

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

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DEPARTMENT
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OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

January 3, 1945
5 p.m.

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

*War Ref. Bf
Reple*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 11 1945
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION

BERN
127

The following for Huddle and McClelland is WRB 386.

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 Interross authorities to the danger faced by the Jewish survivors in German-controlled territory.

For security reasons the text of this message must be clearly marked.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if you will visit ^{newly appointed} Swiss Foreign Minister and President of Interross, 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 80,000 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 Interross President it should be made clear that this Government considers that frequent and extended visits of Swiss Consuls and Interross delegates to places and regions where Jews are concentrated constitute one of the most effective means of preventing their further extermination.

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

100084

-2-#127, January 9, 1945, 5 p.m. to Bern.

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 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 be actively pursued as long as the danger continues.

Please advise Department and WRB of Swiss and Intercross reaction.

The

000085

-3-#127, January 9, 1945, 5 p.m. to Bern.

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.

STETTINIUS
(GHW)

WRB:MMV:KG
1/8/45

WE

SWP

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CABLE TO HUDDLE AND McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

I 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 10132 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.

000087

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 WRB BERN CABLE NO. 356.

11:30 a.m.
January 8, 1945

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

BAkzin:ar 1/6/45

*BA JH Action cleared
with file*

100088

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

New York Office: SUITE 1205, 342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y., MURRAY HILL 2-8803

Washington Office
1720 SIXTEENTH ST., N.W.
Michigan 4480

January 9, 1945

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
Nahum Goldmann

NG:FR

000089

JAN 6 1945

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

E. H. T. *R. H.*
RBHutchison: 1/5/45 *J. W.*

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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AIR MAIL

Bern, December 15, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

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. Riegner of the W.J.C. in Geneva and deal with the subjects outlined in Dr. Riegner'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 a 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
Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

Enclosures: For
World Jewish Congress.

John W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

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

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C O P Y

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

IIF/43.389

Geneva, December 12, 1944.

Dr. Nachum Goldmann
World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York.

Dear Dr. Goldmann,

1. 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 or Red Cross organisations, with the view to deliberate in common on a collective demarche 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.
2. 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 Starogradiska; further 86 Jews are at present in the prison of Lepoglava. On the other hand, I called your attention to the situation of about 1,200 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 Zvijezdic /via Bari.
Delivered Croatia/sic
3. I am furthermore sending you a letter equally received from the International Red Cross concerning an appeal received from their delegate in Rumania, 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 Rumanian 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

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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

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C O P Y

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 demarche 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 demarche 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.

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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 high consideration.

/s/ Dr. J. Kopecky

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C O P Y

Translation

Permanent Delegate of the Czechoslovakian
Republic to the League of Nations

Geneva, December 7, 1944

24 Avenue de Champel

Dr. G. Riegner,
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 demarche 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 demarche 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 demarche 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 demarche 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.

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(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 demarches 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.

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C O P Y

Translation

Minutes of the meeting held on November 17, 1944 at the Czecho-
slovakian Delegation

Present:

Dr. J. Kopecky	Permanent Delegate and Delegate of the Czecho- slovakian Red Cross
Mr. Soneriu	Delegate of the Rumanian Red Cross to the Rumanian Government and to the International Red Cross
M. Melas	Permanent Delegate of Greece to the League of Nations
L. Cortese	Consul General of Italy
P. Anker	Of the League of Nations, representing Norway
Dr. Macanin	Delegate of the Yugoslavian Red Cross
Dr. Riegner	World Jewish Congress
E. Clouzot	Chief of the French Mission of the Ministry for Prisoners of War, Deportees, and Refugees
Dr. M. Alexandrovic	Authorized to take the place of Prince S. Radziwill, Permanent Delegate of the Polish Red Cross
Jonkheer C.H.L. Flugt van Aspermont	Delegate of the Red Cross of the Dutch Indies, authorized to represent Mr. van Notten, Consul General of the Netherlands
Mr. Lannière	Belgian Consul, authorized to represent Mr. de Caritat de Perruzis, 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 demarche of all the countries whose territories are now wholly or in part occupied by Germany, vis-a-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 propitious for such an attempt, since the situation of the deportees and detainees becomes 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, warmly 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

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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. Soneriu, 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. Soneriu 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 demarche.

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 citizens and 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 citizens 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 Burckhardt, a note has been sent to the Germans to ask of them certain guarantees in favor of the "Auslaendische Schutzhaeftlinge" (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.

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Mr. E. Clouzot takes the floor on behalf of Mr. Vergé, 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 demarche 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 Flugt 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.

Dr. 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. Melas, Permanent Delegate of the Greek Red Cross, expresses his approval of this interesting initiative regarding a collective demarche 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.

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Mr. Lanniée, 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 demarche. 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. Lanniée adds that a demarche 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. Lanniée, adding that this method /reprisals - translator's note/ is not consistent with the principles of morality for which the allies 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 demarche. It will be necessary to discuss the "how" of this demarche, 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 demarche 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 demarche 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 demarche 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 demarche 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.

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Mr. Lanniée takes up the proposal of Mr. Melas 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. Melas adds that the fate of the internees depends also on the camp commander, and cites an example.

Mr. Clouzot 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.

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C O P Y

Translation

International Committee of the Red Cross

Central Agency for Prisoners of War

Reference:
G 59/7
G 59/2/151
ER/GG

Geneva, December 8, 1944

Palace of the General Council

~~C o n f i d e n t i a l~~

Mr. Riegner,
World Jewish Congress,
37, Quai Wilson,
Geneva

Concerns: 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. Kisicky.

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 convey 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 16th 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.

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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.

000104

C O P Y

Translation

International Committee of the Red Cross

Central Agency for Prisoners of War,

Geneva

Reference:

G. 59/7 - G. 86/Sec.
ML/AP

Geneva, November 30, 1944

Received December 4, 1944

Mr. G. Riegner,
World Jewish Congress,
Geneva
37, Quai Wilson

Concerns: Relief to Jews in Rumania

Sir:

We 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 oversea institutions should associate themselves with JDC with considerable contributions to assure satisfactory and uninterrupted activities in view of lucky influx of Jews released from compulsory labor camps and other needy from Northern Transylvania and other liberated areas please launch immediately telegraphic appeal to the Jewish World Congress opening session 26th in New York to obtain such participation since above-mentioned persons consider that first duty of Congress is to come to the aid of escaped war victims STOP Work of relief detachment consists in creating information centers in important localities collecting, examining all declarations, granting cash relief, food, clothing, lodging, medicaments, 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"

000105

"Please correct beginning of declaration made by emigration office Chairman Zissu 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 except 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.

000106

Germany

German Refugees, Despite Their Declared Hatred of Hitler, Can't Decide What They Want When Wehrmacht Surrenders

Long a student of German affairs, the writer of this story now is in Europe to follow Allied armies and resume his former post as chief of the Associated Press Bureau in Berlin.

By Louis P. Lochner

German refugees and emigrants the world over 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 (1919-1933) 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 Tillich, formerly professor of philosophical theology at Frankfurt 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 racist teachers and 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.

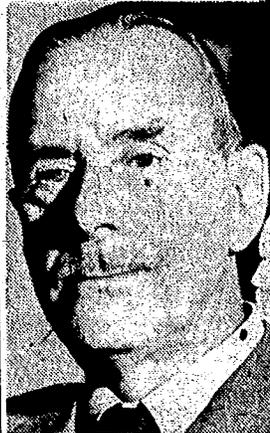
The Social Democrats objected to two Communists on the council. Trotskyites said they saw in the committee a mere tool of Stalin. Communists apparently had no objection to two of their number joining the council. They continued, however, to maintain their own Communist line in their organ, "The German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

Deny Democratic Trend

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

Bitter enders like Emil Ludwig, Leopold Schwarzschild and Wilhelm Derster, who deny the existence of substantial democratic trends in Germany, saw in the council a veiled support of Nazism and imperialism.

Lone figures like former German



DR. THOMAS MANN
... "poet, no political leader"

Chancellor Heinrich Brüning, or former Danzig President Hermann Rauschning 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 Stampfer and Gerhart Seger, guiding spirits of the "Neue Volkszeitung" of New York, sponsor the German labor council.

Communists continue to publish their German American. Ruth Fischer in her monthly publication, The Network, continues to talk about "the numerous Stalinist,

1000107

The Washington Post

DEC 24 1944

neo-Stalinist and Stalin-influenced groups. Leopold Schwarzschild and men of his persuasion had a ready hearing in Red Stout's organ, "Prevent World War III."

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 emigre 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-Nazis reportedly has been reported in existence, but it thus far has not commanded international attention.

000108

DEC 14 1944

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

ALSDORF, 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 Army has collapsed.

This is the picture of Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler's master plan for the struggle, as pieced together from various sources:

Himmler started laying the plans for underground warfare in the last two months of 1943, and these plans now are being carried out inside Germany.

The plans are threefold, embracing open warfare directed from Hitler's mountain headquarters, sabotage and guerrilla activity conducted by partisan bands organized by districts, and propaganda warfare to be carried on by some 200,000 Nazi followers in Europe and elsewhere.

Already picked S. S. (Elite Guard) troops have been established in underground strongholds and hospitals in the Austrian, Bavarian and Italian Alpine area, and it is the plan of Nazi leaders to flee to that region when the German military collapse comes. Only tried and true party members will be allowed to enter the strongholds. The Nazi party has already concentrated food and munitions in the Alpine area sufficient 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 now training both men and women in the sabotage tactics to be employed by partisan bands.

In order to hinder Allied police

in running down party members during the occupation, Himmler has in the last few months instituted a widespread program to establish double identities for his henchmen. Identity cards of soldiers killed at the front or civilians killed in air raids have been given to S. S. men and Nazi women. The idea is to create as much confusion as possible in Germany and give the Allies a tremendous task in unscrambling official records.

Propaganda Campaign

The propaganda campaign will be carried on along the same lines the old Nazi party followed when it was illegal in Germany. Nazi followers have been instructed to join all political movements and use the mass loudspeakers for Nazi ideas. Funds have been cached around Germany to support this campaign.

Every effort will be made to play the Allies one against another. A head propaganda office will be established from which orders will go out to Nazi followers in other European countries and in South America. The main object will be to create a state of chaos and distrust within Europe which will keep the Allies occupied.

One of the main propaganda themes will be to build a legend around the name of Hitler and to convince the German people that some day he will come back.

100109

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

ME
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reading only by special
arrangement. [redacted]

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

December 8, 1944
9 p.m. *Use of Bd.*

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

AMLEGATION

BERN
4154
x

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
DEC 11 1944

The substance of your 7842 of November 15 and 7668 of November 21 has been carefully studied by the Board and the Department. As indicated in Department's 3255 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 telegrams 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 bearers of Latin American documents. Further, in addition to existing efforts,

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 111-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP-12 1972

10/1/72

000110

-2- 4154 December 8, 9 p.m., to Bern

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
RECEIVED
decisions

000111

-3- 4154 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 7542 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

000112

-4- 4154 December 8, 9 p.m., to Horn

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 claimants 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 7163 of October 28, penultimate paragraph of your 7642, 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

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100113

-5- 4154 December 8, 9 p.m., to Bern

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 Grassli'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 Sereď nationals of the American Republics

000114

-6- 4154 December 8, 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.

STETTINIUS
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:KG
12/7/44

SWP

WE

ARA

RECEIVED
DEC 10 1944

000115

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON FOR ECCLELLAND, BERN, 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 QUOTE accepts 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 26 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 name of American republics, which is shared by the Inter-American Advisory Committee for Political Defense, no distinction can be countenanced 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 latter 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 word 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 nationality 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 now 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 7616 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 QUOTE Dr. Tiso and his associates UNQUOTE or QUOTE The present regime in Slovakia UNQUOTE.

THIS IS WRB ELK CABLE NO. 294

BA:LSL:ar 11/24/44 *L.S.P.*
10:30 a.m. *BA*
Nov. 25, 1944

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

11 00 00 11 16

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LC - 157
Distribution of
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special arrangement.
[REDACTED]

Bern

Dated December 7, 1944

Rec'd 5-10-PTM



Secretary of State,
Washington.

7998, December 7, 5 p.m.
FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

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
"schutzhaeftling" (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 Geneva was also urged a few days ago
by ICRC to press German Foreign Office for an answer.
(Department's 3925 November 18, 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

000117

-2- #7998, December 7, 5 p.m., from Bern

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 "reichssicherheitshauptamt" at Berlin.

With reference to a somewhat similar intercession to be made by neutrals headed by Vatican (Legation's 7170 October 28 from Sternbuch to Union Orthodox Rabbis and Department's 3788 November 7 WRB'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 Geneva 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 subsequently attempted to bring project to Moscow's

attention

000118

-3- #7998, December 7, 5 p.m., from Bern

attention by various channels; through two unofficial Soviet citizens in Switzerland Sokolin and Tcherniak 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

JIS EMB

(*) apparent omission

000119

RECEIVED

2 War R. B.
(Pelle)

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 23, 1944
SUBJECT: 7602
X

CONTROL COPY
Files

The following has reference to Germany American interests.

Please refer to Legation's message of November 15, No. 7542. 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. 3852 of November 11 by representative of Swiss Legation, Berlin. The actual dissolution of Merian Jacop by German authorities was indicated by Albrecht, at eight American nationals 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 commented 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.

RUDOLPH

DCR:GFW
12-13-44

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

000120

2 WFB-Pelle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 23, 1944
NUMBER: 7702

CONTROL COPY

We delivered to the Swiss Foreign Office on October 25 the message contained in Department's cable of October 23, no. 3604, and they reply in a note of November 17 saying that Swiss Legation in Berlin instructed to communicate message to 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 Government of the United States (see Legations cables of November 15 and 21, nos. 7542 and 7667 respectively) and since refusal to accept Department's 3604 seemed inevitable it reported the situation to the Swiss Foreign Office. After examining the question in an attempt to find, notwithstanding this situation, the means to send Department's message to the German Government, the Foreign Office in Bern submitted it under cover of note to German Legation in Bern which has returned the communication of the Department with the following remark: (Wording which would oblige the German Foreign Office to refuse to accept the message)

HUDDLE

DCR:VAG 11/25/44

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

000121

RECEIVED OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*2 was Ref. 1st
Pelle*

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 21, 1944
NUMBER: 7608

CONTROL COPY

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 war time offenses, not be sent the Swiss Legation, in view of foregoing and undoubtedly adverse and serious effect upon his relations with Foreign Office

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

000122

-2- #7668, November 21, from Bern

authorities because of his transmitting threatening messages from our government.

The above opinions are shared by Bisanz and Depury.

HUDDLE

DCH:LED:CR

11-23-44

000123

*2 was Ref Bd
Pills*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 13, 1944
NUMBER: 7616^X

CONTROL COPY

No. 569 dated November 16 from Magistretti for Foreign Affairs repeated 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 Fossoli 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, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

DCR:VAG 11/20/44

000124

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM
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DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

*W. W. [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]*

NOV 18 1944

November 18, 1944

AMEMBASSY

9 p.m.

BERN
3925 X

The following for McClelland refers to Legation's 7813 of November 3 and is WRB 281.

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.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)
(GHW)

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

WRB:MMV:KQ
11/18/44

WE

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000125

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 1498 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 WRB BERN CABLE NO. 281.

1:45 p.m.

November 17, 1944

PH:PJM:ar 11/17/44

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

000126

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

JM-86
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [redacted] W)

*7 - War Ref Bd
(Mr. Pella)*
Bern
Dated November 17, 1944
Rec'd 3:51 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

7593, November 17, 11 a.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

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

I have received following reliable and confidential information concerning composition internees 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

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000127

-2- #7593, November 17, 11 a.m., from Bern

possessing no documents at all or otherwise documenta-
tion considered insufficient by Germans.

HARRISON

JMS

000128

File 44057A

NOV 22 1944

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

JW - ac FH:hd 11/22/44

000129

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

*War Ref
3d
(m)
Pelle)*

JP-951
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [REDACTED] W)

Bern.
Dated November 16, 1944
Rec'd 8:36 a.m., 17th

Secretary of State
Washington

For security reasons the
transmission of this message must
be guarded
CONTROL COPY

7579, November 16, 10 p.m.

[REDACTED] FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

(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.

HARRISON
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

RR

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

000130

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 these Jews in cooperation with and through Dr. Lowenherz, 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. Lowenherz 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. Naahum Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

RAX
RDrury 11/20/44

000131

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FBM-788

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

Bern

Dated November 16, 1944

Rec'd 6:19 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

7574, November 16, 9 p.m.

FOR WRE FROM MCCLELLAND.

FOR NAHUM GOLDMANN OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

FROM GERHARD REIGNER.

*Message sent
11/20/44
R5*

Had long conversation with Dr. Schirmer Inter-
national 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 am
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.

000132

-2-#7574, 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

000133

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RNG-832
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [redacted] W)

Born

Dated November 16, 1944

Rec'd 7:56 p.m.

War Ref Bld (Mr. Kahle)

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

Secretary of State,
Washington.

7575, November 16, 10 p.m.

NOV 17 1944

Schirmer (continuing my 7574) 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 Czecho-
slovaks. German authorities at Vienna surprisingly
enough seem willing permit ICR assist these 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.

HARRISON

CONTROL COPY

JMS

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

Message sent 11/20/44
ES

000134

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

War Ref. [unclear]

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be kept permanently classified
Dated November 15, 1944

LC - 594
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
[redacted] W)

Rec'd 6:12 a.m., 16th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

X
7542, November 15, 3 p.m.

Department's 3245 September 20-WRB 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 25 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 Sethe 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

American

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By E. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000135

-2- #7542, November 15, 3 p.m., from Bern

American nationals and additionally it considers tone of these notes unacceptable particularly threat contained in latter part of paragraph one your 3245.

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 with 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 ^{MARIANKA in} ~~Marion Kain~~ Slovakia. In view of 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

*20. Distruct from
7 people from
7 grave. with
bit.*

?

000136

-3- #7542, November 15, 3 p.m., from Bern

Legation continued its negotiations with Division of Foreign Interests after said meeting with Depury and these 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 3648 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 Grassli's proposals which were subject of Legation's note dated November 9 to Swiss based Department's 3769 November 4. Said ^{notice} (no time) includes following observations:

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

(2) Grassli 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.

000137

-4- #7542, November 15, 3 p.m., from Bern

nationality.

(3). However procedure suggested by Grassli 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 3852 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 Grassli's suggestions.

HARRISON

WSB

RECORDED
INDEXED

000138

(COPY)

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 581/42

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington 8, D. C.

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
Secretariate 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 resident 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

*original in
Dept. of State
Washington*

000139

3852 of November 11, 1944, to Bern.

Department informed that German authorities in Slovakia have begun evacuation from a camp at Marianka of Jews who claim the nationality of United States and of other American republics. Persons being removed are reported to be destined to Aschwitz.

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.

840.48. Refugees Slat.
9-2744

State Dept. over photo.

000140

Germany

W. W. R. P. P.
Pelle

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMLEGATION *Bern*
DATED: November 7, 1944
NUMBER: 3788
X

CONTROL COPY

To Minister Harrison at Bern for McGlelland.

Reference your 7170 of October 28 to the Department. For your information the following is the text of a letter written by Pelle 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 WRB Bern cable No. 259.
X

RECEIVED
STATE DEPT. OF
COMMUNICATIONS
NOV 10 1944

STETTINIUS
ACTING

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

000141

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR MC CLELLAND

Reference your 7170 of October 28 to the Department. For your information the following is the text of a letter written by Pable 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. QUOTE

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 259.

11:30 a.m.
November 3, 1944

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

LSLesser:hh 11-2-44 P.C.L.

000142

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 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 "schutzhaftling" 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 WRB, 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,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

RJ ✓
RDrury 11/8/44

000143

I was Ref Bd - Ellis

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

Message sent 11/8/44 RV

CONTROL COPY

McGlelland sends the following for WRB.

The following is from Riegner for Kubowitzki and Goldman of World Jewish Congress.

We are confidentially advised by Carl Burschardt (following our repeated intercessions with IGRC concerning handling of Jewish deportees as civil internees under terms of Tokyo project and Geneva Convention), that IGRC 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 "schutzhaftling" 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 Burschardt. The answer of the Government of Germany is being awaited by IGRC now.

Through WRB, documentation covering our dealings with IGRC in this connection have been forwarded to you.

NOV 10 1944 HARRISON 21

DOR:GPW

11-7-44

NOV 10 1944
RECEIVED
STATE DEPT.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000144

NOV 7 1944

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

In reply to your oral inquiry, please be informed that we have advised the Apostolic Delegate in Washington of the substance of Mr. Sternbuch'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 may 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 Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

BAKzin:LSLesser:tmh 11-3-44

Ra. L.S.L.

000145

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

Files

*Check with P.
whether you!*

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

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

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

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

100146

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: November 4, 1944
NUMBER: 3769^x

[REDACTED]
To Minister Harrison and McClelland.

Reference is made to your 7163 of October 28. Department and Board fully agree with action suggested by Grassli. Should you not yet have done so, you are requested to approach Swiss authorities accordingly without delay. In connection with claimants to citizenship of United States and other American Republics, whether with or without documents, reference is made to Department's 1269 of April 13, 1921 of June 6, and 2149 of June 24.

This is WRB Bern cable No. 258.^x

STETTINIUS
Acting

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

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

000147

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

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 telegrams 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

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

*To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivoth, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)*

*To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.*

000148

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Row Ser October 26, 1944

Honorable 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 INTERCESSION. LATEST CABLES REPORT GERMANS LEAVING KAUNAS TOOK TO GERMANY SIXTEEN THOUSANDS JEWS AMONG THEM GREAT RABBIS WASSERMAN GRODZINSKI VERNIKOWSKY PERMUT SWING SKARUTI PERLMAN DUVYANSKI SHLAPOHERSKI OZINSKI ALSO REPORTED ALL JEWS FROM ERATIZLAVA DEPORTED POLAND AND GERMANY. WE APPEAL THAT ALL POSSIBLE RESCUE MEANS BE EXHAUSTED. WE RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THAT INASMUCH AS SHADOW FAST FALLING THAT STATE DEPARTMENT INTERVENE WITH ALL NEUTRAL LANDS SUCH AS SPAIN SWEDEN SWITZERLAND IRELAND AND OTHERS THAT THESE NEUTRALS

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

000149

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

APPEAL IN NAME OF HUMANITY AND CIVILIZATION TO GERMANY TO FOREVER CEASE THE WILFUL
MERCILESS DESTRUCTION OF JEWS FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR YOUR BENIGN EFFORTS

UNION ORTHODOX RABBIS OF UNITED STATES
RABBIS ISRAEL ROSENBERG EL SILVER B L LEVINthal

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
RABBIS ARON KOTLER ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ I M GORDON

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

000150

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

DL - Day Letter

NL - Night Letter

LC - Deferred Cable

NLT - Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

ECWND 39N WUTNG514 50 GOVT LG PD
NEW YORK NY 30 738 PM

RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ
UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS AND VAAD HABATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
132 NASSAU ST NYC

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

JOHN J MCCLOY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
WASHINGTON D C

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

000151

Germany

U. S. Jews Hold Rites in Reich

BRAND, Germany, Oct. 29 (U.P.)—With German shells dropping on these hills above Aachen, 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 Aachen's synagogue in 1938 and it would be hard to find many German Jews left in this part of the world. But these Americans, standing in bright autumn sunshine, held a service in token for the Jews persecuted during the long years of Nazi rule.

000152

OCT 30 1944

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 worshipped 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 GIs with the assistance of Cantor Pfc Max Fuchs 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 exists in a land which sought to deny men that right. An eternal faith has lived thru and will outlive the fanatical 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 hear it against a backdrop of shell fire and gave proof to thousands that one of the four freedoms had been restored in Allied occupied Germany.

SHELLING INCREASES

Two other chaplains, Protestant Lieut. Col. F. Bernard Henry of Chambersburg, Pa., and Catholic Maj. Edward J. Waters of Watertown, N. Y., gave brief messages.

NBC War Correspondent James Cassidy 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 great and ancient faith."

German shelling increased perceptibly as the service closed.

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MRQ-977

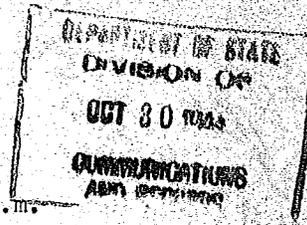
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (b)(7)(D)

Bern

Dated October 28, 1944

Rec'd 10:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.



7170, October 28, 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.

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

Polish Minister at

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000154

-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

WMB

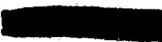
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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*Return to
Mrs. Wills*

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: October 28, 1944
NUMB.E: 7163



Reference is made herewith to Department's telegram of October 23, 1944, No. 3605 (WRB 226).

The following information taken from a report from Swiss Consul General Grassli at Bratislava, dated October 10, was made available to Legation Secretary on October 26 on strictly informal basis by Swiss Division of Foreign Interests in view of non recognition 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 Sered 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 it 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 pretext 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 Grassli that the above statement is certainly incorrect as concerns considerable number of bonafide American citizens among these persons. ~~Internees~~^{Internees} 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 save them expeditious 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 Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Acsin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date 12/12/72

000156

In order to avoid impression by Slovak Government that its sovereignty is not respected by Switzerland, Grassli 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 Grassli 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 Grassli is approved by Mr. Acna. This is the end of the summary report.

Instructions concerning nature of such approach to Germans as Department may consider possible are requested in view of the area involved and steps which the Holy See has taken.

HARRISON

DCR: I 1212M 10-31-44

000157

OCT 27 1944

AACHEN REFUGEES GIVE AID TO JEWS

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

By HAROLD DENNY

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

AACHEN, Germany, Oct. 26.—The ruthlessness and artificiality of Hitler's anti-Jewish policy stand out conspicuously when one talks with the inhabitants of this city who remained behind when the Nazi authorities ordered it evacuated on the eve of our invasion. Successive purges have left scarcely 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" neighbors on the same friendly terms that prevailed between Jews and non-Jews in Aachen before Hitler made the Jews the scapegoats.

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

The experience of one of these is fairly typical. It is better not to use his name because his wife was taken by the Germans and might still be alive. 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 terrible purge of November, 1938. In 1942, disasters for him increased. He and his wife tried to flee separately to circumvent a

deportation order to Russia in 1942, but though he reached their 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 1942 all Jews were ordered out of the Cologne district, including Aachen, except those married to "Aryans." There were about a dozen such in Aachen but this ruined business man never saw them. They all lived inconspicuously to avoid the Gestapo. About 200 such Jews remained in Cologne.

Sept. 8 this year Nazi authorities ordered this 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 bombing and shelling and the sound of our troops fighting their way toward the center of the city with mixed feelings.

On Oct. 17 the battle reached his street. There was a pounding at 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 men," 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 we 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 wistfully: "There were only wealthy Jews here and they spent much money."

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: October 26, 1944
NUMBER: 3648^X

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, 3180 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 inquire 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 17 paragraph six will undoubtedly facilitate your task.

Embassy Madrid is being similarly approached regarding Paraguayan passport holders.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 236.^X

STETTINIUS
ACTING

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

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

000159

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

Files

October 18, 1944

Honorable John W. Pehle, 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

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

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
(Yeshivoh, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)*

*To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
V a a d - H a h a t z a l a program is especially needed.*

000160

ECW STR TEL PD OCTOBER 8, 1944

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE IMPENDING FATE OF THE 300,000 PITIFUL REMAINING HUNGARIAN JEWS COMPELS OUR
RESPECTFULLY PRESENTING TO YOU OUR MOST URGENT APPEAL STOP REPORTED ENTRY OF S.S.
MEN 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-
TERNEES 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 REACT 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 SORELY NEEDED ACTION AS PETITIONED AND WHATEVER OTHER ACTION YOUR
EXCELLENCY WILL FIND NECESSARY STOP WITH OUR EXPRESSIONS OF PROFOUND GRATEFULNESS

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
RABBIS ISRAEL ROSENBERG EL SILVER B.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.

000161

MEMORANDUM TO THE HONORABLE JOHN W. FEHLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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 extinction. 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 clerics 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. Sternbuch stands ready to give every cooperation in exploiting this rescue method to the fullest degrees.

Respectfully submitted,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

000162

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Respectfully submitted,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

000163

V. H. E. C.
132 NASSAU STREET
Suite 819-820
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

1944 OCT 19 AM 7 47

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DELIVERY

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Honorable John W. Pehle, Exec. Dir.

War Refugee Board

Treasury Bldg.

Washington, D. C.

000164

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: September 20, 1944
NUMBER: 3245

[REDACTED]

To Minister Harrison and McClelland, 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 ultimate 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 Intercross, 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 WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 178

HULL

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akain, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Files

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000165

C
O
P
Y

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

No. 581/42

July 27, 1944

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, Roumania, Hungary and Slovakia, for the purpose of obtaining for the unfortunate internees in question treatment similar to that granted to civilian internees 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,

s/s

A. G. Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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

c/o Abrahamsen, Akzin, Friedman, Hodel, Mann, McCormack, Marks,
Pehle and Sargoy

000166

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

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 unfortunates 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 assurance of my highest consideration, and of my deep personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) A. G. CICCONANI
Archbishop of Lacedonia
Apostolic Delegate

The Honorable

Edward R. Stettinius

Under Secretary of State

000167

C
O
P
Y

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

No. 581/42

July 27, 1944

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

Yours very sincerely,

s/s

A. G. Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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

c/o Abrahamson, Aksin, Friedman, Hodel, Mann, McCormack, Marks,
Pehle and Sargoy

000168

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

No. 581/42

June 26, 1944

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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. G. CICCONANI
Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

The Honorable

Edward R. Stettinius

Under Secretary of State

000169

PARTIAL MESSAGE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

[REDACTED]

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 Bostorost in Silesia and Bergau near Dresden. It is suggested by Swiss Legation in Berlin that Bergau camp may be Bergen-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

DCR:VAG 7/7/44

cc:Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akzin Bernstein Borenstein John DuBois Friedman Gaston
Hodel Laughlin, Lesser Luxford Mann Mannon Marks McCormack Sargoy Standish Stewart
Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle Files.

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

000170

Bern

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 24, 1944
NUMBER: 2149



The Department and the War Refugee Board are receiving reports indicating that there are held in camps situated in Germany and German-controlled territory, to which the protecting Powers and the International Red Cross have been granted no access or else such strictly limited forms of access that they have been unable effectively to assist the individuals in question, a number of unquestioned nationals and persons claiming the nationality of the United States and other American Republics. These camps near Hannover, Bergen near Dresden, Drancy near Paris and Theresienstadt are sites of such camps. Since late in 1943 the camp at Tost in Silesia 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 Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria or any other areas under control of German-dominated authorities.

- cc.
- Sec'y
- Abrahamson
- Aksin
- Barnstein
- Rohn
- DuBois
- Friedman
- Gaston
- Hedel
- Laughlin
- Lesser
- Luxford
- Mann
- Mannon
- Marks
- McCormack
- Ragoy
- Smith
- Standish
- Stewart
- Weinstein
- H. D. White
- Fehle, File

Article 86 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 their claims to the protection of foreign states - hence 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-198, April 24 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 exertions so far. Appreciation of the Department and the War Refugee Board for these efforts should be expressed. Also please express the hope that there will be no abatement of these efforts.

WEB CABLE NO. 36 TO BERN

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
BY: R. H. Parks Date SEP 1 2 19

000171

WRB OUT BX 25

DATE	FILE NUMBER AND SUBJECT	CHARGED TO	DATE	FILE NUMBER AND SUBJECT	CHARGED TO	DATE
6-6-41	148046	Mr. Gardner		WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS		
6/9	Wash 522	Goldin				
6/12	Morgan, J.P. & Co.	19579				
19579	Morgan, J.P. & Co.	Weldman	6/12			
6/20	Banque Belge pour ete	Jrey	6/16			
W-386	Koster, Julian B.	Amison	6/17			
8/26/41	220848	Section 1				
7/29	110538	Birch				
11/4	271694	Gibson				
8/28	Executive Order, Establishing a WRB	Chase				
8/24	Lieft Horkert (specifying and)	Mrs. Jordan				
10/17	Beimann, Irving S.	Mrs. Jordan				
1/25/45	National Catholic Welfare Conference	George Tawler				
5/30	Rescue of Czech	Cyber				
6/8	Palastin	Chase				
6/19/45	Situation of Jews in Holland	War Dept				(H.C.)

BALCO SYSTEM

000172

