

Portugal

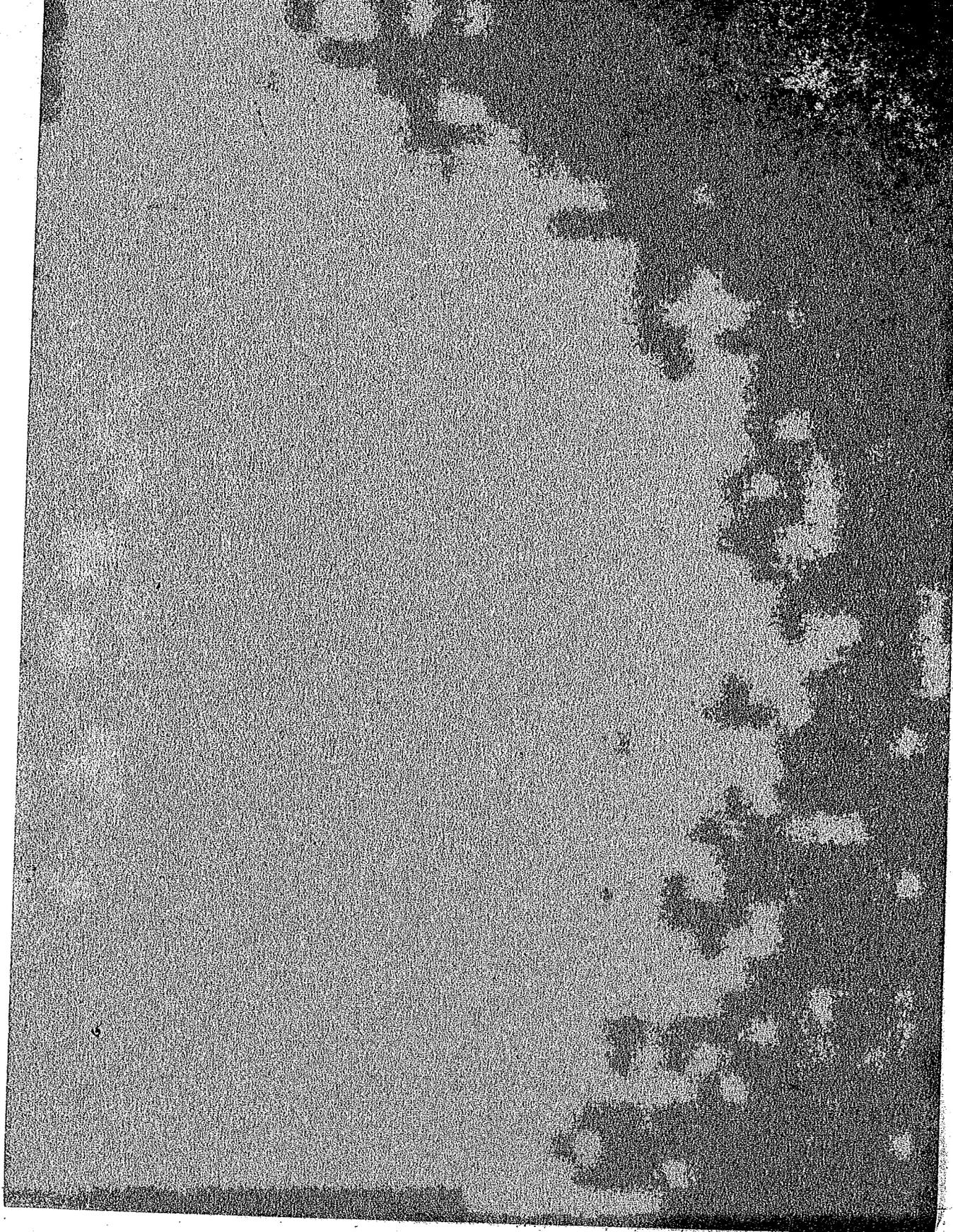
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000690

1. GENERAL

2. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS IN PROGRAM

000691



000692

AUG 8 1944

Dear Dr. Dexter:

I am sending you herewith the third supplement for "War Refugee Board - Projects and Documents".

Included with the material is a set of instructions indicating the order in which the new material is to be inserted and which of the old material is to be deleted.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Robert C. Dexter,  
Special Representative of  
the War Refugee Board,  
United States Legation,  
Lisbon, Portugal.

Enclosures.

EBT RBHutchison:agr 8-5-44 JJA -

000693

AIRMAIL

No. 694

CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Portugal*

**RESTRICTED**

Lisbon, July 5, 1944

~~RESTRICTED~~

Subject: Provision of Supplies by War Refugee Board for Refugees in Portugal

*3 WRB  
3 War Refugee Board  
(Chas)  
1 War (Mr. [unclear])*

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State  
Washington



Sir:

I have the honor to report to the Department certain information that has come to this Embassy through the British Embassy in Lisbon regarding the provision of supplies for the consumption of refugees in Portugal, which, it is suggested, are to be made by the War Refugee Board.

Sometime ago the British Embassy reported that they had received word from London to the effect that the War Refugee Board contemplated sending certain supplies to Portugal to be used for the provisioning of refugees here and more particularly to encourage the Portuguese to receive additional refugees. The British Embassy inquired if this Embassy had any information on this point to which the reply was negative. The British then asked London for further instructions. From the information we received it was apparent that the British authorities concerned had given their consent.

In a recent weekly bulletin, published by the War Refugee Board, covering news of its activities for the week of June 5th to 10th, on Page 5 there is an item Relief through the Blockade to Cooperating Neutrals which apparently refers to this matter. This only arrived a day or two ago and is the only information which this Embassy has received.

The British Embassy received recently a note from London in which the Foreign Office expressed its concern over the possible incursion into Portugal and Spain of large numbers of refugees from France following the development of a second front. The Foreign Office suggested that plans should be made by both the British and American authorities to meet such a possible contingency. In this connection it was suggested that Portugal be supplied with food and medical supplies by the War Refugee Board, if the information which the British have, and the validity of which is at least indicated in the bulletin referred to, is correct.

Of course no one knows whether there will be such an influx of refugees but if it should occur, it might well be that considerable amounts of food and medical supplies over

and....

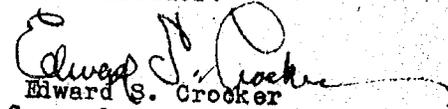
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and above those obtainable in the peninsula will be necessary and for this purpose, having such supplies available would be exceedingly useful. Both the British and American authorities agreed that such supplies should be shipped to this Embassy and their distribution should be made by the Embassy under the direction of the representative of the War Refugee Board.

In case the influx does not materialize, these supplies, which would be United States Government property, could then be turned over to the UNRRA or some other agency for use in relieving distress in the liberated areas. The representative of the War Refugee Board, who was present at this conference with the British, agreed to transmit this proposal to the Department with the request that if no objection be perceived, it be transmitted by them to the War Refugee Board for their comments and for such action as they care to take.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

  
Edward S. Crocker  
Counselor of Embassy

RCD:ew

JUL 4 1944

Dear Dr. Dexter:

I am sending you herewith the second supplement for "War Refugee Board - Projects and Documents".

Included with the material is a set of instructions indicating the order in which the new material is to be inserted and which of the old material is to be deleted.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Robert C. Dexter,  
Special Representative of  
the War Refugee Board,  
United States Legation,  
Lisbon, Portugal.

Enclosures.

EBT

PH

BBHutchison:agr 7-1-44

JWS

000696

JUN 2 1944

Dear Dr. Dexter:

I am sending you herewith supplemental material for the volume of War Refugee Board projects and documents recently forwarded to you. The accompanying instruction sheet indicates the order in which the new material is to be inserted and which of the old material is to be deleted.

I am also sending, under separate cover, an additional binder with index tabs for the new headings.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Robert C. Dexter,  
Special Representative of the  
War Refugee Board,  
United States Legation,  
Lisbon, Portugal.

Attachment.

EBT EB Towler:agr 6-1-44

OK -

000697

# CROSS-REFERENCE

.....PORTUGAL.....  
(Name of Applicant)

.....  
(Application Number)

FOR LET. DICTATED 5/26/44 FROM J.W.PEHLE TO DR. ROBERT C. DEXTER RE  
DISPUTE BETWEEN THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS AND JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

SEE: COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS: NEUTRAL EUROPEAN (PORTUGAL)

000698

War Ref Bd  
(Mr. Pell)  
copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 12, 1944  
NUMBER: 1426  
x

CONTROL COPY

ATTENTION OF RABBI STEPHEN WISE FROM WEISSMAN. ✓

WRB no. 30.  
x

Under auspices of Congress, seventy young men crossed the French border into Spain on the eleventh of May.

NORWEB

Following is censorship's negative response to Department's request for release of this message to Rabbi Stephen Wise.

"May be passed with flwg memo to State QUOTE - The above information is released by the Chief Cable Censor as - a secret government communication and can only be disseminated - as such to officials of WRB X in no case shall this information be disseminated to private individuals without express consent - of the Chief Cable Censor X UNQUOTE".

WASHINGTON D.C.  
NAVY DELOUCE BOYD  
RECEIVED

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

000699

*Boyle*

AIR MAIL  
No. 489  
X

*WRT  
DRC*

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**CONTROL COPY**

Lisbon, May 9, 1944

Subject: Transmitting Memorandum to  
War Refugee Board

*3 W R B  
3 War Refugee Board  
(Lias)  
1 War (Mr Bundy)  
g*

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a memorandum from Robert C. Dexter, Lisbon representative of the War Refugee Board, regarding the use of American funds by non-American agencies in Portugal.

Provided the Department perceives no objection, it would be appreciated if this memorandum would be forwarded to John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

*Edward S. Crocker*  
Edward S. Crocker  
Counselor of Embassy

84042  
16073

Enclosure:  
Memorandum.

300  
RCD:map

16073

*Cable Man*

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. John W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board

From: Robert C. Dexter  
Lisbon Representative  
War Refugee Board

A matter has come to the attention of the Embassy in Lisbon which we are referring to you for advice and instructions. It is not clear whether it concerns the Treasury or the War Refugee Board, but in any event there is nothing that can be done here unless we have directives from Washington.

The situation is briefly as follows: As we understand it, various national relief agencies which are the beneficiaries of the national war fund in the United States receive from the Treasury licenses to remit considerable sums of money to Britain. The Treasury's authority over the money, we assume, ceases with the issue of the licenses and its transmission to England.

Some of these agencies thereupon, so we are given to understand, transmit a part of this money at least to their representatives here, whether they be the Polish Red Cross, the Belgian Red Cross, or other, and the actual spending of the money is carried on here in Portugal, or at least from here.

It has been reported to us that some of this spending may not be as carefully done as the Treasury presumably would like, and it has been suggested that it might not be a bad idea if someone here, either the Financial Attaché or the representative of the War Refugee Board, had some indication as to the amounts sent to Portugal and had some authority to check on the way in which the money was spent. The purpose of this would be two-fold: first, to safeguard the original American donors; and second, and more important, to see that none of these funds got into the wrong hands ultimately.

It may be that there is nothing that can be done about it, but we are presenting the situation for such comments and directives as you may care to give.

RCD/mvd

APR 27 1944

Dear Dr. Dexter:

We are forwarding to you by special pouch a volume that has been made up recently for use by the Staff of the War Refugee Board.

This volume, our so-called "bible", is sent primarily to afford you background rather than as an aid in meeting specific problems that you may have to handle. It is not complete nor is it entirely up to date and you will receive from time to time supplemental material and revisions. It should serve to give you something of the feel of what we are trying to do.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*Copy to: Stuard Stewart*

WStewart:dm 4/22/44  
dw Tr. S.

000702

AIRMAIL

No. 431

3 - War Refugee Board  
(Trans)

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**CONTROL COPY**

Lisbon, April 25, 1944

Subject: Transmitting Memorandum to War Refugee Board  
on Repatriation of Refugees After the War

3 WRB  
3 War Refugee Board  
(Trans)  
1 War (Mr. Bundy)  
4/25

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a memorandum prepared by Dr. Robert C. Dexter, Special Attache to the Embassy for refugee matters, regarding repatriation of refugees after the war. Provided the Department perceives no objection, it would be appreciated if the memorandum would be forwarded to the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

*Edward S. Crocker*  
Edward S. Crocker  
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures: 4

Memorandum

300  
RCD/mvd

84048 REFUGEE 5958

P/BMB

Enclosure to despatch no. 431 dated April 25, 1944,  
from the Embassy at Lisbon.

Memorandum to the War Refugee Board  
from Robert C. Dexter

On page 3, paragraph headed War Refugees, War Radio Bulletin no. 198, there is a sentence to the effect that UNRRA will handle repatriation of refugees to their own country after the war. The question immediately arises here whether this repatriation includes the transportation of Jewish refugees, children and adults, to Palestine. This is not technically repatriation, but it is quite clear that such individuals, the children particularly, will not return to their country of their origin. If UNRRA should include these people in their repatriation, just what is the mechanism by which arrangements may be made and funds secured? If UNRRA should not include them, the arrangements will have to be made here from the Palestine Office or HICEM. We should appreciate advice on this point.

RCD/mvd

APR 20 1944

Dear Dr. Dexter:

I am enclosing copies of periodical reports on the action of the War Refugee Board since its inception. I think that they will do much to acquaint you with the general background and purposes of the Board, the scope of its functions, and the nature of its operations.

These reports will be sent to you each week to keep you posted on our accomplishments and to give you an up-to-date, over-all picture of our programs. If, at any time, suggestions occur to you which you think might be helpful to us on any phases of the work, I shall appreciate your letting me have your views and comments.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Robert C. Dexter,  
Special Representative of the  
War Refugee Board,  
U. S. Legation,  
Lisbon, Portugal.

Enclosures.

EAT RBHutchison:agr 4-19-44 JH

000705

APR 7 1944

Dear Mr. Crocker:

The Secretary of State has referred to me copies of your Dispatch No. 217, of February 16, 1944, and its enclosures, outlining suggestions for the relief of victims of enemy persecution in Europe, as requested by telegraphic instruction No. 200, of January 25, 1944, from the Department of State.

Your cooperation in making this information available is appreciated. The comments and suggestions embodied in the Dispatch and the accompanying memoranda are being carefully studied.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pable  
Executive Director

Mr. Edward S. Crocker,  
First Secretary,  
Legation of the United States,  
Lisbon, Portugal.

EPT RBH RBH:cn:agr 4-4-44

000706

AST



# RCA

DIRECT



## RADIOGRAM

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947 ~~The~~ RCA 40 57

NLT JOHN PEHLE

WAR REFUGEE BOARD WASHN=

YOUR CABLE REGARDING PLANS WE DISCUSSED UNRECEIVED STOP  
OUTLOOK ENTIRELY FAVORABLE BUT ACTION IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL  
CABLE ARRIVES=

ROBERT DEXTER.

*Cable went out  
Fulson Wed,  
JR7.*

Telephone: National 2600

To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R. C. A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.

Form 112 WN TD 25

000707



AMERICAN LEGATION

Lisbon, March 25, 1944

*files*

Subject: Transmitting Reports and Suggestions from  
Lisbon Representative of World Jewish Congress  
in Connection with War Refugee Board

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Sir,

I have the honor to refer to the Legation's despatch no. 217, February 16, 1944, transmitting memoranda containing comments and suggestions from four relief organizations in Lisbon on the subject of relief for the victims of Nazi oppression in Europe, and to submit herewith two additional reports, with enclosures, prepared on the same subject by Mr. Isaac Weissman, local delegate for the World Jewish Congress.

It will be noted that in both his reports Mr. Weissman advocates Portugal as a reception center and first point of refuge for persons evacuated from enemy-dominated areas. On page 3 of his report entitled "Children in Distress", accompanying his letter of March 17, 1944, he states his reasons for preferring Portugal to Spain for this purpose. With these reasons I am essentially in accord, assuming that Portugal would grant entry permits for a substantial number of such refugees and that this country could be assured that, within a reasonable period of time, the persons admitted will have a further destination. In his second report, however, accompanying his letter of March 20, 1944, he suggests that Portugal be requested to admit ten thousand refugees. I am confident that Portugal not only would not, but could not accede to such a proposal. The number of permanent refugees now in this country has for some time fluctuated between 700 and 800 persons and existing facilities for their care and supervision have been somewhat taxed. Hotel and housing accommodations are such that an influx of only an additional one thousand persons, as occurred at the time of the recent "GRIPSHOLM" exchange, leaves hotels and pensions in the Lisbon area completely occupied. Likewise, it is now nearly impossible to secure housing accommodations in the town of Caldas da Rainha, designated for forced residence of refugees, although only some 300 persons are now segregated there. Any considerable number of persons admitted into Portugal

would

000708

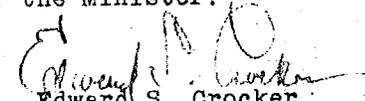
would, in order to be accommodated, have to be dispersed throughout the whole country. For political and security reasons, in view of the small area and population of this country, I am sure that the Portuguese Government would refuse entry to a large number at once.

The greatest factor, however, tending to operate as a deterrent to Portuguese acceptance of Mr. Weissman's proposal, is that of food supplies sufficient to maintain any additional influx of persons. The country has long been an importer of food supplies, and current poor crops coupled with shipping shortages, have necessitated a curtailment of food supplies to restaurants and hotels, as well as a carefully regulated consumer rationing system. The present relatively small population of Portugal is constantly confronted with the fact or the probability of shortages of various types of foods, and this food problem is always an element in the granting of any individual visa to Portugal, let alone visas for some thousands of persons.

I do not believe that the economy of Portugal can, without assistance, support as many as several thousand additional refugees. Likewise, because of existing shortages, I do not feel that the Portuguese Red Cross will be able to transmit any large quantity of food parcels to refugees in the concentration camps of enemy-dominated Europe, unless such food is supplied by the Allied Nations.

Respectfully yours,

For the Minister:

  
Edward S. Crocker  
Counselor of Legation

Enclosures:

1. Letter of March 17, 1944,  
with report and enclosures from  
World Jewish Congress, Lisbon
2. Letter of March 20, 1944,  
with report and enclosures from  
World Jewish Congress, Lisbon

300  
MCR/mvd

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 325, dated March 25, 1944, from the Legation at Lisbon.

COPY

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

Delegate for  
Portugal and Spain:  
Isaac Weissman.

330 West 42nd Street,  
New York.

Lisbon, March 27th, 1944

Dear Mr. Crocker,

Referring to our conversation of yesterday, I enclose a Report (confidential) as suggested by you and should you require any further information I am entirely at your service.

With regard to your very kind offer to intervene together with your British colleague with the Portuguese Police, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Mr J. Hart, of the British Embassy, has already had satisfactory conversations with the Chief of Police regarding the rescue of the children.

I saw Mr. Hart again after our conversation who informed me that he was only awaiting instructions to go ahead immediately.

I should be extremely grateful to you if would come to a very early decision with your colleague of the British Embassy as you can readily understand that the matter is an urgent one.

I would like to repeat that my collaborators the Unitarians and the American Friends Committee are in complete accordance with our plan.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Isaac Weissman.

Edward J. Crocker, Esquire,  
Legation of the United States of America,  
LISBON

COPY

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

Delegate for  
Portugal and Spain:  
Isaac Weissman.

330 West 42nd Street,  
New York.

CONFIDENTIAL

Report.

CHILDREN IN DISTRESS

The Life of Jewish Children in France  
is in grave danger

Last December we received reports from France, gathered in the month of November, informing us that the Germans were organizing a hunt against the remaining Jewish children living in hiding in France, and that some of the reception centers had already been ransacked by the Gestapo and the children and personnel deported en bloc immediately. These reports make special mention of the Brout-Verbot center, directed by Mr. Joseph Cogan; the arrest of Madame Nicole Weil, who directed the Jewish welfare societies in Nice and the closing of many reception centers in Savoy, the regions of Marseille, Nice, Limoges, Aveyron, La Creuse, etc.

We immediately applied to the French Government in Algiers, in the persons of Monsieur Masigli, Foreign Minister and Monsieur Mendes-France, Finance Minister, requesting them to appeal to the population of France to assist in saving the children from certain death by keeping them hidden from the German authorities. Attached are copies of this correspondence for your information. This request was complied with, as can be seen from the attached copies of letters from Monsieur Mendes-France, dated January 3rd and 21st, 1944.

We are, however, fully aware that these measures are only palliative ones and that the persecution of our children is likely to break out again with unpredictable atrocities in its trail. The only certain way we have of saving them is to get them out of France and away from the clutches of the Germans.

Therefore, on February 1st, 1944, I wrote a further letter to Monsieur Mendes-France, of which letter I am also attaching a copy, requesting the French Government to help us to evacuate these children through their underground organisation, or through creating amongst the Allied Nations rescue facilities.

In the meantime, to be precise on February 18th, 1944, I left for London for the special purpose of discussing with our organisations the possibilities of rescuing our children from France. It was agreed that our immediate efforts be concentrated on this task.

It became clear to us that this rescue work could and should be possible in view of President Roosevelt's recently

created

created War Refugee Board. In this order of ideas, Dr Nahoum Goldman, president of our Administrative Committee, has submitted to the United States Ambassador to London a plan of rescue which Mr Wynant forthwith cabled to Washington with his recommendation.

On the other hand, we contacted the Polish, Dutch and Belgian Governments and with the London representatives of the French authorities in Algiers. To all these Allied Governments we appealed for help through their underground channels for evacuating Jewish children from France.

These negotiations had the following results: - The POLISH Government, informed us through their Minister of Interior Monsieur Benacyk, that they fully agree to assist us in this task through their own special channels and specified that they had received information from their offices in Spain that this could be done on a large scale and that they propose to utilize these facilities to their full extent for bringing important groups of children across the border.

The DUTCH authorities informed us, through the Chairman of the Governmental Repatriation Committee, Monsieur Ferwerda, that they are willing to place at our disposal, and to that of the rescuework of Jews in general, important sums of money. On the other hand, from our conversations with the heads of the underground organisations resulted the following:- 1) Recommendation to a person actually in London who would personally organize such rescue work for us, for which effect this person would leave London; 2) Their connections in Lisbon and Madrid would be informed of my return to Lisbon and instructed to grant us all possible assistance.

From the FRENCH authorities we obtained two interviews with Monsieur Borris, head of the French Delegation in London. Monsieur Borris in the first place cabled our suggestions that a special department be created by them in accordance with the aims of the War Refugee Board, to Algiers. Secondly, and after consultation with their respective underground connections, Monsieur Borris informed us that they had decided to create a special team which would be used in our rescue work, and cabled to Algiers submitting a plan by which a number of young men and women would be enrolled and start work after a six weeks' period of instruction. At the same time, they for their part and our organisations themselves are taking steps to obtain from the respective British authorities an agreement to these French decisions.

The decision of the BELGIAN authorities is not yet known to our organisations, but I expect to hear of them from London within the next few days.

To all this we must add that we have already succeeded in rescuing some children who left on the s/s "Nyassa" and have already arrived in Palestine. These rescues were made possible through the offices of professional smugglers, which course involves immense funds.

On

On my return to Lisbon, on March 12th, I found a letter awaiting me from our connections in Barcelona informing me that four more children had arrived there in the meantime and that twenty more were expected at the end of this week.

Whilst in London I was also informed that a Monsieur Jean Chatain (formerly a well-known French official whose connection with this case can be explained verbally) who lives in Madrid, is conducting conversations with Count Jordana, Spanish Foreign Minister with a view to obtaining permission from the German authorities for the release of children up to 10 years of age registered by the Germans. These registered children number between 2,000 and 3,000. Monsieur Chatain requests us to guarantee transport and maintenance expenses should these endeavors be successful. On my return to Lisbon, I telephoned through to Monsieur Chatain who confirmed his efforts and expressed his hopes of good results. I wrote him on March 14th and attach a copy of my letter.

\* \* \*

The reasons to be offered for reception centers to be created in Portugal and not in Spain are:- 1) It should be considerably easier in Portugal to obtain permission for these centers to be organized; 2) Greater nutrition facilities; 3) Possibilities of departure to final destination wider than in Spain.

Once the Portuguese authorities consider favourably the creation of reception centers in Portugal, the Spanish authorities will raise no difficulties of letting children through whose identification or other documents have been taken by the German authorities. But to obtain this agreement of the local authorities, the International Police will have to be approached at once and directly.

The necessary means for the instalation, feeding and clothing of these rescued children will at first hand be provided by us. But no sooner do we obtain the permission of the Portuguese authorities than we shall be able to contact the other locally represented organisations, such as the Joint, the American Friends Service Committee and the Unitarians with a view to their participation in these expenses. On the other hand, as soon as the nationality of the children can be ascertained, the respective Legations will be expected to care for their nationals.

-END-

COPY

Lisbonne, le 14 décembre 1943

Son Excellence

Monsieur Rene MASSIGLI

Ministre des Affaires Etrangères

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

Excellence,

En me rappelant à votre bon souvenir, permettez-moi d'appeler votre bienveillante attention à ses quelques lignes.

De France vient de nous arriver, pour nous Juifs, de tristes nouvelles, plus tristes et plus déchirantes encore que toutes les autres.

Après que leurs parents ont été déportés et pour la plus grande part massacrés, voici maintenant que c'est au tour des petits enfants d'être traqués par la cruauté barbare germanique!

Comme vous le lirez dans le rapport joint, la Gestapo cherche à se faire livrer par ceux qui en ont pris soin, les pauvres petits enfants juifs; ils les emmènent, les maltraitent et les massacrent.

Que la vraie France nous aide à les sauver. Nous remercions de tout coeur les Français qui les ont recueillis et souhaitons qu'ils parviennent à les caser jusqu'à l'heure de la libération.

Mais nous voudrions que le Gouvernement Français fasse tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour le peu de ces enfants qui restent encore et aide leurs bienfaiteurs à les sauver.

Et sans nul doute Monsieur le Ministre de l'Intérieur donnera à vos commissions locales à l'Intérieur de la France les instructions nécessaires pour la protection des uns et des autres.

Mais ce n'est pas suffisant, il faut que par la voix de la radio, la France libre dénonce publiquement au monde ce dernier méfait des barbares nazis. Des appels répétés feront peut-être hésiter un peu les auteurs de ces barbaries et accroîtront la protection de ces pauvres petits êtres.

Excellence, je fais appel à votre grand coeur et vous supplie d'agir. Il s'agit de pauvres petits orphelins sans autre défense que le coeur de la France. Je vous remercie.

Croyez, Excellence, à l'expression de ma très haute considération.

Isaac Weissman

COPY

Lisbonne, le 14 Décembre 1943

Son Excellence

Monsieur MENDES FRANCE

Ministre des Finances

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

Monsieur le Ministre et cher ami,

Des nouvelles excessivement alarmantes viennent de nous parvenir de France sur le sort à peu près désespéré des pauvres enfants juifs, dont les parents ont été déportés.

Je viens d'écrire à Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, avec lequel j'ai eu l'occasion de correspondre à différentes reprises, une lettre pour l'informer de ces faits, en y joignant un extrait de rapport que j'ai reçu de France. Je lui demande de bien vouloir étudier ou faire étudier les mesures les plus propices pour essayer de sauver le peu d'enfants qui restent.

Je me permets de vous joindre à titre personnel une copie de cette lettre et je pense d'ailleurs que Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères vous en parlera, à moins que vous ne jugiez utile de prendre les devants vous-même.

Je vous remercie de votre bienveillante attention à ces quelques lignes, et toujours à votre disposition, je vous prie de me croire

votre bien dévoué

COPY

COMITE FRANCAIS  
DE LA  
LIBERATION NATIONALE  
COMMISSARIAT AUX FINANCES

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

\* \* \* \*

Alger, le 3 Janvier 1944

No 9379 F/cab

Cher Monsieur,

J'ai bien reçu votre lettre du 14 Décembre et j'ai été profondément ému par le rapport qui y était joint.

Il ne m'a, malheureusement, rien appris de nouveau, mais il a confirmé certaines inquiétudes que nous avons quotidiennement d'une manière plus particulière pour les petits enfants Juifs, actuellement abandonnés en France sous la menace allemande.

Comme vous le désirez, je vais m'entretenir de ces faits avec M. MASSAGLI et également avec M. Henri BONNET, Commissaire à l'Information, qui est spécialement qualifié pour prendre cela en mains, puisque vous estimez qu'une campagne doit être faite par la Radio.

En restant à votre disposition pour toutes autres circonstances dans lesquelles je pourrais vous venir en aide, je vous prie de croire, cher Monsieur, à l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs et à mon plus amical souvenir pour vous et pour votre femme.

Pierre Mendès-France,  
Commissaire aux Finances

Monsieur Isaac WEISSMAN  
179, Avenida da Liberdade  
L I S B O N N E

COPY

COMITE FRANCAIS  
DE LA  
LIBERATION NATIONALE

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

Alger, le 21 Janvier 1944

Commissariat aux Finances  
- - - - -

No. 9505 F/cab

Cher Monsieur,

Comme suite à notre précédente correspondance, je vous adresse, sous ce pli, le texte d'une causerie qui a été faite à "RADIO-FRANCE" et qui a été retransmise ensuite dans l'émission commune de "RADIO-FRANCE" et "RADIO-NATIONS UNIS".

Cette propagande se poursuivra d'ailleurs et je souhaite de tout coeur qu'elle puisse être utile, comme vous le désirez.

Avec mon meilleur souvenir, je vous prie de croire, cher Monsieur, à l'Expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

Pierre Mendès-France  
Commissaire aux Finances

Monsieur Isaac Weissman  
179, Avenida da Liberdade  
LISBONNE (Portugal)

Lisbonne, le 1 Février 1944

Son Excellence

Monsieur MENDES FRANCE  
Ministre des Finances

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

Monsieur le Ministre et cher ami,

Je vous suis infiniment reconnaissant pour vos réponses et texte que vous y avez joint.

Nos relations personnelles et la certitude que vous portez à nos problèmes un intérêt humain tout particulier, m'avaient encouragé à m'adresser spécialement à vous. Je ne m'étais pas trompé. Vos conversations avec vos collègues Messieurs Massigli et Bonnet ont apporté bien vite le résultat demandé. C'est ce qui m'amène à vous soumettre un problème créé par la situation de ces pauvres enfants, qui faisaient l'objet de ma dernière lettre.

Il existe une possibilité de sauver une partie au moins de cette enfance abandonnée. Il faut pour cela beaucoup d'argent (on veut nous les amener par groupes de 50 à 100 et on demande pour leur faire passer la frontière espagnole 10.000 Pesetas par enfant). S'il s'agissait de citoyens de pays alliés, une quantité d'organismes nationaux seraient mis en oeuvre, mais dans ce cas spécial un problème tout nouveau a été créé par la dénaturalisation des Juifs Français et autres. Ce problème ardu lorsqu'il s'agit d'adultes est presque insoluble pour des enfants orphelins et sans papiers. Nous ne savons alors pas à quel Gouvernement nous adresser pour des secours.

La charité Juive si engagée de tous les côtés depuis 1933 ne peut nous fournir que des moyens limités. Ne serait-il pas juste que les Gouvernements alliés apportent le grand secours matériel que demande le dit sauvetage des enfants ou bien nous aident à les sauver par leurs propres moyens clandestins?

Je m'excuse de vous soumettre ce problème ajouté à tant d'autres qui doivent vous préoccuper, mais pensez à tous ces enfants dont la situation déjà grave devient chaque jour plus précaire.

J'ai pensé qu'il serait beau pour la vraie France de jouer un rôle actif dans une pareille tâche et de compenser ainsi les persécutions menées en France par les allemands avec l'aide de Français collaborationnistes.

Je me permets de joindre à cette lettre un petit rapport reçu dernièrement sur la situation des Juifs en France. Si vous ou votre Ministère d'Informations vous intéressez au destin de ces Juifs après la déportation, je suis à votre disposition pour vous faire parvenir des rapports récents d'évadés de Pologne.

Ma femme se joint à moi pour vous envoyer notre plus amical souvenir.

Isaac Weissman

COPY

Lisbonne, le 14 Mars 1944

Monsieur

JEAN CHATAIN

PALACE HOTEL  
M A D R I D

Cher Monsieur,

Je tiens avant tout à vous remercier pour les efforts que vous déployez dans le but de sauver nos enfants Juifs retenus en France et enregistrés par les autorités Allemandes.

La nouvelle de votre activité d'un commun accord avec les comte Jordana, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères à Madrid, nous est parvenue à Londres au moment où étaient réunis pour des conférences des délégués du WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS et d'autres Organisations Juives venus d'Amérique, de Palestine etc. Ces conférences avaient surtout pour objet de sauver le reste des enfants Juifs en France, vous pouvez imaginer combien nous avons été touchés de vos efforts et quelle consolation c'est pour nous de sentir, dans les catastrophes qui nous atteignent, l'appui de gens de coeur.

Il est bien entendu que, dans le cas où vous réussissiez, tous les frais de transport et d'entretien des enfants seraient à notre charge. C'est en notre nom et au nom de différentes Organisations Juives que je vous fais cette déclaration.

La conversation téléphonique que nous avons eue hier m'a laissé espérer que j'aurais bientôt l'honneur de vous transmettre de vive voix à l'occasion de votre passage à Lisbonne, nos remerciements pour vos efforts.

Je vous prie d'agréer, cher Monsieur, mes salutations les plus sincères

Isaac Weissman

COPY

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

Delegate for  
Portugal and Spain:  
Isaac Weissman.

330 West 42nd Street,  
New York.

Lisbon, March 20th, 1944

Dear Mr. Crocker,

Following up my letter of March 17th, and at your request, I now enclose our suggestions for further rescue work, in connection with the WAR REFUGEE BOARD recently created by President Roosevelt.

No doubt I shall hear from you in this respect, and, needless to say, I await your views with the greatest interest.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Isaac Weissman.

Enclosure.

Edward J. Crocker, Esquire,  
Legation of the United States of America,  
LISBON.

## WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

SUGGESTIONS FOR RESCUING THREATENED PEOPLE IN  
OCCUPIED EUROPE IN CONNECTION WITH THE WAR REFUGEE  
BOARD CREATED BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

Whilst such European neutral countries as Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey have offered asylum to tens of thousands of war victims, such refuge has so far been refused by Spain and Portugal and only transit visas have been facilitated.

It is also a fact that whilst tens of thousands of refugees, fleeing from certain death and travelling without papers, have in the former countries automatically been legalized and received, those unfortunate persons who clandestinely crossed into Spain or Portugal were imprisoned and, in Spain, even concentrated into camps. This consciously inhuman attitude on the part of Spain must be attributed to the influence and demands of the Germans.

On the other hand, Portugal's anxiety for strict neutrality has led her to misinterpret her role in this connection, and to overlook her humanitarian duty as a neutral country in the face of such overwhelming European disaster.

It must be said in all fairness, however, that the Portuguese authorities have always lent a sympathetic ear when approached on humanitarian issues. Towards the end of 1942, we intervened in the question of clandestine immigrants, at that time a delicate one, but the Portuguese showed understanding and came to the agreement laid out in the enclosed photostat of a letter dated December 12th, 1942. Thanks to this arrangement, the total number of these so-called illegal immigrants (about 200), living in hiding in this country, were legalized and about 50 more released from prison, amongst which latter number were some who had been for more than 18 months in custody for no other reason than that of having entered the country without visas. To all these, refuge was granted at Ericeira, under a regime of enforced residence, as suggested by us. This led a few weeks later to the release by the Spanish authorities (and subsequent legalization) of thousands of refugees from prison and even of a large number from the concentration camps in Spain.

These welcome results lead us to believe that as soon as the local authorities are approached by the United States and Great Britain, Portugal will be encouraged to participate in the rescue work to be undertaken through the offices of the WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

-----  
The World Jewish Congress submits the following three points:

- 1) In our opinion, it would not be exaggerated to apply to Portugal for permission for entry into this country of some

TEN THOUSAND REFUGEES. We give the example of Switzerland, where supplies of food are much more difficult to obtain than in Portugal, but who nevertheless has so far taken sixty thousand refugees. In this way, numberless people could be saved from Slovakia and Hungary. Portugal would have to guarantee refuge to these new arrivals until after the war, but on the other hand, the United States and Great Britain should guarantee to Portugal their evacuation up to a period not exceeding one year after peace.

2) Portugal should also immediately authorize the Portuguese Red Cross to transmit food parcels, such as chocolate, coffee and other essential foodstuffs, on a large scale to the concentration camps and ghettos for the purpose of saving the internees from certain starvation. At the same time, parcels of old clothing should also be permitted to be sent via the Portuguese Red Cross - as this channel is the surest means of ensuring their safe arrival at their ultimate destination.

3) Once permission is granted by Portugal for the entry of the 3000 registered Jewish children in France, an urgent appeal should be made by the Portuguese clergy to obtain their immediate release by the Germans.

These steps should be undertaken only with the full official and solemn support of the Portuguese Government, and, incidentally, the more the Portuguese Press campaigns for these measures, the wider the possibilities of success.

On the other hand, Portugal must be assured that no financial collaboration in connection with this plan will be expected from her, and that she will be guaranteed the respective navy and landcerts for the parcels.

We believe that an agreement with the Portuguese authorities would have immediate repercussion with the Spanish authorities, as witness the example given in the last sentence of para.4, page 1.

- - - - -

(COPY of photostat)

POLICIA DE VIGILANCIA  
E DEFESA DO ESTADO

SERVICO DA REPUBLICA

Exmo. Sr. I. Weissmann

Hotel Tivoli

No. \_\_\_\_\_ /SE  
Prc.10-Dos.V-3

L I S B O A

Roga-se que na resposta  
se indiquem os numeros e  
data deste officio.

Em referencia a carta de V. Exa. datada de hoje e dirigida a Sua Exa. O Sr. Director da Policia de Vigilancia e Defesa do Estado, informo:

- 1 - Que e absolutamente extraordinaria e excepcional a concordancia desta directoria no caso que nos e apresentado, dada a legislacao em vigor.
- 2 - Que para novos casos esta legislacao sera inexoravelmente aplicada.
- 3 - Que a demora no Pais destes individuos e considerada accidental e de  muito curta duracao.
- 4 - Que a sua concentracao na Praia da Ericeira, sera imediata e dela nao poderao sair sob qualquer pretexto sob pena de prisao.
- 5 - Que o nao cumprimento desta clausula obrigara a procedimento sobre os restantes individuos.
- 6 - Que se torna necessario e urgente a nomeacao de pessoa de idoneidade reconhecida por esta Policia, que dirija e assuma no local a respectiva direccao, a qual sera responsavel para com as Autoridades Portuguesas.
- 7 - Que no caso de entre os refugiados se encontrar algum de origem russa, este sera imediatamente internado no deposito de presos de Caxias.
- 8 - Que se torna necessaria a apresentacao da relacao nominal de todos os individuos entrados no Pais, bem como a apresentacao na Policia de toda a sua documentacao e garantia dos respectivos consulados e legacoes de que assumem a responsabilidade da sua nacionalidade e apresentacao de vistos validos para os Paises em transitio e destino e finalmente a garantia das suas passagens.

Lisboa, 12 de Dezembro de 1942

Policia de Vigilancia e  
Defesa do Estado  
Servico de Estrangeiros

A Bem da Nacao.  
Pelo Director  
Hipolito

000723

March 25, 1944

Mr. J. B. Friedman

Joseph H. Murphy

**Re: Relief of Victims of Enemy Persecution  
in Europe: Report from Portugal.**

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The attached report which consists of Air Despatch No. 217 of February 16, 1944 from Lisbon, plus individual reports of JDC, USC, AFSC, and HICEM indicates that there are about 445 stateless Jews in Portugal, the majority of which are ex-Germans and ex-Austrians; about 487 Jews of Polish nationality, many of whom are stateless by reason of non-recognition; and about 193 of mixed nationality, including Belgian, French, Dutch, Czech, Yugoslav, Hungarian, etc. Of this total of 1125, 495 are war refugees, 360 are refugees by reason of Hitler's pre-war persecutions, and 270 are normal immigrants. This total does not include 150 recently arrived Portuguese nationals, whose status is presently a subject of consideration, and 525 Portuguese Jews. Thus, there are 1800 Jews residing in Portugal.

Portuguese immigration policy was quite lenient at first but at the present time restrictions have been tightened. Only transit visas are granted to refugees, and these are limited to cases where the refugee has a valid end visa and a paid reservation on a steamship, leaving on a definite date. Illegal entrants are not, however, excluded, and after a short period of arrest their entry has usually been legalized. Those arriving in Portugal since 1940 are not allowed to work. Some are in forced residence, others are restricted to town liberty, and still others have full liberty. Education and religious worship are available to many.

It should be noted, however, that the Portuguese Government has not permitted the admission of refugees born in Russia or other Baltic countries, even for transit purposes.

The following seem to be the significant recommendations made in the attached reports:

*no attachments when received in files*

100724

- 1.) Approach to the Portuguese authorities to permit the entry of further refugees. In this connection it would probably be necessary to secure commitments for the disposition of these refugees after the war. With such commitments the Portuguese might be willing to approach the Vichy Government to secure the release of refugees, particularly children.
- 2.) Appeal to the Portuguese Government for shipping space.
- 3.) Appeal to the Portuguese Government to grant end visas on the theory that if this were done certain of the "satellite" countries might be willing to release refugees.
- 4.) Appeal to the Portuguese Government to remove restrictions upon admission of Russian and Baltic refugees. In this connection it was felt that an exception might be made in the case of small numbers by handling them on a group passport basis.
- 5.) Speedier and more frequent issuance of licenses by the United States and British Governments facilitating the purchase of food packages in Portugal for transmission to occupied areas.
- 6.) Simplification of present procedures for the issuance of United States visas, transit and otherwise.
- 7.) Speeding up of Portuguese police procedures in those cases in which refugees are detained in order to speed their evacuation when, and if possible.
- 8.) Repatriation of American citizens in Portugal who, though not technically war refugees, are war victims.
- 9.) Appeal to the Portuguese to be less brutal in their treatment of imprisoned refugees.
- 10.) Appeal to the Portuguese to permit refugees to work.

The importance of evacuating refugees presently in Portugal was stressed upon two occasions as a means of inducing the Portuguese Government to receive more refugees. Against this however is the conclusion that refugees in Portugal are, as a general matter, well treated and would probably be reluctant presently to leave Portugal, especially for a camp such as the one in North Africa.

JMM

JHMurphy:dh 3/25/44

CONTROL COPY

*W. J. Pehle*  
*(for Pehle)*

MJK-680  
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (BR)

Lisbon  
Dated March 2, 1944  
Rec'd 8:45 p.m.

*Frederick*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
MAR 3 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

659, March 2, 1 p.m., (SECTION ONE)

Department's 618, February 29. FOLLOWING FOR  
J. W. PEHLE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAR REFUGEE  
BOARD FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ.

"Your message reached me a few hours before departure for London hence can reply only hurriedly. Following possible programs' rescue and transportation refugees.

One. Evacuation 5,000 children now Rumania' to Palestine'. Rumanian authorities seem inclined grant exit permits and major difficulty seems to be transportation which we have been asked to supply. Have been negotiating Portuguese steamship which considering the matter but costs would be one million to one million five hundred thousand dollars.

Two. Possibility evacuations children, adults from Bulgaria' via Turkey to Palestine. Chief difficulty lies arranging exit permits this group and any pressure that could be exerted on Bulgarian Government this connection

-2-, 659, March 2, 1 p.m., (SECTION ONE) from Lisbon.

connection might be helpful. Also important obtain from Turkey transit facilities this and other groups who might be able escape from Balkans.

Three. At this time all possible pressure should be applied Balkan satellite countries to grant exit facilities to Jews their borders to proceed Turkey en route Palestine. There has been considerable loosening up on granting exit visas particularly in Hungary and with additional pressure perhaps more could be obtained.

Four. A group of 450 refugees from Bochara now stranded Tehran with Palestine visas but unable proceed Palestine because of refusal Iraqi Government grant transit facilities. We have been asked procure sea transportation which may be possible but will cost approximately \$300 per head. All movement of refugees via Tehran dependent upon ability secure transit facilities Iraq which up to now has steadfastly refused. Perhaps Iraqi Government could be approached on this subject.

Five. Swiss Government has indicated readiness accept many hundreds additional children from France provided some assurance could be given that these children will be emigrated at earliest opportunity. With an assurance of ultimate emigration Switzerland would be willing approach French authorities for release these children.

-3-, 659, March 2, 1 p.m., (SECTION ONE) from Lisbon.

children. In this connection any guarantees to Swiss Government for repatriation or emigration refugees coming into country would be most helpful.

✓ Six. Similar guarantee might be given to Portuguese Government with a request that they approach French authorities permit a number of children to come to Portugal. Portuguese Government will not admit any one to come into country without an overseas end visa but a guarantee on the part of our Government that any children coming into Portugal will be brought away to the United States or other overseas countries would be sufficient to have Portuguese authorities admit these children.

✓ Seven. A limited number of children can be brought into Spain through the services of professional guides who bring them illegally across the mountains for a fee.

NORWEB.

EDA

IC - 734

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency. (BR)

Lisbon

Dated March 2, 1944

Rec'd 10:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.



659, March 2, 1 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

Difficulty lies cost of guides which approximately \$250 to \$300 per child also because Spanish Government looks upon such activity as undesirable. If representatives agencies Spain could be supplied with funds this purpose at least several hundred children could be brought into Spain. Spanish authorities might look upon this more favorably if they receive assurances that these children will be taken out of the country and that this has support of responsible government bodies.

✓  
Eight. Group six hundred refugees now Tangier wholly unemployed status precarious. Possibility exists bring at least portion this group Palestine provided transportation and Palestine visas available.

We believe

000729

-2- #659, March 2, 1 p.m. (SECTION TWO) from Lisbon

We believe we can arrange transportation if Palestine Government grants necessary visas. Would also be helpful if Canadian Government which now selecting refugee family units for Canada on duration visas could not be persuaded to include Tangier group.

Nine. Generally speaking rescue and maintenance refugees could be facilitated if regulations concerning transfer funds from the United States to Switzerland and Turkey could be liberalized and if representatives could be permitted negotiate with private agencies these countries/bona fide individuals for purchase currencies occupied territories to be made available there for legitimate purposes. Order do this our committees should be authorized to give receipts to individuals indicating repayment for such advances will be made after the war or where this impossible could be permitted to make payments either in Switzerland or in Turkey. Naturally all of us would take every possible precaution to see that enemy is not helped by such transactions.

Ten. American relief organizations functioning in neutral countries should be permitted to communicate with bona fide refugee organizations and leaders in occupied territories. This would facilitate gathering

reliable

-3- #659, March 2, 1 p.m. (SECTION TWO) from Lisbon

reliable information and formulating plans and programs  
for rescue and relief. Should you wish more detailed  
information will be glad supply it upon my return".

(END OF MESSAGE).

NORWEB

EDA

000731

Miss Chauncey  
Mr. Paul  
Mr. H. D. White  
Mr. Pehle  
Mr. Luxford  
Mr. DuBois  
Mr. E. N. Bernstein  
Mr. Stewart  
Mr. Lesser  
Mr. Friedman  
Miss Hodel  
Mr. Pollak

~~Mr. Bandy~~  
Mr. Abikangsan  
Miss Laughlin  
Mrs. [unclear]  
Mr. D. White (Cable Card)

TELEGRAM SENT

2 - War Refugee  
Belmont  
Pehle

February 25, 1944

CONTROL COPY

AMS

War Refugee Board

PLAIN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

File  
it

ALLEGATION,

LISBON.  
618, twenty-ninth.

Please transmit the following message to Dr. Joseph Schwarz, Lisbon, from J. W. Pehle, Acting Executive Director, War Refugee Board.

UNCLAS I would appreciate receiving directly from you any information available to you concerning possible programs and the implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees. In reporting to me please emphasize in detail the obstacles to such programs and any suggestions you may have with respect thereto. Please cable me through the United States Embassy at Lisbon. UNCLAS

STETTINIUS  
ACTING  
( )

WRB:GLM:KG  
2/25/44

VE

EH

SVP

U

000733

18- 2/29/44  
Portugal ①

FEB 23 1944

TO: Mr. Travers

FROM: J. W. Pehle

It will be appreciated if you will dispatch at  
once the attached cable to Dr. Joseph Schwarz in Lisbon.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

Attachment.

(Sent by Special Messenger)

CC - Messrs. Pehle, Luxford, DuBois, E.M. Bernstein, Lesser,  
Friedman, Pollak, Miss Hodel

FHodel:hd 2/22/44

36A

000734

CABLE TO LISBON

Please transmit the following message to Dr. Joseph Schwarz, Lisbon, from J. W. Pehle, Acting Executive Director, War Refugee Board.

QUOTE I would appreciate receiving directly from you any information available to you concerning possible programs and the implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees. In reporting to me please emphasize in detail the obstacles to such programs and any suggestions you may have with respect thereto. Please cable me through the United States Embassy in Lisbon. UNQUOTE

*JWP*

100735

February 22, 1944.

PORTUGAL

Information obtained from the files of the Refugee Unit of the State Department.

On March 24, 1943, the Lisbon Embassy reported to the State Department that the British favor Lisbon as a port of embarkation for refugees and expect the first two ships on March 28.

On March 25, the Ambassador in Lisbon reports that he requested the permission of Portugal for transit for French refugees from Spain and was told to ask the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs for its assistance by note. He proceeded to follow these instructions rather than the previous directions received from the State Department. On March 30, the Embassy at Madrid wired the State Department that Portugal was awaiting a formal note requesting assistance, and would accept nothing else.

On April 1, a wire from London disclosed that the Portuguese now prefer embarkation from a port further south than Lisbon. Vilareal is reported as being too shallow for the French ships available. It cannot take ships with a draft of more than 14 ft. according to the British. Setubal has been suggested as being less conspicuous. The British prefer to leave all arrangements to admiralty and to State Department officials in Portugal, to avoid the delay caused by frequent communications with London.

On April 3, the Lisbon Embassy reported to the State Department that Chatel, former Governor of Algeria, had offered to direct relief work for French refugees on route through Portugal. This appears desirable to Lisbon, but must await the O.K. of the French Red Cross.

On the same date, Lisbon also reported that there had been no organized shipment of French refugees into Portugal up to that time. Some of them had been smuggled in by the de Gaulles and thence to England. The British admiralty was still arguing over what port to use.

The English have informed our Lisbon Legation that it will be responsible for the refugees while in Portugal, and Lisbon asks for \$25,000, if this is so. It is the understanding of the Lisbon Embassy that all negotiations are to be conducted through the Portuguese Embassy at Madrid rather than with the Government at Lisbon.

*Added to Mr. Landon's files*

100736

DECLINE CARD OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

To: Mrs. [Handwritten Name] 194

(1) (Room) (Side)

(2) (Room) (Side)

(3) (Room) (Side)

[Handwritten Name]

From: (Date)

(Room) (Side)

000737

Morgenthau

- Mr. Gaston
- Mr. Paul
- Mr. White
- Mr. E. M. Bernstein
- Mr. DuBois
- Mr. Friedman
- Miss Hodel
- Mr. Lesser
- Mr. Lixford
- Mr. Stewart
- Mrs. Taylor
- Files

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE. MR. DEXTER  
GAVE ME THIS COPY.

JWP

J. W. Pahle  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

000738

EAD/JG

Mr. Edward S. Crocker,  
American Legation,  
Lisbon.

February 14th, 1944

Dear Mr. Crocker,

I have discussed the questions posed by Mr. Hull's cable with the members of our staff, and here are the suggestions which occur to us:

I. What can the United States government do to aid refugees?

(1) Transit visas could be speeded, and pending applications for residence visas could be cleared more rapidly.

(2) Some provision should be arranged for single refugees. At present, Canadian visas are available for most suitable family groups now in Portugal. It is particularly demoralizing for a young person alone to live year after year as a refugee. If the present restrictions on work in Portugal could be modified (see II-5 below) this problem would be less pressing.

(3) A representative in Lisbon might be permitted to grant visas, within certain categories, without reference to Washington. This was done until July, 1941, and is now being done by the Canadian government. It would greatly diminish the present delays.

(4) The question of visas for the duration might be considered. At present the problem is so small that such visas may hardly be necessary, but the possibility of a considerable increase after landings in Europe, as has happened in Switzerland, should be borne in mind.

(5) The U.S. government ought to provide for repatriation of American citizens. Most of these are war victims, if not technically refugees. The private agencies here are now carrying quite a burden which is shouldered by the government of most countries.

II. How may the Portuguese government be asked to help refugees?

(1) It might explore possibilities of getting some children, orphaned or separated from their parents, out of France.

(2) It might furnish ships for transporting refugees who can leave the danger zone.

(3) In Portugal, it might facilitate the transfer of refugees arrested merely for lack of proper papers from prison to residence forcees. Such transfers occur less easily now, at any rate for Christian refugees, than was the case a year ago.

(4) Protest should be made against brutality in the treatment of imprisoned

000739

refugees, and against persecution of refugees for the expression of pro-allied sympathy — a persecution which has sometimes stood in sharp contrast to lenient treatment of refugees who obtained German protection.

(5) In view of the small number of refugees now in Portugal, the rule forbidding them to work might be, if not modified, at least interpreted in a more lenient way. For example, a really distinguished violinist was sent to prison for giving a few lessons. Qualified students are not allowed to attend university lectures. And so forth. Enforced idleness is the most demoralizing factor in refugee life, and is responsible for most of the problems of behavior.

Cases to illustrate the need of the actions suggested above can be furnished for every point.

A considerable majority, both those in and out of enemy territory, are Jews, but there are still Christians who are equally victims of the present war and the Nazi philosophy. There is a tendency in Portugal to regard non-Jewish refugees as ipso facto communists. It appears to be more difficult now for a non-Jew than for a Jew to receive an American visa or a British navicert. I completely approve of care in issuing either of these, but believe that the care should be given indiscriminately to all applicants and that the non-Jews, although fewer in numbers, should not be forgotten.

In conclusion, may I say how greatly encouraged I feel by this proposal on the part of the government, and by the very sympathetic attitude shown by you and by Mr. Carron. It seems to me the most cheering development which has occurred for a long time — aside from Allied victories, of course. I have some appreciation of how heavily burdened you and Mr. Carron must be. I hope that you will be able to make some arrangement so that not all the work will fall on you two personally. I am sure that this proposal gives promise of great usefulness.

With great appreciation,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth A. Dexter

100740

PORTUGAL

March 24, 1943, No. 42 section one, from Lisbon;

The British authorities are of the opinion that Lisbon would be the most suitable port from which to evacuate refugees to North Africa but before proceeding with plans for the vessels confirmation is required that the refugees will be permitted to go to Portugal.

Section two: It was planned for the first two ships to arrive on the 28th or 29th (March,) and it was suggested that the refugees who were to embark should arrive as soon as possible after the arrival of the ships.

The British had been informed that in addition to the 1,500 refugees previously mentioned a large number of other refugees of various nationalities would be released to Portugal in the near future for transit destinations other than North Africa.

March 25, 1943, No. 652, from LISBON: (Reference to Madrid's No. 704, March 24, 1943 to the Department).

With reference to the granting of permission to French refugees, leaving Spain with Spanish consent, to go in transit through Portugal, the legation was informed that all that was required was a note addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stating that the American Legation would appreciate any assistance which the Portuguese Government could give in the matter. Such communication was accordingly delivered. Salazar did not seem

to

*Taken for Mr. Lowers  
file*

000741

PORTUGAL

to have any knowledge of any such understanding as that implied by the request of the Portuguese Minister at Madrid or of any particular agreed formula for the Legation's communication to him.

Therefore the Legation trusts that the action taken will be sufficient to make possible the cooperation of the Portuguese authorities with respect to at least the first four shiploads of refugees.

April 3, 1943, No. 745, section one, from LISBON:

The Legation reported that as yet there were no organized transports of French refugees into Portugal. Individuals occasionally manage to cross the border illegally, usually with the assistance of de Gaullists and in these cases they are sent to England.

The question of a port is still unsettled and the British contend that Villa Real is not deep enough for the vessels concerned. It is understood that the French are diverting the vessels for other uses with the idea of making them available at a later date. The British Naval Attaché proposed to the admiralty that April 17 be decided upon as the date of arrival of the first two vessels at a Portuguese port.

Section two. The British Ambassador stated that he understood that the American Legation would be expected to take responsibility for the care of the refugees while they were in Portuguese territory. The Portuguese had said nothing of this  
and

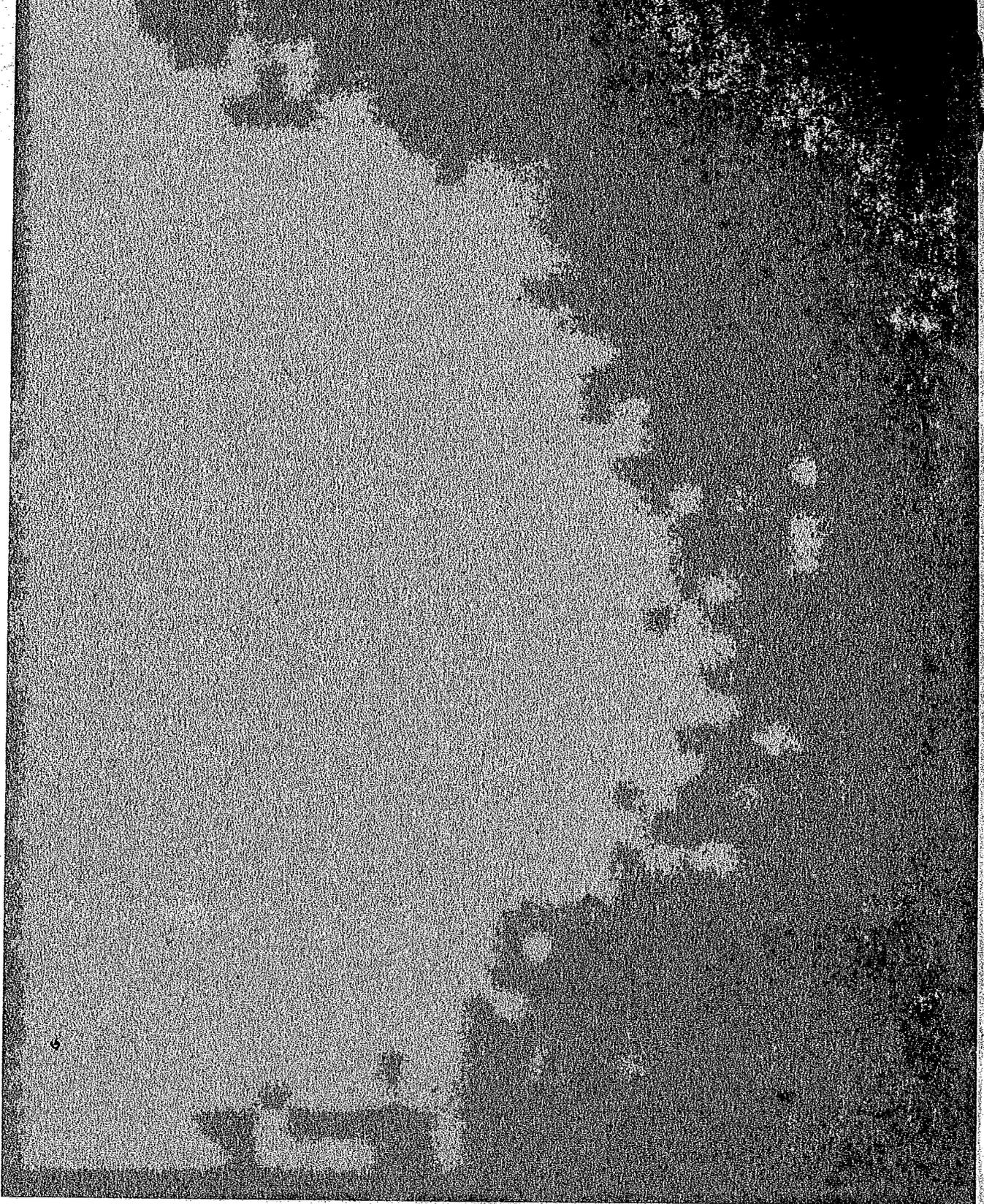
000742

PORTUGAL

and our Minister hesitated to approach them in view of Ambassador Hayes' telegram no. 626 of March 15 to the Department which stated that it was preferred that negotiations concerning this matter be kept out of Lisbon and in the hands of the Portuguese Ambassador at Madrid. The Minister wishes to be informed whether the Legation is to be responsible for the care of the refugees and states that if it is, it will be necessary to arrange an allotment immediately of \$25,000 for that purpose.

6

000743



000744



C  
O  
P  
Y

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Gen. Corresp.  
Portugal  
[tab 2]

July 23, 1945

To Mr. Robert R. Evans  
From Mr. Merricks (initialed HLM)

In accordance with instructions contained in your letter dated July 12, 1945, action to transfer certain properties located at Lisbon and Ankara has been taken which involves a transfer of funds for the assessed value of the War Refugee Board Properties located at the above points.

Ankara declaration is WRB no 2  
Lisbon " " " no 3

000746

JUL 12 1945

: Mr. Henry L. Merricks, Chief Clerk's Office  
: Robert R. Evans, Foreign Funds Control

Subject: Transfer of War Refugee Board Property to Department of State

Attached is a letter to Mr. James A. Dent, Foreign Funds Control, from the Department of State, dated June 22, 1945, requesting transfer of certain surplus property belonging to the War Refugee Board to that Department. The type of property, original cost and present location are indicated in the letter.

The State Department feels that 90% of the original cost is a reasonable amount to pay for this property, and Mr. David White, Administrative Officer for the War Refugee Board, has agreed to the transfer of the property and the price indicated.

Will you arrange, on behalf of the War Refugee Board, for the transfer of and reimbursement for this property as requested by the Department of State?

R. R. EVANS

Executive Officer

6

WMAvery:mlw 7/11/45

000747

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Reply refer to

June 22, 1945

Mr. James A. Dent  
Budget Officer, Foreign Funds Control  
Treasury Department  
400 Sloan Building  
709 12th Street  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Reference is made to certain equipment owned by the War Refugee Board and turned over to the American Embassy at Lisbon on a memorandum receipt signed by Mr. J. William Henry, Third Secretary of Embassy. This equipment consisted of the following items:

	Original Cost
1 metal strong box, excellent condition	\$ 4.89
1 large locked filing cabinet, used, good condition	71.72
1 Royal portable typewriter, used, good condition, purchased by WRB in U. S., Serial No. B-1105059	50.00
1 typewriter table, used, good condition	8.40
Total	<u>\$ 135.01</u>

Reference is also made to certain furniture and equipment owned by the War Refugee Board and turned over to the American Embassy at Ankara, Turkey. This equipment consisted of the following items:

			(handwritten)
2 Standard telephone sets, ea. T. L. 75,000	T.L. 150.00		83.06
2 Inter-office telephone sets and wiring	100.00		55.37
1 F. Wertheim and Co. safe, with wooden top and wooden pedestal	475.00		263.01
2 Plate glass desk tops ea. T. L. 42.00	84.00		46.51
1 Electric fan	20.00		11.08
Total: T.L.	<u>829.00</u>	<u>\$459.03</u>	
	ea. 1.806	\$1	

1 Royal

000748

1 Royal Typewriter - No. B-1105023  
 1 Royal Typewriter - No. B-1103586

Balance \$459.03  
 45.29  
 45.29

Total \$549.61

The Department desires to reimburse the War Refugee Board for the above mentioned items and a transfer of funds may be made on form 1080 charging the appropriation "Contingent Expenses, Foreign Service, 1945", Symbol No. 1950520.001. It is assumed that a deduction of 10% from the prices listed above might be considered as a fair depreciation.

Very truly yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

/s/ Harry A. Havens

Harry A. Havens  
 Assistant Chief, Division of  
 Foreign Service Administration

000749

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

AMT-1041  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET W)

Lisbon.

Dated November 27, 1944

Rec'd 7:35 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

4075, November 27, 2 p.m.

THIS IS WRB 264

Detailed answer (REURTEL 3005, WRB 117, November 21)

with signed receipt for equipment and bank statement  
of remittance to Treasurer of U. S. airmailed Ward  
Stewart, Assistant Director, today. Dexter leaves  
for London probably December 4, address care Amembassy.  
Widen staying with Embassy, Lisbon.

NORWEB

WTD

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
NOV 28 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 13 1973

000750

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

BET-1342

PLAIN  
Lisbon

*Way Ref  
Bd (Sh  
Reddy)*

Dated November 21, 1944

Rec'd 8:16 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

4020, Twentyfirst.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD WRB 259.

Dexter leaving early December, important he

receive telegraphic advice by December 1st regarding  
disposition of your funds and furniture. Also advise  
whether he shall pay Widense return passage from  
special fund on hand here.

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

1944 NOV 22 AM 10 05

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

NORWEB

**CONTROL COPY**

LMS

000751

DEPARTMENT

OF

DMH  
STATE distribution of true  
reading only to special  
arrangement. (SECRET W)

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

November 21, 1944  
6 PM.

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

1944 NOV 23 PM 2 40

*S. J. Kelly*  
*W. J. Kelly*  
For security reasons the  
text of this message must  
be closely guarded.

AMEMBASSY

LISBON  
3005

The following for Dexter is WRB 117.

Dexter and Widen to separate close of business November 30, 1944. Dexter earned annual leave nineteen days two hours and Widen fourteen days. The Board will pay expenses Dexter to London but he must make own arrangements to get there. Should he go London, terminal leave becomes effective upon arrival there and Legation is authorized to pay him through terminal period. If Dexter or Widen return to United States, the Legation is authorized arrange transportation on reimbursable basis.

We understand Widen to work for Legation effective December 1, and if correct, leave is not transferrable.

Office equipment to be stored with Legation until final disposition is arranged with Department here, following receipt of inventory requested in our #2877 of November 3. The balance of the Special Account should be returned to the Board by check payable to the Treasurer of the United States.

STETTINIUS  
(ACTING)  
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG  
11/21/44

WE

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 13 1973

000752

*FOR DEXTER*

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR NORWEB, LISBON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Dexter and Widen to separate close of business November 30, 1944. Dexter earned annual leave nineteen days two hours and Widen fourteen days. The Board will pay expenses Dexter to London but he must make own arrangements to get there. Should he go London, terminal leave becomes effective upon arrival there and Legation is authorized to pay him through terminal period. If Dexter or Widen return to United States, the Legation is authorized arrange transportation on reimbursable basis.

We understand Widen to work for Legation effective December 1, and if correct, leave is not transferrable.

Office equipment to be stored with Legation until final disposition is arranged with Department here, following receipt of inventory requested in our #2877 of November 3. The balance of the Special Account should be returned to the Board by check payable to the Treasurer of the United States.

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 117.

9:00 a.m.  
November 21, 1944

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

DWhite:hmd 11/20/44  
*dw* *JCH*

000753

Portugal (2)

LISBON

OPERATIONS DIVISION  
LISBON  
NOV 24  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Date: Nov. 13, 12:45 P.M., 1944  
To: Noon, 24th

-1007, November 13, 12:45 p.m.

For office use from Dexter.

Reply in inquiry list of office equipment with prices and conditions follows: one metal strong box, perfect condition, cost 4.00; one large locked filing cabinet, used, good condition, cost 71.72; one Royal portable typewriter, used, good condition, purchased by Board in United States, price ~~unknown~~ <sup>50.00</sup>; one typewriter 1416, used, good condition, price 3.40.

ES

*Handed over to [unclear] in files*

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

November 3, 1944

Midnight

EJF  
DISSEMINATION OF TRUE  
FACTS ONLY BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.  
(SECRET W)

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

*War Ref*  
*Ed*  
**CONTROL COPY**

EMBASSY

LISBON

2877

The following for Dexter is WRB 110.

Please furnish us office equipment inventory and approximate value each item. Also indicate condition of each article. At proper time, instructions will be forwarded for disposal of equipment and accounts.

STETTINIUS  
(ACTING)  
(GRW) ACTING

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

WRB:AMV:KG  
11/3/44

WE

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 13 1973

000755

CABLE TO NORWEB, LISBON, FOR DEXTER FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please furnish us office equipment inventory and approximate value each item. Also indicate condition of each article. At proper time, instructions will be forwarded for disposal of equipment and accounts.

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 110.

5:15 p.m.  
November 2, 1944

DWhite:hmd  
11/1/44

*sw* *761*  
Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

000756

DEPARTMENT

OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

September 19, 1944

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

1944 SEP 22 PM 2 42

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

*J. War Ref Bd (Mr. Pehle)*

AMEMBASSY

LISBON

2555

The following for Dexter is WRB 94.

Please refer to your 2882 of September 14.

The Board confirms understanding that War Refugee Board office in Lisbon will be closed by December 1, or earlier, if possible.

*State  
Teller*

**CONTROL COPY**

HULL  
(MLIV)

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

WRB:MMV:KG S/CR  
9/19/44

WE

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

000757

CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO MINISTER NORWEB FOR DEXTER,  
LISBON, PORTUGAL.

Please refer to your 2882 of September 14.

The Board confirms understanding that War Refugee  
Board office in Lisbon will be closed by December 1, or  
earlier, if possible.

THIS IS WRS CABLE TO LISBON NO. 94

3:15 p.m.  
September 18, 1944

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

MJMarks:hmd  
9/18/44

000758

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

BJR - 77  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement (W)

Lisbon  
Dated September 14, 1944  
Rec'd 9:59 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2882, September 14, 7 p.m.  
WRB 19L FROM DEXTER FOR PEHLE

Think most everything pending could be cleared by  
DECEMBER first or earlier, provided Mexican and United  
States transit visas for Spanish Republican refugees  
here are received soon. Please push. One ship for  
Palestine definitely arranged for October and second  
pending. By DECEMBER or earlier Hungarian refugee  
question will be cleared one way or other. Refugees  
remaining here must be left to care of private organiza-  
tions as neither UNRRA nor Inter-Governmental Committee  
function in Portugal. REURTEL 2493, September 12.

Therefore suggest December first as date for conclusion  
WRB activities, although earlier date may be possible  
for Dexter if he were urgently needed elsewhere. Widen  
should probably stay till December first and Dexter  
would gladly, if desired give her guidance in clearing  
decks if he

**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

1944 SEP 15 PM 5 2  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

700759

-2- #2882, September 14, 7 p.m., from Lisbon.

decks if he were available. Terminus ad quem depends largely on speed arrival Mexican and United States transit visas and possibilities transport. Thanks notification Unitarians of Dexter's and Widen's availability. If one or both not needed in Europe will make plans to return United States early December. Sincerely appreciate words of thanks for services.

NORWEB

JT

000760

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

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

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

September 12, 1944  
10 a.m.

*W. R. G. P. H.*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

War Refugee Board

AMEMB LISBON

LISBON  
2493X

The War Refugee Board cable 88 below is for Dexter.  
message

Please refer to your message of August 29, concerning  
the projects which remain to be carried out by the Board  
from Portugal.

Since, in your opinion, the problems outlined by  
you can within three and possibly two months be brought  
to the stage where the regular Legation staff can carry  
on the functions still remaining, it is suggested that  
you plan to conclude within that time, and in any case  
as rapidly as possible, your operations in Portugal as  
Special Representative of the War Refugee Board.

In regard to your recommendation that a representa-  
tive be sent to France under the auspices of the War  
Refugee Board, reference is made to our circular of  
September 7 indicating that the Board's activities  
should be strictly limited to the rescue and relief of  
refugees in enemy occupied territory and that refugee  
problems in liberated areas are not regarded as being  
within the Board's functions. At the present time, the  
military situation in the West is too fluid to make  
feasible the use of France as a base for rescue and relief  
operations

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
**CONTROL COPY**  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

000761

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

- 2 -

#2493, September 12, 10 a.m., re Lisbon operations in enemy territory.

Pursuant to your suggestion, the Unitarian Service Committee is being advised that you and Widen may soon be free to return to your previous employment if the Committee desires your services.

Behle expresses his appreciation and thanks for the services you have rendered the Board  
*Sent to Lisbon*  
Repeated to London for Mann as 7371 of Sept. 12.

HULL<sup>x</sup>  
(GHW)

<sup>x</sup>  
7371

CODE ROOM: Repeat to London with following opening sentence. The following to Lisbon is repeated for information of Mann.

WRB:MMV:RCG  
9/11/44

WE

BC

000762

CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO MINISTER NORWEB FOR DEXTER, LISBON,  
PORTUGAL.

Please refer to your 2657 of August 29, concerning the projects which remain to be carried out by the Board from Portugal.

Since, in your opinion, the problems outlined by you can within three and possibly two months be brought to the stage where the regular Legation staff can carry on the functions still remaining, it is suggested that you plan to conclude within that time, and in any case as rapidly as possible, your operations in Portugal as Special Representative of the War Refugee Board.

In regard to your recommendation that a representative be sent to France under the auspices of the War Refugee Board, reference is made to our of indicating that the Board's activities should be strictly limited to the rescue and relief of refugees in enemy occupied territory and that refugee problems in liberated areas are not regarded as being within the Board's functions. At the present time, the military situation in the West is too fluid to make feasible the use of France as a base for rescue and relief operations in enemy territory.

Pursuant to your suggestion, the Unitarian Service Committee is being advised that you and Widen may soon be free to return to your previous employment if the Committee desires your services.

Pehle expresses his appreciation and thanks for the services you have rendered the Board.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO.

88

3:30 p.m.  
September 9, 1944

*[Handwritten signature]*  
9/8/44

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

000763

Portugal  
admission

File CWRB  
JH  
Fals

Memorandum for Mr. Mann.

Subject: Points to be taken up in Washington.

The following are simply brief notes reminding you of things which I should appreciate very much your taking up personally when you are at home. I think most of the facts will need no elaboration as they are as well known to you as to me.

1) In regard to the evacuation of 500 Spanish political refugees from Portugal to Mexico, everything is as far along as it can be at present but the Mexican visas are unreceived at the Mexican Legation here. Please have this looked into and see that the authorization for the visas is sent to the Mexican Legation and that this Embassy is notified immediately. I am reasonably optimistic that if we shoot these people out in small lots via the United States we will have no special difficulty with the Portuguese authorities.

2) Call to the attention of the WRB that the British Embassy here has up to the present not received a telegram similar to telegram 1900 received by this Embassy. We are awaiting receipt of that telegram to take joint action with the Portuguese authorities. The British have telegraphed to London advising London of the non-receipt of policy cable.

3) Inform WRB of the proposition presented by the Jewish Agency for Palestine regarding the 1500 Hungarian Jewish leaders who, it is claimed, will be released from Hungary with no consideration attached provided they secure Spanish and Portuguese transit visas and Palestinian destination visas. Report to Washington that on receipt of guarantee from the Palestine Agency that the Palestine visas are available, we here, jointly with the British I trust, hope to take up with the Portuguese the question of Portuguese transit visa. In the meantime the Jewish Agency will communicate with London and have their authorization confirmed by the Foreign Office. It is not going to be an easy task to secure these transit visas, but in view of the extreme urgency of the situation and of the offers of food and finance in cable 1900, I am hopeful that Portuguese transit visa can be secured. If that is secured, it should then be relatively easy to get a Spanish transit. In view of the difficulty with shipping, it will be likely that these people, if they come to Portugal, will be interned in fixed residences for some time. That will

present

100764

present a problem in itself but not an insuperable one. As soon as I receive the guarantee from the Jewish Agency I plan to go ahead with the note. I am taking the matter up with the Foreign Office unless there is some reason against doing so given by the Ambassador here. This office will also have considerable to do with the allocation and supervision of these people if they ultimately come to Portugal.

4) Please report to the WRB that no diplomatic passport has been received by me here. I understand that this is because Mrs. Shipley has adopted a policy of not giving diplomatic passports to attaches. This is not a serious situation so long as it is envisaged that I remain fixed in Portugal. However, if a situation should develop so that it was necessary for me to go back and forth to Spain, it would be of major importance that I have a diplomatic passport. Also there is no question that it would add to the prestige of the WRB representative to have one. As it is, I only have just my ordinary old passport. I have, however, diplomatic status given by the Portuguese Foreign Office.

5) Will you please find out from Mr. Stewart what the situation is in regard to a car. There is none available here and the possession of a car would be a very great asset, particularly as the work develops. Again, if it is envisaged that I go back and forth to Spain, a car would be very desirable, especially in travelling long distances in Spain where there are very poor train facilities. The same thing is true to a lesser degree in regard to visiting fixed residences here in Portugal. If these Hungarians, for example, come, they will probably be located at some distance from Lisbon and train facilities in Portugal are poor, to put it mildly. Also, if the project suggested by the British and outlined in my recent despatch, of visiting the prisons in which political refugees are confined, develops as I hope it will, it will have a much greater effect if the representative of this Embassy arrives in a shining ~~little~~ C.D. car rather than in a broken-down ~~taxi~~ taxi or by train. The psychological effect is quite as important as anything else. Practically every Attache and Secretary here at the Embassy has a car of one sort or another.

If it should be impossible to get a new Government car over here, would it be desirable to have my personal car, which is now in storage in the United States, repaired, which it will need since it has not been used for two years, and sent over. In all probability this will not be wise as it would involve considerable delay and difficulties, whereas a Government car would come through much simpler, but I ought to have a car as soon as possible.

Also

000765

Also tell Mr. Stewart that I have his airgram regarding cables; that has been taken care of, and thank him for his excellent cooperation in all matters of administrative detail.

Finally, please give my greetings to all the boys. Tell them that if we can loosen up the Spanish border things will really commence to move here in the Peninsula. Also I hope you will indicate to them that while politically this Peninsula is divided into two countries, actually from the point of view of WRB its problems are one.

  
Robert C. Dexter

Lisbon, July 11, 1944.

6

000766

Portugal

LFG-331  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████ W)

Lisbon  
Dated July 11, 1944  
Rec'd 9:25 a.m.

X

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2131, July 11, 1 p.m.

FOR PEHLE FROM WEB 100.

Leaving by clipper July 13 or 14. Arrange  
necessary priorities natal Miami.

NORWEB

WSB RB

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

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

000767

MEM  
Distribution of trans  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (100-100000)

July 11, 1944  
8 p.m.

AMEMBASSY,

LIECHEN

1944

The following WRM cable ME is for Moscow and Mann.  
Unless Mann has pressing reasons not (repeat not)  
known to us for remaining in Lieben, it is requested that  
he return to Washington at the earliest possible moment  
for conference. It will be appreciated if Moscow will  
do everything possible to expedite Mann's departure. If  
there are any difficulties in arranging priority for  
immediate transportation, please advise in order that the  
matter may be taken up here.

WRL  
(AM)

WRE:MY:ED  
7/13/44

WE

S/CR

cc:Boyle, Abrahamson, Akria, Bernstein, Berenstein, Cahn, DuBois, Friedman, Ganton, Gage,  
Laughlin, Lesser, Lutzford, Mann, Manner, Marks, McCormack, Sargay, Standish, Stewart,  
Weinstein, E. D. White, Fable, Files.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73  
By E. H. Parks Date SEP 8 1972

*Control not used  
in release*

100768



Portugal

A-474

10:10 am

June 20, 1944

UNRESTRICTED

EMBASSY,  
LISBON.

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
JUN 23 1944

Dexter has informed War Refugee Board that the Embassy has inquired concerning the account to which the cost of his cables should be charged. The Embassy is authorized to include such charges in its regular accounts for reimbursement by WRB in accordance with Section V-45. Expenditures under this heading should be reported separately and not charged to miscellaneous expense account of \$2000 authorized for Dexter in Department's 1185, April 27.

HULL

EPT

6

FA:WB:FE 6/13/44

WRB

BF

1000770

Portugal

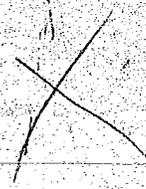
BJR - 557

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated June 2, 1944

Rec'd 12:50 p.m.



Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1684, June 2, 11 a.m.

WRB 59.

Mann arrived safely.

NORWEB

REP

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernsein, Cohn,  
DuBois, Fredman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann,  
Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart,  
Weinstein, H. D. White, Files

000771

*in Ref Bd*  
*(Mr. Pehle)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: May 25, 1944  
NUMBER: 1595  
x

RECEIVED  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
1 copy only  
70 11 MA 65 YAM:MM  
**CONTROL COPY**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reference is made herewith to Department's May 20 telegram No. 1431.

As regards commitments to pay salary of \$200 and seven dollars per diem to Miss Eleanor Widen, do not believe it defensible that Miss Widen be given total remuneration forty-seven percent greater than that received by recently appointed Foreign Service clerks performing similar duties. Department may wish to urge the Board to reconsider amount of remuneration to be paid, provided WRB commitment has not been approved. However, if Department has concurred in Board's commitment already, the advisability of restricting payments abroad to equal remuneration now received by Foreign Service clerks in same capacity, balance of payments effected to employee's credit in U.S., might be considered by the Department.

NORWEB

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 13 1973

*Discussed with Mr. Pehle. No answer from WRB required. Continue to push for Miss Widen's departure.*  
*W.S. 5/29*

000772

*W. R. Board  
J. W. Pehle  
copy only*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Lisbon  
DATED: May 20, 1944  
NUMBER: 1431  
x

CONTROL COPY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Following message from J. W. Pehle, War Refugee Board to Minister Norweb.

On basis of your 1327 approving our 1208 we made commitment to Eleanor Widen on salary and per diem figures. Difficult if not impossible to change terms of offer at this time. We feel \$2000 salary and \$7 per diem fully justified, particularly in view of emergency nature of work and probability of relatively short duration. Would appreciate your reconsideration and approval as originally proposed.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 26  
x

HULL

CO A MR ES YAM DPT

WASHINGTON D.C.  
WRB REFUGEE BOARD  
RECEIVED

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date MAR 13 1973

000773

CABLE TO LISBON

Please deliver following message to Minister Nerweb, Lisbon, from  
J. W. Pehle, War Refugee Board.

On basis of your 1327 approving our 1208 we made commitment to Eleanor  
Widen on salary and per diem figures. Difficult if not impossible to  
change terms of offer at this time. We feel \$2000 salary and \$7 per  
diem fully justified, particularly in view of emergency nature of work  
and probability of relatively short duration. Would appreciate your  
reconsideration and approval as originally proposed.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO LISBON NO. 26

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May 17, 1944  
3:25 p.m.

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann,  
Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

WStewart; pdk 5/16/44

000774

CONTRL COPY

2 - Wm Ref  
Lisbon Bd (Wm)  
Dated May 5, 1944  
Rec'd 8:12 p.m. *Delile*

MFG-32

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency (BR)

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1354, May 5, 10 a.m.

Reference Department's 1208, April 29 and my 1327, May 2 regarding assignment Eleanor Widen. In reconsidering matter emphatically recommend maximum salary and allowances do not exceed \$3100 to correspond to that of women now employed by mission. Remuneration of \$4500 excessive and out of proportion to that of employees performing similar duties and responsibilities.

NORWEB

WSB  
NPL

000775

CONTROL COPY

RECT-144

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated May 2, 1944

Rec'd 6:02 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1327, 2nd, 4 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

MAY 3 1944

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

WRB 14. Reference Department's 1208, April 29.

Approve appointment, hope Widen<sup>v</sup> arrives soon.

NORWEB

MRM  
EJH

000776

**CONTROL COPY**

TELEGRAM UNIT

PLAIN

April 29, 1944

*War  
Refugee  
Bd (Mr  
Hull)*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

APR 30 1944

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

AMEMBASSY

LISBON

x 1208, Twenty-ninth

TO MINISTER NORWEB FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 1083 of April 10 Eleanor Widen will  
accept appointment as secretarial assistant to Dexter at  
\$2,000 per annum plus \$7.00 per diem. We propose appointment  
as soon as possible and would appreciate your approval.

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 6  
x

HULL  
(CLW)

WRB:GLW:OMH  
4/26/44

WE

A-8/3

FA

000777

CABLE TO LISBON

To Minister Norweb from War Refugee Board.

Re your 1053. Eleanor Widen will accept appointment as secretarial assistant to Dexter at \$2,000 per annum plus \$7.00 per diem. We propose appointment as soon as possible and would appreciate your approval.

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 6

\*\*\*\*\*

April 26, 1944  
11:15 a.m.

6  
WStewart; pdk 4/25/44

*W.S.*

000778

64R-864

PLAIN

Liebon

Dated April 10, 1944

Rec'd 6:56 p.m., 11th

Secretary of State

Washington

1053, tenth

FROM DEPARTMENT FOR THE REFUGEE BOARD

Department 217, April 4

Position as Attaché for Refugee Affairs offered by  
Minister and accepted. He does not approve my dual assign-  
ment for Spain, although it is understood that many problems  
are common to both countries and there must be consultation.  
It is definite policy of Department to employ only United  
States citizens in positions of confidence, therefore, the  
suggestion made in my memo is not. If already approached  
Harris should be notified her engagement, if possible.  
Imperative I have competent confidential secretary American  
citizen seemed. None available here. If you have no one  
to send immediately, suggest you approach Eleanor Tiden,  
my former secretary, 25 Beacon Street, Boston. She might be  
be available, not yet security checked but used to my ways.  
If interested, you must make your own salary arrangements.

2- #1053, tenth from Lisbon

She is excellent secretary but less costly and will take less responsibility than other. Later on, might need executive assistant. Legation will furnish office space. Will need funds immediately for personal and office expenses, transportation and entertainment. Also some compensation for loss of time to Unitarian Committee, who are carrying my salary and must engage extra staff. See my memo. Difficult to estimate amount but suggest you cable credit of ten thousand. Impossible secure automobile. Suggest you arrange sending car from America soonest. Lack of transportation seriously handicaps work. Request shipment two typewriters and instructions regarding purchase of safe.

NOTED

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuRoi, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McGermack, Murphy, Paul, Penle, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.