLEN, SWITZERLAND  
THROUGH AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN

-----

CABLED YOU 428, 816 SWISS FRANCS FOR RESCUE WORK. RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM GRIFFEL 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 OSWIECIN POLAND IN IMMINENT DANGER EXTERMINATION STOP VITALLY NECESSARY ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH ~~GESTAPO~~ AGENTS IN THIS ~~AREA~~ <sup>as well as</sup> KROTINGEN AND OTHER CONCENTRATION CAMPS ~~AND DEAL DIRECTLY FOR THE RANSOM~~ <sup>to arrange for release</sup> OF THOSE HELD IN THESE CAMPS STOP 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

*directly with*

*appropriate*

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

RABBIS ARON KOTLER  
ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values  
(Yesbiwoth, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the  
V a a d H a h a t z a l a program is especially needed.

000508

Poland

October 10, 1944

Dear Sirs:

The following message for Messrs. Baerwald and Schwartz from Dr. Magnes 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 Segall, 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

000509

- 2 -

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,  
New York 16, New York.

RW ✓  
hd 10/10/44

000510

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BAS-989

Jerusalem

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

Dated October 6, 1944

Rec'd 9:53 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
OCT 7 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

144, 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

*Message sent  
10/10/44*

CONTROL COPY

000511

-2- #144, October 6, Noon from Jerusalem

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.

Segall 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

EEC

100512

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

HR

PLAIN

October 7, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
OCT 9 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

AMERICAN,

S.W.

3461, Seventh

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

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 Hitler, 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.

Kindly report any developments in the situation as soon as they become known to you.

HULL  
(AMB)

A-B: AAB: GLS

WRE

**CONTROL COPY**

000513

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

*7 - Was Ref Bd*

MP  
Eligible for transmission only by special arrangement.

October 5, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
OCT 7 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*(Mr. Pehle)*

EMBASSY

LONDON

8148 X

The cable below for Mann is GRB 9.

Proposal referred to in your no. 8132 of September 29 has been presented again to War Department for its consideration.

HULL  
(GLW)

**CONTROL COPY**

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

LRB:MMV:RG  
10/5/44

EC

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

000514

CABLE TO WIRANT, LONDON, FOR INFO FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Proposal referred to in your no. 8133 of  
September 29 has been presented again to War Department  
for its consideration.

THIS IS WIRE 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, Piles

FH:lab 10/4/44

000515

Poland

*2 - War Ref Bd (Mrs. P. H. H.)*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Consulate General, Jerusalem  
DATED: October 5, 1944  
NUMBER: 151  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

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

QUOTE Your 160 JDC working with all competent authorities for permission send its own representative liberated areas Poland but meanwhile one of our representatives included in proposed UNRRA mission to proceed these 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

NOV 10 1944

RECEIVED  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON D.C.

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

CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, JERUSALEM, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Judah Magnes from E. A.

Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

QUOTE YOUR 160 JDC WORKING WITH ALL COMPETENT AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION SEND ITS OWN REPRESENTATIVE LIBERATED AREAS POLAND BUT MEANWHILE ONE OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDED IN PROPOSED UNRRA 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 FIVE WE HAVE ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE PAYMENT AND MATTER NOW IN HANDS BRITISH TREASURY FOR DIRECT REPAYMENT TO CLAIMANTS 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

RDruvy 10/2/44

74 ✓

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 Zwiasek Demokratow Polskich W. Swajcarji, 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 medico 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 Kosciussko Society, for coordination and financial assistance."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

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

RD  
RDruy 10/5/44

000518

date of October 3, 1944  
is intended for you  
the following  
Dear Mr. Cahill:

STATE DEPARTMENT INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BJR - 808  
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (W)

Lisbon  
Dated October 3, 1944  
Rec'd 3:49 p.m.

*W. K. P. (Pable)*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

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

3048, October 3, 1 p.m.

Following received for Robert Dexter from Moelfield, 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 Zwiazek Demokratow Polskich W. Szwaicjarji, 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

OCT 3 1944  
RECEIVED  
this will

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

CONTROL COPY

*Message sent 10/5/44 R.S.*

000519

-2- #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."

NORWEB

DU

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 1947  
NEW YORK  
RECORD

000520

*Polish*

3 *War Refugee Board (War)*

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AIR MAIL

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
London, September 30, 1944

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
No. 18322

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

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

Sir:

1/ 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.

100521

Enclosure No. 1, . . . to despatch No. 18322 of, 9-30-44.

from the Embassy at London, England.

OFFICE OF DR. I. SCHWARZBART  
45, Queens Court,  
Queensway, London, W.2.  
Phone: BAYwater 0855.

August 23rd, 1944.

TRANSLATION OF A REPORT OF

THE JEWISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN WARSAW,

Dated May 24th, 1944.

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

L o n d o n .

Dear Friends,

We received your letters of February 15, 17th and 18th as well as the cables from Anzelm 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 car to the Nadbuzanski 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

100522

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 larger 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 Poale 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 sought 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

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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 white 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 dregs of the population. During the last weeks there perished in this way the professor of chemistry of the Warsaw University, M. Centnerszwer; 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 1943 and January 1944, some tens of thousands of people were deported from Lodz to meet their death. In the course of the last weeks some thousands of people have been deported from Lodz to the camps in Skarzyski, Kielce and Gzestochow. 80,000 Jews remain yet at the present in Lodz. Only a part of them 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 Lwow 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 Lwow and Cracow. The situation of the Jews in Lwow 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 daring 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

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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 Pustkow, 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 Skarzysko 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 Skarzysko, there are big camps in Starachowice /7000/, Plonki /3000/, Blizyna /2000/, Gory Swietoskrzyskie /1000/. Besides those there are also camps in Radom /town/, Kielce, Piotrkow, and Czestochow 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 /3000/, 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 Drohobycz and Boryslaw: 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 Biala 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 Sosnowiec /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 Zamosc 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

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mines of Krolewska Huta. A few thousands also are employed in public works near Myslowice. And some thousands from Holland, Bulgaria, and Hungary are in the camps of Grzebinia, near 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 crisis. 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, /after the liquidation of the Ghetto in Warsaw/, that is to say, 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

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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 55 localities was one of the most cynical tricks of the Hitlerites, and a trap. All these new Ghettos 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, were 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". 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 there 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 Suedamerikaner. Have you any information about those deported to Oswiecim and to the camp near Dresden? Have you information about Perle, Buksbaum and others? What is the situation in Vittel? Have you information from Iochak Kacemelson? Leave no stone unturned to save them! Rouse 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

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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 Bundist 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 valorous 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 Gt. Britain 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 no 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 Unterstuetzungsstelle" and Weichert. The activities of Weichert provoked in us, even before the liquidations started, the utmost abhorrence. He

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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 Self-help 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 "Gleichschaltung" of the previous Jewish Central Welfare Organisations, such as "Centos", "Toz" 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 Unterstuetzungestelle /"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.G., 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.

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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. Pekar that his daughter is alive and under our protection; she is receiving a fixed subsidy. Mrs. Folman is no longer alive. Dr. M. Brandstaster also is dead. Inform the editor Chaim Finkelstein 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.

Cable to us 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.

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

Warsaw, May 24th 1944.

Jewish National Committee  
(signed by five members).

000530

*7. Wagon Ref 13d  
(M. D. ...)*

KD-693

London

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████████-W)

Dated September 29, 1944

Rec'd 3:45 p.m.

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

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
SEP 30 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

X  
8133, September 29, 5 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM MANN.

In conversations with members of Polish Government  
and groups interested in rescue work they report that  
they have reliable information from the Polish under-  
ground to the effect that the Germans are increasing  
their extermination activities in all Polish concen-  
tration 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 airmail. I have pointed out that this

RECEIVED  
SEP 30 1944

has been

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

000531

-2- #8133, September 29, 5 p.m., from London

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

000532

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)

000533

SEP 28 1944

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,

RECEIVED

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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

Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle

Copy to Miss Fadel

JW

FH:hd 9/27/44

000534

MISS HOBEL

Mr. Lesser

Mr. Friedman

Mr. Stewart

Miss Hobel

Mr. DuBois

Mr. Luxford

Mrs. Taylor

Please prepare appropriate reply  
for my signature.

JWP

J. W. Pahle

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

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PXXECW NEWYORK NY SEP 26 1944 119P

HON HENRY MORGENTHAU JR  
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

1944 SEP 26 PM 2

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT POLISH UNDERGROUND SENT AN URGENT HEARTRENDING SOS MESSAGE TO POLISH GOVERNMENT STATING THAT 45000 CIVILIAN PRISONERS IN OSWIECIN 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.

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100536

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*3 war P/B  
Pelle*

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 23, 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.

**CONTROL COPY**

HARRIMAN

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DCR:VAG 9/28/44

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

000537

WA 46 108 1 EXTRA

NFW NEWYORK NY SEPT 26 1944 417P

JOHN W PEHLE

1944 SEP 26 PM 5 11

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

I AM MAKING A PESONAL 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 WHOLESAL MURDER IS TO BE  
PERPETRATED. IMMEDIATE <sup>EP</sup>STEPS IMPERATIVE AND I WOULD SUGGEST  
TO HAVE GENERAL EISENHOWER ISSUE SUCH A <sup>W</sup>ARNING. WOULD  
APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU

JOSEPH M POSKAUER PRESIDENT AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE.

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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 OSWIECIN CONCENTRATION CAMP IN IMMINENT DANGER OF BEING EXTERMINATED. 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.

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PXXJLC NEWYORK NY SEPT 26 1944 134P

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

1944 SEP 26 PM 2 37

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 GENERAL 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 TAKEN FORTHCOMING 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.

236PM

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100540

*Travels in  
Hull*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

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**

SEP 25 11 08

WASHINGTON D C  
RECEIVED

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

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, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

*BA. 252*  
BAKzin:LSLesser:ar 9/16/44

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

MS-489

1944 SEP 23 AM 10 10

PLAIN

Bern

Dated September 22, 1944

Rec'd 5:50 p.m.

*2 - Way (Ref  
Pd (Mr  
Bible)*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
COMMUNICATIONS  
(LANSON)

**CONTROL COPY**

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

X  
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

LMS

~~RESTRICTED~~

000543

SEP 20 1944

**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 investigation 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 German "gas" wagons.

The committee declared that in another camp six miles outside Minsk 6,500 persons were killed and their bodies burned, while 10,000 were shot in trenches at a third point.

"Altogether the Hitlerites killed 300,000 Soviet citizens in Minsk and its suburbs," the official report said.

000544

*Mr. Pehle*

WU7 87 SER PD

PXXECW NEWYORK NY SEP 17 1944

SEP 18 AM 8 37

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 DECIDEDLY MORE EFFECTIVE THAN  
 PREVIOUSLY ISSUED GENERAL WARNINGS STOP WARNING SHOULD  
 EMPHASIZE THAT LEADING FIGURES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES  
 WOULD BE HELD STRICTLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR ANY VIOLATIONS OF  
 INTERNATIONAL LAW AND FOR ANY AND ALL BESTIALITIES AND  
 ATROCITIES PERPETRATED

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE RABBI ABRAHAM  
KALMANOWITZ.

835 AM SEP 18 1944.

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NND NEWYORK NY SEP 17 1944 229P

JOHN PEHLE

WAR REFUGEE BOARD US TREASURY BLDG

044 SEP 18 AM 8 35

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 MOMENT THE ALLIED ARMIES ARE PIERCING THE SIEGRFRIED 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 THAT WAS ANY PREVIOUS GENERAL WARNING AT FORMER 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.

831 AM SEP 18 1944.

TELEGRAPH TREASURY TELEGRAPH

000546

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AIR MAIL

AMERICAN EMBASSY

~~RECEIVED~~  
London, September 16, 1944.

No. 18066

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

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

Sir:

1/  
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 effect 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/

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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 unfortunates.

Such refugee groups also emphasize that our overseas broadcasts along the lines described in the above-mentioned paragraph should be increased. Such can not 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 may care to explore with the OWI in Washington and New York 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 unfortunates protection and shelter.

Item No. 3. The necessity in Poland for food, medical supplies, vitamins, etc., can not 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.

SHE/JHM/dm

Enclosure No. . . . to despatch No. 18066 of 16-44.  
from the Embassy at London, England.

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.

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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/

ghettoes were almost left to themselves. Under-nourished, 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.

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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

AMT-999 1944 SEP 2 AM 9 55  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
agency. (██████████)

London

Dated September 1, 1944

Rec'd 5:36 p.m.

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 internees 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.

WINANT

LMS

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

*9/9/44*  
*Warson read*  
*Kupper's report*  
*to Dept. with*  
*some other*  
*info. sent*  
*to Dept.*

**CONTROL COPY**

100552

*Advised*

# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 174-4

August 29, 1944

In reply refer  
to: No. 225

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 Mikolajczyk.

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

*Leon Kubowitzki*  
A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:ef  
Enc.

100553

(Translation)

Dr. I. Schwarzbart  
45, Queens Court,  
Queens way, London, W2

27th June 1944

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.

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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 wearied 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 Gt. Britain, the U.S.A. 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 Oswiecim.

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.

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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 unremittently 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. Schwarzbart

#731 -8/29/44-fh

100556

INCOMING TELEGRAM

HIS-385

PLAIN

Geneva

Dated August 26, 1944

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

Secretary of state,

Washington.

299, Twenty-sixth

FOR AMCROSS 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 pruszkow and inquires as to possibility distributing certain quantity SFP ex-shipments 74 75 to these persons. Intercross believes could have distribution supervised by delegate."

SQUIRE

RR

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodcl, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

000557

*Polen*

1

# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

*Sept. 7  
May 8*

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TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

August 24, 1944

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 Szwarcbart, 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. Szwarcbart'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

*Leon Kubowitzki*  
A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

000558

*Poland*

# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

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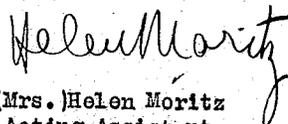
August 18, 1944

Mr. I. M. Weinstein  
War Refugee Board  
253 Broadway  
Room 805  
New York City

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Mr. Grossmann asked me to send you a copy of the letter which Dr. Kubowitzki 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

HM:lm

100559

August 9, 1944

in reply refer  
to: No. 211

Hon. 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 Mieschow are reported to have broken through the Nazi military cordon sanitaire and joined their Polish underground comrades 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 zloti for each hidden Jew and one hundred zloti for each Jewish guerrilla delivered to him. Walls and billboards all over Poland were covered on June 20 with the award announcement and extreme Endeks immediately swung into action as "stool pigeons" for the Nazi secret police, according to a report submitted by Jacob Kasliansky and David Rotstein representing the Jewish guerrillas of Poland, to Soviet-Jewish Colonel Volodia Shapiro, who is now a military liaison officer with the Polish Committee of National Liberation with headquarters in Cracow, liberated Poland.

May I suggest that the attention of the Polish Government be called to this most serious accusation and that it be

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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 Rubenstam  
Head, Rescue Department

*World Jewish Congress*

ALR:dl

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
Research and Analysis Branch

R & A No. 2584

AN ESTIMATE OF NON-JEWISH REFUGEES FROM POLAND  
IN GREAT BRITAIN, INDIA, MEXICO, AND SWITZERLAND

Description

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

23 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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AN ESTIMATE OF NON-JEWISH REFUGEES FROM POLAND  
IN IRAN, PALESTINE, INDIA, MEXICO, AND SWITZERLAND

I. IRAN

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, 37,753 Polish civilians had left for Iran, according to the American Red Cross.<sup>1</sup> 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 8 September 1942 to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, by a special representative in Teheran, only 1,500 Jews were officially registered among the 25,760 Polish refugees who had arrived in Iran by 3 September 1942. This number does not include those who had arrived -- under their own or an assumed name -- as 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 1,800. (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. Our Tribune,<sup>2</sup> New York,

1. Nearly the same number (37,756) has been given by Andrey Y. Vischinsky, Vice Foreign Commissar of the USSR, in his statement of 7 May 1943.

2. English edition of a Polish newspaper published in New York.

29 January 1944). 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 1942, 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, 2,500 persons were to be evacuated to India and 4,000 to Mexico).

At the beginning of 1944, the Teheran 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, 25 February 1944). However, this evacuation order was not wholly carried out.

On 13 July 1944, Mr. Wladislaw Ilciewicz, 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 13 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, 1,518 Polish Refugees (including 1,180 Polish Boy Scouts) had been evacuated 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 1,518 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 Wilno via Siberia, Japan, China, and Burma; another group came from the west via Bucharest, Istanbul, and Bagdad. Almost all of them have within a comparatively short time found suitable employment and 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 composed 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) shelters 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 Banasinsky, the general resettlement scheme provides for 11,000 Poles evacuated from the USSR, to be settled in India. (The Polish Review, 25 January 1944.)

A report of the American Red Cross of 5 March 1943 speaks of 3,500 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.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Ilcewicz 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, 18 August 1943). In December 1943, the

1. The same figure was given by Mrs. Banasinsky.

~~RESTRICTED~~

Representation of Polish Jewry stated that "765 additional Polish refugees were recently brought to Leon." These refugees came from the Far East and from Iran; among them were only 3 Jews. Altogether, only 26 Jews from Poland are reported to be in Mexico, according to a statement by Mr. Ilya DiJour, Executive Secretary of the Mas-Ica Emigration Association (13 July 1944). According to Mr. Ilcevicz, 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 3,350, 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 internees. It can be assumed that the overwhelming majority of these civilian refugees are Polish Jews. Mr. Ilcevicz 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:

Iran	3,000 - 4,000
Palestine	1,500 - 1,600
India	3,600 (including 700 children permanently settled)
Mexico	1,400
Switzerland	a few hundred

~~RESTRICTED~~

6/1/44

Dear John:

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

*Uwe*

100569

*Russ Hobel*

1712

INCOMING CABLE  
LONDON

REC'D JUNE 1, 1944  
STENCILLED JUNE 1, 1944

*Russ Hobel*  
*June 1, 1944*  
*1712*

NAAL59 INTL VIA DLY-LONDON 151 1/52 29

NLT AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE  
NEW YORK N.Y.

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 POSSIBLE  
ADDRESS POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL STRATTON HOUSE LONDON W 1 stop  
MATTER STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DR. EMANUEL SCHERER  
MEMBER POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL

ir

100570

*Belmont*

*Spensler*

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MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 1744

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 25, 1944

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 OSWIECIM SINCE MIDDLE OF MAY 1944 THIRTEEN TRAINS A DAY CONSISTING OF 40 WAGONS WITH JEWS. THEY ARE GASED IN TWO CHAMBERS -- A THOUSAND PEOPLE AT A TIME. THEY ARE BURNED IN FOUR CREMATORIES AND AT THE STAKE. THE JEWS BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO BE EXCHANGED FOR GERMAN PRISONERS. TWO THOUSAND JEWS WERE DEPORTED TO GLEWIC (GLEWITZ) FROM WHERE THEY WRITE OPTIMISTIC LETTERS TO HUNGARY. ON THE PLATFORM IN OSWIECIM THERE ARE A HEAP OF VALISES MEASURING 300 METERS IN LENGTH 5 METERS IN HEIGHT 200 METERS IN WIDTH."

Sincerely yours,

*A. Leon Kubowitzki*  
A. Leon Kubowitzki  
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg