Secretary of State, Washington.

1470, August 10, 11 p.m.

FOR PENIE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Contents of Department’s 683, August 5 will be brought to attention of Cretzianu by me at my next meeting with him which I expect will be before August 15. I shall also discuss the matter at the Soviet Embassy.

WMB JUM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

F5M-036
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Ankara
Dated August 10, 1944
Rec’d 9:17 p.m., 11th.

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

BELIEF

1944 AUG 12 PM 12 05

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Lotter, 1-11-72
By R.H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Moscow
DATED: August 5, 1944
NUMBER: 1872

The War Refugee Board has received the following cable from its representative in Bern:

"Recently received urgent appeal from the Relief Commission of ICRC based on reports from de Steiger, ICRC delegate Bucharest regarding plight of several thousand Soviet refugees who have been forced to leave their homes by retreating German Army. 5500 such refugees are in Transylvania, 1200 in Tatars Province of Dobrudja and many more thousands in other provinces of Rumania. Their situation is extremely precarious; they have no right to work and no relief for them has been organized. ICRC appeals for funds to purchase pharmaceutical products, clothing, Switzerland and to supply their delegates on the spot with money to purchase foodstuffs and fuel. ICRC delegates have already approached Rumanian Government in attempt to secure work permits for these people. I forward this appeal to you for any helpful action you feel might be undertaken. UNQUOTE"

We send you the foregoing report as of interest to the Soviet Government and for its information. In submitting the information..."
information please advise the Soviet authorities that the War Refugee Board will be pleased to do everything possible to arrange for the relief of the groups referred to if the Soviet authorities so wish, or any other suggestion which they may make will be considered by the Board.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)
CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEES BOARD TO AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN, MOSCOW

The War Refugees Board has received the following cable from its representative in Bern:

"Recently received urgent appeal from Mixed Relief Commission of IORC based on reports from de Steiger IORC delegate regarding plight of several thousand Soviet refugees who have been forced leave their homes by retreating German Army. 5500 such refugees are in Transylvania 1200 in Batab Province of Dobrudja and many more thousands in other provinces of Romania. Their situation is extremely precarious they have no right to work and no relief for them has been organised. IORC appeals for funds to purchase pharmaceutical products clothing Switzerland and to supply their delegates on spot with money to purchase foodstuffs and fuel. IORC delegates have already approached Russian Government in attempt to secure work permits for these people. I forward this appeal to you for any helpful action you feel might be undertaken."

The War Refugees Board is anxious to do everything possible to arrange for aid for these refugees if they are bona fide Soviet victims of enemy oppression. It is suggested that inquiry be made of the appropriate Russian officials whether the Russian Government has any information concerning the plight of these refugees and also whether the Russian Government has any specific suggestion as to the manner in which the War Refugees Board could assist in ameliorating their condition. Meanwhile the Board is requesting its representative in Angara to investigate and report concerning the situation disclosed by the IORC cable.

2:30 p.m.
August 1, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DaBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files
The cable below for Hirschmann is in the following cable-paid for security reasons:

AMBASSADY
ANKARA.
603.

The cable below for Hirschmann in the following cable-paid for security reasons:

The War Refugee Board is sending the following cable to Ambassador Harriman in Moscow:

QUOTE The War Refugee Board has received the following cable from its representative in Bern.

INNERQUOTE Recently received urgent appeal from Mixed Relief Commission of IRRC based on reports from de Steiger ICRC delegate Bucharest regarding plight several thousand Soviet refugees who have been forced leave their homes by retreating German Army. 6000 such refugees are in Transylvania 1200 Tatars Province of Dobrudja and many more thousands in other provinces of Rumania. Their situation is extremely precarious they have no right to work and no relief for them has been organized. ICRC appeals for funds purchase pharmaceutical products clothing Switzerland and to supply their delegates on spot with money to purchase food-stuffs and fuel. ICRC delegates have already approached Rumanian Government in attempt to secure work permits for these people. I forward this appeal to you for any helpful action you feel might be undertaken END OF INNERQUOTE.

Kindly transmit the above report as of interest and a

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972
matter of information to the Soviet Government. Kindly advise the Soviet authorities in submitting this information that the War Refugee Board will be pleased to do everything possible to arrange for the relief of the groups mentioned in the cable from Bern if the Soviet authorities so desire, or to take any other measures on the suggestion of the Soviet authorities.

UNQUOTE

Please investigate and report to the Board any information which you may obtain concerning this situation.

STEPTINUS
ACTING
(GLW)

S/CR
The War Refugee Board is sending the following cable to Ambassador Harriman in Moscow:

"The War Refugee Board has received the following cable from its representative in Bern:

Recently received urgent appeal from Mixed Relief Commission of IRO based on reports from de Steiger IRO delegate Bucharest regarding plight of almost 5000 Soviet refugees who have been forced to leave their homes by retreating German Army. Their situation is extremely precarious; they have no right to work and no relief for them has been organised. IRO appeals for funds purchase pharmaceutical products clothing Switzerland and to supply their delegates on spot with money to purchase foodstuff and fuel. IRO delegates have already approached Hungarian government in attempt to secure work permits for these people. I forward this appeal to you for any helpful action you feel might be undertaken."

The War Refugee Board is anxious to do everything possible to arrange for aid for these refugees if they are bona fide Soviet victims of enemy oppression. It is suggested that inquiry be made of the appropriate Russian officials whether the Russian Government has any information concerning the plight of these refugees and also whether the Russian Government has any specific suggestion as to the manner in which the War Refugee Board could assist in ameliorating their condition. Meanwhile the Board is requesting its representative in Ankara to investigate and report concerning the situation disclosed by the IRO cable."

Please investigate and report to the Board any information which you may obtain concerning this situation.

This is War Refugee Board cable to Ankara No. 88.

2:30 p.m.
August 1, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamsen, Cohn, DeBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files
TO: MR. KLEINMAN

Inasmuch as this involves the Soviet Government with which Russia is at war, I don't think Hirschmann should approach Cretzmann until we receive a reply to our Moscow cable, as the Russian attitude toward communication with the enemy is known. Unfortunately, it is too late to stop Hirschmann, as he expected to see Cretzmann before today.

I recommend that a letter be written to Hirschmann clarifying our policy with regard to his approaching representatives of both enemy governments and friendly foreign governments.

Hym 1/14/44

Matthew J. Marks

TR-6
 Secretary of State,
Washington,

4851, Twenty-eighth

URGENT FROM MCCLELLAND

Recently received urgent appeal from Mixed Relief
Commission of ICRC based on reports from de Steiger
ICRC delegate Bucharest regarding plight several thousand
Soviet refugees who have been forced leave their homes
by retreating German Army. 5500 such refugees are in
Transylvania 1200 Tatars Province of Dobrudjia and many
more thousands in other provinces of Rumania. Their
situation is extremely precarious they have no right
to work and no relief for them has been organized.
ICRC appeals for funds purchase pharmaceutical products
clothing Switzerland and to supply their delegates on
spot with money to purchase foodstuffs and fuel. ICRC
deleagtes have already approached Rumanian Government
in attempt to secure work permits for these people. I
forward this appeal to you for any helpful action you
feel might be undertaken.

HARRISON