

RELIEF FOR ITALIANS IN SWEDEN

100981

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

October 19, 1944 2 p.m.

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. [redacted] W)

*War Relief Bd*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

1944 OCT 21 AM 11 04

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LHM)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF

AMLEGATION,

**CONTROL COPY**

STOCKHOLM

2097 *from State*

Kindly refer to your 4028 October 7 to Department and WRB 110 to Stockholm of this date. In view of negative response of War Refugee Board, Department has consulted President's War Relief Control Board concerning the possibility of securing the funds required to supplement the relief offered by the Swedish Government to the Italian refugees from private relief sources. You will be advised as soon as a reply is received from the War Relief Control Board.

HULL (GLW)

[redacted]  
For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded

WRB:GLW:OMH 10/18/44

SE

SWP

RCB

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

000982

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

REB  
Distribution of ~~trans~~ of State  
reading only by ~~SECRETARY~~  
ARRANGEMENT ( )  
AMLEGATION

October 19, 1944

3 p.m.

*War Ref*  
*(Mr. Pehle)*

STOCKHOLM  
2096

OCT 21 1944

The cable below for Olsen is WRB 110.

Reference your 4088 to Department, Section 2, WRB's 89  
of October 7, 1944.

The Board's concern with the welfare of refugees in  
neutral countries arises only when it bears a direct relation-  
ship to the reception of additional refugees from enemy con-  
trolled areas. Consequently, the Board does not consider  
that the matter raised in the telegram under reference is  
one which is properly to be dealt with by it. For that  
reason, the Board has referred the problem in its entirety  
to the Department of State.

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

HULL  
(GLW)

CONTROL COPY

WRB:MMV:KG  
10/16/44

NOV 10 1944  
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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 11 1972

000983

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON FOR OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Reference year 4088 to Department, Section 2, WHM's 89 of October 7, 1944.

The Board's concern with the welfare of refugees in neutral countries arises only when it bears a direct relationship to the reception of additional refugees from enemy controlled areas. Consequently, the Board does not consider that the matter raised in the telegram under reference is one which is properly to be dealt with by it. For that reason, the Board has referred the problem in its entirety to the Department of State.

THIS IS WEB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 110.

11:00 a.m.  
October 16, 1944

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

LSLesser:tah 10-13-44

Y.S.L.

100984

*2 War Ref Bd  
Pitt*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: October 7, 1944  
NUMBER: 4088

**CONTROL COPY**



SECTION ONE

From the Italian Legation we have received under date of October 6 a note pointing out that the Swedish Government was approached, following our representation, and it stated that it would provide to Italian unofficial refugees who had no employment free lodging, but without food, plus a monetary stipend of 20 crowns per man per week.

It is stated by the Italian Legation that this relief is not sufficient even to pay for the food for such refugees. Italians who have jobs earn per month approximately 140 kronor here, while those working in factories as laborers earn 70 crowns per week. Many of the refugees arrived here without adequate clothing and in poor health, however, still others have not found jobs due to language difficulties. In its note it is suggested by the Italian Legation, and it was more strongly emphasized in oral conversation, that this group of Italian seamen refugees would be liable to suasion by neo-Fascist Italian agents here or would automatically be subject to Communist propoganda if this group is denied further aid. Therefore, the Italian Legation asks us to continue with our British colleagues to pay, in addition to the

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

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help which the Swedes have promised, the minimum of refugee relief based on one crown per man per day for the 75 refugees here, or 2,250 crowns per month. Also, it is requested by the Italian Legation that the sum as previously paid jointly by British and U.S., namely 3000 crowns per month, be maintained in order to give it a little leeway and to meet costs of further relief. (Comment by the Legation: The request made by the Italian Legation is, by local standards, modest. For example, the Belgian Legation pays seven kronor per man, and the French Legation pays seven kronor fifty ore per day to all French refugees. U.S.A. internees in Sweden, who are highest paid of any foreign community of this type, are in the popular view also refugees from Germany in a sense.)

On the third of October the British Legation wrote to London describing steps which had been taken by the Department and stated that should this Legation not feel it possible to bring the matter to the attention of the Department again, it might have to request the Foreign Office to take up the matter in Washington or else authorize the British Legation here to carry all the sum, as it was not felt by the British Legation that it would be useful to the Allied cause if Stockholm had a number of tough Italian escapees who, if they are not given enough to live on, will certainly go Communist and cause trouble.

SECTION TWO

Although we are fully aware of the motives which have  
determined

000986

determined the decision taken in this case by the Department, I submit that a problem whose nuisance value is considerable is being built up for very little monetary savings. If such expenditure cannot be authorized by the Department, the War Refugee Board might find it possible to give to its representative here authority to defray these costs for unofficial Italian refugee relief (this section is cable 89 from War Refugee Board's representative at the Legation).

With respect to the question of Stefani correspondents, it was pointed out in the note from the Italian Legation that it would be necessary to repatriate these men as quickly as possible if their stipends now cease, and the Italian Legation begs this and the British Legation to do everything possible to obtain means for repatriating the three correspondents concerned, continuing to pay them relief in the meantime. I am prepared, for our part, to authorize the transportation of Messrs. Arista, Bojano, and Sarti to England by American plane, but no instructions as to whether they would be permitted to land in England or to proceed to Italy have been received by the British as yet. The Stefani correspondents are clearly not fitted for remunerative employment in Sweden, which is already burdened with thousands of foreign refugees, and it is recommended by me that until means can be found for their speedy repatriation, we be authorized at least to pay to Stefani men a <sup>subsistence</sup> ~~substantial~~ allowance in conjunction with the British.

The Italian

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The Italian Legation goes on in a third section of its note to request that we continue to pay in round figures 50,000 crowns monthly originally decided upon and approved by Department and Foreign Office in London, if it is at all possible to do so. It is pointed out by the Italian Legation that salary and other payments totaling over 68,000 crowns per month have been authorized by its own Foreign Office but that the Foreign Office at Rome has stated in instruction No. 37, dated the twenty-fifth of September, that the Allied Control Commission had demanded that the Stockholm Royal Legation's expenses be confined to the sum of 50 crowns. The statement is construed by the Italian Legation here as being a negative approval by Control Commission of continued payment of this sum.

It is felt by us that for a very little saving in money we are developing a small hornet's nest which may have unfavorable repercussions against cause of the Allied Nations, especially since the Italians are increasingly being accepted by us in other fields as bona fide co-belligerents against the Axis. We should appreciate reconsideration of this problem by the War Refugee Board and the Department.

JOHNSON

  
DCR:IDB:FB 10/10/44

000988

OCT 16 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: J. W. Pehle

On October 11, 1944, the Department of State transmitted to the Board telegram No. 4088, dated October 7, from Minister Johnson at Stockholm dealing with the problem of supplying relief to Italian seaman refugees in Stockholm and of repatriating certain Italian news correspondents now in Sweden.

As the Board's concern with the welfare of refugees in neutral countries arises only when it bears a direct relationship to the admission of further refugees, I do not believe that the problem presented by Minister Johnson is one which may be properly dealt with by the Board. I am sure that the Department of State will take all appropriate action.

(Initialed) J. W. P.

LSEsser:tmh 10-14-44 J.S.L.

100989

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

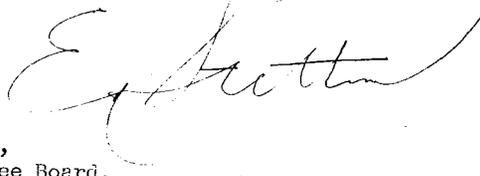
October 17, 1944

Dear John:

Thank you for your memorandum of October 16  
on the subject of relief for Italian seamen  
refugees in Stockholm and of repatriating certain  
Italian news correspondents now in Sweden. I  
appreciate your promptness in letting me have the  
Board's views and I shall immediately call them  
to the attention of the proper officials in the  
Department.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Mr. John Pehle,  
War Refugee Board,  
Executive Office of the President,  
Washington 25, D. C.

000990

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: August 4, 1944  
NUMBER: 2942

X  
[REDACTED]

We have been presented a list by the Italian Legation of some 50 Italian refugees who look to it for financial support. The bulk of these people consists of Italian seamen who escaped from German vessels in Swedish ports. Within the framework of monthly payment of 50,000 crowns to Italian Legation the British Legation and we have already authorized appropriation of 3,000 crowns for refugee relief. Now 5,000 kr. monthly extra to defray expenses of newly arrived refugees has been requested by the Italian Legation.

London is being wired by the British Legation recommending authorization be given it to pay 2,500 kr. per month to meet its share of this charge and the Foreign Office is informed that on analogy of sums spent here by Allied Legations for their refugees, the amount which the Italian Legation now requests seems reasonable. We concur with this view and we request authorization to increase our monthly payment to the Italian Legation by 2,500 kr., equivalent to \$599.52.

An increase in the number of destitute Italians arriving in Sweden is anticipated by the Italian Legation, depending on war conditions.

JOHNSON

Miss Chauncy (for the Soc'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

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