Situation in Germany and German-Occupied Territory
(Folder 2 of 2)
The following for Huddle and McClelland is WRB 366:

In view of well-known German practice of exterminating Jews surviving in any area previous to its evacuation, Department and WRB consider it necessary once more to draw attention of Swiss and Intercross authorities to the danger faced by the Jewish survivors in German-controlled territory.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if you will visit Swiss Foreign Minister and President of Intercross and urge that continued efforts be made from now on to keep the surviving victims of Nazi persecution alive during the coming stages of hostilities in Europe. You should specifically mention in this connection the three largest concentrations of Jews in Axis territory known to exist, viz., Lodz with 60,000 to 80,000 inmates, Theresienstadt with 40,000 to 60,000 inmates, and camps near Vienna with 16,000 inmates, and you should also mention any other localities or regions where Jews are believed by you to survive.

In your conferences with Swiss Foreign Minister and Intercross President it should be made clear that this Government considers that frequent and extended visits of Swiss Consuls and Intercross delegates to places and regions where Jews are concentrated constitute one of the most effective means of preventing their further extermination.
extermination. This method proved its efficacy in Budapest where, thanks to the presence of Swiss and Intercross personnel, many lives appear to have been saved.

Furthermore, you should emphasize to Foreign Minister and Intercross President the mounting evidence of confusion among local German officials and their increasing accessibility to psychological pressure seeking to dissuade them from executing extermination policies ordered by certain German authorities, and urge that full advantage be taken of this state of mind in the interest of saving lives, through unofficial as well as official channels.

More particularly, in view of German consent to permit Intercross inspection and care for Hungarian Jews engaged in forced labor in Germany and German-occupied territory (enclosure 1 to your despatch 10132 of December 8), please request immediate and continuing Intercross action to safeguard lives of this largest group of Jews surviving under German rule.

Please endeavor to make clear to Swiss and Intercross that the activities suggested above should be actively pursued as long as the danger continues.

Please advise Department and WA & of Swiss and Intercross reaction.
-3-#127, January 9, 1945, 5 p.m. to Bern.

The following from WB to Heigleland:

It would be helpful if you inquired at frequent intervals what specific action Swiss and Internees are taking to carry out the above suggestions.

In view of the situation as outlined above and in view of your recent reports indicating effectiveness of publicity and other forms of psychological pressure upon German officials, you are requested to make special efforts through all channels available to you to increase such pressure with a view to safeguarding the lives of the surviving victims of Nazi persecution.

STETTINIUS
(General)

[Signature]

MRB; MBV; KG
1/6/46

WE SWP
CABLE TO HUDDLE AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

In view of well-known German practice of exterminating Jews surviving in any area previous to its evacuation, Department and WRB consider it necessary once more to draw attention of Swiss and Intercross authorities to the danger faced by the Jewish survivors in German-controlled territory.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if you will visit Swiss Foreign Minister and President of Intercross, and urge that continued efforts be made from now on to keep the surviving victims of Nazi persecution alive during the coming stages of hostilities in Europe. You should specifically mention in this connection the three largest concentrations of Jews in Axis territory known to exist, viz. Lodz with 60,000 to 80,000 inmates, Theresienstadt with 40,000 to 60,000 inmates, and camps near Vienna with 18,000 inmates, and you should also mention any other localities or regions where Jews are believed by you to survive.

In your conferences with Swiss Foreign Minister and Intercross President, it should be made clear that this Government considers that frequent and extended visits of Swiss Consuls and Intercross delegates to places and regions where Jews are concentrated constitute one of the most effective means of preventing their further extermination. This method proved its efficacy in Budapest where, thanks to the presence of Swiss and Intercross personnel, many lives appear to have been saved.

Furthermore, you should emphasize to Foreign Minister and Intercross President the mounting evidence of confusion among local German officials and their increasing accessibility to psychological pressure seeking to dissuade them from executing extermination policies ordered by central German authorities, and urge that full advantage be taken of this state of mind in the interest of saving lives, through unofficial as well as official channels.

More particularly, in view of German consent to permit Intercross inspection and care for Hungarian Jews engaged in forced labor in Germany and German-occupied territory (enclosure 1 to your despatch 10252 of December 6), please request immediate and continuing Intercross action to safeguard lives of this largest group of Jews surviving under German rule.

Please endeavor to make clear to Swiss and Intercross that the activities suggested above should not be limited to one-time acts of intercession, but should be actively pursued as long as the danger continues.

Please advise Department and WRB of Swiss and Intercross reaction.

The following from WRB for McClelland:

It would be helpful if you inquired at frequent intervals what specific action Swiss and Intercross are taking to carry out the above suggestions.
In view of the situation as outlined above and in view of your recent reports indicating effectiveness of publicity and other forms of psychological pressure upon German officials, you are requested to make special efforts through all channels available to you to increase such pressure with a view to safeguarding the lives of the surviving victims of Nazi persecution.

THIS IS THE BEIN CABLE NO. 356.

11:30 a.m.
January 8, 1945

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

Bakzin 1/6/45 - 1st cleared
Mr. J. W. Pehle,
Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of January 6th together with the letter from Dr. Riegner.

Sincerely yours,

Nahum Goldmann

NG: FR
Dear Dr. Goldman:

Enclosed herewith is a letter dated December 12, 1944, and its enclosures, from Dr. Riegner which were received for you through the United States Legation in Bern.

Very truly yours,

Sgd. J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
Dec. 15, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pohle:

Please find attached hereto a covering letter and series of reports whose forwarding to the World Jewish Congress (Dr. Nahum Goldmann) in New York would be appreciated. They come from Dr. Kieger of the W.J.C. in Geneva and deal with the subjects outlined in Dr. Kieger’s accompanying letter.

I think it might be of interest to you and other members of the Board to read over the first set concerning the question of collective intercession by countries whose nationals are in “Schutzhaft” in Germany or German controlled areas through the Vatican or the Neutrals and perhaps the I.C.R.C. This matter was last referred to in the Legation’s 7998, December 7th, and is very much “in the air” these days. As yet, however, the I.C.R.C. has not received an answer from the German Government.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland

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

Enclosures: For
World Jewish Congress.

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

John W. Pohle, Esquire
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
Dr. Nachum Goldmann  
World Jewish Congress  
11134 Broadway  
New York.

Dear Dr. Goldmann,

I am sending you enclosed herewith minutes of a gathering held on my initiative at the office of the Czecho-Slovak Minister in Geneva, Dr. J. Kopecky, with the participation of representatives of ten governments and Red Cross organisations, with the view to deliberate in common on a collective démarche of all interested governments, with the aim to ameliorate the status of interned and deported civil populations. As you will see from the minutes and the accompanying letters, the decision is now with the various governments, and I should like to ask you to support by any means at your disposal the proposal so that a speedy action may be taken.

Furthermore, I am enclosing a confidential note received from the International Red Cross Committee concerning the situation of Jews in Croatia. According to other news there are by now 600 Croatian Jews interned in the camp of Jasenovac, and 114 in the camp of Staregradiska. Further 86 Jews are at present in the prison of Leoplgawa. On the other hand, I called your attention to the situation of about 1,700 Croatian Jews who seem to be at present in Topusko, liberated Croatia, and hope that our Yugoslav friends in America have meanwhile been able to contact them with the view to alleviate their situation which seems to be very bad indeed. The group of Topusko have asked us to call special attention of the Yugoslav Prime Minister Dr. Subasic to their situation. For your attention I am repeating the address of the hommede confiance of this group whom you may contact: Mr. Dragan Zvijendic /via Bari.  
Delivered Croatian.

I am furthermore sending you a letter equally received from the International Red Cross concerning an appeal received from their delegate in Romania, with the request to forward it to you at the occasion of the Atlantic City Conference. As this appeal arrived unfortunately too late in Geneva, I am communicating it to you herewith only. I hope that you will have dealt with the Romanian question meanwhile, although I have had no answer from you on my repeated cables. You will certainly understand that this is not a way of encouraging the newly elected
section in Rumania which have put great hopes in Congress'
activity.

4. I received 2 communications from the Comite de Defense
des Juifs in Bruxelles, dated October 20 and October 27, in
reply to my letter of October 10. As those communications
were also addressed to you directly I trust that they will
already be in your possession and that you will already be
in contact with said committee.

5. I am requested from all sides to give details on the
deliberations of Atlantic City. You are putting me in rather
inconvenient a situation by neither cabling me the most important
decisions nor sending me the important material. Please have
this settled without delay, and arrange also that I should
receive also, immediately, all the publications of the Institute
for Jewish Affairs.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ G. M. Reigner

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
Geneva Office
Translation

Permanent Delegate of the Czechoslovakian Republic to the League of Nations

Geneva, November 14, 1944
24 Avenue de Champel

Reference:
13
Dr JK/K

Dr. G. Riegner,
World Jewish Congress,
Geneva,

Dear Doctor:

The further the war develops, the more the situation of the civilian populations under the rule of the occupying Power becomes intolerable. Arbitrary internments, mass deportations from occupied countries, persecution of persons politically undesirable to the occupying Power, extermination and deportation of Jewish citizens of all countries, have become characteristic features of the total war which Germany carries on against all occupied countries in Europe.

Civilian populations do not enjoy in fact any guarantees of their rights or treatment. Despite the efforts made by various governments and various private organizations, it has not yet been possible to make the occupying Power treat civilian internees and deportees from occupied countries in accordance with the principles established in the Geneva Convention of 1929 and the Tokyo Draft of 1934. We believe, however, that the favorable evolution of the war and the fact that a part of German territory has now in its turn been occupied by the allied powers constitute particularly favorable conditions for a new attempt to obtain from the occupying Power the application of the legal guarantees provided in the above-mentioned diplomatic instruments in favor of civilian populations and to induce the occupying Power to change its negative attitude hitherto manifested in this connection. We believe, indeed, that a collective démarche of all interested countries whose territories are at present wholly or in part occupied by Germany and whose civilian populations are therefore exposed to the worst sufferings and persecutions on the part of the occupying Power should be addressed to the neutral powers and the International Committee of the Red Cross with a view to obtain through their intermediary the application of the legal guarantees of the Geneva Convention and of the Tokyo Draft Convention to the civilian populations of the countries occupied by the occupying Power.

To permit us to consider together the measures which might be taken with a view to such a collective démarche of all interested countries, I have the honor to invite you to be present at a meeting which will take place on Friday, November 17, 1944, at 3:00 p.m., at the Czechoslovakian Delegation, 24 Avenue de Champel, Geneva, second floor.
I would be happy if you could take part in that discussion or be represented at the meeting by one of your colleagues.

Please accept, dear Doctor, the expression of my highest consideration.

/s/ Dr. J. Kopecky
Dr. G. Billnger,  
World Jewish Congress,  
Geneva.

Dear Doctor:

I have the honor to transmit to you the attached minutes of the meeting of November 17, 1944, devoted to an exchange of views regarding the measures which could be taken together in order to improve the fate of civilian populations in territories under German occupation.

In view of the fact that the representatives who participated at that meeting have been unanimous in considering that a collective démarche of all governments interested in this question is useful and necessary, I take the liberty of suggesting to you to submit without delay the following proposition to your government and to inquire from it as follows:

(1) Whether it consents to take part in a collective démarche of all interested governments with a view to improve the fate of the populations interned in or deported from territories occupied by Germany.

(2) Whether it agrees that such a collective démarche should be addressed to:

(a) the International Committee of the Red Cross
(b) the Holy See
(c) the governments of neutral countries (Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Ireland), with a view to inviting them to address representations to the German Government, individually or by common action, in the sense indicated and on behalf of all the interested governments.

(3) Whether it approves that the aim of such a démarche should be to ask the German Government to accord to persons interned, deported, or otherwise deprived of freedom of movement in the territories occupied by Germany, and especially to political detainees, to foreign workers deported to Germany and to deported Jewish citizens, the guarantees and treatment analogous to those enjoyed by prisoners of war, pursuant to the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929, as has been provided in favor of all civilian internees under Article 17 of the Tokyo Draft Convention of 1934.

These guarantees include particularly:

(a) Communication to a neutral body of the place of residence and state of health of detainees and the right of correspondence in their favor,
(b) Conditions of life consistent with human dignity as far as treatment, lodging, feeding, and hygiene are concerned.

(c) The right of the detainees to be visited by a representative of a neutral agency.

(d) The right of the detainees to receive financial relief, packages, medicaments, etc. through the intermediary of a neutral agency.

As has been provided in the course of the meeting of November 17, 1944, I hold myself at your entire disposal for an exchange of information regarding the situation of the detainees, deportees, and civilian internees, as well as concerning the despatches already undertaken by your government, between the participants of that meeting.

I am convinced that the exchange of such information can serve as basis for a new exchange of views regarding the problems in question, to which I will have the great pleasure of inviting you at a later date.

Please accept, dear Doctor, the assurance of my distinguished sentiments.

/s/ Dr. J. Kopecky
Permanent Delegate

Enclosure.
Minutes of the meeting held on November 17, 1944 at the Czecho-
slavakian Delegation

Present:

Dr. J. Kopecky
Mr. Soneriu
M. Nela
L. Cortese
P. Anker
Dr. Macanin
Dr. Riegner
Z. Crouzet
Dr. M. Alexandrovic
Jonkheer C.H.L. Flugi
van Aspermont
Mr. Lamiée

Permanent Delegate and Delegate of the Czecho-
slovakian Red Cross
Delegate of the Rumanian Red Cross to the Rumanian
Government and to the International Red Cross
Permanent Delegate of Greece to the League of
Nations
Consul General of Italy
Of the League of Nations, representing Norway
Delegate of the Yugoslavian Red Cross
World Jewish Congress
Chief of the French Mission of the Ministry for
Prisoners of War, Deportees, and Refugees
Authorized to take the place of Prince S. Radziwill,
Permanent Delegate of the Polish Red Cross
Delegate of the Red Cross of the Dutch Indies,
authorized to represent Mr. van Notten, Consul
General of the Netherlands
Belgian Consul, authorized to represent Mr. de
Capitai de Ferrusia, Charge d'Affaires of
Belgium

Dr. J. Kopecky summarizes the purpose of the meeting. It concerns, on the
initiative of Dr. Riegner, the undertaking of a collective démarche of all the
countries whose territories are now wholly or in part occupied by Germany, vis-
av-vis the international Committee of the Red Cross and the neutral powers with a
view to induce them to obtain an engagement by Germany to treat civilian deportees
and detainees in accordance with the principles established in the Geneva Convention
of 1929 and the Tokyo Draft of 1934. Dr. Kopecky adds that time seems to be pro-
visions for such an attempt, since the situation of the deportees and detainees be-
comes increasingly precarious as the war develops and it may be that the Germans
would use rough-neck methods.

Dr. Macanin, in his capacity of a Delegate of the Yugoslavian Red Cross,
warily thanks Dr. Kopecky for his invitation and fully approves this suggestion.
He considers that it would be quite appropriate to save at this late hour that
which can still be saved.

Mr. Peter Anker expresses his thanks to Dr. Kopecky for his invitation and
considers that it was an excellent idea to have come together to bring about co-
ordination among themselves and their governments. He observes that there are two
problems to be distinguished: that of civilian populations and that of political deportees and prisoners imprisoned in Germany. Mr. Anker considers that it is this latter problem which should interest us and which should be examined with a view to a collective demarche of the interested countries, since it offers a better chance to be solved through the intermediary of the International Committee of the Red Cross, whereas the question of civilian populations is more delicate.

Mr. Anker adds that he does not know to what extent various demarches were addressed to the International Committee of the Red Cross; but he considers that the fact of being stationed in Geneva is favorable to the consideration of these questions either from the technical or from the general point of view.

Mr. Soreni, Permanent Delegate of the Rumanian Red Cross, takes the floor after expressing his thanks to Dr. Kopecky. He emphasizes the advantage of this meeting which will make possible closer contact. He observes that in view of the latest political events, Rumania finds itself in a more difficult situation than the other countries. He mentions the case of the Rumanian internees who have no way of communicating with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Mr. Soreni is of the opinion that, thanks to this meeting, the interested countries could take a useful initiative. He proposes, on the other hand, to organize an exchange of news received from Germany and of reports on the steps which have already been taken in the direction of the contemplated demarches.

Dr. Riegner takes the floor and states: The idea to ask Dr. Kopecky to bring together the representatives of the interested countries has come to him in view of the changes that have taken place in the political situation. Parts of Germany itself are already or will be tomorrow in a situation similar to that of occupied countries, and there are certainly some indications already that the interested countries will obtain a change of German policy with regard to the civilian population. It would be good to press in this direction by a collective demarche of all the interested countries, either through the intermediary of neutral powers or through the International Committee of the Red Cross, and to obtain the application of guarantees. Such a demarche will naturally include all the categories of persons who suffer from German persecutions. Concerning the Tokyo Draft, only a few of the principles adopted therein could be made use of. Indeed, these principles have only been adopted with regard to the cases of civilians interned in enemy country at the start of hostilities. With regard to occupied countries, the occupying Power has refused from the beginning to apply those principles. The World Jewish Congress has renewed its demarches to the International Committee of the Red Cross, and after an intervention addressed to President Max Huber and Dr. Carl Buchardt, a note has been sent to the Germans to ask them certain guarantees in favor of the "Ausländerische Schutzhaftlinge" [foreigners in protective custody – translator’s note], political detainees, foreign workers, deported populations, and particularly Jewish populations. That demarche has not yet produced any effect, but it has been learned unofficially from German quarters that a reply will be forthcoming. A collective demarche of the interested countries could support and renew the demarche of the Red Cross. They could address themselves to the neutral countries which come in consideration in order to press them to act, and this could eventually be done together with the Vatican. Mr. Riegner adds that he would welcome an exchange of views on this point.

Dr. Kopecky thanks Dr. Riegner for his brief summary and states that all gentlemen present are agreed in principle.
Mr. E. Clouzot takes the floor on behalf of Mr. Vargé, Charge d'Affaires of France in Bern, and expresses his gratification over this opportune meeting. He considers it to be of utmost importance to attempt a collective démarche and proposes to use a forceful argument: Juxtaposition of the sum total of the prisoners in the hands of the Allies to the sum total of the prisoners in the hands of the Germans. The question of civilian deportees could be solved in the same manner as that of the prisoners of war.

Mr. Clouzot remarks in passing that the term "political deportee" is not exact in the present case and that the Germans do not recognize as such anyone except a few prominent personages. Mr. Clouzot continues: A certain number of nations have now been liberated, and there come now into the hands of the Allies German prisoners who are not necessarily prisoners of war. Herein lies the only means to obtain anything from the Germans. To the extent to which the Allies will penetrate into Germany, the Germans will have to adopt increasingly liberal measures.

Dr. Kopecky thanks Mr. Clouzot for his suggestion and believes that it would be useful to make concrete suggestions.

Mr. Anker adds an observation on the subject of the term "political deportee" to which Mr. Clouzot has drawn their attention: In fact, the question concerns political deportees, but it would be wiser to use in public other terms such as civilian detainees or deportees.

Jonkheer Flugi van Aspermont, authorized to represent the Consul General of the Netherlands, takes the floor to express his pleasure at making the acquaintances of those who work for the same cause. He regrets, however, the absence of the United States of America and of Great Britain, for he considers that it is with them that something would have to be done.

Mr. Kopecky replies immediately to van Aspermont in explaining this absence as follows: The question should be examined for the moment only among countries whose subjects are to be considered. It is only after a common and concrete view will have been agreed upon that the countries in question will address themselves to the United States of America and to Great Britain.

van Aspermont approves and continues in suggesting to exchange among us the reports concerning the situation and to transmit these reports to their respective governments.

This suggestion is unanimously adopted.

Mr. Helas, Permanent Delegate of the Greek Red Cross, expresses his approval of this interesting initiative regarding a collective démarche and adds, in connection with the concrete proposal of Mr. Clouzot, that, so far as Greece is concerned, she would never agree to use the system of reprisals.

Mr. Clouzot replies that this question has also come up before the French and that it has been judged unwise to speak of reprisals against the Germans. This is a possible but complicated procedure. The situation would call rather for acting in a more diplomatic manner.
Mr. Lannée, Consul of Belgium, representing the Belgian Charge d'Affaires in Bern, thanks Dr. Kopecky for his invitation and associates himself with this initiative in favor of a collective démarche. He regrets that the Belgian representatives in Bern were unable to take part in this meeting, since Belgium is one of the countries most interested in this problem. Mr. Lannée adds that a démarche of this nature should be adroit and that it is not a question of reprisals.

Everybody expresses entire approval.

Mr. Anker associates himself with this observation of Mr. Lannée, adding that this method of reprisal is not consistent with the principles of morality for which the alien fight.

Mr. L. Cortese, Consul General of Italy, after thanking Dr. Kopecky for his invitation, expresses his approval with regard to the initiative in favor of a collective démarche. It will be necessary to discuss the "how" of this démarche, to choose between reprisals, bargaining, and soft language.

Dr. Alexandrovic, authorized to replace Prince Radziwill, Permanent Delegate of the Polish Red Cross, will prepare a report concerning the discussion.

Dr. Kopecky takes the floor again and thanks the gentlemen present for the interest which they have shown in this initiative. He summarizes the points resulting from the exchange of views, to propose a collective démarche of our governments to the Red Cross or to the neutral powers.

We are all in agreement to exchange in writing the data concerning certain experiences of the Red Cross and other useful information. Dr. Kopecky is ready to serve as technical intermediary and will take the liberty of forwarding to each of the gentlemen present minutes of this meeting. Once this report has been studied and, on the basis of reports which each one will have prepared, the question could be discussed once more and it would already be possible to say, perhaps, what kind of démarche should be proposed to our governments. Each one is, of course, free to make such reports as he would consider useful.

Dr. Riegner is of the opinion that the form of the démarche should be studied. His idea was to suggest to the International Committee of the Red Cross and to the neutral powers that they address themselves to the Germans, urging them to change the treatment of civilian deportees and detainees so that when their territories are under Allied rule, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the neutral powers could do something in their favor. This would be a form of a démarche which only the neutral powers and the International Committee of the Red Cross, but not we, could employ.

Mr. Anker observes that the provisions of the Tokyo Draft Convention go so far — for instance, the hostages must remain in the country in which they have been taken — that the Germans will never adopt them. On the other hand, they are not receptive to humanitarian and juridical arguments, but could react favorably when faced with threats.
Mr. Lammé takes up the proposal of Mr. Meles and approves his point of view:
The fate of the deportees depends on Himmler and the Gestapo. The demarches should
be addressed to subordinates who, for their part, could not hope to benefit by mitigating
circumstances. [Translator]

Mr. Meles adds that the fate of the internees depends also on the camp commander,
and cites an example.

Mr. Clouzet emphasizes the fact that all demarches must be made in diplomatic
terms and that action must be taken prudently and delicately. He cites the example
of the Red Cross which is extremely reticent about all information which might be
publicly revealed with regard to deportees and detainees, since this might slow
down action in their favor.

To conclude, Dr. Kopecky thanks the representatives and expresses his pleasure
at having been able to get together the delegates of all the interested countries
and Red Cross societies interested in the question, this having permitted a very
useful reciprocal acquaintanceship.
Confidential

Mr. Riagner,
World Jewish Congress,
37, quai Wilson,
Geneva

Concerning the Situation of Jews in Croatia

Sir:

We have the honor to bring to your knowledge certain information coming to us from our delegate in Zagreb concerning the Jewish community of that town.

On October 15, 1944, the Croatian police went to the seat of the Jewish community in Zagreb and arrested all the members of that organization who were on the spot, and among whom were the two directors: Dr. Gluckstahl and Mr. Klecky.

The reason advanced by the authorities to justify that measure was that two members of the Jewish community had false identity papers. This happened in the case of two men who were part of a convoy of 50 Jewish persons transferred from the coastal region to Zagreb. The two Jews in question succeeded in escaping upon arrival in Zagreb and sought refuge in the Jewish community. The latter lodged and clothed them and, at their desire, employed them in the relief action for Jews (preparation of packages, etc.).

As soon as the news of the arrest became known, the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Zagreb was requested by the families of those concerned to intervene with the authorities in order to obtain their release.

Between the 15th and 25th of October, 1944, the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross went at least five times to the Ministry of the Interior in order to ask for the release of all the members of the Jewish community, if possible, or at least for the release of its two directors.

Geneva, December 8, 1944

Palace of the General Council
The efforts of our delegate were finally crowned with success by the release, on October 26, 1944, of the two directors of the Jewish community. As far as the other detainees are concerned, the demarches continue and there is hope to see them released soon. On the other hand, the authorities have refused to release the two holders of false papers, alleging that they had committed an unlawful act punishable by prison.

The Jewish community has now renewed its activities as in the past, but had to engage a large number of new co-workers. The essential thing, however, is that the interned Jews can again be aided by an organization authorized to bring aid to them.

We beg you to consider the above information as confidential and to believe the assurances of our distinguished consideration.

For the International Committee of the Red Cross
Dr. Schwarzenberg
Director, Division of Special Assistance.
COPY
Translation
International Committee of the Red Cross
Central Agency for Prisoners of War,
Geneva

Reference:
G. 59/7 - G. 86/Sec.
H/17/14

Mr. G. Huguenin,
World Jewish Congress,
Geneva
27, quai Wilson

Sir:

I've just received two telegrams from our delegate in Bucharest, dated respectively November 20th and 23rd, of which we give you the contents as follows:

"We have a declaration written by men leading Jewish welfare institutions stating that costs of respective sections of welfare work will be met by them STOP We believe that other overseas institutions should associate themselves with ICO with considerable contributions to assure satisfactory and uninterrupted activities in view of large influx of Jews released from compulsory labor camps and other needy from Rumania and other liberated areas please launch immediately telegraphic appeal to the Jewish World Congress opening session 20th in New York to obtain such participation since above-mentioned persons consider that first duty of Congress is to come to aid of escaped war victims STOP Work of relief detachment consists in creating information centers in important localities collecting, examining all declarations, granting oral relief, food, clothing, lodging, medicines, medical treatment, installing popular kitchens, orphanages, homes for aged, clinics, seeking out hidden and dispersed populations, returning them to old homes, making findings regarding dead and their graves, arranging correspondence between dispersed families, preparing return of victims into economic life, giving them advice, working materials, tools, opening technical schools, etc. STOP Work directed by central committee Bucharest under guidance and leadership of your delegation supported by national subcommittees and provincial sections directing and surveying activities of relief detachments STOP Situation requires prompt entrance in functions of other detachments which depends on putting at disposal of sufficient funds otherwise we foresee extraordinary increase of existing misery STOP"
"Please correct beginning of declaration made by emigration office Chairman Zissa appeal to Jewish World Congress proposed by men of his confidence STOP Chief of Jewish detachment returned from Transylvania we will soon transmit to you excerpts from his report STOP"

We leave it to you to decide whether you consider it necessary to transmit this appeal to the World Jewish Congress which seems to be sitting at this moment in New York.

Please accept the assurances of our distinguished consideration.

For the International Committee of the Red Cross

Dr. Schwarzenberg

Director, Division of Special Assistance.
German Refugees, Despite Their Declared Hatred of Hitler, Can't Decide What They Want When Wehrmacht Surrenders

By Louis P. Lochner

German refugees and emigrants all over the world appear to be united in one respect only—their bitter hatred of Adolf Hitler and his national socialism. Beyond that, they seem as divided now as they were during the Weimar Republic (1918-1933) when there were seven major and 19 minor political parties.

Once again the paradoxical situation is that a people reputed to worship regimentation becomes aggressively individualistic the moment free expression is permitted.

New York Example

Right here in the United States, a Council for a Democratic Germany, headed by Dr. Paul Tilllich, formerly professor of philosophical theology at Frankfort University and now at Union Theological Seminary, New York, has been organized by exiled Germans to speak for all opposed to Nazism. Its platform stood for:

1. All who shared responsibility for the rise of Nazism must be excluded from the work of creating a new democracy in Germany;
2. German educational institutions must be purged of racial teachings and future education guided within democratic channels;
3. All possible assistance should be given to United Nations in their political warfare against Nazi Germany.

Reactions revealed cleavage among exiled Germans. Thomas Mann, who had helped draft the original declaration, declined to become chairman and withdrew altogether. The committee, in rebuttal, said Mann was a poet and a dreamer, constitutionally unsuited for political leadership.

The Social Democrats objected to two Communists on the council. Trotskyites said they saw in the committee a mere tool of Stalin. Communists apparently had no objection to two of their number joining the council. They continued, however, to maintain their own Communist line in their organ, "The German American."

Deny Democratic Trend

German refugee Jews publish a weekly organ called Aufbau (reconstruction). Its attitude toward the committee was lukewarm. According to the committee, refugees should become United States citizens and not bother about Germany.

Bitter leaders like Emil Ludwig, Leopold Schwarschild and Wilhelm Driener, who deny the existence of substantial democratic tendencies in Germany, saw in the council a veiled support of Nazism and imperialism.

Lone figures like former German Chancellor Heinrich Brüning, the former Nazi President Hermann Goering, apparently doubt the advisability of any organized emigrant effort.

Meanwhile, the other ideologies continue to plead their cause. The exiled German Social Democrats under the leadership of Friedrich Stampfli and Gerhart Sanger, guiding spirits of the "Neue Volkswirtschaft" of New York, sponsor the German labor confederation. Communists continue to publish their organ, "Die Welt."
Get Little Help

This battle of ideologies goes on as well in other parts of the world, wherever groups of Germans are to be found, especially in Great Britain. The German Social Democratic Party, after occupation of Czechoslovakia, chose London as its headquarters in exile, with Hans Vogel as chairman. It will have nothing to do, however, with either the Free Germany Committee of London, or the "New Beginning" group allied with the New York council for a democratic Germany.

One difficulty of groups aiming to unite exiled Germans on a democratic platform has been that they are getting no encouragement by either the English or American administrations.

Free Germany movements are better off in that respect. The Free Germany committee in Moscow enjoys the advantage over all other German exile organizations of being permitted to broadcast in the German language four times daily.

In the western hemisphere, the Free Germany movement centers in Mexico City. Operating independently of any other movement, a group of Christian German liberals also, has started a monthly magazine in Santiago, Chile.

In Bolivia, a group of anti-Nazi repatriates has been reported in existence, but it thus far has not commanded international attention.
New Nazi War Reported Ready: Years of Guerrillaism After Peace

Information From Inside Germany Says Himmler Is Training Sabotage Squads and Planting the Idea That Some Day Hitler Will Return

By The Associated Press

ALESDORF, Germany, Dec. 13—Information from inside Germany indicates that Adolf Hitler’s close followers have prepared for five years of underground warfare against the Allies after the German military collapse comes.

The plan is threefold: (1) Open warfare directed from Hitler’s mountain headquarters, sabotage and partisan activity conducted by partisan bands organized by districts, and propaganda warfare to be carried on by some 200,000 Nazis in Europe and elsewhere.

Already picked S.S. (Elite Guard) troops have been established underground in strongholds and hospitals in the Austrian, Bavarian and Italian Alpine area, and it is the plan of Nazi leaders to see to it that the German military collapse comes.

Only tried and true Nazi party members will be allowed to enter the strongholds. The Nazi party has already concentrated food and munitions in the Alpine area to make it possible to carry on for a long period.

S.S. men and party members unable to reach the Alpine strongholds will be assigned to directing partisan activities from such places as the Black Forest or out-of-the-way villages. Himmler academies are training both men and women in the sabotage tactics to be employed by partisan bands.

In order to hinder Allied police.
The substance of your 7642 of November 15 and 7889 of November 21 has been carefully studied by the Board and the Department. As indicated in Department's 3258 of September 21, item three, the Board is of the view that the transmission by the protecting power of messages regarding the mistreatment of victims of enemy persecution serves a useful purpose regardless of whether the enemy government "accepts" the message in any formal sense. However, if certain terminology in the Department's telegram requesting that such messages be transmitted is known to the Swiss to be definitely unacceptable to the Germans and likely to defeat the objective of the Department and the Board, which is to save the lives of unfortunate individuals, it is requested that the Swiss use their best discretion in the matter. Other channels are available for communication of the omitted passages or phrases.

In view of this Government's stand regarding holders of documents issued in the names of American Republics, which is shared by the Inter-American Advisory Committee for Political Defense, the Department and the Board do not accept any German refusal to receive communications in matters pertaining to bearer of Latin American documents. Further, in addition to existing efforts,
since each of the Latin American nations has a protecting power for the German Government, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain or Portugal, it is possible for these protecting powers in view of the general responsibility devolving upon them in that capacity to concert measures at Berlin to save lives of persons whose existence is threatened. If the Swiss feel they can not speak up in behalf of human beings whose governments they do not represent, there is no reason why they should not exercise a humanitarian initiative to obtain concerted protective action along the lines suggested by the United States Government by all the protecting powers. The United States Government appreciate and will be eager to support any such Swiss move.

There is a definite reason why the United States Government appears so frequently as spokesman for the other American Republics in these matters. It has the best sources of information and with this responsibility can not await multiple transmissions of communications to various governments before initiating remedial measures. It is furthermore clearly established on the basis of Resolution XXIV of the Committee for Political Defense and through communications exchanged with the various American Republics that none of the other American Republics is willing to accept German infringement of its sovereignty which is constituted by German decisions.
December 8, 9 p.m., to Bern

decisions regarding the validity of its documents of nationality. The protecting powers are all aware of this position and should not need added instructions from the represented powers in order effectively to maintain the protection of bearers of these documents.

This Government of course has a special interest in citizens and claimants to citizenship of the United States and you are authorized to urge or request the Swiss authorities accordingly, unless that has already been done, in line with the fifth paragraph of your 7642 describing action which the Swiss were to take with respect to those whom they consider to be bona fide United States and Latin American nationals represented by Switzerland. It is hoped that that action has been taken. However, the Department and the Board wish to point out that since the Swiss have been arbitrarily deprived by the Germans of contact with many of the individuals whose lives are in the greatest danger, they are not able to perceive how the Swiss can determine which of these individuals are bona fide nationals. If without such contact the Swiss should undertake to accept the German determination they would be accepting a grave responsibility.

The German Government is willing enough to accept representations of the United States Government in behalf of the other

American
American Republics whether or not represented by Switzerland, when by doing so it obtains an advantage in the return of its nationals to Germany in exchange. Germany’s failure at this late date to recognize the interest of this Government in claims of nationality of the American Republics and its justification in making representations concerning matters affecting their availability for exchange is entirely inconsistent. The United States Government can not accept this German point of view. Moreover, Germany’s attitude in the light of your 7616 of November 18 is not likely to prove inflexible in practice even if it remains so in negotiations.

There appears to be some misinterpretation attached to the Swiss attitude in the matter of the Americans and Latin Americans removed from Slovakia discussed in your 7183 of October 28, penultimate paragraph of your 7542, and the Department’s 3769 of November 4 and 3852 of November 11, 1944. The Department and the Board understood that Grassli’s proposal called for an approach to the German Government as the power responsible for the transfer of the Americans and Latin Americans held in Slovakia and that he intended the Swiss Government, on its own initiative, as a good office in behalf of both belligerents and in the effort to solve the impasse which might otherwise arise, to suggest to the Germans as
as a possible solution to the difficulty the return of these individuals to Slovakia. In its 3769, the Department therefore concurred in his proposal. In its 3852 requesting the Swiss to take definite action, it made the request extend only so far as this Government could speak in the matter without extending recognition to Slovakia. Your 7802 of November 28 covers only eight of at least 150 Americans understood to have been held at Marianka. If this figure represents the total number of American citizens of Jewish race remaining alive in Slovakia, numbers of American citizens have disappeared.

To make the matter clear, the Department would be glad if the Swiss could continue with the implementation of Graselli's proposal to the extent that is compatible with pending exchange proposals. The extent to which the Swiss can speak for the United States Government in making this proposal was defined in Department's 3852 and the Department notes with gratitude that they have done so and further that they have induced the Germans to consider the exchange of at least eight of the Americans concerned. The remaining elements of the proposal can only be implemented by the Swiss on their own initiative through good offices as a friendly neutral intermediary.

If there were at Marianka or at Sered Nationals of the American Republics
December 9, 9 p.m., to Bern

Republics not represented by Switzerland, the Department and the Board would appreciate if in addition to the action suggested in the foregoing paragraph the Swiss would inform the Department urgently so that the appropriate protecting powers may be asked to take parallel measures in their behalf.

STEPHINIUS
(GLW)
CABLE TO MINISTER MABEISON FOR MACCALLUM, BEIN, SWITZERLAND

Reference your 7542 of November 15 and 7668 of November 21.

As indicated in Department's 3255 of September 21, Item 3, the Board is of the view that the transmission by the Protecting Power of messages regarding the mistreatment of victims of enemy persecution serves a useful purpose regardless of whether the enemy government would accept UNQUOTE the message in any formal sense. Accordingly, it would be appreciated if notes based on the four points contained in Department's 3648 of October 28 and on Department's 3769 of November 4 were transmitted by Switzerland to the German Government.

In view of this Government's stand regarding holders of documents issued in the names of American Republics, which is shared by the Inter-American Advisory Committee for Political Defense, no distinction can be maintained in communications to enemy governments relating to the treatment to be accorded such persons between claimants to American nationalities on the theory that some may be bona fide while others may not. To do otherwise would deprive the matter of whatever minimum security they may still enjoy, without in any way adding to the security of the former. This Government, of course, has a special interest in citizens and claimants to citizenship of the United States, and you are authorized to make your requests to Swiss authorities accordingly. Department's 3852 of November 11 is an example of such special emphasis.

German failure at this late date to recognize interest of this Government in claimants to nationalities of American republics and its right to make representations concerning their treatment is not (repeat not) understood. Since many such representations have been made by us and discussed by German authorities with Swiss officials in the past, you may point out to Swiss authorities that acceptance of German view not expressed would leave unfortunate victims of unprecedented persecution without such slight protection as our repeated representations may afford them. The Board is confident that Swiss authorities do not wish this result. Moreover, German attitude, in the light of your 7638 of November 18, is not likely to prove inflexible.

Department and Board appreciate the solicitude of Swiss officials for this Government's interests (reference penultimate paragraph of your 7542 of November 15) with regard to the possible misinterpretation of the course of action suggested in your 7163 of October 28 and approved by this Government (reference Department's 3769 of November 4). However, this Government, as repeatedly indicated in various communications to you, believes that technical niceties cannot be allowed to stand in the way of saving human lives. Any misconception regarding the American attitude toward the present regime in Slovakia can be avoided if you refer in your communication to the Swiss to SOUTHEAST Europe and his associates UNQUOTE or QUOTE the present regime in Slovakia UNQUOTE.

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

BAILLIERE 11/24/44 10-12 A.M.

Nov. 25, 1944
Secretary of State,
Washington.

7958, December 7, 5 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELAND.

I have received assurances from Burckhardt now ICRC president that German Foreign Office was definitely approached on October 2 by committee with request that Reich Government consider extending to so-called "schutzhaftling" (detainees for security reasons) treatment granted by analogy to Geneva POW convention of 1929 to enemy nationals in Germany and German occupied territory. As of December one no answer had yet been received from Germans. Late in November when delegate of German Red Cross Hartmann was in Geneva this question was thoroughly discussed with him. German consul at Genoa was also urged a few days ago by ICRC to press German Foreign Office for an answer. (Department's 3925 November 16, WRB's 281).

I personally fear that little or no positive results will be forthcoming from this approach, past experience with Germans.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972
with Germans regarding similar questions, particularly
the Jewish one, having shown fairly conclusively that
neither German Foreign Office nor German Red Cross
exercise any real control over political detainees and
deportees both on Jewish and Jewish (?), such control
being in hands of SS "reichssicher heikshauptamt" at
Berlin.

With reference to a somewhat similar intercession
to be made by neutrals headed by Vatican (Legation's
7170 October 28 from Sternbach to Union Orthodox Rabbis
and Department's 3788 November 7 WRA's 259) initiated
through Papal Nunciature in Bern, it is important to
note this is motivated by desire to secure reciprocal
treatment of German civilians in territory already or
shortly to be occupied by forces of Allied nations.
Reciprocity is to be based on Genova Convention and
guaranteed by neutrals and Vatican. In return for this
guarantee it is hoped to secure various concessions
from Germans concerning treatment of non-assimilated
detainees under their control. In speaking of Allied
nations Angelo Donati, author of proposal, had Soviet
Russia particularly in mind. To this end he has sub-
sequently attempted to bring project to Moscow's
attention
December 7, 5 p.m., from Bern

attention by various channels: through two unofficial Soviet citizens in Switzerland Sokolin and Tchorniak reputedly in contact with Moscow and through Togliatti Italian Communist leader at present in Rome. If guarantee could be obtained from Russians to accord Geneva Convention treatment to German civilians in areas occupied and to be occupied by them it would indeed constitute a powerful lever with which to secure counter concessions from Nazis. Many months ago ICRC unofficially expressed to me their belief that any concessions which might be extracted from Soviets with regard to German POWs (even Russian agreement to deliver lists of names of those alive and well) would be invaluable in securing from Germans more favorable treatment of categories of detainees and deportees including Jews in their hands.

HUDDLE

JWB EM

($) apparent omission
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: November 20, 1944

The following has reference to German-American interests.

Please refer to legation's message of November 15, No. 7642.

It is stated in last paragraph of Swiss note of November 24 that Albrecht, Chief of Legal Section German Foreign Office was advised of contents of Department's No. 3856 of November 12 by representative of Swiss Legation, Berlin.

The actual dissolution of German Jewish by German authorities was indicated by Albrecht, at eight American nacionales were left there by the German authorities. These eight persons are considered of Jewish origin by the German authorities. "Slovak Government" has been asked by German Government if they concur with the transfer of these eight internees to Germany so that they might be included in the German-American exchange which is now proposed.

The decision of the Slovak Government is being awaited by Albrecht, who consented that he reserves the right to furnish more definite information to Swiss Legation, Berlin, in writing and that his verbal comments constitute only a provisional answer.

J. M. S.

DOC 376
12-13-44
The message was delivered to the Swiss Foreign Office on October 23 and they replied on November 17, indicating that the Swiss Legation in Berlin had already instructed its embassy to communicate the message to the German Government. When they received this instruction, the Swiss Legation in Berlin had just suffered two refusals on the part of the German Foreign Office to accept communications from the Department of the United States (see Legations cables of November 15 and 18, nos. 7342 and 7367 respectively) and since refusal to accept the Department's cables seemed inevitable, it reported the situation to the Swiss Foreign Office. After examining the situation in an attempt to find a workable solution, the Department of the United States chose the following wording to oblige the German Foreign Office to refuse to accept the message:

**SECRET**

Department of State, Washington

November 25, 1944

To the Secretary of State, Washington

The message referred to in your cable of November 17, no. 304, and your note to this office of November 17, 1944, was delivered to the Swiss Legation in Berlin on October 23. The Swiss Legation in Berlin has now reported to this office that it has received a cable from the German Foreign Office on November 19, 1944, stating that the German Foreign Office is unable to accept the message for reasons of national security. The Swiss Legation has accordingly informed the German Foreign Office that it is unable to accept the message for the same reasons.

The Department of State has chosen the following wording to oblige the German Foreign Office to refuse to accept the message:

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Reference Legation's 7542, November 15.

During an interview at the Foreign Office, Minister Feldscher, who is at present visiting Bern, declared refusal of Government of Germany to accept messages mentioned paragraph four reference cable is founded mainly on second reason stated, i.e., threatening tone of messages and objections to accepting reproaches of this kind from another government on part of Germans. Even though he assures the Germans that his position is merely that of a communication channel between belligerents, the Germans show resentment against Swiss for transmitting messages which bear threats from Government of United States.

The Minister stressed tension already in existence between heads of Gestapo and other branches of Government of Germany and Foreign Office authorities which would only be aggravated if latter passed on these threats and added that Government of Germany does not take messages containing threats seriously and that, except for evasive answers, these messages receive no action.

He expressed the wish that notes to Government of Germany containing warnings to German officials against committing particular offenses or threats to bring individual officials before tribunals to answer for wartime offenses, not be sent the Swiss Legation, in view of foregoing and undoubtedly adverse and serious effect upon his relations with Foreign Office authorities.
November 31, from Bern

authorities because of his transmitting threatening messages from our

政府.

The above opinions are shared by Bisang and Deputy.

HUMBLE

DCH:...ED:CR
11-23-44
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 13, 1944
NUMBR: 7616

CONTROL COPY

No. 589 dated November 16 from Registrati for Foreign Affairs reported to the Department for War Refugee Board.

We have sent the following to Rome: From indications in Germany it may be inferred that some leading Nazi circles, including SS executives, are beginning to change their minds with respect to arrests and deportations on political and racial grounds. Such repentance arising too late may result from the fact that Germans are facing reversal of conditions arising from territorial occupation by Allies. They feel therefore that they may have to appeal to international organizations or neutral countries for protection for their own civil populace. According to information received in local Jewish circles, with more particular reference to Italy, Germans are said to have started dissolution of some concentration camps in Northern Italy especially Fosdell camp. In this situation, my request to the Swiss Political Department to hasten Swiss assumption of our interests in Berlin and to secure provisional entry into Switzerland from Germany of women youthful and aged among our racial and political deportees has been renewed by me.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-12-72
By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 12, 1972
The following for McClelland refers to Legation's 7313 of November 3 and to WRB 291.

It would appear from text of message in reference that, notwithstanding negative response contained in Legation's 3147 of May 17, Intercross has proceeded along lines of our 1498 of April 29. Your comments on text of Riegner's message and a determination by you that German Government has been approached by Intercross with a view to obtaining assimilation for foreign Jews held in Germany or German occupied areas would be appreciated by the Board.

STETTINNUS
(Acting)
(MW)

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

CONTROL COPY
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Reference your 7313, November 3, 1944.

Text of this message would make it appear that Intercross has proceeded along the lines of our 1698 of April 29, notwithstanding their negative response contained in your 3147 of May 17. The Board would appreciate your comments on the text of Riegner's message and a determination by you that Intercross has approached the German Government with a view to obtaining assimilation for foreign Jews held in Germany or German-occupied territories.

THIS IS WBB BERN CABLE NO. 281.
Secretary of State
Washington

7593, November 17, 11 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

I have received following reliable and confidential information concerning composition internment of camp of Bergen-Belsen.

At beginning of September 8156 Jews were interned there. Camp inmates are divided into following groups. About 1370 Hungarians make up first group and 593 Poles possessing "foreign" passports second.

Treatment these two groups reported tolerable. Third section of camp houses 660 Dutch Jews plus a small number of other Jews of unspecified nationality all holding Latin American documents. Section four, called "Albala" is work camp where treatment is bad, food hygienic and housing conditions inadequate.

There are roughly 5500 Jews of Dutch, Greek, French, Polish and other nationalities in Albala apparently possessing...
-2- #7593, November 17, 11 a.m., from Bern

possessing no documents at all or otherwise documentation considered insufficient by Germans.

HARRISON

JHS
Dear Dr. Goldmann:

Reference is made to my letter of November 20, 1944, forwarding the text of a message received through the American Legation in Bern under date of November 16, 1944.

The War Refugee Board has just received a cable from its Representative in Bern requesting us to inform the World Jewish Congress that the information concerning a possible "modus operandi" between the International Red Cross, German authorities and the Jewish community in Vienna is strictly confidential. Our Representative adds that any discussion or publicity of this information would be most harmful since the International Red Cross has advised him that Berlin knows nothing about the matter.

With respect to the question of funds, our Representative advises that he is examining with the International Red Cross the question of immediately making funds available for the relief work in Vienna.

The foregoing is for your personal and strictly confidential information and I am sure you will also regard the text of the message forwarded in my letter of November 20th in the same light.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
INCOMING TELEGRAM  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

JP-951  
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.  

Bern  
Dated November 16, 1944  
Rec'd 4:00 a.m., 17th  

For security reasons call  
7679, Washington  
November 16, 10 p.m.  

FOR URB FROM NOCLELLAND  
(Continuing my 7575)  

Kindly request WJC New York consider this information concerning possible "modus operandi" between German authorities Jewish community and ICRC in Vienna as strictly confidential. Schirmer informed me that Berlin knows nothing about it. Any talk consequently would be most harmful. Saly Mayer and I are examining with Schirmer question of immediately making funds available to Lowenherz in Vienna to support whatever relief work he can carry out. Schirmer leaves for Berlin November 20 expects to be in Vienna by next month to set up ICRC office there if it still appears funds can be usefully spent.
November 20, 1944

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

The following message for you from Gerhart Riegner was received through the American Legation in Bern under date of November 16, 1944:

"A long discussion was had with Dr. Schirmer, representative of International Red Cross, attached temporarily to IRC Budapest Delegation, who has now returned to Switzerland, having departed from Hungary on the 29th of October. Through the War Refugee Board I am dispatching to you detailed information which he gave to me regarding the situation of Jews in Budapest and IRC action. It is reported by Schirmer that in Budapest there are still approximately 160,000, 50,000 Jewish males having been marched for labor service toward Austria. In Hungary in Honved camps for labor service there are an additional 50,000 still. Protection papers of IRC (for Jewish persons working in Budapest with them), Spain, Switzerland and Sweden, are accorded recognition. Every institution protected by IRC is respected, including Jewish institutions, hospitals, homes for children, soup-kitchens, food warehouses, etc.

"It is reported by Schirmer that in Vienna vicinity approximately 18,000 Jews are working, divided up into 4 to 5 hundred labor detachments or small camps, each comprised of 3 to 5 hundred people. Although they include a number of Czechoslovaks and Poles they are Hungarians mostly. Surprisingly enough the German authorities in Vienna appear to be willing to allow IRC to help those Jews in cooperation with and through Dr. Lowenhertz, who continues to hold his position in the Vienna community and who directs their office. Dr. Schirmer will return to Vienna soon and he urged that funds for this purpose be made available. Lowenhertz advised him that if funds could be made available to him food and clothing could be purchased in Vienna. Your remittance as soon as possible is therefore urged by me."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
1824 Broadway,

RDrury 11/20/44
SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington,

7574, November 16, 9 p.m.
FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.
FOR NAHUM GOEDMANN OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

FROM GERHARD REIGNER.

Had long conversation with Dr. Schirmer International Red Cross representative temporarily attached to their Budapest delegation who left Hungary on October 29 and just returned to Switzerland. He gave detailed report on situation of Jews in Budapest and action taken by International Red Cross which are dispatching to you through the War Refugee Board.

Schirmer reports that about 160,000 still in Budapest, 50,000 male Jews having been marched direction Austria for labor service. Further 50,000 are still in Hungary in Honved labor service camps. Protection documents of International Red Cross (for Jewish personnel working with them in Budapest), Sweden, Switzerland and Spain are recognized.
November 16, 9 p.m., from Bern.

are recognized. All institutions under International Red Cross protection including Jewish institutions, soup-kitchens, hospitals, children's homes, food warehouses, et cetera, are respected.

HARRISON

WMB
Secretary of State,  
Washington.  

7575, November 16, 10 p.m.  

Schirmer (continuing my 7575) reports that some 18,000 Jews are working in vicinity of Vienna split up among 4 to 5 hundred small camps or work detachments each one having from 3 to 5 hundred persons. They are mostly Hungarians but include number Poles and Czechoslovaks. German authorities at Vienna surprisingly enough seem willing permit IOR assist those Jews in collaboration and through Dr. Lowenherz who still holds his position with Vienna community and directs their office. Dr. Schirmer who soon returning Vienna urged funds be made available for this purpose. If money can be placed his disposal Lowenherz informed him that clothing and food stuffs could be obtained in Vienna. Urging therefore your soonest remittance. End Riegner message.

H. R. H. 

[Signature]

JMS

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parke Date  
SEP 12 1972
Secretary of State,  
Washington.

7542, November 15, 3 p.m. 
Department's 3245 September 20-WRE 178.

Foreign Office note November 8 which was personally 
handed same day to Legation secretary by Deputy states 
in substance following.

During interview of Feldscher the latter declared 
he had been instructed to return these two notes 
(Legation forwarded by note dated September 23 to 
Foreign Office substance of first and second paragraph 
your 3245. Foreign Office transmitted these to Swiss 
Legation Berlin by two separate notes each enclosing 
text in English as received from Legation).

According to Setho the German Government does not 
(repeat not) recognize right of American Government 
to undertake representations in these two cases 
matters do not (repeat not) concern protection of 

DECLASSIFIED 
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By H. H. Parks Date SEP 1972
American nationals and additionally it considers tone of those notes unacceptable particularly threat contained in latter part of paragraph one your 324S.

Since German Government does not recognize right of Swiss representatives as representing American interests to intervene in favor of bearers of Latin American identity documents (note here refers to Foreign Office note of September 5 whith enclosures which were transmitted to Department with Legation's strictly confidential despatch 9250 September 15). Feldscher inquires whether he should nevertheless bring to attention of German Foreign Office four points contained in Legation's notice of October 31 to Swiss Foreign Office (first paragraph Department's 3648, October 26) concerning deportation bearers' documents this category previously interned Maria Kain, Slovakia. In view Sethe's declaration Foreign Office sees no useful purpose in delivering to German Foreign Office a note based upon Legation's notice of October 31 acceptance of which without any doubt will be refused. Foreign Office accordingly gave instructions to Feldscher not to pursue the matter. End summary.
Legation continued its negotiations with Division of Foreign Interests after said meeting with Deputy and those concluded in discussion with him on November 13 at which time he agreed to have Swiss Legation Berlin approach German authorities pursuant first paragraph Department's 3646 as applied to bona fide United States Nationals and similar nationals of Latin American countries represented by Switzerland.

At meeting of November 13 Legation Secretary was handed notice dated November 10 with reference to Grassali's proposals which were subject of Legation's note dated November 9 to Swiss based Department's. Notice November 4. Said no time includes following observations:

1. Grassali refusal accept notes of Swiss Legation Berlin based on fact that German Government contents right of American Government to make representations in matter pertaining to bearers of Latin American documents.

2. Grassali nevertheless insists that persons claiming and actually possessing United States nationality are held in Slovak concentration camps. It is possible that German authorities would not refuse a representation made not concerning bearers of Latin American documents but regarding persons claiming United States nationality.
nationality.

(3) However procedure suggested by Grassi would involve instructing Swiss Legation, Berlin to intervene with German Government regarding action taken by German Government authorities in Slovakia—provided it be limited to United States citizens properly speaking—but requesting German Government to surrender Jews concerned to Slovak Government. Swiss observe that such action might be interpreted as implying recognition of Slovak state and request Department's comment. End summary.

Since receipt of foregoing Legation communication to Swiss contents Department's 3652 November 11 and in view above summarized Swiss comments would appreciate Department's observations as to whether and on what basis Swiss should be requested further to pursue Grassi's suggestions.

HARRISON

WSB
November 14, 1944.

Mrs. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I wish to convey to you the substance of a message recently received from the Secretariat of State, Vatican City:

The Apostolic Nunciature in Berlin has been directed to take further and insistent steps with the German Government to permit Jews interned in Germany, especially those from Lithuania, to receive packages containing food and clothing.

The Apostolic Nunciature in Bratislava has been directed to insist anew with President Tiso in the name of the Holy Father, who indicates the obligations incumbent upon him as a priest, that he act to protect the rights of Jews in Slovakia and to assure them of just and equitable treatment.

With sentiments of esteem and every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours,

/s/ A. G. Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate
Department informed that German authorities in Slovakia have begun evacuation from a camp at Maranka of Jews who claim the nationality of United States and of other American republics. Persons being removed are reported to be destined to Auschwitz.

Please request Swiss to inform German Government that United States Government expects urgently to obtain assurances that the German authorities in Slovakia have not taken any action against claimants to the citizenship of the United States which deprived them of any of the rights to which they are entitled. If any claimants to the citizenship of the United States have been deprived of such rights or have been removed from Slovakia to some other area under German control, German Government should provide the names of the persons concerned and information regarding their whereabouts and welfare.

Telegraph pertinent developments.
To Minister Harrison at Bern for McClelland.

Reference your 7170 of October 28 to the Department. For your information following is the text of a letter written by Pope to The Apostolic Delegate in Washington:

QUOTE A report from Bern from private sources indicates that the Nunciature at Bern may present to the Holy See a proposal whereby the Vatican, together with certain neutral governments, would intercede with the German Government on behalf of civilian deportees in German-controlled territories. According to the report, the proposal envisages that Germany would be requested:

(a) to liberate or allow to be interned in neutral countries those deportees who are elderly men, women, and children; and

(b) to apply to other deportees treatment similar to that accorded prisoners of war.

Without knowing whether this report is correct, I, nevertheless, wish to assure you that, in the opinion of the Board, a step of this kind might result in saving the lives of deported civilians in German-controlled territory.

I should, however, like to draw your attention to two particularly important circumstances. First, the Germans have often shown a tendency to exclude Jews from concessions made in response to foreign intercessions, and to assume that Jews are not among the persons on whose behalf any intercession is made unless express reference is made to them. Second, the value of any German concessions will be doubtful unless provision is made for effective supervision of their execution by competent neutral authorities.

Should you deem it appropriate, I would be very grateful if you could bring the foregoing comments to the attention of the Holy See. CLOSE QUOTE.

This is WBS Bern cable No. 299.

DECLASSIFIED
State, Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By H. H. France Date SEP 12 1972
CABLES TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR MG CLELLAND

Reference your 7270 of October 28 to the Department. For your information the following is the text of a letter written by Fehre to The Apostolic Delegate in Washington:

QUOTE A report from Bern from private sources indicates that the Nunciature at Bern may present to the Holy See a proposal whereby the Vatican, together with certain neutral governments, would intercede with the German Government on behalf of civilian deportees in Germany-controlled territories. According to the report, the proposal envisages that Germany would be requested

(a) to liberate or allow to be interned in neutral countries those deportees who are elderly men, women, and children; and

(b) to apply to other deportees treatment similar to that accorded prisoners of war.

Without knowing whether this report is correct, I, nevertheless, wish to assure you that, in the opinion of the Board, a step of this kind might result in saving the lives of deported civilians in German-controlled territory.

I should, however, like to draw your attention to two particularly important circumstances. First, the Germans have often shown a tendency to exclude Jews from concessions made in response to foreign intercessions, and to assume that Jews are not among the persons on whose behalf any intercession is made unless express reference is made to them. Second, the value of any German concessions will be doubtful unless provision is made for effective supervision of their execution by competent neutral authorities.

Should you deem it appropriate, I would be very grateful if you could bring the foregoing comments to the attention of the Holy See. END

QUOTE

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 259.

11:30 a.m.
November 3, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sect'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, Dambois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Manning, McCormack, Files
November 8, 1944

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Gerhart Riegner was received through the American Legation in Bern under date of November 3, 1944:

"We are confidentially advised by Carl Burokhardt (following our repeated intercessions with ICRC concerning handling of Jewish deportees as civil internes under terms of Tokyo project and Geneva Convention), that ICRC directed an official note on October 2 to German Ministry of Foreign Affairs asking that all foreigners held in Germany and German-occupied areas (in fact, designated as "schutzhafthing" of foreign citizenship and deprived of freedom of movement), be given identical guarantees to those provided by Tokyo project and Geneva Convention. This designation applies to all foreign Jews held or deported in Germany or German-occupied territories, as well as all political prisoners and foreign workers, according to Burokhardt. The answer of the Government of Germany is being awaited by ICRC now.

"Through WJB, documentation covering our dealings with ICRC in this connection have been forwarded to you."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

World Jewish Congress,
1634 Broadway,

RDrury 11/8/44
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 3, 1944
NUMBER: 7313

McClelland sends the following for WNB.

The following is from Bieghner for Kabowitski and Goldman of World Jewish Congress.

We are confidentially advised by Carl Burckhardt (following our repeated intercessions with ICRC concerning handling of Jewish deportees as civil internees under terms of Tokyo project and Geneva Convention), that ICRC directed an official note on October 2 to German Ministry of Foreign Affairs asking that all foreigners held in Germany and German-occupied areas (in fact, designated as "schutzhäftling" of foreign citizenship and deprived of freedom of movement), be given identical guarantees to those provided by Tokyo project and Geneva Convention. This designation applies to all foreign Jews held or deported in Germany or German-occupied territories, as well as all political prisoners and foreign workers, according to Burckhardt. The answer of the Government of Germany is being awaited by ICRC now.

Through WNB, documentation covering our dealings with ICRC in this connection have been forwarded to you.
Dear Rabbi Kalmanovitz:

In reply to your oral inquiry, please be informed that we have advised the apostolic delegate in Washington of the substance of Mr. Sternbush's recent message to you concerning the efforts being made to secure the collective intercession of the Vatican and neutral governments in favor of civilian deportees in German-controlled territories. In this connection, I have written the apostolic delegate stating that a report from private sources had reached us indicating that the Nunciature at Bern was present to the Holy See a proposal that Germany be requested

(a) to liberate or allow to be interned in neutral countries those deportees who are elderly men, women, and children; and

(b) to apply to other deportees treatment similar to that accorded prisoners of war.

The apostolic delegate has been assured that the Board, without knowing whether this report is correct, nevertheless considers that a step of this kind might result in saving the lives of deported civilians in German-controlled territory. The attention of the apostolic delegate, moreover, has been drawn to two particularly important circumstances. First, that the Germans often show a tendency to exclude Jews from concessions made in response to foreign intercessions, and to assume that Jews are not among the persons on whose behalf any intercession is made unless express reference is made to them. Second, that the value of any German concessions will be doubtful unless provision is made for effective supervision of their execution by competent neutral authorities.

The apostolic delegate has also been informed that the Board would be grateful if its views were brought to the attention of the Holy See.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director.

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanovitz,
Vead Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,

Baksia: Lchaim 11-2-44 1944 24 2

000145
November 6, 1944

Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

At our recent conference in which we discussed the subject of the "collective intercession" to be undertaken by the neutrals and of which you informed us in your letter of October 31st, you advised me that we would have a draft of the memorandum you would present to the Apostolic Delegate.

We would be thankful for a copy of such draft.

With our deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Haimowitz

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbinical Scholars and Community Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
TO: American Legation, Bern

DATE: November 4, 1944

NUMBER: 3769

To Minister Harrison and McColloand,

Reference is made to your 7163 of October 28. Department and Board fully agree with action suggested by Grassali. Should you not yet have done so, you are requested to approach Swiss authorities accordingly without delay. In connection with claims to citizenship of United States and other American Republics, whether with or without documents, reference is made to Department's 1269 of April 23, 1921 of June 6, and 2149 of June 24.

This is WRB Bern cable No. 238.

STETTINUS
Acting

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akrin, Cohen, Drury, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Hadal, Leaser, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pahle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972
November 1, 1944

Honorable John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

We refer to your letter of October 31st which included a message from Mr. Sternbuch under date of October 28.

On October 26th, we telegraphed the Hon. Adolf A. Berle, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State, a copy of which telegram is enclosed. The measures we suggested in our telegram have already been initiated in Switzerland by our Committee. We would respectfully request that the War Refugee Board support our suggested measures and that the State Department intercede with the various neutral countries to join in the collective intercession with the Government of Germany.

We enclose also a copy of a telegram from the Honorable John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War and we wish to thank you for the aid you gave in making possible the action taken.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AKir

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbinical, Scholars and Community Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.
Honorble Adolf Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State, Washington, D.C.

WE MUST APPEAL IN LAST MOMENTS FOR EUROPEAN JEWRY AND RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR
MOST URGENT AND DESPERATELY NEEDED INTERVENTION. LATEST CABLES REPORT GERMANY
LEAVING NAZIS TO EXECUTE SIXTEEN THOUSAND JEWISH AMONG THEM GREAT RABBI
WASSERMAN (ROZINSKI) VERHULST SCHURO SHARUTI PUELMANN LYTANEN SHAPERO
OZINSKI ALSO REPORTED ALL JEWS FROM BRATISLAVA DEPORTED POLAND AND GERMANY. WE
APPEAL THAT ALL POSSIBLE RESCUE MEANS BE EXHAUSTED. WE RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THAT
IMMEDIATE ACTION BE TAKEN TO INTERVENT WITH ALL NEUTRAL
LANDS SUCH AS SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, AND OTHERS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTIONS.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICES.
APPEAL IN NAME OF HUMANITY AND CIVILIZATION TO GERMANY TO FOREVER CEASE THE WILFUL MERCILESS DESTRUCTION OF JEWS FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR YOUR DEEPEST EFFORTS

UNION ORTHODOX RABBIS OF UNITED STATES
RABBIS ISRAEL ROSENBERG ML. SILVER B L LEVINTHAL
VAAD MAHATZALAH EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
RABBIS AROH NOTLER ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ A M GORDON
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANowitz
UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS AND VIAD HABATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
135 NASSAU ST. N.Y.C.

I AM GLAD TO REPORT THAT APPROVAL HAS BEEN SECURED FOR ISSUANCE BY GENERAL
EISENHOWER OF A STATEMENT. I SHALL SEE THAT YOU OBTAIN THE TEXT AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. I REQUEST THAT THIS MATTER BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL ANY
SUCH STATEMENT IS MADE.

JOHN J. McCLOY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
WASHINGTON, D.C.
U. S. Jews Hold Rites in Reich

REICH, Germany, Oct. 30
(U.P.)—With German shells dropping on these hills above Anschit, Jewish officers and men of the U. S. Army broadcast to their people back home today the news that religious freedom has been restored in this small segment of Germany.

The Nazis burned down Anschit's synagogue in 1938 and it would be hard to find many German Jews left in this part of the world. But three American soldiers, standing in bright autumn sunshine, held a service in token for the Jews persecuted during the long years of Nazi rule.
GI-Jews Ignore Nazi Shells to Hold Service in Germany

By United Press

BRAND, Germany, Oct. 30—From the sunlit hills above Aachen, where Nazis burned down the synagogue in 1938, Jewish officers and men broadcast to their people for the first time today that religious freedom already had been restored in this small German segment.

It would be hard to find a German Jew in this part of the world but these Americans held service in token for them. They did not need a synagogue. They worshiped in the open air, close to a brick factory, and shells which the Germans dropped on Brand during the service were ignored.

The service, broadcast by radio, was conducted by Chaplain Sidney Lefkowitz of Richmond, Va., for Jewish GI's and with the assistance of Cantor Pfc Max Pach of New York City and a choir of 50 from "somewhere near, Aachen.

SERVICE BROADCAST:

"Here we humbly announce to the universe the good tidings that the light of religious freedom has pierced thru the black darkness of Nazi persecution," Chaplain Lefkowitz said. "Freedom of conscience again triumphant in a land which sought to destroy men that right. An eternal faith has lived thru and will outlive the fantastic power which sought to destroy it."

This was not the first Jewish service held inside Germany since Americans breached the Siegfried Line. There have been many. But today's service, broadcast by NBC, let U. S. listeners near it against a backdrop of shell fire and gave proof to thousands that one of the four freedoms had been restored to Allied occupied Germany.

SHELLING INCREASES.


NBC War Correspondent James Clancy said those attending the service "have fought for the right to stand in this German field at this moment and worship God according to their own faith and ancient faith."
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

7170, October 29, 3 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND
FOR UNION ORTHODOX RABBIS FROM STERNWYCH

Backed by Italian Minister at Bern, Angelo Donati has approached Papal Nuncio and other Ministers of neutral countries in interest of promoting a collective intercession with German Government in behalf of deportees. We have serious reasons to believe that Vatican and neutral states following agreement among themselves will ask Germany: One, to liberate or allow to be interned in neutral countries deported elderly men and women and children; Two, apply to other deportees treatment similar to that accorded prisoners of war. Please communicate this news to your government asking that steps be taken by its representatives at Vatican and with neutral governments to encourage and support this initiative.
-2- #7170, October 28, 3 p.m., from Bern.

Polish Minister at Bern has already requested support his Government in London.

Please make text this cable known to all other Jewish organizations.

HARRISON

MWB
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED
FROM: American Legation, Berlin
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: October 28, 1944
NUM. 7163

Reference is made herewith to Department's telegram of October 23, 1944, No. 3065 (WFR 28).

The following information, taken from a report from Swiss Consul General in Prague, was made available to Legation Secretary on October 28 on strictly informal basis by Swiss Division of Foreign Interests in view of non-recognitation by United States of so-called Slovak Government and consequent inability of Swiss officially to represent American interests in Slovakia.

There were recently arrested and concentrated in camps several thousand Jews remaining in Slovakia. The most of these Jews are at Seraf Camp which is overcrowded several times the normal capacity of the camp. The Gestapo, which became a great power in Slovakia following recent uprising there took this action and not the Slovak authorities. The Jews are assembled, guarded in camps and their fate decided by German officials.

There are a substantial number of persons claiming United States nationality among these Jews. The Slovak Foreign Office was approached and in agreement with interested Slovak authorities attempted to have the American Jews transferred to a special camp under control of the Slovaks situated near Bratislava at Marianka. Regardless of whether their right to claim nationality of American Republics was established or in doubt, the fate of these Jews was acceptable to the extent that they were detained at Marianka and they only asked to be able to continue to live in such conditions until hostilities cease. Food and lodging were paid for by them. However, on the protest that the Jewish identity papers of persons detained at Marianka were all of doubtful nature, the Gestapo completely evacuated the camp on October 11.

It is observed by Consul that the above statement is certainly incorrect as concerns considerable number of bona fide American citizens among these persons. All persons at Marianka must be transferred to Auschwitz, according to information available to him, and it is felt by the Swiss representative that in order to move them expeditions action would be necessary.

Persons holding American or Latin American documentation were also at camps under control by the Germans. The Slovaks attempted without appreciable success to have them transferred to Marianka prior to the dissolution of that camp.

Miss Chauncey (for the Lady) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Ackin, Cohn, Brudy, Jablo, Friedman, Gatson, Hodel, Lesuer, Marks, Mannen, McGormack, Pfeile, Files.
In order to avoid impression by Slovak Government that its sovereignty is not respected by Switzerland, Grasselli feels that it would be possible to request the Germans to deliver to the Slovak Government the Jews concerned. Possibly it might be of help to observe that American Jews interned in camps in Slovakia under German control are given less favorable treatment than American Jews in similar German camps. As an example, because of this there is no intercross delegate in Slovakia, although he was expected long ago and he is anxiously awaited by Slovak Red Cross for the purpose of visiting camps where Jews are held.

This problem was discussed by Grasselli with Mr. Acna, Chief of Political Division of the Slovak Foreign Office and his collaborators, in order to avoid the impression that representations were being made without Slovak Government's knowledge. Since Acna feels it important that Slovakia be able to entrust the control of Jews of United States nationality to its own officials and thereby prevent retaliatory steps against numerous Slovaks living in the United States, the procedure suggested by Grasselli is approved by Mr. Acna, "this in the end of the summary report."

Instructions concerning a stage of such approach to Germans as Department may consider possible are requested in view of the area involved and steps which the duly be has taken.

HARRISON
AACHEN REFUGEES
GIVE AID TO JEWS

Story of Businessman Who
Found Refuge There Said to
Show True Friendship

By HAROLD DENNY

AACHEN, Germany, Oct. 26—
The ruthlessness and artificality
of Hitler's anti-Jewish policy stand
out strikingly when one talks
with the inhabitants of this city
who remained behind when the
Nazi authorities ordered it evacu-
ated on the eve of our invasion.

Successive purges have left scarce-
dy a dozen of Aachen's one-time
Jewish population of 3,000 to 5,000.

And these survivors are now being
accepted by their "Aryan" neigh-
bors on the same friendly terms
that prevailed between Jews and
non-Jews in Aachen before Hitler
made the Jews isolate themselves.

This dozen are not segregated but
are distributed among the
5,000 Aacheners in a refugee camp
near the city. Until the American
army came in they were hiding in
Aachen cellars.

The experience of one of these is
fairly typical. It is better not to
lose one's name because his wife was
taken by the Germans and might
be alive still. But before Hitler he
was a prosperous business man in
Cologne—one of that city's 20,000
Jews who lived there amicably
with non-Jews. He held positions
of honor in the community. He is
now more than 60 years old.

Impoverished by Nazis

Step by step he was stripped of
his business and his home after
Hitler came in and eventually was
forced with his wife into hiding in
the legendarily fierce of November
1938. In 1942, disaster for him
increased. He and his wife were
six feet separately to circumvent a
deporation order to Russia in
1942, but though he escaped, his
rendezvous his wife disappeared.

He went then to Aachen,

Protected by a Friend

He had managed to conceal 7,000
marks and on this he lived in the
home of a friendly non-Jewish
family in Aachen for the next two
years. He hardly ever left their
apartment. He had no food cards
nor other documents but this
family bought him food on the
black market.

In 1943 all Jews were ordered
out of the Cologne district, includ-
ing Aachen, except those married
to "Aryans." There were about a
dozens such in Aachen but this
married business man never saw
them. They all lived inconspic-
uously to avoid the Gestapo. About
200 such Jews remained in Cologne.

Sept. 8 this year Nazi authori-
ties ordered the whole part of
Germany evacuated. In Aachen
this dozen Jews were among the
3,000 Aacheners who preferred
death in battle to an unknown fate
in Germany.

The "Aryan" family with whom
this business man lived departed.
However, the business man stayed
behind, hiding in the apartment.

He heard bohming and shuffling
and the sound of our troops figur-
ing their way toward the center of
the city with mixed feelings.

On Oct. 17 the battle reached
his street. There was a pounding
down his door. He feared to open it
lest it be the Germans. Then the
door was broken down and in burst
an American soldier. The business
man embraced him.

"I was so happy to see your
man," he said today. "I have
nothing left in the world, nothing
except these ragged clothes. I have
on but I am happy."

One elderly Christian woman sat
near us as he told his story in the
office of the refugee camp.

"We want to help the Jews now
that I can," she said. "We could
not do much before. The people
who showed them sympathy were
arrested. The people of Aachen
were always good to the Jews."

She added playfully: "There was
one wealthy Jew here and they
spent much money."
To Minister Harrison and McClelland.

Information and suggestion contained in your 6938 of October 19 are appreciated. Vatican is being approached accordingly and has been asked to communicate information to you directly.

Without, however, awaiting Vatican's reply, you are requested immediately to approach Swiss government requesting it as protective power for Salvador and certain other American republics to take immediate steps to protect the persons concerned in line with Department's 1181 of April 7, 1221 of April 10, 1921 of June 6, 2490 of July 21, 3250, of September 14, and all other communications regarding holders of Latin American documents. Specifically, it is suggested that Swiss government may find it possible (a) to inquiry of the German government of the truth of the report that Jews from Slovakia in possession of documents issued in the name of Salvador and other American republics have been removed to Germany or areas under German control, (b) to inquire of the German government of the destination of such persons, (c) to declare to the German government that such persons fall under the protection of Switzerland as protecting power, and (d) to request German government to afford Swiss authorities immediate facilities for exercising such protection.

In view of large proportion of Salvadoran passport holders among deportees reported in your 6938, Salvadoran declaration communicated in your 3871 of June 27 paragraph six will undoubtedly facilitate your task.

Embassy Madrid is being similarly approached regarding Paraguayan passport holders.

This is WB Bern Cable No. 236.

Steinhaus
Acting

Miss Chauncy (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, Dubis, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Nannon, McCormack, Peelo, Files.
October 18, 1944

Honorable John W. Peale, Exec. Dir.,
War Refugee Board
Treasury Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

We are indeed grateful for your deep concern in the matter of the rescue of the remaining Jews in Europe.

The Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Berle, has requested us to submit a memorandum incorporating suggested proposals for rescue, and we enclose a copy of the memorandum we are sending to Mr. Berle.

We are certain you will lend the fullest cooperation of the War Refugee Board to the execution of the proposals suggested.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

P.S. - We are also enclosing copy of a telegram sent to our President today.

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivot, Rabbinical Scholars and Communal Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad-Habatza program is especially needed.
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE IMPENDING FATE OF THE 300,000 PITEFUL REMAINING HUNGARIAN JEWS COMPELS OUR

RESPECTFULLY PRESENTING TO YOU OUR MOST URGENT APPEAL STOP REPORTED ENTRY OF S.S.

THREE IN BUDAPEST WITH DIABOLIC EXTERMINATION PLAN FACTUALLY SUBSTANTIATED AND ALREADY

COMMENCED STOP MAY WE RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST FOLLOWING ACTION FIRSTLY A PRESIDENTIAL

WARNING AND A MILITARY WARNING BY GENERAL EISENHOWER CONCERNING HUNGARY AND IN-

TERESTS IN ALL CONCENTRATION CAMPS SECONDLY A REQUEST THAT THE RUSSIAN AND BRITISH

GOVERNMENTS ISSUE SIMILAR WARNINGS THIRDLY A PRESIDENTIAL APPEAL TO THE HUNGARIAN

PEOPLE THAT THEIR PROTECTION OF JEWS AND STRONG RESISTANCE TO THEIR DEPORTATIONS

AND EXTERMINATIONS WILL PEACE IN THEIR FAVOR AND TO EXPRESS IN THIS APPEAL THE

CERTAINTY THAT SUCH ACTION BY THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE IS WITHIN THEIR POWER AND

POSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS IN HUNGARY STOP A REQUEST FOR A SIMILAR APPEAL

TO THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA SHOULD

FOLLOW STOP WE APPEAL IN THE LAST HOURS FOR EUROPEAN JEWRY FOR YOUR EXCELLENCY'S

IMMEDIATE AND SORRY NEEDED ACTION AS PETITIONED AND WHATEVER OTHER ACTION YOUR

EXCELLENCY WILL FIND NECESSARY STOP WITH OUR EXPRESSIONS OF PROFOUND GRATFULNESS

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
RABBIS ISRAEL ROSENBERG EL SILVER E.L. LEVINTHAL
VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE IN NAME OF ALL
JEWISH ORTHODOX ORGANIZATIONS ....
RABBIS ARON KOTLER ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ I M GORDON
132 NASSAU STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y.
The impending fate of the pitiful remnant of European Jewry, impels us to respectfully suggest the following steps for their rescue:

1) A warning by the President to the German Government and people that the planned extermination of the Jews in Hungary and in all the concentration camps, will be retaliated with greatest severity. The British and Russian Governments are to be requested to issue similar warnings.

2) The military command, headed by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, is to issue a similar warning to the Germans.

3) An appeal by the President to the Hungarian people to protect the Jews and to strongly oppose all attempts at their deportation and extermination. The appeal should express the certainty that such action by the Hungarian people is within their power and highly possible under present conditions in Hungary, and would react in their favor and best interests. The British and Russian Governments are to be requested to issue similar appeals to the Hungarian people.

4) That the State Department make a presentation to the Vatican that the Vatican issue an open appeal to the people of Hungary and to the clergy therein to lend every protection to those singled out for extermination, and to the Jews in Hungary who have become the particular targets of the Nazis.

5) A proposal that all internees in all concentration camps are to be declared prisoners of war, and to entitle them to the protection of such status. We urge that this step be taken even if retaliation cannot be carried out. It looms large as a method of possible rescue and is warranted by the seriousness of the situation and the fast falling shadow on the rescue situation.

6) It has been proven that the judicious disposition of funds has saved many lives. We urge the continued use of this method and we respectfully beg that larger sums be made available for negotiations for the rescue of those still held by the Germans. Our Committee in Switzerland headed by Mr. Sternbach stands ready to give every cooperation in exploiting this rescue method to the fullest degrees.

Respectfully submitted,

VAAD HA'ATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
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Respectfully submitted,

VAAD HA'ATZLALA RESCUE COMMITTEE
Honorable John W. Fehle, Exec. Dir.

Refugee Board
Treasury Bldg.
Washington, D. C.
From: Secretary of State, Washington
To: American Legation, Bern
Dated: September 20, 1944
Number: 32/5

To Minister Harrison and Macleland, Bern, Switzerland:

With reference to persistent reports of renewed or impending deportations of Jews from Hungary and Slovakia by order of German authorities, you are requested to convey to German authorities through official Swiss channels this Government's most emphatic protest against these deportations and its unflinching determination to see to it that all persons participating in any form whatsoever in these deportations or in any other forms of persecution in Hungary or Slovakia will be apprehended and punished.

In this connection, and referring to ultimatum paragraph your 5109 of August 8, attention of German authorities should also be called to position of this Government with respect to deportations from recognized civilian internment camps of persons holding documents issued in the name of American Republics. Unless all such persons are immediately returned to civilian internment camps supervised by Interred, the German authorities responsible will be held strictly accountable.

In addition, the strongest possible unofficial representations on both points should be made to appropriate individual German officials through all channels that may be available to you.

This is wire cable to Bern No. 178

Hull

Miss Chauncey (for the Sealy) Abrahamson, Akin, Cohn, Drury, Dulsic, Friedman, Gantow, Hodel, Leopold, Lesser, Mannin, Marke, McCormack, File

Declassified
State Dept 1944-11-18
by Dr. M. F. Louis
SEP 8 1972

000165
My dear Mr. Stettinius:

In further reference to your note of June 24, 1944, concerning the status of Jews interned in Germany and other Axis-controlled countries, I am pleased to inform you of the content of a communication just received from His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State.

His Eminence informs me that the Holy See hastened to ask the interest of the Apostolic Nunciatures in Germany, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia, for the purpose of obtaining for the unfortunate interned in question treatment similar to that granted to civilian interned to whom the provisions of the Geneva Convention are applied by analogy.

To the present His Eminence has received a response from the Apostolic Nunciature in Budapest, informing him that the Government of Hungary will authorize the sending of packages of foodstuffs through the channels of the Red Cross to persons interned in concentration camps.

I am confident that as soon as other replies are received from the various Nunciatures His Eminence will inform me of their content, and I shall be happy to transmit them to you.

With the assurances of my highest consideration and of my deep personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

A. G. Gioagnani
Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

The Honorable
Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.
Under Secretary of State.

C/o Abrahamson, Akzin, Friedman, Hodel, Mann, McCormack, Marks, Pehle and Sargoy
No. 581/42

June 26, 1944

My dear Mr. Stettinius:

I wish to acknowledge your esteemed communication of June 24, 1944, regarding the plight of Jews and other persons detained in camps by the German and satellite governments for reasons of race, religion or political belief.

Today I have communicated the substance of your communication to His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State, and it is a pleasure to assure you that the Holy See will do everything in its power to obtain for these unfortunate a treatment similar to that accorded to civilian internees.

As soon as a response is received from the Holy See it will be my pleasure to inform you of the content of the same.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, and of my deep personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) A. O. CICOGNA
Archbishop of Lavagna
Apostolic Delegate

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Under Secretary of State
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Apostolic Delegate

The Honorable
Edward A. Stettinius
Under Secretary of State

APOTOLIC DELIATION
3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

No. 531/42

June 26, 1944
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 3, 1944
NUMBER: 4226

It is stated in Swiss note of July 1, pursuant first paragraph notice number one summarized in Legation's cable of July 3, no. 4223, that Swiss Legation in Berlin confirms answer from German Foreign Office that no internment camp exists bearing names Bostorest in Silesia and Bergau near Dresden. It is suggested by Swiss Legation in Berlin that Bergau camp may be Belsen near Celle, Hanover, which is a special camp for assembling exchangeable persons (especially Jews) who do not possess nationality of states which Switzerland represents. The second camp might well concern former internment camp for British men at Tostin Silesia.

With a view to undertaking inquiry concerning deported persons, a representative of the Swiss Legation in Berlin will visit Vittel camp early in July.

Foregoing has reference to American Interests, Germany.

HARRISON

DCHVAG 7/7/44


DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date Sep 2 1972
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: June 28, 1944
NUMBER: 2149

The Department and the War Refugees Board are receiving reports indicating that there are held in camps situated in Germany and German-controlled territory, to which the protecting Power and the International Red Cross have been granted no access or else such strictly limited form of access that they have been unable effectively to assist the individuals in question, a number of unattached nationals and persons claiming the nationality of the United States and other American Republics. Balina-Bogen near Eupers, Bogen near Dresden, Bruck near Waris and Theresienstadt are sites of such camps. Since late in 1933 the camp at Thun in Switzerland appears to have been placed in this category. Possibly other camps of the same character exist.

The Swiss Government should be asked as protecting Power of the United States to investigate this situation. Please request it to endeavor to have its representatives visit the camps referred to for the purpose of investigating the claims of individuals held in these camps to citizenship of the United States or of other American Republics. Please make similar efforts regarding camps and other establishments which may exist in Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria or any other areas under control of German-dominated authorities.

cc: [signatures]

Abrahamson, Addis, Bernstein, Bonn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaster, Hahnel, Loughlin, Leder, Luxembourg, Kaufman, Kwant, Marks

Adequate Article 96 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention as applied to interned civilians by mutual agreement of the belligerents should be the basis of the request to visit such camps. The extraordinary restrictions placed by the German authorities upon communications with these camps have deprived the persons detained there and the protecting Power of normal means of dealing with them. Access to the protection of the international law should be given in order to protect the vital interests of such detainees. It is essential that visits be made to these camps. In this connection, reference is made to the case of Frans Kahn (Department's A-199, April 26 and previous) in which the extraordinary regulations attendant upon correspondence between him and the protecting Power have unjustifiably impeded the verification of his claim to American citizenship.

The International Red Cross Committee, despite extended efforts to visit the camps in question, has been unsuccessful in its enterprises so far. Appreciation of the Department and Stewart the War Refugees Board for these efforts should be expressed.

Steinheim. Also please express the hope that there will be no statement of these efforts.

Falls, Viia 262 ABN No. 84 to Bern
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