

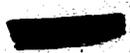
SITUATION in GERMANY and GERMAN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY
(Folder 1 of 2)

000023

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 11, 1945
NUMBER: 1745
A



US WRB T

The following is for WRB and Department

The statement to the effect that instructions have been issued by Himmler to his staff at Bergen Belsen not to disturb the Jews in the camp and to allow the advancing Allied forces to take them over was contained in a communication from Brandt (Himmler's personal adjutant) to Kersten, dated April 5, 1945.

JOHNSON

DC/L:GPN
4/11/45

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 12 1972**

000024

MAR 30 1945

Attention: Colonel Gearhardt

Dear Mr. McCloy:

There is referred to you herewith for appropriate action a telegram addressed to Senator James Meade from Rabbi Baruch Korff which the Senator's office forwarded to this office.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

JH *Per instructions*
of Gen. O'Dwyer
FH:nd 3/30/45

000025

C
O
P
Y

1945 MAR 27 PM 9 49

NB746 NL PD-WUX NEWYORK NY 27
SENATOR JAMES MEADE-
SENATE OFFICE BLDG WASHDC-

PLEASE FORWARD FOLLOWING TO SENATOR BY CABLE. "AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THE APPROXIMATELY 80,000 POLISH JEWISH PRISONERS OF WAR WHO WERE SEGREGATED FROM THEIR COMRADES IN ARMS A FEW WEEKS AGO BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER OF DEATH STOP WE URGE YOU TO PLEASE USE YOUR GOOD OFFICES DURING YOUR PRESENT MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN THEATER OF WAR IN AN EFFORT TO FORESTALL NAZI CANNIBALISM IN THE TWELFTH HOUR OF THE EUROPEAN WAR STOP OUT OF DEFEAT AND DESPERATION WE FEAR MAY YET COME A MORE CATASTROPHIC CARNAGE THAN HAS BEEN OUR MISFORTUNE TO WITNESS IN THE PAST STOP NEEDLESS TO IMPRESS UPON YOU THE URGENCY OF THE MATTER FOR YOUR MATURE AND ADMIRABLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE JEWISH PROBLEM IS A MATTER OF RECORD-

RABBI BARUCH KORFF DIRECTOR RESCUE ACTIVITIES OF
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE,
VAAD HAHATZALA AND UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS
25 WEST 45 ST NEW YORK.

80,000 25 45,
CATASTROPHIC CARNAGE PC

000026

United States Senate

Washington, D.C., 3 28, 1945

Respectfully referred to

War Refugee Board

2000 to 1100 Dept

Respectfully,

Gas M. Reed
U.S.S.

Jan 21

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-2813

2

000027

MAR 31 1945

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

Through the American Legation in Bern, the following strictly confidential message has been received for you from Dr. Reigner:

"In a gathering of various national Red Cross representatives at Intercross headquarters which I attended, President Burckhardt gave an account of his recent conversations with two high officials of German political police in Vorarlberg and with representatives of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kreuzlingen on the Swiss frontier. Intercross obtained the right to have permanent delegates in all camps for civil detainees on the condition that they will remain in the camps until hostilities cease and that they will follow transfers from camps to new ones. Authorization has been given for delegates to contact all detainees individually and to correspond freely with Intercross delegation in Berlin. Camps will be established according to the nationality of the detainees. Jews will be assembled with their compatriots in camps of respective nationality. Intercross envisages special camps for stateless people. Special Intercross regional delegates will deal with detainees working in special commandos outside of the camps. Intercross is now preparing collaboration of Swiss army and Swiss Red Cross delegates, particularly physicians and sanitary personnel to be sent quickly to German camps. President Burckhardt warned that, in view of recent war developments, the segregation of camps according to nationalities will not be achieved quickly. Regarding food action for war prisoners and civil detainees, Burckhardt

100028

advised that three centers of distribution will be established at Luebeck, Ravensburg, and Beirut. Special block trains will go from the Swiss frontier where 200 trucks are stationed. Center for feeding camps for civil detainees will be Ravensburg. Twelve trucks are presently at disposal for civil detainees. This number is absolutely insufficient. The problem of evacuating civil detainees on exchange basis was discussed with German representatives. Definite answer is still outstanding. Evacuations through Switzerland according to categories and not per head but by nationality, women, aged people and children is envisaged. Age limits have not yet been fixed. The Germans made no reservations as to political or racial detainees to be included in these exchanges but will themselves indicate camp nationality to begin with. If the exchange scheme starts, transportation to Switzerland will be by block trains and trucks. After the meeting, Burekhardt told me personally that German political police officials assured him that Inter-cross will have large possibilities to deal with the care of Jewish detainees. Burekhardt could not obtain any accurate information concerning the German attitude toward Musy's action. My personal impression is that realization discussed plans partly already problematic because of recent war developments and that the first categories probably will be French and Belgian who might be exchanged against Germans of Allied-occupied Germany."

I am sure you will realize the strictly confidential nature of the foregoing message and that you will regard it as secret.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.

FH:hd 3/30/45

*Jef - Case No. 1806 - Mar 27
San Bern.*

000029

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EAS-1654

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

Bern

Dated March 27, 1945

Rec'd 2:45 a.m., 28th

War Rep Bd
O. S. [unclear]

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1806, March 27, 1 p.m.

~~STRICTLY~~

FOR DEPARTMENT AND WRB

For Dr. Nahum Goldman, World Jewish Congress, 1834
Broadway, New York,

From Reigner, Geneva.

In gathering of various national Red Cross representatives including myself at CICR headquarters President Burckhardt gave account his recent conversations with two high officials of German political police in Vorarlberg and with representatives German Ministry Foreign Affairs in Kreuzlingen Swiss frontier. ^{Interests} CICR obtained right to have permanent delegates in all camps for civil detainees on condition will remain camps till end hostilities and will follow transfers camps to new ones. Delegates authorized contact individually all detainees and correspond freely with ^{Interests} CICR delegation Berlin. Camps will be established according

CONTROL COPY

*War Rep Bd
Sent to Goldman
3/30/45*

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000030

-2- #1806, March 27, 1 p.m., from Bern

according nationality of detainees. Jews will be assembled with their compatriots in camps of respective nationality. ^{For stateless people} For stateless people CICR envisaging special camps. ^{Special CICR regional delegates} Special CICR regional delegates will deal with detainees working in special commandos outside camps. ^{CICR now preparing} CICR now preparing collaboration Swiss Army Swiss Red Cross delegates, especially physicians and sanitary personnel to be sent quickly German camps. Burckhardt warned that ^{view} recent war developments, ^{the} segregation camps according nationalities will not be quickly achieved. ^{view} Concerning food action for war prisoners civil detainees, Burckhardt informed that three centers of distribution will be established Luebeck, Ravensburg, and Beirut. ^{view} activity for camps within range 300 kilometers. Special block trains will go from Swiss frontier and where 200 trucks stationed. Ravensburg will be center for feeding camps civil detainees. At present 12 trucks at disposal for civil detainees, this number of trucks absolutely insufficient. Problem evacuation civil detainees on exchange basis was discussed with German representatives. Definite answer still outstanding. It is envisaged to evacuate through Switzerland according categories and not per head.

000031

-3- #1806, March 27, 1 p.m., from Bern

per head but by nationality women aged people children.
Age limits not yet fixed. Germans made no reserve as to
political or racial detainees to include into these
exchanges but will themselves indicate camp nationality
to begin with. If exchange scheme starts block trains and
trucks will be used as means of transportation to Swit-
zerland. After gathering Burckhardt declared to me
personally German political police officials assured
him ~~GIOR~~ will have large possibilities deal care Jewish
detainees. Burckhardt could not obtain any accurate
information concerning German attitude toward ^{HARRY} Masy's action.
My personal impression is that realization discussed
plans partly already problematic because recent war
developments and that first categories probably French
Belgian who might be exchanged against Germans of Allied
occupied Germany. /B

HARRISON

MJF

000032

March 24, 1946

Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Hodel

For your information

The attached cable has just been received from Mr. McClelland reporting on Burckhardt's visit with the German authorities.

The main points in the Burckhardt report are as follows:

1. International Red Cross delegates will be permitted to be stationed in major camps for Schutzhaeftlinge (political deportees) and prisoners of war to supervise relief distributions;
2. The Germans are willing to allow deliveries of relief by truck to political deportees irrespective of nationality or race;
3. The Germans have agreed in principle to allow evacuation of women, children, elderly and ill people irrespective of religion or race;
4. International Red Cross is planning to utilize returning prisoner of war relief trucks for evacuations.

McClelland suggests that the War Refugee Board's most effective contribution to this double program of relief and evacuation will be (a) obtaining trucks and tires, and (b) organizing the evacuation from Switzerland of those refugees who are non-repatriable in Europe.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

FH:hd 3/24/46

*Intentional copy not
to be made*

000033

The New York Times.

MAR 12 1945

WAR'S END IN MONTH, CALLED REICH'S VIEW

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HAELSINGBORG, Sweden, March 11—German officials, like Gestapo men, customs officials and censors, now estimate that the war will be over in one to two months and German villagers say the war cannot last longer than one month.

That is the consensus of several hundred British, Turks and Portuguese who have been interned in Germany for periods ranging from two and a half years down to a few weeks. These former internees arrived here from the Reich today to be repatriated from Goteborg on board the Swedish liner Drottningholm.

The repatriates said Munich was a heap of rubble as the result of bombings, that German railways were badly disrupted and that food distribution had been upset. All agreed on the basis of what they observed and heard in the Reich that the war would be over soon.

They said German officials generally were convinced of a continued fight for one or two months more but farmers and villagers did not give the Wehrmacht and the Volkssturm more than one month.

"We cannot stand it any longer," some of them said, according to the repatriates.

The Channel Islanders said that they had a hard time in Germany, especially regarding sanitary conditions and food. It became better last December, however, after the International Red Cross intervened, they added.

000034

Nazis Under AMG

All through the western Rhineland last week, in great cities and small towns where Allied armor had swept out the Wehrmacht, German civilians last week were under a new rule—the Allied military government. For a few hours their towns had hovered between life and death, dependent on whether the Wehrmacht tried a dogged defense, perhaps a thunderous counter-barrage, or whether it pulled out to escape entrapment. Where one day life had been ordered by proclamations of the Gauleiters or district military commanders, the notices now carried the name of General Eisenhower. The uniforms that filled the streets were khaki instead of field gray. The familiar village policeman might still make his rounds, but he wore a special brassard and was flanked by Allied MP's. It was a strange experience for a people that once saw its armies domi-

ning all Europe and even broad reaches of North Africa. What happens is described in a radio dispatch from Drew Middleton, correspondent of THE NEW YORK TIMES. He writes:

"When the enemy is on the run and can't halt to counter-attack, the town slowly resumes a normal life once the spearhead of Allied troops has passed through. At first the town is very quiet, with most civilians in cellars or sometimes shivering in near-by woods. As the sound of firing dies in the distance they start to come back to the streets, usually as the first AMG team pastes up big posters on which all can read proclamations setting forth the rules by which the town will be governed.

Troops Go Through

"The shops, some fairly full of cheap and oddly assorted manufactured goods, begin to open. Children stand on the curb watching the big trucks go by, gazing at the big silent men on top. Next morning, countrymen begin trying to enter the town with carts and wheelbarrows of produce. They are halted, for all travel is forbidden Germans while there is still fighting in the vicinity. Most German homes are well stocked with food, however, and people don't starve in the meantime.

"Germans arrested immediately for breaking the new laws are tried and convicted swiftly. A day or two of quick justice has a salutary effect in forcing people to obey the rules outlined in the proclamation. Meanwhile, townspeople are by turns sullen and ingratiating as they accustom themselves to a new way of life."

100035

German Civilians Fire at Americans

WITH THE ELEVENTH ARMORED DIVISION BEYOND MAYEN, March 10 (U.P.).—American troops inside the captured Rhine town of Andernach reported today that they were being fired upon continuously by civilians hiding in hills on the east bank of the Rhine.

Soldiers reported sharp small arms fire from across the river. They said they sighted several civilian snipers.

Captured Germans in Andernach have warned the Americans that SS troops have donned civilian dress and are prepared to carry out small-scale guerrilla warfare inside the town. However, there are no signs yet inside the city itself that civilians are using weapons.

000036

Situation in Germany & occupied territory

Footpads, Thugs Prowl Streets of German Cities

By WARREN IRVIN

ZURICH, March 10.—Berlin, smoking and gutted as part of the worst punishment ever dealt to Germany, is swarming with footpads who attack anyone displaying cigarets or liquor and hijack commandeered cars speeding out of the city with the loot of Nazi leaders, a traveler from the Reich reported today.

The voyager, overjoyed at a chance to get out of Germany, painted a graphic word picture of a nation where lives are valued below foodstuffs, where stunned thousands live in horror and filth and where all means of travel—except by foot—virtually have disappeared.

Hitler's "Tide of Blood"

The present terror inside Germany surpasses anything in history, this source said, past events fading into insignificance beside the tide of blood unboosed by Hitler and his henchmen in a frantic effort to keep their subjects fighting to the last man.

Berlin, Munich, Dresden, Stuttgart and other once-proud cities now lay in ruins, the inhabitants huddling in damp cellars surrounded by dirt and squalor. Total strangers, both men and women, are forced to share the same tiny cubicles, while housewives stand in line for hours to obtain a small grayish paste which the Nazi call bread.

According to the returning traveler, the women no longer hesitate to criticize the Nazi leaders, particularly Himmler, and have been heard to mutter "when the time comes, we alone know whom we have to shoot."

Food Vanishing from Markets

Supplies of bread and potatoes, the last staple articles of food, were said to be vanishing from Berlin's markets. Many bakeries have been destroyed by Allied air attacks and, with flour scarce, the bakers are trying to hide their remaining stocks, he said.

Only a handful of the better known restaurants are still operating, with cardboard or paper for windows and dirty paper covers to replace stolen linens.

With the coming of night, Berlin swarms with footpads, mainly Wehrmacht deserters, who attack passersby, particularly anyone displaying liquor or cigarets, now worth more than their weight in gold.

On the highways leading out of the city, thugs waylay party leaders and favorites trying to flee with loot, the traveler said.

100031

*Transmitted in German
German controlled Territory*

March 12, 1945

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

The following message for you from Mr. Riegner was received through the American Legation, Bern, under date of March 8, 1945:

"On the third of March, pursuing negotiations in the name of the Congress Kubowitzki discussed rescue problems with Carl Burckhardt, President ICRC, and with Von Steiger, President, Swiss Confederation. For the purpose of discussing the release of civil detainees with Himmler, among other matters, Burckhardt announced his intention of leaving Germany within a few days. A member of the Swiss Legation in Berlin has been instructed to undertake parallel intercession also, by the Swiss Federal Council. Assurance was given by Von Steiger that any transports that might arrive from Germany would be admitted by Switzerland. The Germans had now agreed to repatriation of certain national groups of civil detainees, Burckhardt informed us.

"For sending relief to camps in Germany Anglo-Saxon authorities have agreed to make available trucks to ICRC, but they insisted that they be used for prisoners of war only, civil detainees being excluded. It is the belief of ICRC that it will be possible to conclude arrangements for the use of such trucks returning empty for the transplantation of released persons to Switzerland, however. It is requested that you make urgent intercession with competent

000038

Allied authorities value of trucks for the relief of detained civilians. Please approach the Swedish Red Cross and, for the evacuation from Northern Germany, send a steamer to Luebeck also. It is requested that you cable me in this matter."

For your personal and confidential information, the War Refugee Board has been working for some time on the problem of obtaining transportation equipment for the delivery of relief to unassimilated detainees in German-controlled areas. It is requested that you regard the message from Dr. Riegner transmitted herewith as strictly confidential.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Dr. Nahm Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

FH:rh 3/12/45 *JH*

000039

Allied authorities value of trucks for the relief of detained civilians. Please approach the Swedish Red Cross and, for the evacuation from Northern Germany, send a steamer to Luebeck also. It is requested that you cable me in this matter."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
~~Assistant Executive Director~~

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

P For your personal and confidential information, the U.S. Refugee Board has been working for some time on the problem of obtaining transportation equipment for the delivery of relief to unaccompanied detainees in German-controlled areas. It is requested that you regard the message from A. Reques transmitted herewith as strictly confidential.

Wm. O. D.

000040

*marked 72d.
D. Dwyer*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State
DATED: March 8, 1945
NUMBER: 1480
X

CONTROL COPY

The following message, strictly [redacted] from McClelland for WRB.

To Nachum Goldmann of World Jewish Congress, from Riegner, Geneva.

On the third of March, pursuing negotiations in the name of the Congress Kubowitzki discussed rescue problems with Carl Burckhardt, President ICRC, and with Von Steiger, President, Swiss Confederation. For the purpose of discussing the release of civil detainees with Himmler, among other matters, Burckhardt announced his intention of leaving Germany within a few days. A member of the Swiss Legation in Berlin has been instructed to undertake parallel intercession also, by the Swiss Federal Council. Assurance was given by Von Steiger that any transports that might arrive from Germany would be admitted by Switzerland. The Germans had now agreed to repatriation of certain national groups of civil detainees, Burckhardt informed us.

For sending relief to camps in Germany Anglo-Saxon authorities have agreed to make available trucks to ICRC, but they insisted that they be used for prisoners of war only, civil detainees being excluded. It is the belief of ICRC that it will be possible to conclude arrangements for the use

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972 of such

000041

of such trucks returning empty for the transportation of re-
leased persons to Switzerland, however. It is requested that
you make urgent intercession with competent Allied authorities
value of trucks for the relief of detained civilians. Please
approach the Swedish Red Cross and, for the evacuation from
Northern Germany, send a steamer to Luebeck also. It is requested
that you cable me in this matter.

HARRISON.

R.W.
DC/L:LCW 3-9-45

000042

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MF-1590

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

London

Dated March 8, 1945

Rec'd 11:40 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

2402, March 8, 7 p.m.

FOR O'DWYER WRB FROM MANN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 9 - 1945
L-1
LONDON OFFICE

For security reasons
this communication
is being handled
as a restricted
communication.

World Jewish Congress here feels some possibility German policy of extermination may soon be changing to one of evacuation of Jews. They recognize transport difficulties of saving any large number should Germans be willing to permit exit. They point out Intercross negotiating with SHAEF for trucks to carry parcels to prisoner war camps in Germany from German Swiss border in south and Lubeck in north. Number trucks to be furnished Intercross undetermined but WJC informed agreement reached on principle. Such trucks they point out will be returning empty from prisoner war camps to German border and could be utilized to carry Jews out. WJC approaching Intercross through delegate here and have asked that Intercross be urged by board's representative in Bern to approach Germans with view to working out arrangement along lines indicated above for evacuating

refugees

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000043

-2- #2402, March 8, 7 p.m., from London

refugees from Germany. If board perceives no objection
please give appropriate instructions to McClelland.

WINANT

BB

RECEIVED

RECEIVED
RECEIVED

000044

MAR 10 1945

Dear Mr. McCloy:

From an interested private agency, the Board has learned of a report that the Germans have recently segregated Polish Jewish prisoners of war from other Polish prisoners of war and that it is feared that great harm will be inflicted on the segregated Polish Jews.

This information is forwarded to you for consideration and whatever action may be deemed appropriate.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,

Assistant Secretary of War.

W
3/10/45

100045

March 6, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Peter Bergson telephoned today to request that I call General O'Dwyer's attention to the fact that a message had been received to the effect that the Germans have recently separated about 150,000 Polish Jewish prisoners of war from other Polish prisoners; that this action is in violation of the Geneva Convention and that it is feared that great harm will come to these Polish Jews. Mr. Bergson requested that the Board take the matter up with the War Department in the hope that a strong message could be sent through the International Red Cross to the Germans and that retaliatory measures be threatened if the Germans refused to abide by the Geneva Convention with respect to these prisoners.

JH

F. Hodel

*Discussed with
Gen. O'Dwyer March 9 -
JH.*

000046

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

RECEIVED
INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

ALH-1432 1945 MAR 4 AM 10 24 Bern

Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangements
()

Dated March 2, 1945

Rec'd 5:22 p.m.

DE/L
LIAISON

Secretary of State

Washington

1346, March 2, Noon

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 804, February 23.

In general it can be said that according to best available information, most "schutz haeflinge" (SH) capable of physical labor are being worked by Nazis at a great variety of tasks more or less directly connected with Germany's war effort. It is impossible however to obtain any statistic on numbers actually engaged in what could be called "war work" (i.e. munition plants or war material factories). A large number of SH are being used literally as "slave labor" performing heavy physical work such as road building debris clearing, digging of anti-tank ditches and like. Many women in Ravensbrueck for instance are engaged in reconditioning used clothing shipped from extermination camps in Poland. Jewish deportees who recently reached Switzerland from the Resienstadt

reported

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000047

-2- #1346, March 2, noon from Bern

reported having worked at sewing German army uniforms and at making heavy wooden cases for machinery and like. Again at Bergenbelsen some categories of internees work while others do not.

At this time however a great many SH are inactive in terribly crowded assembly camps having been evacuated from previous camps and jobs in east.

In any special relief program for SH undertaken at this moment ICRC plans deliver parcels insofar as practically possible only to ill and exhausted SH.

National groups mentioned in Legation's 1056 February 16, comprise Jews of respective nationalities.

HARRISON

RR

000048

2 War Ref Bd
(O. Hanger)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 24, 1945
NUMBER: 1217
X

CONTROL COPY

The following message is from McClelland for WRB.

The nineteenth of February, I had occasion to discuss with Dr. Marti, Chief ICRC Delegate from Berlin the current situation in Germany of "Schutzhaeftlinge" and Jewish deportees.

See Legation's 455 of the twenty second of January, 744 of the second of February and 1159 of the twenty second of February.

It seems that the Nazis are evacuating concentration camp inmates and regrouping them in two general areas: Between Hamburg and Luebeck (with headquarters located at concentration camp of Neuengamme near Hamburg) and Munich, with headquarters at Dachau camp. It is reported by Marti that conditions of frightful crowding already existing in Neuengamme and Dachau where concentrees, who are almost all in very poor physical condition from prolonged undernourishment and mistreatment, after days on foot arrive in state of utter exhaustion. As a result of evacuation measures a great many have already died. A most convincing case for urgent need of transportation equipment was given by Marti, stating that invaluable aid could be rendered to at least some thousands if a few trucks were on hand. Marti foresees no difficulty as regards permission to distribute relief parcels on spot in such assembly camps, in view of general willingness of SS officials to cooperate with ICRC repeatedly demonstrated since

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

100049

-2-#1217, February 24, 10 a.m. from Bern.

January and of general state of confusion.

For Hamburg region, parcels could come from WRB stocks at Goteborg where some 220 odd thousand of our parcels are stocked still. For Munich area, parcels could be trucked from Switzerland over this comparatively short distance. At this time we have 60,000 WRB parcels in Toulon unloaded from CARITAS II during January against which arrangement to borrow pending arrival these parcels in Switzerland could doubtless be made with ICRC.

As regards reception parcels, situation all Allied POWS is essentially same as that of civil detainees due to impossibility for ICRC secure adequate rail transport, although POWS are in better physical condition in general and less liable to die of starvation.

I take liberty of renewing my request that WRB either arrange place my disposal four or five trucks for ICRC or, if this is not practical, authorize me attempt secure them in Switzerland, in light of urgency of this critical situation. Before they would permit vehicles to leave Switzerland for utilization in Germany, the Swiss Army would doubtless request guarantee of replacement within reasonable time of at least tires, if not trucks themselves. From amounts granted ICRC for POW trucks, small supply of fuel and oil could be made available.

Recommend serious and prompt consideration of this request as there are only few weeks or at most months remaining in which to take effective measures. We are positive action of this nature would serve to implement activities by Swiss officials and ICRC requested in your late messages.

HARRISON

DC/L:HLG
2-26-45

000050

2 War Ref Bd.
O'Keefe

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 23, 1945
NUMBER: 1201
X

CONTROL COPY

McClelland sends the following for the Department and WRS.

Reference is made herewith to Legation's cable of February 22, no. 1159.

Burckhardt (B) of ICRC also informed me on February 20 that the Federal Council had very recently asked him to represent Switzerland in Paris as Minister to the French Provisional Government. Though he had emphasized exceedingly important duties that lay before him during coming critical weeks as ICRC President, his government was urging him to accept this new appointment to which the French Government had on February 18 indicated its agreement. It was stated by B that undoubtedly Professor Huber would return to Geneva at least temporarily as ICRC's President.

It was suggested by me that in view of importance and urgency of meeting Himmler in an attempt to expand and reinforce ICRC activity in Germany both as respect relief and protective measures perhaps it would be possible to postpone officially taking up his duties as Swiss Minister in Paris for a month or six weeks and keeping appointment secret in the meantime. He answered that the matter would be discussed by him with his government.

At B's suggestion I took liberty on evening of February 20 of discussing the question informally with Vegen, French Chargé d'Affaires at Bern who expressed the view that B's negotiating with

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date **SEP-12-1972**

000051

-2-

Himmler in behalf of political deportees and civil detainees a great many of whom are French seemed of paramount importance now. It was stated by B that he would take the first opportunity to mention the matter informally to the Swiss.

News of B's appointment was published in the Swiss press on February 22. I am now informed by B that this was due to indiscretion of certain French journalists.

At once I got in touch with B who said that again he had sent word to Himmler reiterating his wish to see the latter. I was further informed by B that the Swiss Government had agreed to four weeks postponement in his going to Paris. Therefore, it is to be hoped that B will still be able to carry through this most important mission to Germany.

Developments shall be reported.

HARRISON

DC/L:VAC 2/26/45

000052

Situation in Germany
to General - Central - ...

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*was Ref'd.
C. Dwyer*

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 22, 1945
NUMBER: 1159
X

CONTROL COPY

McCllelland sends the following for the attention of the Department and the War Refugee Board.

On February 17, we delivered the letter from the Minister (referred to in the last paragraph of our 1056, February 16) to Burckhardt (b), urging ICRC to take action along lines, as follows:

(1) Visits of its delegates to places of detention of all categories of Schutzhaeftlinge to be increased to the greatest possible extent;

(2) As substantially and as rapidly as possible to augment the number of the committee's representatives in Germany;

(3) To mitigate the lot of all civil detainees and to dissuade German officials from last minute extremes, instruct its delegates to take every advantage of the mounting confusion within Germany.

The substance of B's written reply, dated February 19, is as follows:

In answer to your letter of February 16, I must in the first place stress the fact that the German Govern-

ment

RECEIVED
STATE DEPT.
1-11-72

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 12 1971**

SEP 12 1972

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ment stated in their memorandum to us dated February 1, the followings:

For imperative reasons of national defense, visits to camps and places of detention where alien detainees (Schutzhaeftlinge) are confined, are unfortunately at the present moment not feasible.

Our delegate, Dr. Schirmer, reported the following in a recent communication:

We have been informed by headquarters of German security policy that, in each particular instance, permission to visit concentration camps of alien detainees must be personally secured from Himmler.

The foregoing is the situation at present. An answer from Himmler concerning the place and date I can see him personally is being awaited by me. Should the interview take place, I shall spare no effort to do my utmost to secure the best result possible. The difficulty of this task is well known to you.

It is our desire to send as many delegates (to Germany) as possible, and they must be men of character. Within the next few days, five new delegates are, accordingly, leaving for Germany. As soon as it can be

arranged

000054

arranged, others will be sent by us.

The question of transportation is and will remain the decisive problem. Thousands of prisoners and detainees can starve within four days. Doubtless you are acquainted with the cable we sent to Washington (to the Secretary of State) following receipt of most recent report from Dr. Maeti in Germany (our chief delegate).

Under the present circumstances, not a moment is to be wasted. Access to camps by our delegates is dependent upon whether they bring something with them and whether they have gasoline and can still manage to travel (with trucks) on the roads. Any number of freight cars placed at our disposal would be useless, if it should be found impracticable to except two railway lines in north and south from aerial bombardment. This is all most urgent in the extreme. Any results to be secured must be obtained through large scale methods of action and sweeping decisions.

Quite often we are expected to perform miracles, which is, of course, impossible; but by exerting every nerve and applying all our will we can do something if we are furnished with certain indispensable means for execution of our task.

This concludes the reply by Burokhardt.

I had a personal meeting with B on February 20, who informed me that he had dispatched a letter to Himmler on February 17,
requesting

000055

requesting an interview.

Reference is made in the first paragraph of B's reply of February 19 to the answer finally received from the German Foreign Office to memorandum of October 2, from ICRC (see Legation's cable of December 7, No. 7998). There is being transmitted in Legation's 1143, February 21, the substance of German reply which was issued in an ICRC communique dated February 14.

HARRISO

DC/L: MAS:AN

2-23-45

000056

Situation in Germany & German occupied territory

The New York Times.
FEB 17 1945

**LATE DATA REVEAL
SLAUGHTER OF JEWS**

By Wireless to The New York Times.
PARIS, Feb. 16—Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, estimated today that 500,000 of Europe's 6,000,000 Jews had escaped destruction by emigration, and that between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 were now left on the Continent.

Dr. Schwartz, who was executive director of the Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities until 1939, gathered his information from all sources that have come to light in liberated Europe. He has just returned from Belgium and recently visited Italy.

France, whose Jewish population was approximately halved, now probably has the largest number of Jews of any European country, he said, with 170,000. Incomplete reports from Poland show between 100,000 and 200,000 survivors out of a pre-war Jewish population of 3,500,000.

Almost no Jews remain alive in Germany which once had 600,000. Italy has 20,000 known survivors out of 50,000; Belgium, 20,000 to 30,000 out of 90,000; the Netherlands, 10,000 to 15,000 out of 140,000, and Czechoslovakia, 45,000 to 50,000 out of 360,000. Most of the latter are Jews from all parts of Europe in a concentration camp at Theresenstadt. In Austria it is believed some 200 baptized Jews and Jews married to Gentiles survive out of a former 180,000.

OK

Norman Jones

*most in occupied Netherlands
Theresenstadt*

*What about 18,000
12,000
Lodz, Bergen, etc.*

*Belsen Bergen
25,000 moved from Auschwitz
to Belsen Bergen*

000057

COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 16, 1945
NUMBER: 1056

From McClelland for the attention of the Department and WRB.

Reference is made herein to the Legation's cable of January 27, No. 581.

In regard to possible protective and relief action for all categories of unassimilated persons in Germany, particularly those termed Schutzhaeftlinge (SH), I have recently received the following extremely confidential information.

A member of ICRC's Berlin delegation, Dr. Schirmer, who was previously very active in Budapest and Vienna, submitted to ICRC on January 24, a confidential memorandum which in effect was as follows: Schirmer and a colleague were put in touch with Obersturmbann Fuehrer Dr. Berndorf Chef Des Sicherheitsdienstes und Abwehr Fuer die Schutzhaeftlinge, whose office was located at Zimmerstrasse 19 Berlin, by a certain SS General Lieutenant Mueller. Following preliminary conversations with Schirmer, characterized as cordial, Berndorf, took them to headquarters of Nazi concentration camp system at Oranienburg. Further conversations were held there with Obergruppen Fuehrer Glueck (also a General Lieutenant in Waffen SS) director of all concentration camps, standartenfuehrer Dr. Lelling head medical officer of concentration camps, and Glueck's adjutant Obersturmbannfuehrer Hoess. Explaining that Dachau near Munich was to become central assembly and clearing camp for all SH, these SS men seemed most willing to discuss ways and means of added ICRC relief to concentration camp inmates. Apparently, the transfer of large numbers of SH was already under way from east and north. In Dachau, where central administration including questions of food and transport would be located, there was to be a system of smaller subsidiary camps radiating from that point. Truck transportation facilities for distribution of relief parcels were offered to ICRC by the SS, and they explained that, as far as control was concerned, men of confidence of various national groups would be stationed at Dachau, and that the ICRC would maintain contact with these men. Since the SH were being continually transferred around now and parcels would doubtless never catch up with them, the SS felt it inadvisable to continue addressing parcels to individuals. Parcels of the ICRC

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

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could be distributed to the following national groups: French, Dutch, Belgians, Greeks, Norwegians and Danes (for the moment, Poles, Czechs, Slavs and Serbs to be excluded). Although Reichfuhrer Himmler was now willing to permit such a relief program, that he could not issue blanket permission for ICRC delegates to visit all concentration camps was explained to Schirmer by the SS.

It is most significant that, in spite of this rather important hitch, Himmler will now apparently officially permit relief for concentration camps even if only to certain categories of SH, since hitherto Berlin has categorically refused such permission and only in a small number of camps was the reception of ICRC parcels by internees tolerated. No doubt refusal to grant blanket visiting permission is motivated by the fact that an increasingly large number of SH are being worked in war factories at present.

However, quite aside from the extent of external relief program it will be practically possible to launch, this seems to me a unique opportunity which should not be neglected for the ICRC to drive an opening wedge into the Nazi concentration camp system. Although I would hesitate to put pressure on Burckhardt and ICRC to inaugurate a large relief program which might indirectly benefit the war effort of the Germans, it is my feeling that ICRC should immediately follow up this lead by dispatch of a special mission of their most capable men to Germany, and if possible that this mission be headed by Burckhardt. An invaluable opportunity to get more personnel into Germany, whose presence might well save the lives of thousands of men and women as the Nazi system collapses, might be afforded by this situation.

On February 11 I was informed by Nordling, the Swedish Consul General in Paris, whose forceful intercession with the German military commander in Paris resulted in the release of some four thousand political prisoners, whom the German Commander had orders to execute if they could not be evacuated at that time, that in December he had addressed a personal letter to Himmler requesting better treatment for all concentration camp inmates along the Geneva Convention lines. Even though he received no direct answer to his letter, Nordling learned through most reliable channels that on receipt of his letter Himmler had ordered the German Red Cross to study and report immediately on the possibility of improving the lot of Schutzhaftlinge. The maintenance of contact with Nordling was delegated to a German industrialist named Lehrer, long a resident in France and possessing direct contact with high Nazi officials by Himmler. It is Nordling's belief that January SS overtures to ICRC men in Berlin are at least partly due to his representation and that Himmler is definitely interested in facilitating relief to SH, for reasons which are open to considerable speculation.

100059

On February 10 and 13, Nordling, in the interest of exploiting this situation, conferred at length with Burckhardt of ICRC and attempted to persuade Burckhardt to take action since he, Nordling, felt that his going alone to Germany as a Swedish Consul General or as a private individual would not carry the necessary weight and that it was quite obvious that this job should be undertaken by ICRC.

In the face of evidence of mounting confusion within Germany and the resulting increased accessibility of individual German officials to psychological pressure as they became more isolated by military events and hence more independent, I feel, in view of the foregoing, that ICRC should not neglect such an opportunity. As soon as possible I am consequently handing Burckhardt a letter from the Minister urging him to take action in line with my communication to Burckhardt based on Department's cable of January 9, No. 127 (WRB No. 356) and as soon as possible the result will be reported.

HARRISON

DC/L
2-19-45

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MS-1056

FEB 11 10 33

PLAIN
London

*War Ref. Bd.
Pelle*

Dated February 10, 1945

Rec'd 7:37 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

X
1457, Tenth

FOR WRB

CONTROL COPY

Dr. L. Zelmanovitz, secretary of the World Jewish Congress, today requested Embassy to bring to the attention of the WRB the following views of his organization:

A progressive increase in numbers of Jewish refugees released from Germany and German-controlled areas is expected for the following reasons:

1. Use of Jewish internment camps for German refugees from Soviet-occupied areas.
2. Jewish internment camps in Germany proper might result in embarrassment to local population and evidence of any mass extermination of Jews might remain as incriminating evidence.
3. Lack of food for Jewish internees.
4. Possible desire of German officials to gain credit for releasing Jewish internees.

Congress believes

000061

-2- #1457, Tenth, from London.

Congress believes that Switzerland should not be embarrassed by being compelled to maintain an increasing number of released Jewish refugees. Consequently, Congress urges that everything be done to evacuate those refugees now in Switzerland in order to make room for anticipated arrivals and that food medical supplies and clothing be sent to Switzerland to ease the situation should they arrive.

WINANT

LMS

000062

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE February 8, 1945

TO Miss Hodel
FROM B. Akzin and Paul J. McCormack

The number of Jews still in German-occupied territory is variously estimated between 200,000 and 520,000. The principal groups involved are as follows:

Terezin (Theresienstadt), Czechoslovakia	40,000 - 60,000 ^{1/}
Labor camps near Vienna, Austria	18,000
Berg-am-See, Bavaria	12,000
Belsen Bergen, near Celle, Hanover	9,218 ^{2/}
Belsen Bergen (in transit)	25,000 ^{2/}
Hungarian, Polish and other deportees employed as labor in various parts of German-controlled territory. Precise location unknown.	100,000- 400,000 ^{4/}

The special procedure under which victims of enemy oppression entitled to non-quota or preference quota immigration visas and those to whom visas were authorized since July 1, 1941, are declared eligible for exchange, embraces to-date, about 4,350 persons, as follows:

^{1/} This figure is several months old. According to recent information, Jews from Terezin have been evacuated in large numbers to other unspecified parts of German-occupied territory.

^{2/} This figure is as of end of November. It includes the following categories:

- 4,500 Dutch and Belgians, of whom several hundred had Latin-American documents and Palestine certificates.
- 3,500 Slovak and Hungarian women and children.
- 349 Poles with Latin-American documents.
- 30 Poles claiming U.S. nationality.
- 300 of unspecified nationality
- 300 of unspecified nationality, with Latin-American, Spanish, or Portuguese documents.
- 150 Greeks
- 89 Hungarians

Since then, about 1300 Belsen Bergen internees reached Switzerland with German permission, and about 150 internees with Latin-American documents were

000063

Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	about 2,500
Immediate relatives of resident aliens	" 350
Authorized visas	" 1,500

Except in very few cases, nothing is known regarding their whereabouts, nor is it possible to guess how many are still alive.

Additional information regarding the distribution of deportees and internees, non-Jewish as well as Jewish, may be found in the files of the Special Committee on Migration and Resettlement (c/o Mr. George Warren, Department of State), the Research and Analysis Division of the Office of Strategic Services, the Rescue Department of the World Jewish Congress, the Institute of Jewish Affairs, and the Institute for Post-War Problems of the American Jewish Committee.

Ha. JIM

Enclosures:

- (1) A map of German controlled territory
- (2) A list of concentration camps supplied to us by the American Red Cross

released by Germany by way of exchange, leaving in Belsen-Bergen about 7,768 Jewish internees:

3/ 25,000 Jewish deportees were brought early in January to Belsen Bergen from Silesian camps. It is understood that they are being transferred to other parts of Germany.

4/ The wide disparity in the numbers of this category is due to our complete ignorance of the numbers of those killed, dead among these deportees, and of those still surviving as compulsory laborers.

000064

Austria: Mauthausen (Linz)

Germany: Berg A/Laim (Wiesbaden) or (Frankfort)
Eichwald (Erfurt?)
Faubruck (Saarbrucken region and near Trier)
Graitaitz (")
Tomersdorf (")

Netherlands: Barneveld (thinks liberated - not certain)
Westerborck (dissolved Oct. 1944)

Northern Italy: Cesareo (
Fossoli (
Monte Ferrato (
San Martino di Rosignano

Protectorate: Altersheim Prague (Is home for elderly people in Prague)

000065

February 8, 1945

Miss Hodel

B. Akzin and Paul J. McCormack

The number of Jews still in German-occupied territory is variously estimated between 200,000 and 520,000. The principal groups involved are as follows:

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000066

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- (2) A list of concentration camps supplied to us by the American Red Cross

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4/ The wide disparity in the numbers of this category is due to our complete ignorance of the numbers of those killed, dead among these deportees, and of those still surviving as compulsory laborers.

BA:POL:ER 2/8/45

Ba 1/7u

000067

Situation in Germany - German occupied Territory
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

AS-377 1945 FEB 8 AM 10 10 Bern
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. [redacted] Dated February 8, 1945
[redacted] (WORK) Rec'd 6:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

887, February 8, 4 p.m.
FOR DEPARTMENT AND WRB

On occasion of my talk with Minister Tuck along lines of Department's 127, January 9 (WRB'S 356), I left an aide memoire with him on the subject (Legation's 581, January 27).

Security [redacted]

Legation has now received a written answer to this aide memoire from Federal Political Department, Division of Foreign Affairs, dated February 5 stating with reference to protective value of frequent visits by Swiss consular officials to places where Jews are concentrated that this matter is being studied by Swiss Legation at Berlin with a view to determining lines along which action can most profitably be taken.

Swiss aide memoire goes on to state "it must be emphasized, however, that the situation is not the same as in Hungary for in Germany Swiss intercession in favor of Jews has up to now only been countenanced with respect

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000068

-2-#887, February 8, 4 p.m., from Bern

with respect to limited categories (as far as numbers are concerned) of beneficiaries of immigration permits for Palestine or the USA and of possessors of protection documents of South American states and that only insofar as such persons were being considered for exchanges". End Swiss aide memoire.

HUDDLE

LMS

000069

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EJJ-1444

PLAIN
London

Dated January 30, 1945

Rec'd 5:03 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

US URGENT
ZECHO 7, Thirtieth
FROM SCHOENFELD.

CONTROL COPY

In note of January 27 Ripka quotes a telegram signed "Marchioness of Reading, Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, 55 New Cavendish Street, W.1" stating that reports from reliable sources indicate Germany has started annihilation Jewish remnants interned in German-held lands and urging Czechoslovak Government to approach Germany through protecting powers, the Holy See and International Red Cross and expressing conviction that strong attitude may achieve beneficial results.

Ripka continues that Czechoslovak Government is alarmed and suggests that since this concerns many Allied governments latter might collectively make strong representations through channels suggested above.

Since his government has no official contact with protecting powers he expresses the wish on behalf of his government

000070

-2-#ZECHO 7, Thirtieth from London

government that US Government may consider taking steps toward saving remainder of the interned and deported Allied citizens. He adds that should US Government deem it advisable to undertake collective action Czechoslovak Government would willingly associate itself with such a proceeding.

Similar notes sent to British and Soviet Missions.

WINANT

JT

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

BAS-1419

PLAIN

London

Dated January 30, 1945

Rec'd 3:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1030, Thirtieth.

FOR WRB FROM MANN.

Through International Red Cross delegate in London
World Jewish Congress has communicated the following
to Max Huber President International Red Cross Committee
Geneva.

"Alarmed news Germany engaged extermination
remnants Jewish populations. Urge you earnestly name
great human interests entrusted your committee speak
up publicly demand guarantees Geneva Convention Tokio
project to which those unfortunate victims entitled.
German assertion those pitiful victims not citizens
belligerent nations nullified events recent months.
Convinced special International Red Cross Mission
sent for representations German highest authorities may
achieve success, Germany needs International Red Cross
services and will need them even more near future.

This

CONTROL COPY

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF STATE

000072

-2- #1030, Thirtieth, from London

This is crucial hour."

Above sent to McClelland for his information.

WINANT

MRM

000073

Handwritten notes:
100-100000-100000
100-100000-100000

*2 War Ref Bd
(Piller)*

PARAPHASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: January 27, 1945
NUMBER: 581

Files

CONTROL COPY

The following is for WHE.

The substance of WAB's message 586 has been brought to the attention of all competent authorities of Federal Political Department and ICRC and discussed with them earnestly. See Department's 127 of the ninth of January. On the fifteenth of January, I took the matter up with Minister Walter Stucki at this time in charge of Foreign Office awaiting assumption of duty of the Foreign Minister (newly appointed). Have approached Petit Pierre, and officials of Foreign Interests Division. It is said by the Foreign Office that official Swiss representatives have thus far not been able to visit any of the three camps named VIZ - Vienna, Lodz, Theresienstadt. In addition, it feels that there is considerable doubt of possibility of its representative making frequent or extended visits to locations where Jews are concentrated unless it can be satisfactorily established that persons are there who legally fall under protection of Swiss. However, it is stated by the Swiss that every attempt will be made in regard to this and they think that camps near Vienna likely offer most favorable prospects as in that vicinity there are numerous Swiss interests. The Swiss will attempt to take complete advantage for purposes indicated by you.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72 When interviewed
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

100000-100000

-2-#581, January 27, 11 a.m., from Bern.

When interviewed on the matter by McClelland, President Burckhardt ICRC assured him that committee purposed continue doing all in its power to aid in every possible manner/and ^{Jews} other surviving victims Nazi persecution still in hands of Germans. Therefore, ICRC is endeavoring to enlarge the number of its delegates in Germany. It was urged by McClelland that ICRC continue this effort as the more competent and energetic men on spot as internal confusion increases in Germany the greater will be chance of influencing officials of Germany and possibly dissuading them from carrying out policies of extermination.

Shortly ICRC will report on extent of supervision which it has been able to exercise over Hungarian Jewish deportees working in territory of Reich. Especially in the last six weeks this supervision has been fairly satisfactory in Austria but is probably less extensive within Germany.

HUDDLE

DC/LMLG/MK
1-29-45

100075

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

BAS
Distribution to [redacted]
reading only by special
arrangement. [redacted] of STATE 6 p.m.

Walt R. [redacted]
[redacted]

1945 JAN 22 AM 11 10

ALLEGATION

BERN

33B

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

CONTROL COPY

The following for Huddle and McClelland from Department and War Refugee Board is WRB 373.

Board understands that Swiss Minister in Washington, at the request of a private organization, is transmitting to the Swiss Government the request that Switzerland again appeal to the German Government to refrain from further extermination and persecution of the Jews remaining in German-occupied territory.

You may indicate to appropriate Swiss officials that this Government would welcome an appeal along such lines.

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

STETTINIUS
(GHW)

WRB:MMV:KG
1/20/46

RECEIVED
STATE DEPT. DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
JAN 22 1945

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

(6)

CABLE TO HUDDLE AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Board understands that Swiss Minister in Washington, at the request of a private organization, is transmitting to the Swiss Government the request that Switzerland again appeal to the German Government to refrain from further extermination and persecution of the Jews remaining in German-occupied territory.

You may indicate to appropriate Swiss officials that this Government would welcome an appeal along such lines.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 373.

1:00 p.m.
January 20, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files

JH
RA:FW:hd 1/19/45

000077

JAN 16 1945

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

The following message for you from Dr. Kubowitzki was received through the American Embassy in London under date of January 12, 1945:

"In discussion with Lady Reading and myself Emerson said that fund of \$10,000,000 had never existed. Government of Britain never made pledge to contribute \$4,000,000 Inter-Red Cross relief. Inter-Red Cross delegate Schirmer gave assurance to Riegner that 18,000 Jews in vicinity Vienna possibly could be provided food and clothing if funds were available. Regarding this matter you should confer with appropriate authorities."

In connection with the part of the above message which related to Jews in Vienna, I direct your attention to my letter to you of November 22, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

RD:FH:hd 1/16/45 *Jed ✓*

000078

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

KR-103
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement [redacted] W)

London

Wm. J. [redacted]
Dated January 12, 1945

Rec'd 12:08 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

437, January 12, 9 p.m.

FOR PERLE PRO. LAPP

Dr. Leon Kubowitzki requests that a paraphrase
of the following message be delivered to Dr. Mahon
Goldman 1834 Broadway, New York: "Emerson in con-
ference with Lady Reading and we stated ten million
dollars fund never existed. British Government
never pledged contribute four million dollars Inter-
Red Cross relief. Schirmer Inter-Red Cross delegate
assured Lehner 18,000 Jews around Vienna could possibly
be supplied with clothing and food if funds available.
I urge you consult the appropriate authorities con-
cerning this matter."

VINANT

SB

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

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STATE DEPT.
JAN 13 1945
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 12 1972**

000079

The Fuehrer's Picture of Defeat

*Hitler's New Year's Speech Tells Germans His Own
Conditions of Unconditional Surrender*

By RAYMOND MOLEY

The dispute between Senator Wheeler and the Administration seems to narrow down to the question of who is helping Hitler and why. Senator Wheeler asserted that the war objective of "unconditional surrender" has stiffened the resistance of Germany, thus enabling Hitler to make his place more secure. The State Department, no doubt reflecting the President's sentiments concerning his old antagonist, the Senator, retorted that statements like Mr. Wheeler's were helping Hitler.

Perhaps the best witness on this thorny subject is Hitler himself. His New Year's speech, when carefully examined, reveals most of the line of argument which he feels will stiffen German resistance. Since Hitler determines what shall be told the German people, and since the Germans are resisting fiercely, we must assume that Hitler is responsible.

The Fuehrer's speech is the usual conglomeration of falsehood and empty promise. But it differs from other Hitlerian utterances in several particulars.

Surprising enough, Hitler writes off Hungary as lost. This is apparently to provide an answer when, later on, Austria begins to cry out that Hitler has deserted it. His explanation of the loss of Hungary is that it has treacherously deserted him—a suggestion meant to tell Austria that if it is loyal to him, it will not fall to the Russians.

Then he tells the German people that if they lose, 15 to 20 million will be deported, presumably to labor in Russia. His use of these figures is strange, since he refers, no doubt, to the Varga plan to use the labor of 10 million Germans for 10 years in rehabilitating Russia. Perhaps he wanted to get away from the figure of

10 million because that is the approximate number of enforced foreign workers now in Germany. He forgets that Varga wants part of them to work inside Germany.

Hitler's main argument, however, is that if Germany is reduced to an agricultural state, as suggested by the Vansittart-Morgenthau idea, it will starve. This is patently ridiculous, since Germany could feed herself and do so with greater ease if the present slave laborers are permitted to leave and other millions of Germans are deported.

His reason for underlining the horrors of an agricultural economy is the traditional feeling of Germans that agricultural labor is slavery. This feeling arises from the historical fact that labor on the Junker estates in Northern Germany, especially in Mecklenburg and in East Prussia, was a degraded form of peonage. Hitler made much of that fact in his early political rise to power and he won over millions of farm workers by that appeal.

In this recent speech he also made a great deal of the ability of Germany to keep up production in underground factories, despite bombing. This statement may have some truth and its emphasis may lessen our confidence in precision bombing. Hitler also paints a rosy picture of how rapidly Germany can be rebuilt after the war. This, it would seem, is to enlarge the Germans' hope in life after the war, if a negotiated peace can be secured by bitter resistance.

Nowhere in the speech does he refer specifically to the slogan of "unconditional surrender" by name, but by establishing a number of the conditions an outright defeat would bring, he is clearly seeking to put his picture of those conditions into the space left vacant by the failure of the Allies to state conditions themselves.

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5,100,000
in Germany & Poland
occupied territory

U. S. Public Aid Sought For Jews in Nazi Domain

Two Organizations Fear Allied Governments Are Too Slow

The World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Conference entrusted their urgent problem of rescuing the remaining 550,000 Jews in Nazi territory to the American public yesterday in the belief that Allied governments are not acting quickly enough to prevent the Jews' annihilation.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, president of the World Jewish Congress and co-chairman of the American Jewish Conference, told a press conference at the congress offices, 1934 Broadway, that many of these Jews may let survive if Allied governments will immediately declare them wards of the United Nations. He also urged the International Red Cross to accept the responsibility of caring for Jews in Nazi concentration camps, just as they supervise the welfare of enemy detenus and war prisoners. In addition, he asked that all these Jews, without regard to original nationality, be exchanged for Germans interned in Allied countries.

In urging the public to indorse these proposals, Anselm Reiss, a Jewish representative from Warsaw, charged the United Nations with responsibility for the deaths of "ten upon hundreds of thousands" of Jews because these governments have not already taken such meas-

ures. He added that existing programs to relieve suffering among 650,000 Jews in liberated Europe are inadequate, asserting that "we can't wait for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which is never on the spot anywhere."

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Situation in Germany & Germany occupied territory

File

JEWIS REQUEST AID OF UNITED NATIONS

Two Groups Here Appeal for Rescue and Relief of Those Remaining in Europe

The American-Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress appealed yesterday for action by the United Nations to rescue the 550,000 Jews left in Nazi-occupied territory and for relief of the 850,000 Jews in liberated countries. The appeal was made through Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the congress and co-chairman of the conference.

In conjunction with the appeal it was declared that only 1,200,000 Jews survived of the 5,600,000 who were in European countries outside the Soviet Union before the extermination of Jews by the Nazis began. This statement was based upon a report to the office of the World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, by Anselm Reiss of London, Jewish leader closely identified with rescue work conducted through various channels by Jewish organizations.

"Hundreds of thousands are doomed unless immediate rescue work is undertaken," according to the statement issued through Dr. Wise.

The statement maintained that Jews could be evacuated from occupied countries through cooperation with the underground and

with neutral countries ready to admit Jewish refugees if they were assured of special shipments of food for their care, as well as by exchange of Jews in occupied countries for German citizens held in Allied and neutral countries. Tens of thousands could be saved by these measures, it was declared.

Another suggestion was that relief be extended to Jews in occupied countries by obtaining for them the status of civilian internees through the International Red Cross, supplying them with documents of neutral States, sending them food and other supplies, supervising their condition in concentration camps through the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of National Red Cross Societies, and by measures to aid those in hiding and organization of their escape.

Regarding Jews in liberated areas who had been reduced to desperate conditions by years of Nazi occupation, it was suggested that they be supplied with clothing and medical aid and that efforts be made particularly for the rehabilitation of Jewish children.

"The condition of Jews in liberated areas is aggravated by the fact that many of them are refugees and do not have citizenship status or rights," the statement declared. "Many of them cannot be expected to return to their places of origin and are desirous of emigrating to Palestine, where they can be integrated and speedily made self-supporting. Their transfer to Palestine would lighten the burden of relief in the liberated territories and would end the mental torture these people suffer by reason of uncertainty as to their future. It is urged that ships be made available to transport these refugees to Palestine."

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