

PRIVATE MESSAGES SENT: UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS

000119

Union of Orthodox Rabbis
(Pres. Mess.)

March 7, 1945

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Jakob Griffl was received through the American Consulate General in Jerusalem under date of March 1, 1945:

"Lichteim, agency representative in Geneva, cabled Knapp that release of refugees from Theresienstadt was obtained from Himmler personally by Musy, Swiss right wing politician, whom the Union of Orthodox Rabbis originally sent to Germany to trace the Vittel group. Further movements have been promised but they have not arrived yet, probably due to difficulties encountered in transportation. The German attitude is due to the general situation in Germany and embarrassment due to the necessity of constantly evacuating 100,000 prisoners of war and civilian internees. Large numbers of prisoners of war are now in Theresienstadt. Rescue efforts to obtain large-scale release of Jews can profit from this situation. At the present time, new plans are under discussion with official quarters here. It has been reported by Storch that admittance of all of the inmates of Bergenbelsen and part from Theresienstadt has been promised by the Swedish Government. This report confirms the news message of yesterday, and may be a possible means of saving the remnant Jews who are in danger of extermination unless they are evacuated to safety. The Chief Rabbi here and other Rabbis are urging all sections of the local community to make every effort in this matter and it is earnestly requested that you continue your work and make every effort to utilize this historic opportunity."

Very truly yours,

Florence Rodal
Assistant Executive Director

Union of Orthodox Rabbis,
132 Nassau Street,
New York, New York.

RBH: 3/7/45

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DCG-1192

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

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
JERUSALEM

1945 MAR 2 Dated March 1, 1945
PM 4 42

Rec'd 2:11 a.m. 2nd.,

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

X
44, March 1, 7 p.m.

Following message is from Jacob Griffel who requests
paraphrase be sent through War Refugee Board to Union
Orthodox Rabbis Rescue Committee, 132 Nassau Street,
New York:

"Agency representative Lichtem Geneva cables
Knapp release Therezin obtained from Himmler personally
by Swiss right wing politician Musy who was sent Germany
by Orthodox groups originally to trace Vittel group.
In destitute condition but suddenly obtained release 1200
Therezin. More such transports promised but not arrived
probably owing transport difficulties. German attitude
result general situation Germany embarrassed by necessity
constantly evacuating 100,000 prisoners of war civilian
internees. In Therezin now large number prisoners of war.
Rescue efforts can profit from situation in order to obtain
large scale release of Jews. New plans presently discussed
with official quarters here. Storch reports Swedish

Government

000121

-2-#44, March 1, 7 p.m. from Jerusalem.

Government promised again admittance all inmates Bergenbelzen and part Therezin, this report confirmed news message yesterday. This last possibility save Remnants who are in greatest danger immediate extermination unless evacuated to safety. Rest not, make every human effort utilize historic opportunity. Here chief Rabbi Rabbis rousing all sections local community this matter do likewise."

PINKERTON

EEC

000122

October 24, 1944

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Mr. Sternbuch was received through the American Legation in Bern under date of October 19, 1944:

"To date (October 6) we have disbursed in Swiss franc equivalents: for Slovakia 305,000; for Poland, Hungary and Rumania 435,000; for Italy 30,000; and for Holland, Belgium and France 140,000.

"Through Intercross there was recently dispatched a carload which included 5000 kilos sugar and 5000 kilos of macaroni, to the Resienstadt. Distribution of this food will be undertaken by our people."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Union of Orthodox Rabbis,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

*Mr. Allen request
Oct 27, 1944 -
very little sugar and
deserved to have
Hutzfeldt: 12.5.10/28*

✓
fP
RDrury 10/24/44

000123

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DMH-848

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (b)(7)(D)

Bern

Dated October 19, 1944

Rec'd 7:57 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

6941, October 19, 7 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND. FOR UNION ORTHODOX RABBIS
FROM STERNBUCH.

"We have paid out to date (October 6) in Swiss franc
equivalents: for Poland, Hungary and Rumania 435,000;
for Slovakia 305,000; for Italy 30,000; for France,
Holland and Belgium 140,000.

Recently dispatched through Intercross car load
including 5000 kilos sugar and 5,000 kilos macaroni to
the Resienstadt. Our people will undertake distribution
these foodstuffs."

EH

HARRISON

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 11 1972

CONTROL COPY

Message sent
10/24/44 RS

000 124

30 June 74-75d
m. file

CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 21, 1944
NUMBER: 4670

File

7/27/44
Message sent
Rabbi's
Oct

McLelland sends following for WRB from Kuehl, Donnebaum, and Sternbuch for Union of Orthodox Rabbis:

Continuous contact is being maintained by us with Laiffel. We have informed him that if possibilities of rescue work increase he will receive another hundred thousand Swiss francs, and have requested that he undertake transportation of refugees to Turkey from Bucharest. Places on ships are greatly lacking, and in view of development of situation soon anticipated it would be most important to counteract this lack. One thousand Swiss francs is still cost of a passage now-a-days.

We are forwarding a report shortly regarding rescue work for Italy and France.

One hundred thousand Swiss francs for general support have been sent by us to Freudiger. In addition we are in contact by telephone with the Wischnitz Rabbi Chaimmeirhager at Bucharest. A committee of several personalities has been formed by this Rabbi. Some time ago we also transmitted one hundred thousand francs for the management of this rescue work from Hungary to Rumania.

Twenty-three persons were brought to Bucharest lately. Among other Rabbis who have arrived at Bucharest there was the

DECL
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 11 1972 Bobower Rabbi

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000125

Bobower Rabbi Schloime and his son. Search is being made for the other members of this family. At the present time couriers are en route to Budapest from Bucharest in order to bring some more personalities back. It is felt that this is the best way to save various personalities at least. Three to five thousand francs is cost for one person. To avoid break in their rescue work an additional five hundred thousand francs is urgently requested by the Committee.

One hundred fifty thousand francs have been sent by us to Rabbi of Neutra. Latter is directing rescue work from Poland and Hungary to Slovakia and as regards support and rescue he has heavy obligations to fulfill. Just received wire from him in which he states that if we do not provide him with larger sums immediately he will hold CNO responsible for consequences since if he is not able to render sufficient help people run risk of deportation to Poland. He is referring to approximately eighteen hundred persons of whom greater part are in camps at present time.

Various plans are being worked out as regards Hungary, which have support of joint representative in Budapest also. In addition negotiations to save larger group are proceeding and may be concluded any day. We shall (*) money immediately as soon as guarantee is received that an agreement will be strictly fulfilled. We promised sum of one million francs to Freudiger's group for this purpose to begin with.

Our relations with McClelland are of the best. He willingly grants every possible help to us and all Jewish organizations.

Whether or

000126

Whether or not letters of Foreign Consulates are of any use we do not know, but perhaps they would be if respective states would grant protection. Such letters are at any rate only of use if they are passed on to me by Consulates of South American states in Switzerland at once. Reported rescuing people are getting smaller and situation is becoming progressively more critical in this respect. /

HARRISON

(*) apparent omission

ESR:EBE
7/26/44

000127

*Union of Orthodox
Rabbis
Private Messages*

*Control
Copy*

*W. J. R.
W. J. R.*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

copy only

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 13, 1944
NUMBER: 2291
X

files

A reply to information contained in Department's cable of April 6, no. 1174, is being prepared by Sternbuch.

It is requested by him that the following message be delivered to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

25,000 Swiss francs have been placed at our disposal of Griffel. Further details follow.

It is explained that Griffel who is the Union's agent in Istanbul requested him to deposit fifteen thousand francs at Amexco Basel and ten thousand with his brother Mahum Sternbuch who will receive instructions regarding employment of funds later.

RECEIVED
APR 14 1944
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

HARRISON

*4/29/44
Message sent to
Union of Orth. Rabbis
JH*

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 11 1976

000128

APR 29 1944

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

The following message for you from Isaac Sternbuch was received from the American Legation, Bern, under date of April 13, 1944:

"25,000 Swiss francs have been placed by us at the disposal of Griffel. Further details follow."

It was explained that Griffel requested Sternbuch to deposit fifteen thousand francs at Amexco Basel and ten thousand with his brother, Nahum Sternbuch, who will receive instructions regarding employment of the funds later.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
Union of Orthodox Rabbis of
the United States and Canada,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

FH:lab 4/29/44

000 129

*Union of
Orthodox Rabbis
(President's message)*

*war. Eugene Ed
(Mr. Able) Perry*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

(copy only)

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: March 16, 1944
NUMBER: 1697
x

CONTROL COPY

Reference my 1321, dated March 4.

Substance of message from Sternbuch for transmission to Union of Orthodox Rabbis at the Department's discretion is transmitted herewith, as follows:

"(1) Now with Brother of Rabbi of Wyznitz, the first twenty-two persons saved have reached Hungary. When weather improves great success expected as rescue work is well organized.

(2) Request has been made by Donati, Valobrand Lopez as representatives here of the Italian Colony, for Italians of America to place at their disposal greater amounts as there is possibility saving Jews of northern Italy. This action managed and controlled by us.

(3) In France the situation is becoming much worse. Frightful panic exists and people are seized in streets and sent to camps for deportation."

Sternbuch, Rubinfeld, Rosenbaum and Pines signed the foregoing message.

APR 10 3 30 AM

HARRISON
DECLASS
State Dept. Letter, 11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 11 1972

000130