

War Refugee Board, Volume 3
(Folder 4 of 4)

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S. Lesser
Gen. Corresp., WRB Vol. 3,
No. 32

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES ^{1/}

FEB 17 1944

Re: Relief and Evacuation Projects
for Refugees in European Countries.

1. Jews with Turkish Passports in France. ^{2/}

This matter was apparently raised in a letter from Rabbi James Waterman Wise of the World Jewish Congress to Brockbridge Long, of the State Department. ^{3/} The letter quoted a cable from the World Jewish Congress representative in Lisbon stating that about 10,000 Jews of Turkish nationality, living in France for generations were in danger of being deported to Poland as apatrides. Both the letter from Rabbi Wise and the cable from the Lisbon representative of the WJC urged intervention with the Turkish Government to save these persons, probably through previous recognition of them as Turkish citizens.

On the basis of this communication, draft cables were prepared in the Visa Division of the State Department for transmission to our Embassies at Ankara, Turkey, and London, England. The gist of the cable to Turkey was to call attention to the plight of the Turkish Jews in France and contained the following language:

"Please bring to the attention of appropriate Turkish officials the fate of these persons if they are to be considered as stateless and endeavor to have Turkish Government recognize them previously as Turkish subjects."

The cable to London merely quoted the text of the cable from WJC in Lisbon, asking that it be brought to the attention of the LDC Director for his views.

These cables were killed by the following note, on January 10, 1944, from the Division of European Affairs, written by Mr. Achilles:

"Even in an election year it seems a little rough 'to endeavor to have Turkish Government recognize' as Turkish citizens' persons who have been living in France 'since generations'. This is your worry rather than ours but you may wish to tone down that sentence."

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

^{1/} References are to titles as given in study transmitted by Department of State in letter of 4 February 1944 from Mr. Howard K. Travers, Chief, Visa Division.

^{2/} Not dealt with in material submitted with Travers' letter.
^{3/} Dated December 29, 1943 - in file Refugee Groups - Jews with Turkish Passports in France. Unless otherwise indicated all material under this heading is from this file, which was found in the Visa Division of the Department of State.

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Evidently Rabbi Wise had sent a personal cable to Ambassador Steinhardt in Turkey with reference to this problem for, on January 10, 1944, Steinhardt asked the State Department ^{12/40} to tell Rabbi Wise that he had discussed the matter informally with the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs. The latter agreed to do "whatever he finds possible to afford protection" and that "insofar as concerns those who are able to establish Turkish citizenship he will demand the same treatment for them as is accorded other Turkish citizens." However, it was indicated that "insofar as concerns those who are unable to establish Turkish citizenship he [the Turkish Foreign Minister] is doubtful the Vichy authorities will recognize his right to intervene on their behalf." In the light of this communication it was decided by Mr. George V. Allen, of the Division of Near Eastern Affairs, that the draft cable to Ankara was entirely unnecessary and that the proposed cable to London should be changed. ²

Mr. Traverso, Chief of the Visa Division, telephoned Steinhardt's message to Rabbi Wise on 14 January 1944 and on the same day confirmed his conversation by a letter which summarized the cable from Steinhardt.

On 28 January 1944, Steinhardt sent a cable, ⁴ evidently in response to a cable No. 67 of January 25, 1944, which was not contained in the file. This cable related that he had again discussed the jeopardy of the Turkish Jews in France with the Turkish Foreign Minister and urged the latter to extend the maximum possible protection. The reply from Husun, the Turkish Foreign Minister, was, according to Steinhardt, "that on humanitarian grounds the Turk Government would exert itself to the utmost to afford protection in those cases."

This is the last communication in the file and there is no evidence that the matter was ever discussed with the Turkish Embassy in Washington. Both that course, and the making of further representations to the Turkish Foreign Office, would appear in order. It would seem that the line to be taken would be to urge the Turkish Government provisionally to recognize the Jews of Turkish nationality in France as citizens and to press the Vichy and Nazi Governments for their release, presumably to Turkey.

2. Stateless Refugees from Spain to North Africa.

The problem of dealing with the variously estimated figure of some 1600 stateless refugees in Spain, most of enemy nationality and about 80% of whom were Jews, was evidently first raised by the British. Our Ambassador to Spain, Mr. Hayes, cabled the State Department on April 1943 that he had been approached on this subject. This had evidently been preceded by discussions in Washington between the British Embassy and Assistant Secretary Long. The initial proposal apparently covered the establishment of a camp in North Africa for refugees of all nationalities, including

⁴ No. 49 of January 10, 3 p.m. from Ankara.

⁵ See Allen's note of 13 January 1944.

⁶ No. 151, January 28, 10 p.m. from Ankara.

⁷ Madrid's No. 304, April 2, 1943, 10 p.m. to Department - In file Refugee Groups - Stateless Refugees from Spain to North Africa. Unless otherwise indicated all other material under this heading is from this file, found in the Visa Division of the Department of State.

stateless persons who could be evacuated from Spain. Hayes in Madrid, professing lack of information on the question, took the position with the British Ambassador that the matter was one which would require considerable thought, that it might not prove practical to add this burden to the other very heavy burdens on our representatives and on the French in North Africa and that, anyway, a conference on refugees was shortly to meet to discuss the whole question. ✓

A conference had, in fact, been held in Washington on 24 March 1943, between Sir Ronald Campbell, of the British Embassy, and Assistant Secretary Long. At this conference the British wanted immediate action for the evacuation of all refugees from Spain and the establishment of a camp in North Africa. Long, apparently following the "party line" laid out in advance, replied that "that suggestion could not be accepted, that it was not practical from the viewpoint of being feasible, nor was it possible from the political viewpoint. He stated that because of the political entity of French North Africa we would not be in a position to establish an internment camp there under conditions now existing." 2/

In the course of this discussion it was indicated that, as of 24 March 1943, plans were under way for the evacuation of 1400 persons, for whom vessels were being provided by the British Government; that 100 had already been transferred; that our Embassy had been active and made funds available, as had private individuals; that the British had agreed to send 1000 to Palestine; and that, as of 24 March 1943, there were 10,000 refugees in Spain, of which 7500 were French. It would appear that those actually evacuated were French.

British pressure continued, however, and the Secretary of State, Mr. Hull, was evidently obliged to write a letter to the United States Chiefs of Staff on 23 April 1943. This letter was not contained in the file. From the tone of the responding letter from Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, it would appear that Hull had passed on the British proposal, covering the transportation of from 3,000 to 5,000 refugees, largely Jewish and of enemy nationality or stateless, to North Africa. The Joint Chiefs of Staff rejected this proposal 10/ because (1) it would require the utilization of personnel shipping capacity which is urgently needed for military purposes; (2) it would require a constant utilization of cargo shipping for food and supply; (3) it would put an added and unwarranted administrative responsibility on the Supreme Commander in North Africa; and (4) "The influx of a considerable group of Jewish refugees to North Africa might cause such resentment on the part of the Arab population as to necessitate military action to maintain order." In this connection it is interesting to note that the following penciled comment appears in the margin alongside objection (1) "Not pertinent French ships available."

8/ See Madrid's 027 of April 6, 1943, 8 p.m.

✓ See Department's No. 777 of April 6, 1943, 5 p.m. to Madrid, quoting conference memo of Long.

10/ See letter from Admiral William D. Leahy to the Secretary of State, dated 26 April 1943.

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Two days later Sir Ronald Campbell, British Minister, called again at the State Department, this time conferring with the then Under Secretary, Mr. Welles. He presented an aide memoire, dated 27 April 1943, urging the establishment of a North African camp for Allied and stateless refugees in Spain and Portugal. To the aide memoire was attached a copy of proposals presented by the British Delegation to the Bermuda Refugee Conference. ^{11/} The British Delegation at the Bermuda Conference, evidently at the behest of Foreign Secretary Eden, had urged the establishment of this camp. The proposal pointed out that there were about 21,000 refugees in Spain; 12,000 French nationals, mostly of military age and for whom removal arrangements were then under way; about 2000 were Poles and Czechs of military age; and the remaining 4000-5000 are largely Jewish and of enemy nationality or stateless. At the Conference referred to above, Welles outlined that General Giraud, of French North Africa, had been requested to agree and that, if he did and the J.C.S. persisted in their objections, the matter would be taken up with the President. ^{12/} Evidently the British also submitted their views to the Combined Chiefs of Staff, through the British Chiefs of Staff on 30 April 1943, and Hull was informed on 7 May 1943 by Admiral Leahy ^{13/} that, after reconsideration of the matter, the Joint Chiefs of Staff adhered to their objections.

At this point the matter was presented by Secretary Hull to the President who approved it, as follows: "I agree that North Africa may be used as a depot for those refugees but not as a permanent residence without full approval of all authorities. I know, in fact, that there is plenty of room for them in North Africa, but I raise the question of sending large numbers of Jews there. That would be extremely unwise." ^{14/} The issue was apparently presented to the President in a letter from Hull and the President's reply was evidently written. Such documents were not contained in the file. The memorandum referring to this matter concludes as follows:

"It is assumed that the President's point that large numbers of Jews should not be sent to North Africa is not applicable in this present case. The total number of stateless and enemy refugees in Spain does not exceed 6000. Not all of these people will be able to leave Spain even though transportation can be arranged and not all of those who can go will be Jewish. It is not possible at the present time to state definitely the number of Jewish people who could be evacuated from Spain but several thousand such persons will hardly be considered as excessive in number."

Governor Lehman was informed of the decision to establish the camp for Jewish persons who are stateless or of enemy nationality. ^{15/} However, the arrangements evidently were still regarded as tentative, this time to await a reply to an inquiry made to Prime Minister Churchill by the President. At least, at a conference between Sir Ronald Campbell, of the British Embassy, and Assistant Secretary Long, it was pointed out that the President had discussed the matter with the Prime Minister, on the occasion of the latter's recent visit. He stated that he had

- ^{11/} Both the aide memoire and the proposal presented at Bermuda are contained in the file referred to above.
- ^{12/} Welles' conference memorandum.
- ^{13/} Letter in file referred to above.
- ^{14/} From memorandum to Secretary Hull, dated 22 June 1942.
- ^{15/} Letter of 5 June 1943 from Long. In file referred to above.

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to refer it to London. Assistant Secretary Long added the following paragraph to his memorandum of this conference: ^{16/}

"I also told Sir Ronald of a very interesting telegram which had been brought to our attention from Rabbi Perlswaig which possibly his Government had also had access to and which indicated a change of policy and possibly of mind of some of the gentlemen who had been very active, and which further indicated that they were convinced that no very real results could be obtained in the movement for the evacuation of Jewish people from territory held by the enemy. Their new point of view seemed to be realistic and in line with the basis of our two Governments as indicated at Bermuda." (Underlining supplied.)

Under date of 30 June 1943 the Prime Minister sent the following personal message to the President with respect to the assistance of refugees:

"The need for assistance of refugees, in particular Jewish refugees, has not grown less since we discussed the question and all possible outlets need to be kept open. Of these the most practical still is North Africa, and I hope the difficulties over the proposed refugee camp have now been cleared up, and that an early practical decision is now possible. Our immediate facilities for helping victims of Hitler's anti-Jewish drive are so limited at present that the opening of the small camp proposed for the purpose of removing some of them to safety seems all the more incumbent on us, and I should be grateful if you could let me know whether it has been found possible to bring the scheme into operation. General Giraud has given the project his general approval." ^{17/}

Sometime between 5 July 1943 and 9 July 1943 the President transmitted to the Prime Minister the details of the plan for the establishment of the refugee camp in North Africa and for the transportation of refugees thereto. ^{18/} Generally speaking it covered 5000-6000 stateless or enemy nationality refugees in Spain; called for Generals Eisenhower and Giraud, who had agreed to the plan, to designate a campsite in Morocco as a place of temporary residence for those refugees escaping from Axis territory into Spain; the United States transporting the refugees by land to a selected Portuguese port of embarkation; the British arranging for sea transport from Portugal to a port in North Africa; the American military authorities arranging for cots and tents to meet emergency needs; the United States arranging for a temporary reception center of more substantial character; the cost of transportation and maintenance at temporary residence, pending permanent disposition, to be borne equally by both Governments; OPRHO to carry on administration for refugees at place of temporary residence, with aid and cooperation of the British; expressing agreement that a permanent place, such as perhaps, Tripolitania, Cyrenaica or Madagascar, be decided upon; and that the transportation to such place and care while there be under the

^{16/} Long's memorandum of conference held 4 June 1943. See Exhibit "A".

^{17/} Mr. Churchill's No. 339, 30 June 1943. See Exhibit "B".

^{18/} Draft of cable sent to Churchill, and explanatory memo. from Hull to the President, dated 5 July 1943. See Exhibit "C".

Executive Committee of the ICG. The Prime Minister concurred completely with these suggestions on 10 July 1943. ^{19/}

Appropriate instructions were transmitted to the War Department ^{20/} and to Mr. Robert D. Murphy, at Algiers, Algeria. ^{21/} On 17 July 1943, \$500,000 were transferred from the President's Emergency Fund to OIFAO, to defray the expenses of this operation. ^{22/} Further details were transmitted to OIFAO's representative, Fryer, at Algiers, indicating generally that the American and British Embassies in Spain and Portugal would handle matters in those areas with the assistance of Charles McDonald of OIFAO, already in Spain. ^{23/} Mr. Fryer's attitude on the project had, perhaps, been epitomized in a confidential letter which he wrote to Governor Lehman on 30 June 1943, containing the following statement with respect to bringing the refugees to North Africa, ^{24/}

"But if they are to be subjected to the same hindrances and indignities on the part of the French or the political prisoners only recently released from concentration camps, then I think we should have nothing to do with it, because no matter what we call our project, it would be a concentration camp."

Fryer then goes on to point out that he prefers to have them there as free members of society or not at all.

On 11 August 1943, Algiers advised that Camp Marechal Lyautey, 10 miles north of Casablanca near Fedala, had been selected by the American authorities as the site for the refugee center, and the French had been requested to agree. ^{25/} This selection was approved by Washington on 17 August 1943. ^{26/}

On 19 August 1943, the American Embassy at Madrid was advised in detail of the arrangements made, the cable indicating that immediate quarters would be available for 1500 with the understanding that additional space for the entire number, about 6000, might subsequently be required. It was emphasized, as it had been from the start, that freedom would be accorded to the refugees to avoid the implication that the United States was running a concentration camp. ^{27/} A copy of this cable was ordered furnished to Lisbon. Madrid advised, on 24 August 1943, that there were between 1500 and 2000 enemy and non-nationality refugees in Spain, 60% of them held visas for Palestine and about 60% of them were able-bodied males. ^{28/}

^{19/} No. 157 of 10 July 1943 from the Prime Minister to the President of the United States. See Exhibit "D".

^{20/} Letter of 16 July 1943 from President to Stimson.

^{21/} Cable No. 1383 of 27 July 1943 from Department to Algiers.

^{22/} Letter of 16 July 1943 from G. Howland Shaw, Assistant Secretary of State, to Harold D. Smith, Director, Bureau of the Budget; letter of 17 July 1943 from the President to the Secretary of the Treasury.

^{23/} Cable no. 1475 of 10 August 1943, 7 p.m. from Department to Murphy and Fryer.

^{24/} Letter of 30 June 1943 from Mr. Fryer, Chief, Relief and Welfare Division, NARD, to Governor Herbert Lehman. Contained in file of E. Richard Wolff, UNRRA.

^{25/} Cable no. 1397, 11 August 1943, 2 p.m. from Algiers.

^{26/} No. 1520 of 17 August 1943, 10 p.m. from Algiers.

^{27/} No. 1770 of 19 August 1943, 11 p.m. from Department to Madrid.

^{28/} No. 2275 of 24 August 1943, 1 p.m. from Madrid to Department.

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In the period while the selection of the camps was being considered, and the assent of the French liberate obtained, various miscellaneous arrangements were made. On London's suggestion, ²⁸ it was agreed ²⁹ that the initial selection of miscellaneous internees in Spain for transfer to North Africa would be made in Madrid by joint action of the United States, the United Kingdom and the IGC, with the United States Ambassador in Spain designating the chairman and the American representative. This scheme did not, however, meet with the approval of Ambassador Hayes in Madrid ³⁰ and he proposed an alternative involving selection of evacuees by David Hickenstaff, the Madrid representative of American charitable organizations, as the one best equipped with all information. ³¹ This was assented to by the Department ³² and detailed information on refugees asked for. ³³ It was understood that the Spanish would not be approached on the matter until the location of the camps had been agreed to by the French. ³⁴

A preliminary cross section analysis of the refugees without nationality, or with enemy nationalities, in Spain revealed a total of 1600. 74% were males and 26% females. 11% were under 20 years of age; 33% were 21-30; 25%, 31-40; 18%, 41-50; and 13% over 50. 39% were formerly Polish; 26%, German; 10%, Austrian; 10%, Hungarian; and 2% of other nationalities. 35% are without profession or of unknown profession; 11%, children or students; 5% represented all common trades and professions in small percentages. ³⁵

After numerous cable exchanges, ³⁶ all of which indicated that the delay in choosing the camps was due to the French, General Eisenhower having agreed to the use of Camp Marchal Lyautoy, a limited and quite unsatisfactory concurrence was finally given on 4 October 1943. ³⁷ Since most of the refugees were of enemy nationality, the counterparts of whom would ordinarily be interned in French Africa (unless they had served in the foreign legion, had relatives in the Allied Armies, or had rendered exceptional service to France), the French did not feel they could allow them out of the camp, or permit them to accept outside work unless they fell within the excepted classes, and then only on residential permit. The French also insisted on their security services taking charge, in cooperation with the persons running the camp, of the surveillance of refugees, and limited the maximum number of refugees to 2000 at any one time. In other words, to concur with the French conditions would mean virtual internment

- ²⁸ No. 5707 of 30 August 1943, 7 p.m. to Department from London.
- ²⁹ No. 5343 of 1 September 1943, midnight, to London from Department.
- ³⁰ No. 2463, of 7 September 1943, 4 p.m. to Department from Madrid.
- ³¹ No. 2674, 20 September 1943, 5 p.m. to Department from Madrid.
- ³² No. 2022, 24 September 1943, 8 p.m. from Department to Madrid.
- ³³ No. 2320, 24 September 1943, 1 p.m. from Department to Madrid.
- ³⁴ See footnote 32.
- ³⁵ No. 2792 of 29 September 1943, 11 p.m. from Department to Madrid.
- ³⁶ No. 1519 of 1 September 1943, 6 p.m. to Department from Algiers; no. 1722 of 21 September 1943, 6 p.m. from Department to Algiers; no. 1632 of 23 September 1943, 10 p.m. to Department from Algiers.
- ³⁷ No. 1700, of 4 October 1943, 2 p.m. from Algiers to Department.

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for the refugees. This was vigorously objected to in a cable to in a cable to Algiers, ^{36/} and Mr. Robert D. Murphy was urged to induce the French to adopt a liberal and more humanitarian stand. The British Foreign Office urged concurrences, provided that the French would interpret the conditions liberally. ^{37/}

The next month was devoted to an exchange of cables discussing various aspects of the arrangements and further delays were occasioned by French reconsideration of their position. This was indicated in a cable from Algiers which, among other things, contained the following comments: ^{38/}

"Information which has reached us from Spain through the Jewish Distribution Committee and other persons dealing with the refugee problem in Spain, however, indicates that the problem of providing temporary refuge in North Africa may have changed materially since the question was first discussed at the Bermuda Conference. We understand that the majority of the refugees are now at liberty in Spain, where they are being supported through the efforts of the J.D.C. and others, and evidence little desire to be removed further from their homelands. The progress of the war has apparently altered their situation and there seems little likelihood that they will be deported to Germany."

The cable then goes on to suggest that it might be wise to canvass the refugee sentiment in Spain, outlining the program to the refugees, before deciding upon the size of the camp. London, to which this cable had been re-sent, communicated the objections of the Foreign Office and the ICG to Murphy's plan, pointing out that present estimates placed the number wishing to go at from 1500-2000. ^{39/} Madrid expressed the feeling that the Spanish were annoyed at the presence and long stay of refugees and might well intern or imprison them if their stay was prolonged. ^{40/} The Department concurred in these views. ^{41/}

The British apparently altered their position on the desirability of the French conditions imposed and agreed to approach the French along the lines of our reaction. ^{42/} On 9 November 1943 the French in Algiers responded to Murphy's note with respect to the conditions sought by the French to be imposed on the refugees. The note of the French spoke as if Murphy had agreed to the French plan, but had suggested changes. The French relaxed somewhat, admitting the right to work, after permission was granted, provided it would not cause

- ^{36/} No. 1009 of 15 October 1943, 11 p.m. from Department to Algiers.
- ^{37/} No. 7149 of 10 October 1943, from London to Department.
- ^{38/} No. 1811 of 21 October 1943, 5 p.m., from Algiers to Department. See Exhibit "B".
- ^{39/} No. 7317 of 23 October 1943, 5 p.m., from London to Department.
- ^{40/} No. 3106 of 25 October 1943, from Madrid to Department.
- ^{41/} No. 2091 of 8 November 1943, 11 p.m., to Algiers from Department.
- ^{42/} No. 7241 of 25 October 1943, 4 p.m. and No. 7452 of 26 October 1943, 4 p.m. from London to Department.

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disadvantage to the local economy and indicating that those who did not work might be allowed to leave the camp under certain circumstances.⁴⁵ The Foreign Office urged approval⁴⁶ and the Department accepted on 26 November 1943, so advising Madrid and London.⁴⁷ The battle over the camps was concluded.

More details were, however, further to delay the evacuation. O'Flaherty decided to send Moses William Beckelman, who had left the United States on 13 November 1943, from North Africa to Madrid and Lisbon to aid in making the arrangements.⁴⁸ His commission was to be to investigate the type of refugees to be evacuated and to return with an advance party of selected refugees to assist in arranging the camp and to receive the main body of refugees as soon as they are accepted and could be transported.⁴⁹ Beckelman left French North Africa sometime shortly after the first of the year.⁵⁰

There were also many administrative details to be worked out. Of the initial \$500,000 made available for the project, \$450,000 were transferred from the State Department to the Director of the FIA in the first week of December 1943, \$50,000 having been previously allotted to the American Consulate General, Algiers, Algeria, the unexpended balance of which was expected to be transferred to FIA.⁵¹ It was planned that Great Britain and the United States each make \$100,000 available to their respective Consulates at Casablanca, to be deposited in a bank account to be drawn upon by the project director.⁵²

- ⁴⁵ No. 1977, 11 November 1943, 10 p.m. from Algiers to Department.
- ⁴⁶ No. 12, 26 November 1943, 10 p.m. to Algiers from Department.
- ⁴⁷ No. 8211, 24 November 1943, from London to Department.
- ⁴⁸ No. 64 of 4 December 1943 to Algiers from Department; No. 102 of December 6, 1943, 7 p.m. to Department from Algiers.
- ⁴⁹ No. 193 of 6 December 1943, 8 p.m. to Department from Algiers.
- ⁵⁰ No. 162 of 21 January 1944, 6 p.m. from Department to Madrid.
- ⁵¹ Memorandum from H. K. Travers to Mr. Grant, 7 December 1943.
- ⁵² Memorandum of 15 December 1943 from S. G. Burland, Acting Chief, Division of Field Operation, to Edward K. Travers, Chief, Visa Division; No. 39 of 17 December 1942 from Department to London; letter of 31 December 1943 from S. S. Sheppard, Acting Assistant Administrator for Budget and Administrative Planning to G. Howland Shaw, Assistant Secretary of State; cable of 5 January 1944, 11 a.m. from London to Department; no. 347 of 13 January 1944, midnight, to London from Department; no. 421, 17 January 1944, 6 p.m. to Department from London; no. 576, 21 January 1944, to Department from London.

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The problem of collating and screening the refugees for health purposes was also a cause for delay. It was indicated that the refugees were scattered throughout Spain, that they would have to be collected at a central point, given physical examinations, checked with intelligence groups, etc. before being sent on.

It was reported that about 567 persons left for Palentina on 25 January 1944, and that about 1000 stateless persons as well as several hundred Poles, Czechs, Belgians, Dutch remained in Spain.^{53/} Screening is now being done by the Backelman Group, with the assistance of the British, against a check in French North Africa by the French, after which the Spaniards will be requested to issue exit visas and the French, travel documents.^{54/} Mammals, food, clothing, and shelter arrangements, including medical supplies, has evidently been worked out in North Africa.^{55/}

It is not at all clear just how this group of refugees is being supported while in Spain. It was the view of Miss Fluxner, of UNRRA, that the United States has never made any financial contribution to the support of enemy nationality or stateless refugees in Spain who were not in camps, but that the JIC had always supported such refugees, contributing three dollars a day per person. There was evidence that the United States had contributed about \$200,000, first from OFORO funds, but later reimbursed from the President's Emergency Fund, which was used exclusively for French and American refugees.^{56/} The Red Cross sent several tons of food for the purpose of supplementing the diets of refugees in camps.^{57/} Likewise the Governments in Exile were said to have aided their nationals who are refugees in Spain.^{58/}

Joseph H. Murphy

- 53/ No. 249, 27 January 1944, 10 a.m., from Madrid to Department; Airgram
No. A-39, 27 January 1944, 12 noon, from Madrid to Department.
54/ No. 359, 3 February 1944, 10 a.m., from Madrid to Department.
55/ No. 313, 29 January 1944, 11 p.m., from Algiers to Department.
56/ This material was obtained from conferences with Miss Fluxner of UNRRA.
See Mr. Friedman's memorandum of 12 February 1944, summarizing this situation.
57/ Idem. See, generally, file "Refugee Groups - Stateless Refugees From Spain to North Africa."
58/ Idem.

JHMurphy:ecr
2/16/44

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COPY

EXHIBIT "A"

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

A-L

June 4, 1943

Subject: Refugees to North Africa and related subjects.

Participants: Sir Ronald Campbell, British Embassy,
Mr. Long.

Copies to:

Sir Ronald came in this morning at his request and asked for an answer, if possible, to the inquiry made to the Secretary of State by Lord Halifax and subsequently referred to by Sir Ronald in a conversation with Mr. Welles and which was the subject of a memorandum from Mr. Welles.

I told Sir Ronald that perhaps Lord Halifax had received from his Government information which indicated to him that arrangements of a definitive character had been made for the reception of refugees in North Africa when that was not exactly the case. I then proceeded to explain that while the French authorities had agreed in principle and while the American Joint Chiefs of Staff had disagreed, and while the matter had been brought to the attention of the White House, it was all related to the general subject of refugees, which had been the reason for the Bermuda Conference. This Conference had reported and recommended the convocation of the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. Before we attended that Committee meeting or specifically sponsored its convocation, the American Government had felt that the American delegate ought to have certain definite authority. The matter had been referred to the President during the visit of the Prime Minister. We have now been informed that the President discussed the matter with Mr. Churchill but that Mr. Churchill had stated that it would be necessary for him to consult his authorities in London before he could give a definitive answer and go along with the President. The President had not yet heard from Mr. Churchill. Consequently, while the matter had been referred "across the street" by us, it had been referred "across the ocean" by Mr. Churchill and we were still waiting to hear from England.

I went on to express the deep interest he had and to review the situation as it existed in Spain, stating that we would be very glad to see that whole situation picked up by the Intergovernmental Executive Committee and carried forward.

I also told Sir Ronald of a very interesting telegram which had been brought to our attention from Rabbi Perlman which possibly his Government had also had access to and which indicated a change of policy and possibly of mind of some of the gentlemen who had been very active, and which further indicated that they were convinced that no very real results could be obtained

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in the movement for the evacuation of Jewish people from territory held by the enemy. Their new point of view seemed to be realistic and in line with the beliefs of our two Governments as indicated at Bermuda.

Bak.

A-L:BL:BY

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EXHIBIT "B"

COPY
BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 30th, 1942.

Dear Mr. Hall,

I send you herewith a copy of a message sent
by the Prime Minister to the President on June 30th
about the proposed refugee camp in North Africa.

Yours very sincerely,

Signed-Hallifax

The Honorable

Cordell Hall,

Secretary of State of the United States,

Washington, D. C.

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EXHIBIT 75

Text of a telegram received from the Foreign Office on June 30th.

Following is text of a message sent by the Frisco Minister to the President on June 30th.

Personal and [REDACTED]

Begin,

The need for assistance of refugees, in particular Jewish refugees, has not grown less since we discussed the question and all possible outlets need to be kept open. Of these the most practical still is North Africa, and I hope the difficulties over the proposed refugee camp there have now been cleared up, and that an early practical decision is now possible. Our immediate facilities for helping victims of Hitler's anti-Jewish drive are so limited at present that the opening of the small camp proposed for the purpose of removing some of them to safety seems all the more incumbent on us, and I should be grateful if you could let me know whether it has been found possible to bring the scheme into operation. General Giraud has given the project his general approval.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British
Govt., State Dept. tel., 3-29-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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COPY

EXHIBIT "C"

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 9, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary of State.

I thank you for your memorandum number 308 of July 5th, by which you have forwarded to me a recommended message to the Prime Minister in response to his 339.

I have sent the message and I request that you initiate the measures listed in the fourth paragraph of your memorandum.

Signed—F.D.R.

000661

July 5, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Attached is a proposed draft of a message for you to send to the Prime Minister in response to his 939.

I believe I can confidently state that funds which have been made available out of your funds are still available in sufficient quantity to defray our share of the cost of rail transportation out of Spain and our share of the sea transportation from Portugal to the west coast of North Africa. So I shall not have to trouble you on that account.

However, it seems that the cost of maintenance of these persons in Africa will have to be arranged. It probably can be done partly through Lend Lease and partly through the use of military cots and tents supplied by the Army. There are certain other costs of an administrative nature and probably extending to certain items of maintenance which may have to be defrayed. Governor Lehman will be in charge of these phases of the operation and will continue in charge at least until the refugees can be removed from their place of temporary residence in Africa to some more permanent place of settlement. There are between 5,000 and 6,000 of these refugees with probably more to come. While the total bill for maintenance is indeterminable Governor Lehman feels that he should be assured of a sum which for different items and over an indefinite period may run to five hundred thousand dollars of United States funds.

In order to institute this program a few authorizations are necessary:

1. To ask Mr. Murphy to obtain from Generals Eisenhower and Giraud a definite location;
2. To Lend Lease to supply necessary items of food and supplies;
3. To the Army to supply tents, cots and pertinent equipment;
4. To allot to Governor Lehman \$500,000 or as much thereof as may be necessary, to meet other administrative and maintenance costs. The British will assume an equal part of the total cost.

In this connection there should be noted that the project to open a temporary residence on the Atlantic coast of North Africa (which is the subject matter of the Prime Minister's cable but which is only one phase of this whole program) has been approved in principle by Generals Eisenhower and Giraud, by the Bermuda Conference and the Combined Chiefs of Staff and by the Department of State, but the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff have withheld their agreement.

The proposed telegram to the Prime Minister is based on the assumption that you will care to proceed with this broad policy and to authorize the directives necessary to its implementation.

Enclosure;

Draft message to Mr. Churchill.

A-1:BL:lsg 7/3/43 GFE A-B Eu A-1/B

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COPY

EXHIBIT "C"

DRAFT OF PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

This refers to your 339, June 30, 1943, regarding provision for refugees in North Africa.

I will set out the elements of the problem as I understand them:

1. There are at present an estimated five or six thousand stateless or enemy-nationality refugees in Spain to be moved, largely of the Jewish race.
2. I am asking Generals Eisenhower and Giraud to designate Mogador or some other place in French North Africa as a place of temporary residence for these refugees and others who may be able to escape from Axis territory into Spain. They have already agreed in principle to the establishment of such a place of temporary residence.
3. I will arrange for the transportation of these refugees by land from Spain to the selected port in Portugal for their embarkation.
4. You will arrange for their sea transportation from Portugal to a port in North Africa.
5. I will request the American military authorities to make available cots and tents in sufficient number to meet the emergency needs of the refugees arriving at the temporary place of residence.
6. I will also arrange that preparations will be begun immediately for a temporary reception center of more substantial character where the refugees can be housed and cared for until subsequent arrangements are made for their disposition which should be at the earliest possible moment.
7. The costs of the refugees' transportation from Spain and their maintenance in the place of temporary residence until such time as a more permanent settlement is agreed upon will be borne equally by our two Governments.

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8. The work of administration for the refugees at the temporary place of residence will be the responsibility of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations under Governor Lehman, with representatives of your Government cooperating and assisting.

9. I am in complete accord with the thought of the French military authorities in that area that both for political and military reasons it is essential to transfer the refugees, after their arrival at the temporary place of residence, to a place of more permanent settlement for the duration. In this connection the Department of State has just been informed by your Embassy here in response to conversations Lord Halifax has had with Mr. Myron Taylor that certain places, among them Tripolitania, Cyrenica and Madagascar, are under active discussion and it appears not impossible that sites may be available there for the refugees. It is also my understanding that a limited number of the refugees may be admitted into Palestine.

10. The subsequent transportation of the refugees from the temporary place of residence to places of more permanent settlement and their continued care thereafter would be provided under the auspices and jurisdiction of the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee, the costs thereof to be underwritten jointly by the British and American Governments.

I trust that you will let me know at the earliest convenient moment that we are in complete accord when I shall issue the necessary directives to complement those which you will issue.

A-1:EL

A-1/B:CLB;MBL
NE:PHA:JR
PA/H:SSM

VD

HU

(Myron Taylor agrees.--B.L.)

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SECRET "D"

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 10, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The President has directed that the attached paraphrased copy of message No. 357 from the Prime Minister to the President, dated 10 July 1943, be furnished the Secretary of State for preparation of a reply.

Very respectfully,

Signed—CHESTER HARWOOD,
Lt. Colonel, General Staff,
Assistant to the Military Aide.

1 Incl.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date SEP 13 1972

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EXHIBIT "B"

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From: The Prime Minister
To: The President of the United States
Re: 357, 10 July 1943.

For your message Number 300a, I am most grateful.

I agree completely with your suggestions which will provide a solution for our difficulties in Spain. I will give the complementary instructions to our authorities as soon as I hear from you that you have issued the directives to General Eisenhower and Giraud, and to the American Ambassadors in Madrid and Lisbon.

*NOTE: Number 300 was message with reference to refugees in North Africa, prepared by the State Department on 8 July 1943.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED by British
Govt., State Dept. tel., 8-29-72.
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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EXHIBIT 50

No. 1311, October 21, 5 p.m. from Algiers to the Department.

Department's 1309, October 15, 11 p.m.

Department's views concerning the conditions imposed by the French authorities with regard to the plan for temporary residence of refugees from Spain have been communicated to Mascigli who has promised to review the situation in light of the Department's observations and to give an early reply. Mascigli fully understands our objection to the establishment of a refugee center organized as a concentration camp and equally wishes to avoid any adverse public criticism.

Information regarding the number of other enemy internees in Morocco was also requested.

With regards to paragraph five of the Department's telegram under reference, the "second replacement center of the Atlantic base section at Fedhala" is the army designation for camp Marshal Lyautey.

Information which has reached us from Spain through the Jewish Distribution Committee and other persons dealing with the refugee problem in Spain, however, indicates that the problem of providing temporary refuge in North Africa may have changed materially since the question was first discussed at the Bermuda Conference. We understand that the majority of the refugees are now at liberty in Spain, where they are being supported through the efforts of the J.D.C. and others, and evidence little desire to be removed further from their homelands. The progress of the war has apparently

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1011, October 21, 5 p.m. from Algiers

altered their situation and there seems little likelihood that they will be deported to Germany.

Under these circumstances, might it not be desirable before finally determining upon the size of the camp at Fedhala to endeavor to ascertain from the individuals in question how many would wish to proceed to French Morocco under the conditions of the Angl-American plan? Estimates of the total number of refugees involved have already been reduced from 6,000 to 1,600 of whom a large number are said to have visas for Palestine and would probably wish to proceed direct from Spain or Portugal when conditions of travel permit. In other words, we consider it would be desirable before proceeding further with the scheme to ascertain exactly how many persons would wish to take advantage of the temporary asylum afforded them in French Morocco under the changed conditions in Spain.

Sent to Department, repeated to Madrid and London.

Wiley

DIB

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

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Handwritten notes:
New Report Board

Handwritten notes:
Conference Memo
my files

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

February 18, 1944

The results of discussions on February 17, 1944 with respect to projects before the War Refugee Board

Present: Messrs. Lesser, Hartwig, Kehl, Merks, Robert Smith and Murphy.

The following projects were considered by the group and the decisions indicated arrived at:

1. Jews with Turkish passports in France. Murphy's memorandum of February 17, 1944--advise Hirschmann through Steinhardt to persuade the Turks to take the position that these persons were citizens of Turkey and request Vichy to permit them to go to Turkey. Also have Steinhardt and Hirschmann forward detailed information with respect to the present status of these persons in France.

2. Stateless refugees from Spain to North Africa. Preparation of a memorandum analyzing the various approaches which might be taken to this problem, including putting pressure upon the French and the State Department to increase the limit of 2,000 refugees at any one time and to ascertain what the exact situation is with respect to the matter in Spain.

In connection with Mr. Ackermann's designation as War Refugee Board's representative in Africa, he will be asked to go into this matter in conjunction with UNRRA representatives.

It was generally felt inadvisable to take any steps by way of negotiation with the French or State which would delay the immediate transportation of refugees to North Africa from Spain.

3. Evacuation of refugees from Southern France and Italy. (Paragraph 2 of Mr. Kehl's memorandum under this title). The immediate transmission of a strong cable to London asking it to ascertain what the I.C.C. has been doing on the matter and the transmission of a cable to Tittman at the Vatican requesting him to inquire from his British colleague as to whether or not the offer of the Italians concerning the transportation of 30,000 Jews from Italy to North Africa was still open. This appears to have altered somewhat since other discussions, however.

4. Allied stateless and ex-enemy refugees in Switzerland. It was determined that no affirmative action should be taken respecting Anglo-American-Swiss negotiations concerning the reception of refugees by Switzerland and the reference of the problem to the Intergovernmental Committee. However, the Board should keep in touch with these negotiations.

5. Evacuation of 100,000 children from occupied areas to Switzerland. In view of the imminent London economic conference at which this subject will be discussed, it was decided that immediate steps should be taken to obtain more information about this project from Stone, Lehman, and the State Department. In this connection, it should be ascertained whether the Department has as yet received a report on this project from London in reply to its wire of January 14. If such report has not been obtained, the Department should be urged to send another request to London for information.

6. Camp Ferramonte di-Tarsio in Italy containing 1850 refugees, including Yugoslavs, Poles, Greeks, Austrians, German Jews, Chinese and other miscellaneous categories of refugees. Marks was requested to prepare a memorandum referring to the desperate situation of the refugees on the Isle of Rab and recommending that the occupants of Camp Ferramonte be transferred elsewhere in order to make room to receive those on Rab.

7. Jewish children in Rome. Marks was requested to prepare a memorandum stating that pursuant to arrangements with the British referred to in a cable received on February 16, 1944, funds destined for Rome may now be transmitted directly to Tittman, our representative in the Vatican.

8. Relief supplies for homeless Greeks on the Greek mainland. Marks was requested to prepare a memorandum pointing out that there are two precedents for the War Refugee Board's interest in this matter. These are the Shanghai Rabbis case and the Spanish Republicans in France case. The memorandum will indicate the direction in which these precedents are leading the Board. Thus, the question must now be considered whether the War Refugee Board will facilitate relief to refugees who apparently have no hope of escaping from occupied territory.

9. Projects for receiving refugees in Sweden. At the conference on February 16, 1944, Mr. Pehle directed that a cable be prepared addressed to our Minister in Sweden congratulating the Swedish Government on the steps it has taken to alleviate the lot of refugees escaping from occupied Europe into Sweden. This cable would be in reply to Stockholm cable 480 dated February 13, 1944. In preparing this cable care should be taken not to prejudice in any way the British-American request of January 19, 1944 that the Swedish Government make further offers of haven for child refugees from occupied Europe.

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Projects for WRB

February 3, 1944

Mr. Fohle

Miss Hodel

The following projects have been assigned the numbers indicated. Copies are being sent to all the interested people.

- No. 1 - World Jewish Congress operations in France and Rumania.
- No. 2 - JDC operations in France.
- No. 3 - Union of Orthodox Rabbis operations re transfer of Jews from Poland into Hungary.
- No. 4 - Evacuation of abandoned children from France to Switzerland.
- No. 5 - Evacuation of Jews from Transnistria to Rumania.
- No. 6 - Evacuation of Yugoslav refugees from Island of Rab.
- No. 7 - Relief to Jews in Italy (through Vatican representative).
- No. 8 - Relief to refugees in Rumania, Slovakia, Croatia and Theresienstadt through International Red Cross.
- No. 9 - Evacuation of refugees to Turkey.
- No. 10 - Evacuation of refugees from Spain.

CC - Messers. Luxford, DuBois, Lesser, Friedman

FHodel:hd 2/3/44

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Jan. 31, 1944

Miss Hodel

J. W. Pehle

In order to avoid any confusion between presently active projects, as well as contemplated projects, of the War Refugee Board, I wish you would assign numbers to all of such projects or contemplated projects including the following:

1. JDC operation in France.
2. WJC operation in France and Rumania.
3. Union of Orthodox Rabbis operation on transfer of Jews from Poland to Hungary, etc.
4. Evacuation of Jews from Transnistria to Rumania.
5. Evacuation of Abandoned children from France to Switzerland.
6. Evacuation of Yugoslav refugees on Island of Rab.
7. Evacuation and relief of refugees through Turkey.
8. International Red Cross field and relief operations.

This will enable all the interested persons to set up books containing all the documentations on each of these projects.

cc: Messrs. Friedman, DuBois and Lesser (initialed) JWP

100672

IMMEDIATE PROJECTS

1. Evacuation of Jews from Poland to Hungary.
2. Evacuation of Jews from Transnistria to Rumania.
3. Evacuation of abandoned children from France to Switzerland.
4. Evacuation of Yugoslav refugees on island of Rab to Italy.
5. Evacuation of refugees to Turkey.
6. Relief to Jews in Rumania, Slovakia, Croatia and Theresienstadt through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

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Mr. Fehle

January 31, 1944

L. S. Lesser

On Friday afternoon, January 28, 1944, the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society donated \$100,000 to the War Refugee Board for the purpose of the Board and offered the facilities and services of the Society to the Board in its work. On Saturday morning and part of Saturday afternoon, I conferred in New York with Isaac L. Asafsky, the Society's Executive Director, and Miss Elizabeth Lesser (the writer's aunt), President of the Society's Women's Division. The purpose of the discussions was to ascertain what facilities and services the Society had which might be utilized, directly or indirectly, by the Board.

The Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, known as HIAS, is the result of a merger in 1909 of the Hebrew Sheltering House Association, organized in 1884, and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society which was founded in 1902. The basic purpose of HIAS in the United States has been to assist American residents to help their relatives abroad in immigration matters. This included arranging for passports and visas, transportation to points of embarkation, providing shelter enroute, arranging for steamship accommodations, reception and shelter at the place of debarkation pending departure for permanent place of settlement, the procurement of employment and advice, assistance and education with a view to naturalization. Mr. Asafsky told me that while the organization had no nationally known names among its officers or trustees, it was nevertheless able to function efficiently and to secure the necessary funds because there were in the United States 500,000 or more persons whom it had helped, directly or indirectly, in immigration matters. The Society does identical work on behalf of immigrants to Latin America.

In order to effectuate its purpose, the Society maintains headquarters at 425 Lafayette Street, New York City (the former Astor Library) and branches in Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco and Seattle. Its general counsel maintains his office in Washington, D. C., where he spends his time working out visa, passport and other immigration problems with the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Society also maintains offices in practically every Latin American country, for the most part staffed by citizens of the countries in which they are located.

In Europe, the Society is a participant with the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA) in the Hias-Ica Migration Association, commonly known as HICAM, which prepares prospective immigrants for immigration by helping them

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obtain passports, visas and transportation to whatever country they want to go and which will permit their entry. At the present time, since all prospective immigrants are refugees and most of them are penniless, the Society, in conjunction with the JDC, has made available a fund which is used to help refugees who lack the means of purchasing their own transportation. Thus, the Society recently advanced \$75,000 toward defraying the expense of the current voyage of Hyasma from Lisbon to Palestine. The Society is not a relief organization and dispenses relief only to the extent of making available sheltering facilities to immigrants at or about the places of embarkation and again at the places of debarkation, until more permanent settlement arrangements can be made.

The Society maintains its principal European office at Lisbon. This office is in charge of Dr. James Bernstein, an American citizen, and a staff of Portuguese experienced in immigration work. Affiliated branch offices are maintained at Barcelona, Casablanca, Algiers and Zurich. Affiliated correspondent offices are maintained at Stockholm and London. Prior to enemy occupation, offices were also maintained at Marseilles and Shanghai and in Poland, Holland, Rumania and Hungary. The New York headquarters has no information as to whether the offices in occupied countries are still in existence. It has been learned, however, that the Marseilles office has been moved "inland." The opinion was expressed that the people in Zurich might know whether these offices still function in any way. It was stated, however, that the Society could know how and with whom to communicate in Poland, Holland, Rumania and Hungary to ascertain whether a nucleus of the organizations still remains.

David E. Schweitzer, a United States citizen who was formerly associated with the JEC in its Dominican settlement project, is now enroute to Palestine, as a representative of the Society and he will proceed throughout the Near East (Turkey, Iran, etc.) to ascertain generally what can be done to bring relief to refugees in Russia; principally relatives or friends of American citizens. In this connection, the Society has for some time been taking a census of the names and last known addresses of relatives and friends of American citizens who were located in enemy-occupied territory, and has comprehensive files of such information. Periodically, the Society receives from Switzerland lists of refugees arriving there, with a statement of the age, nationality, and religious affiliation of each.

The Society has never engaged in "unlawful" or "clandestine" operations. It has at this time no contact with any underground. It does, however, have agents in strategic places who may be able to communicate, if such communication be permitted by the United States Government, with any number of persons known to the Society in occupied-territory.

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As a practical suggestion for the Board's modus operandi, Mr. Asofsky suggested that the Board ask all private organizations having an interest in its work, to operate jointly through a liaison officer appointed by the Board. Mr. Asofsky stated that this technique, used by USRAA, will not save the Board from every inter-organization squabble, but will save the Board from most of the petty ones. In other words, Mr. Asofsky said that if each organization were required to discuss any project or program it might have with the liaison officer and representatives of all the other organizations, the Board will be spared the unnecessary work of dealing with a great many hair-brained ideas. On the other hand, Mr. Asofsky said the liaison officer and the conference of organizations, over which he would preside, should not have the power to prevent an organization from presenting to the Board a program which the conference disapproved; it should merely act as a first sounding board for the individual ideas of the organizations.

Mr. Asofsky told me that there was presently in the United States a member of the Society's staff, a Mr. Gotschall, who, as I understand it, has recently returned from abroad and is fully cognizant of the present situation and the problems which are to be met. I gathered that Mr. Gotschall might also have some ideas as to how to meet them.

Mr. Asofsky would very much like to come down with Mr. Gotschall and one of the principal officers of the Society and discuss the whole matter with you. They will only come down if requested. I strongly urge such a request be made today.

LELesser:als 1-31-44

*Indicated copy sent
sent in files
Data
Revised 3/4*

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(COPY)

HEBREW SHELTERING AND
IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

425 Lafayette St., New York 3, N. Y.

January 27, 1944

War Refugee Board
c/o Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We are pleased to send you herewith our check for \$100,000. as a contribution towards furthering your efforts to save the victims of enemy oppression and the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims.

We are also enclosing, for your information, copy of our letter to President Roosevelt.

Respectfully yours,

(signed) Abraham Herman

President

*for copy of letter with
receipt signed by S.C.
Williams of Mr. Collins
Office Sec. Hebrew
Sheltering & Immigrant
Aid Society
file*

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(copy)

January 27, 1944

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

The Board of Directors of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society wishes to express its profound appreciation for your executive order establishing a War Refugee Board charged with the responsibility for the inauguration of effective means for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, and the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims.

Your executive order, which is in full accord with the humanitarian tradition of the American Government, has evoked nationwide approval and enthusiasm, in which we most heartily join.

The Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society has been active in the field of immigration and Americanization for six decades and has exerted every possible effort to save many thousands of people from the persecution abroad by helping them to find havens of refuge.

In its desire further to aid these oppressed people, and in accordance with Paragraph 4 of your executive order, the Board of Directors has the honor to inform you that it has resolved to place at the disposal of the War Refugee Board the services of its offices and personnel at home and abroad, and to offer its participation in the cost of the undertaking. In accordance with this resolution, it has this day forwarded to the War Refugee Board a contribution of \$100,000.

Very respectfully yours,

President

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CROSS REFERENCE ON

FOR:

- Amendment to this License
- Extension of this License
- Renewal of this License
- Correspondence concerning this application . .
- Other (Specify)

For letter from Arthur I. Werner enc. first contribution
of \$10 to WRB - reply 1/28/44

SEE: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: BUDGET (PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BOARD PURPOSES)

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

January 28, 1944

Mr. Bartelt was consulted today concerning the first contribution of \$10 received for the War Refugee Board's program.

Mr. Bartelt will turn the check over to Mr. Collie, Chief of the Division of Bookkeeping and Warrants, with instructions that this check and all future contributions should be deposited in a suspense account and held in such account until further instructions from him. Accordingly, all future contributions and letters accompanying them may be referred directly to Mr. Collie for appropriate handling.

When a decision has been reached as to the specific allocation of these gifts, Mr. Bartelt should be advised so that appropriate instructions may be issued by him.

F. Hodel

FHodel:hd 1/28/44

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, January 27, 1944.

PRESS SERVICE
No. 40-49

The Treasury Department announced today that it had received the first contribution for carrying out the President's new program of help to Jews and other persecuted minorities in enemy or enemy-occupied territory. This contribution was prompted by the recent action of the President in establishing the War Refugee Board. The gift was in the form of a check for \$10.00 on a small bank in a midwestern town. It was accompanied by the following letter:

"Today we learned for the first time that President Roosevelt has ordered actual measures for the rescue of those Jews and other people still under Hitler's heel. My wife and myself are among those fortunate Jewish people, who after years of persecution and concentration camps found refuge and a real home in the blessed U.S.A. Our only sorrow concerns the fate of our dear old mother, 77, and our friends, who were taken, 16 months ago, out of their homes to some unknown place.

"I am 61, and my wife is 52, so we are not able to make much money, especially as we were not used to hard physical work. That is, why we are not able to send more than this \$10, - which we ask you to accept as our contribution for this good cause.

"We are living in this small Ohio town where we were received and accepted as equals among friends we never met before. We will show our gratitude to this Country by doing everything in our limited power."

oOo

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February 1, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Secretary of War Stimson had a luncheon in his office today attended by the following: Secretary Morgenthau, Secretary Stimson, Assistant Secretary of War McCloy, Mr. Bundy of the War Department and Mr. Pehle of the Treasury.

During the luncheon Secretary Morgenthau explained that he had asked that this meeting be held in order to bring Secretary Stimson and his assistants up to date on what the Treasury has been doing on war refugee matters. He asked Pehle to summarize for Secretary Stimson the items in the attached memorandum dealing with accomplishments to date. Most of the items included in this list were subject to discussion by those present. Mr. Bundy asked for an explanation of the British attitude as reflected in its recent cables and particularly whether the British were "dragging their heels" because of the impact of the evacuation question on the Palestine problem. It was explained that there seemed to be every indication that the Palestine problem was at least one of the basic reasons why the British had been reluctant to take effective action to evacuate Jews from occupied Europe. Mr. Pehle is sending to Mr. Bundy some of the background cables on the British attitude for his information.

During the meeting, as an example of the attitude of some of the private organizations and their willingness to cooperate with the War Refugee Board, Secretary Morgenthau read the letter of January 24 from Charles R. Joy, Acting Executive Director of the Unitarian Service Committee. Mr. Pehle also summarized for Secretary Stimson the various committees and intergovernmental organizations set up to deal with this problem and the persons appointed by the President to work on such problems, including James G. McDonald, Myron C. Taylor, George Rublee, etc. The attached chronological memorandum gives some of the details with respect to the committees set up by this Government.

Secretary Morgenthau mentioned the \$100,000 contribution by the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society. Mr. Stimson agreed that these funds should not be used for administrative expenses but should be used for relief or evacuation operations.

Following this discussion, Secretary Morgenthau asked Pehle to step out while he discussed the problem of getting an executive director. Secretary Morgenthau told Mr. Stimson that if Frank Graham was available he would like to have Pehle take over the job. Stimson said that it would be agreeable to him if Frank Graham was not available to have Pehle take over the job on a two or three month's trial basis and Secretary Morgenthau might advise the President accordingly,

/s/ J.W. Pehle

JWPehle:lh 2/1/44

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January 31, 1944

Accomplishments to date

1. We have worked out with the World Jewish Congress a program to evacuate refugees from France into Spain, Switzerland and North Africa and from Rumania. Appropriate licenses have been granted authorizing the necessary operations.
2. We have worked out with the JDC a program to evacuate 5,000 to 6,000 abandoned children from France and to sustain their lives, pending evacuation. Licenses have been granted permitting these operations up to a total cost of \$600,000 for the next six months. An initial remittance of \$200,000 has been sent to the JDC representative in St. Gall, Switzerland, and operations are now under way.

While some of these children may be evacuated to Spain, the majority will probably have to be evacuated to Switzerland. Before Switzerland will agree to admit the children, it requires receipt of assurances from some other government that the children will be reevacuated after the war. The Treasury is working on a method whereby the necessary assurances can be given by this Government.

3. We have worked out a program to evacuate Jews from Poland to Hungary. The Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada has been authorized to communicate with and to send funds to persons in Hungary who are in a position to assist refugees across the Hungarian borders into Hungary where a Jewish community of over 1,000,000 people is ready to help and absorb the refugees into the Hungarian economy. \$100,000 has been sent to Switzerland to cover these operations. With State's approval, direct transfers of free exchange into enemy or enemy-occupied territory have been authorized for this program, if it is impracticable to obtain the necessary local currency in Switzerland or in Hungary against payment after the war from a blocked account. Thus we have obtained State's approval of a practical and effective method to finance underground operations.
4. We have sent a message to our representative in the Vatican giving the necessary assurances that funds will be forthcoming for the immediate relief of destitute Jews in Rome. This will enable relief activities on behalf of these Jews to begin at once.

5. We worked out the financial details of a program handled by the JDC for the purpose of evacuating refugees from Spain to Palestine. 750 of these refugees have already left Lisbon on the "Nyassa."
6. We worked out with the JDC a program to bring relief to refugees in Transnistria. Funds have been sent by the JDC to the International Red Cross delegate in Ankara for the purchase of 250 tons of foodstuffs in Turkey, to be distributed among the internees by the International Red Cross. We are presently working on an expansion of this program so as to provide food distributions to internees in Theresienstadt, Yugoslavia and Greece.
7. We have sent an urgent message to the International Red Cross, Geneva, stating that the War Refugee Board is prepared to see that funds are made available at once to the International Red Cross to provide food and medicines to persecuted groups in German-occupied areas who are denied the facilities available to the rest of the population.
8. We are working with the World Jewish Congress on a program to evacuate Jews from Transnistria to Rumania in order to move them from the path of the retreating German army. It is believed that thousands of Jews can be saved from death in Transnistria. In fact, we have just received a report that 6,400 internees, including 400 children, have already been evacuated from Transnistria to Bucharest and that 500 more are expected to be moved in the next few days. In addition, 200 Polish refugees have been moved from Bessarabia to Bucharest. These operations appear to have been handled with the cooperation of the Rumanian Government.
9. \$100,000 has been received by the Treasury, as private contributions for the work of the War Refugee Board.
10. At our suggestion, the Department of State has sent very strong instructions to our Missions in the four neutrals, London and Turkey, repeated to all other Missions, informing them of the new Board and requesting full cooperation in effecting the policy of the Government as stated by the President.
11. We have furnished the War Department with suggested instructions to the appropriate Theater Commanders asking the latter to do

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everything possible, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, to effectuate the Government's policy to take all measures to rescue the victims of enemy persecution.

12. The Secretary of the Treasury has sent messages to the Treasury representatives in London, Stockholm, Ankara, Lisbon, Cairo and Algiers asking them to do everything possible to assist their Missions in carrying out the policy of immediate rescue to the victims of enemy persecution.
13. A cable to London has been drafted and is pending in the State Department requesting Ambassador Winant to discuss the situation with the British and suggest to them that they send instructions to their Missions along the same lines as the instructions to our Missions.
14. We have been in touch with the following organizations who are working out specific operations and programs with us:
 - World Jewish Congress
 - American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
 - American Jewish Conference
 - American Jewish Committee
 - Jewish Labor Committee
 - Unitarian Friends Service Committee
15. We are working with UNRRA on the problem of making use of the Fedhala camp in North Africa which has room for several thousand refugees.
16. We are submitting to the War Department today a program for the rescue of some 1,500 refugees on the Adriatic Island of Rab.
17. We have made all necessary arrangements with Budget for the allocation of \$1,000,000 from the President's Emergency Fund to the War Refugee Board.

000688

WILLIAM EMERSON, Chairman
SETH T. GANO, Vice-Chairman

C O P Y

WARD B. WITTE, Treasurer
ALFRED F. WHITMAN, Secretary

UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE
25 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.
TELEPHONE CAPITOL 3660

ROBERT C. DEXTER
Executive Director

Registered with the President's
War Relief Control Board

CHARLES R. JOY
Acting Executive Director

Endorsed by National War Fund
Through Refugee Relief
Trustees, Inc.

January 24, 1944

The Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Morgenthau:

The appointment by the President of a War Refugee Board consisting of the Honorable Secretaries of the Departments of State, Treasury and War and directed to take all measures within their power to "rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in immediate danger of death", is an act of wise charity and clear vision. The Unitarian Service Committee, which has for years considered the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of such persons its major responsibility, is profoundly interested. Working with a carefully chosen and competent American personnel in Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, France and Portugal and cooperating closely with other American and foreign relief agencies in these and other foreign countries, it has helped thousands of endangered refugees to escape from the clutches of their persecutors. It has worked with the Governments in Exile, the High Commissioner for Refugees under the Protection of the League of Nations and all other authorities concerned with these unfortunate persons and has had wide experience in solving their problems.

Since, by the terms of your mandate, you may accept the services or contributions of any private persons or organizations, the Unitarian Service Committee feels impelled to offer you any assistance within its power. Generously supported by the National War Fund of which it is a participating member, operating on a wholly unsectarian basis, and dedicated to the service of the racial, religious and political minorities of Europe, the Committee is now ready to place itself entirely at the disposal of your Board to assist you in any possible way. Our personnel, our resources, our experience, are at your command.

The committee would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the areas of possible cooperation.

CRJ:DRF

Respectfully yours,
/s/ Charles R. Joy
Acting Executive Director

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C O P Y

- March 23, 1938. President Roosevelt inquires of the governments of refuge and settlement whether they would be willing to join the United States in setting up an Intergovernmental Committee which would seek to introduce order into the forced migration of political and religious refugees from central Europe.
- May 16, 1938. The President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees holds its first meeting, the following being in attendance: James G. McDonald, Hamilton Fish Armstrong, Paul Baerwald, Joseph P. Chamberlain, Basil Harris, James M. Speers, and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise. Mr. McDonald heads this Committee.
- July 6, 1938. Representatives of thirty-three governments meet at Evian. The United States was represented by Myron C. Taylor, assisted by Robert Pell and George Brandt of the State Department.
- September 1938. George Rublee, takes up his duties in London as director of the Intergovernmental Committee set up at Evian. He was named to this post by the President, and continued as director until February 1939, when he was succeeded by Sir Herbert Emerson.
- October 17, 1939 Officers of Intergovernmental Committee meet at White House. Lord Winterton, chairman, Myron C. Taylor, vice chairman and James G. McDonald, chairman of the Advisory Committee are among those present.
- January 1941. Intergovernmental Committee meets at Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic. Among those addressing the meeting are George Warren, representing the Advisory Committee.

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C O P Y

-2-

March 27, 1943.

The U.S. and British Governments agree to meet at Bermuda to consider the refugee problem.

April 19, 1943.

Bermuda conference opens. U.S. delegation consists of Harold Willis Dodds (president of Princeton University), Senator Scott Lucas (Ill.), Representative Sol Bloom (N.Y.), and R. Bordon Reams (State Department)

May 19, 1943.

Bermuda conference terminated. Details of determinations are considered con-fidential.

000691

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Executive Office of the President

Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE,
Friday, February 4, 1944.

RELEASE NO. 2

The War Refugee Board met today and designated John W. Pehle as Acting Executive Director.

Mr. Pehle is Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, and Director of Foreign Funds Control. The Secretary of the Treasury has given him leave of absence to serve as Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.

Pehle's work as Director of Foreign Funds Control has afforded him wide experience in negotiating with representatives of foreign governments as well as with the various departments and agencies of this government that will be called on to participate in the work of the War Refugee Board. His work in these fields also has brought him into close touch with the problems now before the Board, and he is well known to the private agencies interested in relief work and the rescue of refugees.

Pehle is a career man in the Government, having entered the Office of the General Counsel of the Treasury Department upon his graduation from the Yale Law School in 1934. He was named Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury and Director of Foreign Funds Control in 1940.

Members of the War Refugee Board are the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of War.

oOo

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(COPY)

FEB 4 1944

Dear Jerry:

Confirming what I told you this morning, the War Refugee Board has appointed John Pehle as its Acting Executive Director. Pehle graduated from Yale Law School in 1934 and has been in the Treasury ever since. In 1940 he was made Assistant to the Secretary and Director of Foreign Funds Control. In the latter job he has really run the show effectively and has had experience which will enable him to operate in this field. He has ability and guts.

I think that the appointment really gives us reason to hope that the Board isn't going to be just another stuffed-shirt ladies' aid society but an outfit that is going to do something. For your own information, the Treasury is in this business to the hilt and intends to see that something is done even if people have to be run over. Morgenthau, personally, is determined to have action, and I can assure you that the rest of us are completely behind him. I want you to know that Pehle's appointment is tangible evidence of a new deal in refugee matters.

Pehle's effectiveness will, of course, be greatly increased if the word gets around that he is an able guy with his whole heart in the job, and anything you can do to this end will be extremely helpful.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Randolph

Hon. Jerome Frank,
U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

JBF:bbk - 2/4/44

000693

(COPY)

FEB 4 1944

Dear Max:

As I promised during our conversation this morning I am sending you a copy of my letter to Bruce Bliven outlining certain points in connection with the appointment of John Pehle as Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board. Also enclosed is a copy of a press release, which has just been issued, announcing the appointment.

Your continued plugging for an effective program to rescue refugees from Hitler has been tremendously helpful in paving the way for the new deal that we are now inaugurating. I think that you can give the cause additional impetus by explaining to the public why the appointment of Pehle as distinguished from an outside "big man" is an important indication of the Government's intention to take real action.

Sincerely,

(signed) Randolph

Enclosures.

Mr. Max Lerner
22 Gramercy Park
New York City.

JBF:ecr
2/4/44

000694

(copy)

Feb 4 1944

Dear Mr. Bliven:

Pursuant to our conversation, there is enclosed herewith a press release which has just been issued announcing the appointment of John W. Pehle acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board. As I told you over the phone, Pehle is a young, energetic liberal (35 years old).

The appointment of Pehle makes it clear that the new War Refugee Board is not going to be just another sympathetic committee, but a hard-hitting, aggressive organization which will leave no stone unturned in its efforts to rescue Jews from Hitler. Outwitting the Nazi is no new job for Pehle since for nearly four years he has directed the Treasury's little publicised Foreign Funds Control which has done a bang-up job of stopping espionage and infiltration into American business and industry by keeping the Axis from using financial resources and connections here. On this score, I am speaking from personal experience, since I am Acting Secretary of the Treasury on Foreign Funds Control matters.

As you probable know, Secretary Morgenthau has a real and active interest in this whole matter and is determined to do everything in his power to see that effective action is taken. Aside from his interest in the matter, you may recall that his father was actively engaged in similar operations in Turkey when as Ambassador to that country he succeeded in saving the lives of many Armenians. I can assure you that Mr. Morgenthau's membership on the Board is for him not merely a nominal committee post.

The combination of Secretary Morgenthau on the Board together with the appointment of one of his men offers every hope of success. I have placed emphasis on Treasury participation in order that you will understand that a real new deal is intended in refugee matters. However, any public indication at this time of inter-departmental differences or rivalry in the matter can only do harm to the cause.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

(signed) Randolph Paul

Mr. Bruce Bliven,
133 West 11th Street,
New York City.

Enclosures

JED:bbk - 2/4/44

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PEHLE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WAR REFUGEE BOARD

1. Pehle has backing of Jewish organizations, with whom he has been dealing for months.

This includes World Jewish Congress and Joint Distribution Committee. Also has backing of Emergency Committee to Save the Jews of Europe.

2. Pehle has backing of leading men truly interested in this program.

Edward Stettinius
Herbert Lehman and men in his organization
Jack McCloy
Oscar Cox and men in FEA
Stephen Wise

3. Pehle is O. K. with Hull and Stimson, if President agrees.

4. Pehle is known to many foreign governments.

Has been dealing with representatives of foreign governments for over three and one-half years - ever since beginning of freezing control.

This includes the governments of the neutral countries of Europe, the Governments in exile, the governments of Latin America, the French Committee of National Liberation, etc.

5. Pehle has been dealing with important aspects of this whole matter and similar matters for months.

In many of these operations financing is the key to the solution. Foreign Funds Control has been handling the financial aspects of relief operations for a long time.

C O P Y

- 2 -

6. SOME OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THIS MATTER TO DATE.

SEE ATTACHED MEMORANDUM.

7. NEED FOR A MAN WITH A "NAME".

We have had men with "names" on this job for several years - nothing has been accomplished.

Pehle can handle most if not all of the problems that a man with a "name" could handle. He will have three cabinet officers back of him. And if it becomes necessary in any particular case to have a big name actually handling the job, Secretary Morgenthau will step in and handle the job personally.

8. RUT PEHLE IN AS ACTING DIRECTOR AND SEE HOW IT WORKS.

JEDuBois:ecr
2/1/44

000697

(COPY)

list of names you Exec Director

James Landis
Frank Graham
Wendell Wilkie
Harold Stassen
Sumner Welles
Lloyd K. Garrison
Leon Henderson
Joseph L. Davies
Eugene Meyer
Col. Charles Poletti
George Norris
Joseph Baldwin
Charles Edison
Clarence Dykstra
Charles Taft
Josephine Roche
Jonathan Daniels
Gov. M. S. Szymczak
William O. Douglas
James Gerard

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- Other (Specify)

For additional material.-

SEE: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: BUDGET

000700

• Allocation No. 44-58

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JAN 29 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by law I hereby allocate from the appropriation entitled "Emergency Fund for the President, National Defense, 1942-1944,"

<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
War Refugee Board	\$1,000,000

to be expended by said Board in connection with emergencies affecting the national security and defense for carrying out the functions of the Board as prescribed by Executive Order 9417 of January 22, 1944.

The funds hereby allocated shall be available, without regard to Section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U. S. C. 5), for all necessary expenses of the War Refugee Board in carrying out Executive Order 9417, including employment of persons (including aliens) or organizations, by contract or otherwise, in the District of Columbia and elsewhere without regard to the civil service and classification laws; acceptance and utilization of voluntary and uncompensated services; transportation expenses outside the United States without regard to the Standardized Government Travel Regulations; actual transportation and other necessary expenses, and not to exceed \$10 per diem in lieu of subsistence, of persons serving while away from their permanent homes or regular places of business in an advisory capacity to or employed by the Board without other compensation from the United States; purchase and exchange of law books and books of reference; purchase of or subscription to newspapers and periodicals; purchase of food, clothing, and medical supplies within or outside the United States; cash payments to and for the benefit of victims of war, without the necessity for cash receipts where receipts are not obtainable; purchase, without regard to statutory limitations as to price, maintenance, operation, repair, and hire of motor-propelled or horse-drawn trucks and passenger-carrying vehicles; payment of premiums on fidelity or other bonds for employees or others engaged in carrying out the purposes hereof; advances of monies without regard to Section 3648 of the Revised Statutes (31 U. S. C. 529); exchange of funds without regard to Section 3651 of the Revised Statutes (31 U. S. C. 543); printing and binding without regard to Section 11 of the Act of March 1, 1919 (44 U. S. C. 111); and the reimbursement of other appropriations

from which payment may have been made for the purposes hereof:
Provided, That not to exceed \$500,000 of the funds hereby allocated shall be available for objects of a confidential nature and shall be charged against the limitation for such purposes under said appropriation, and shall be accounted for solely on the certificate of the Executive Director of the Board.

Please arrange for the necessary transfer of funds and advise the War Refugee Board accordingly.

Sincerely yours,



The Honorable

The Secretary of the Treasury

100702

MEMORANDUM

January 27, 1944.

It is understood that the activities of the War Refugee Board will be financed initially by an allocation of money appropriated for the President's emergency fund and that a part of the allocation will be chargeable against the portion of that fund available for expenditures of a confidential nature. Executive Order No. 9417 of January 22, 1944, creating the Board, provides in section 4 that:

"The Board and the State, Treasury and War Departments are authorized to accept * * * contributions of any private persons, private organizations, State agencies, or agencies of foreign governments in carrying out the purposes of this Order."

The question has been raised whether contributions accepted may be used to supplement the President's emergency fund, and if so, whether such supplementation may operate so as to increase the amount available for expenditures of a confidential nature.

Title XI of the Second War Powers Act, 1942 provides in relevant part as follows:

"Sec. 1101. To further the war program of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to accept or reject on behalf of the United States any gift of money or other property, real or personal, or services, made on condition that it be used for a particular war purpose.

* * * * *

"Sec. 1103. There shall be established on the books of the Treasury a special deposit account to be designated as the 'War Contributions Fund', into which shall be deposited all money received as a result of such gifts.

"Sec. 1104. The Secretary of the Treasury, in order to effectuate the purposes for which gifts accepted under this title are made, shall from time to time allocate the money in such special deposit account to such of the various appropriations available for the purchase of war materials and the furtherance of the war program of the United States as in his judgment will best effectuate the intent of the donors, and such money is hereby appropriated and shall be available for expenditure for the purpose of the appropriations to which allocated."

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The basic appropriation language setting up the emergency fund for the President appears in the Third Supplemental National Defense Appropriation Act, 1942 (55 Stat. 810) as follows:

"Emergency fund for the President: To enable the President through appropriate agencies of the Government to provide for emergencies affecting the national security and defense and for each and every purpose connected therewith * * * \$100,000,000 * * * Provided, that in a total amount of not exceeding \$10,000,000 and within the purposes provided for in this paragraph, the President may authorize the expenditure of sums from this appropriation for objects of a confidential nature * * *."

The terms of Title XI are so clear as to require little discussion with respect to the general problem of using gifts to supplement the President's emergency fund. If the donor makes his gift for a purpose which can best be achieved through the allocation of a part of that fund, then the Secretary of the Treasury has authority to transfer the gift from the special deposit account to that fund.

This is obvious not only from the language used in the statute itself but also in the explanation of it made by the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives (H.R. 1765, 77th Congress):

"* * * The provisions of this title, however, would permit the Treasury to accept gifts made for specific purposes and to put them into the existing congressional appropriation which would most nearly effectuate the intent of the donors in each case, thus supplementing that appropriation to the extent of the gifts * * *."

Since the intention of Congress was to provide for supplementation of any appropriation which would most nearly effectuate the purposes for which a particular gift was made, an impressive argument can be made for the supplementation of that portion of the President's emergency fund which is available for expenditures of a confidential nature. At the outset it is necessary to clarify the confusion which might follow from an interpretation of the language "that in a total amount of not exceeding \$10,000,000 * * * the President may authorize the expenditure of sums from this appropriation for objects of a confidential nature * * *." Although this portion of the appropriation is couched in words of limitation, the problem is essentially the same as the supplementation of the emergency fund itself. All appropriations are really couched in words of limitation since that all state maximum amounts which may be spent for the purposes indicated. Supplementation by

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means of gifts exceeds the limitation included in any appropriation so that the supplementation of the confidential portion of the emergency fund would, as a practical matter, operate in the same manner as the supplementation of any other appropriation.

The effect of the proviso in the appropriation act creating the confidential portion of the emergency fund is to divide that fund into two parts. One part is available for expenditures in accordance with normal accounting procedures, and the other is available for expenditures of a confidential nature without regard to the normal accounting procedures. If a gift can be more nearly effectuated by allocation if expanded in connection with a confidential program, then the Secretary has authority to allocate the money received as a gift to that part of the emergency fund which is available for such purposes and which has been set up separately by virtue of the appropriation act.

Moreover, it should be noted that the limitation on the use of the fund for confidential purposes refers to expenditures from "this appropriation". Obviously, the limitation applies only to the particular amounts which are specifically appropriated for that purpose in language subjecting the money to the limitation. Accordingly, the limitation would apply only to appropriations made for the emergency fund and not to funds allocated under the Second War Powers Act to the President's emergency fund by the Secretary of the Treasury.

It is possible that a technical argument might be made that under Title XI of the Second War Powers Act the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to allocate gifts only to appropriations and that the confidential portion of the emergency fund is not a separate appropriation and, therefore, not available for allocations of gifts. It is not believed that such a position is tenable, but it might be well to submit the problem in advance to the General Accounting Office and the Bureau of the Budget in order to avoid the possibility of questions arising in the future. This would be particularly advisable in view of the fact that no allocations appear to have been made to the confidential portion of the President's emergency fund.

The present procedure for handling conditional gifts is a simple one. The donor sends a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury specifying the purposes for which the gift is made. The Secretary deposits the money received or the proceeds of the property sold in a special deposit account called the "War Contributions Fund." Then the Secretary determines what appropriation will best effectuate the purposes of the gift and allocates the money to that appropriation. The transfer is made by means of an appropriation warrant.

The normal procedure for allocations to the President's emergency fund would be to put the money in the master account subject to allocation by the President. In this way the Bureau of the Budget would pass upon the desirability of using the gifts for particular purposes. In at least one instance this procedure has been modified. A conditional gift was accepted by the Secretary and, with the approval of the General Accounting Office, was allocated by the Secretary directly to the allocation previously made by the President to the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation instead of to the master account of the President's emergency fund. In this way the gift was turned over to the agency capable of effectuating its purpose without passing through the master account and without the approval of the Bureau of the Budget.

(initialed) R.B.

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MEMORANDUM

January 27, 1944

I called Berle this afternoon to press for action on the first press release of the War Refugee Board and on the proposed cable to the International Red Cross on feeding programs.

During our discussion Berle made the following general points:

- (1) Berle said that as peace feelers were received from the satellites the State Department was making it clear that the treatment of the Jews and other minorities by the satellites would be an important factor in the type of peace to which this Government will ultimately agree.
- (2) Berle regards Hungary as the outstanding place of safety today for the Jews in Europe and is willing to cooperate in efforts to get Jews from Poland and Czechoslovakia into Hungary.
- (3) Berle does not think we are going to get a substantial number of Jews in any of the neutral countries of Europe. He thinks that the movement of the Jewish population of Denmark into Sweden was an exceptional circumstance due in part to the limited number of Jews in Scandinavia and will not be duplicated. He mentioned the proposal which Brockbridge Long had put before the British of moving Jews into some of the deserted or semi-deserted Italian cities on the southern shore of the Mediterranean and said that the proposal was "still in the works". Berle said that most of the Jews in Europe will want to go either one of two places after the war, either to the United States or back where they came from. A few perhaps will want to go to Palestine.
- (4) Berle said ransom payments did not disturb him at all. He pointed out that the Treasury had been in the forefront in taking the position that ransom payments should not be permitted, but that he feels that the war has progressed to such a point that it will not be affected one way or the other by payments of ransom. Furthermore, he said payments of ransom would not even raise the price demanded by the Germans since the Germans already are demanding all the traffic will bear.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

/s/ J. W. Pehle

JWPehle:lbh

1/29/44

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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For report on Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration

SEE: MIDDLE EAST RELIEF AND REFUGEE ADMINISTRATION

000712

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1734 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

January 27, 1944

Miss Florence Hodel
Foreign Funds Control
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

At the request of Miss Flexner, I am sending you a Memorandum on the Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration. I hope this contains the information you want.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Helen M. Franc

Helen M. Franc

Attachments:
1 - Memo on MERRA

000713

NOTE ON THE MIDDLE EAST RELIEF AND REFUGEE ADMINISTRATION (MERRA)

MERRA is a somewhat loose organization, the exact powers and functions of which are hard to define. It dates back to 1941, when difficulties in communication between the Middle East and London led the British Government to appoint a representative or "Minister of State", who was in effect a member of the War Cabinet, with headquarters in Cairo, empowered to act on the spot for the Government. MERRA, responsible to the Ministry of State, was created as the agent of the British Government to deal with refugee problems in the Middle East. Its Director-General is Mr. W. T. Matthews and its Assistant Director-General is Mr. Cyril Pickard.

The principal work of MERRA to date has been the channeling of refugees. Although at the outset these included a large number of Poles, in the past year and a half the refugees have been almost entirely Greek, including some fifteen thousand from the islands of Samos, Chios, and Mytilene. MERRA has sole responsibility for the operation of a refugee camp at Moses Well on the Gulf of Suez. This camp was originally intended for transients en route to resettlement centers elsewhere; however, its population - some twelve to fifteen hundred - has for lack of transportation facilities become virtually permanent, although at various times some four thousand persons have been transhipped to Ethiopia, the Belgian Congo, Kenya, Yganda, and Tanganyika. After leaving the camp, the refugees are no longer the responsibility of the British Government, but of the Greek or other national governments concerned.

In addition to operating the Moses Well Camp, MERRA acts in an assistant or advisory capacity to several other camps in which it has an indirect interest. These include two reception camps, one for men and one for women, at Aleppo, Syria, which is the point of entry for all refugees coming through Turkey and moving southward; a permanent camp for the physically unfit at Souk-el-Gharb in the hills of Lebanon overlooking Beirut; and others at Haifa, Teheran, and Karachi. The Beirut and Aleppo camps, like that at Moses Well, have in the past six months assumed a permanent rather than a transient character. They are run by the Intelligence Corps of the British Ninth Army; expenses are charged to the Greek Government-in-Exile, to which the necessary funds are advanced by the British Government. The key personnel of the camps are British officers, aided by non-commissioned officers, frequently wounded soldiers; some personnel from voluntary agencies are also utilized. Food is furnished by the British Army and hence included certain available Lend-Lease supplies; other supplies are donated through such organizations as the American Red Cross, Greek War

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Relief, and the Society of Friends.

In July 1943, the Civil Affairs Branch of the British Army General Headquarters, Middle East, stated that pending the activation of UNRRRA it regarded MERRA as the authority responsible for the coordination of operations of voluntary societies interested in the relief of the civil population in the Middle East during the initial period of military occupation. MERRA has thus acted as liaison between the British Army and such organizations as the Cairo Council of Voluntary Societies for Balkan Relief, providing the Chairman and Secretary for this group. The Cairo Council, constituted in July 1943 of a group of voluntary agencies, has a dual program; to furnish medical services and supplies, and to recruit and train personnel for relief work. It has been requested by MERRA to collect data on personnel and services available from voluntary organizations and to recruit specific personnel for initial relief requirements. Although MERRA itself is a wholly British agency, the Cairo Council has an international character. It has stated that one third of the personnel it recruits will be from the national societies of the countries concerned (e.g. the Greek Red Cross, the Yugoslav Red Cross); one third from interested American agencies, and one third from British agencies.

At present, a training school for nurses is operated by the Greek Red Cross at Moses Well, and a school for the training of relief workers, largely from the Society of Friends, is located near Cairo.

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WAR REFUGEES

report

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There are several war refugees camps in Egypt operated by the Middle East Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, a British organization soon to become a part of UNRRA. The attitude of the Egyptian Government toward refugees is that all refugees are here on a temporary basis only and considered as being in transit. Before entering the country, refugees must be sponsored by some governmental agency, such as MERRA, which guarantees to take care of them and to transport them out of the country when the war is over.

The Legation has sent an aide-memoire to the Egyptian Government, asking for its cooperation as a member of the United Nations in the work of helping persecuted minorities. As an Arab state, Egypt will probably not agree to the permanent settlement of Jews in Egypt until the whole Arab-Jewish question in Palestine has been resolved. There will probably be no difficulty in obtaining permission for the entry of Jews into Egypt for duration residence in camps. Mr. Archer, the chief American UNRRA representative here, told me that if Jews or other refugees can be gotten out of occupied Europe UNRRA will find a way to take care of them. Refugees in considerable numbers are coming over from Yugoslavia now via the Italian mainland through the cooperation of the Partisans. There is a camp for them at El Shatt (near Suez) which now contains about 12,000 refugees, and it is expected that it will have 25,000 by the end of March. Large numbers of Greeks are escaping by the Aegian and Dodecanese Islands. I have enclosed a table showing the number of Greek refugees in various camps. I have also enclosed two reports on Polish refugees which may be of interest. I intend to get more information on the war refugee situation in the near future.

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GREEK REFUGEE STRENGTHS AS
OF DECEMBER 9th AS REPORTED BY M.E.R.R.A.

<u>ALEPPO & ATHLIS</u>	Constant movement of refugees in transit	
<u>SOUK EL GHANE</u>	.....	835
<u>MUSHRAT</u>	.....	5,000 approx.
<u>JERUSALEM</u>	.....	350 "
<u>MOSES WELLS</u>	.....	2,000 "
<u>CYPRUS</u>	.....	5,000 "
	(normal refugees)	
	(ex Dodecanese) recently arrived . . .	2,431 "
<u>ABYSSINIA</u>	Dire Dawa)	
	Addis Ababa	750
<u>TANGANYIKA</u>	(Kigoma).	513
<u>BELGIAN CONGO</u>	Total of	2,432

19,311

<u>STANLEYVILLE</u>	Bunia & Irumu	641
	Djadju	92
	Mahaji	130
<u>COSTERMANSVILLE</u>	Boni	175
	Lubero	166
	Uvira	138
<u>RHANDA URUNDI</u>	Kitoga	237
	Nyanea	185
<u>ELIZABETHVILLE</u>	Ruashi	487
	Shituru	231

000717

Translation of the Polish Minister Delegate's Report
on
Polish Refugees

In answer to your request for information on December 31st I wish to report that Polish Refugees evacuated to the Middle East, Africa, and Asia are cared for in two different ways:

1. Refugees (1800 people) evacuated to Palestine, most of them via the Balkans originally, receive monetary assistance as follows:

LP 12.00.0	monthly	per	person	
LP 33.00.0	for	a	family	of two
LP 33.00.0	"	"	"	" three
LP 40.00.0	"	"	"	" four
LP 47.00.0	"	"	"	" five or more

With this allowance, they meet all their subsistence expenses. However, in addition, the Government furnishes them periodically with clothing, medical and dental care. Restaurants serve meals at low prices. They also benefit from cultural and educational instruction in schools and libraries, such as educational courses, lectures discussion groups, etc.

2. On the other hand, refugees evacuated beginning in the spring of 1941 from Russia to Iran, and from there to British East Africa, Rhodesia, and India, received Government subsistence. They are gathered in refugee camps and receive living quarters, food, and to a certain extent clothing. Furthermore, the refugees living in camps receive a certain amount of pocket money. In the camps in Iran, this amounts to 180 rials monthly per person for those persons over 16

100718

years of age who are not regularly employed. Children under 16 years of age receive 90 rials a month. Pocket money increased since our last report, due to increased cost of living according to Polish Government. In India, this monthly allowance amounts to ten rupees per month for persons not employed, who are over 16 years of age, and 5 rupees per month for children from twelve to sixteen years of age.

In all camps refugees are required to perform all house-keeping duties. In India, the minimum hours per week for such work is twelve, while in Africa, the minimum is three hours per day.

Refugees working in East Africa on farms receive wages from one to one and a half shillings per day, in addition to their board and lodging in the camp. Specialists receive in addition to this basis subsistence, remuneration for work done, as follows:

Fireman in Bombay receive thirty rupees monthly
Chauffeurs receive from 75 to 150 rupees monthly

Specialists receive better pay. For instance, personnel on the transport which left in September last year from India to Mexico, received in addition to their food as follows:

Doctors - 220 rupees per month
Nurses - 100 rupees per month
Female teachers - 100 rupees per month
Nursery school aides - 65 rupees per month.

Unskilled workers on the same transport were paid a wage of 25 rupees per month.

In Iran, unskilled workers engaged by the Polish Legation

receive from 400 to 500 rials monthly. In addition, the Government furnishes food, clothing, lodging, medical and dental care. The skilled worker or specialist is paid better. The monthly wage of a nurse, public school teacher, and nursery school aid amounts to 800 or 900 rials. Head nurses and assistant doctors earn from 1200 to 1300 rials per month, and a doctor earns 2800 per month.

000720

Translation of Memorandum from Polish Minister
of State dated February 10, 1944

As a rule, all expenses for the upkeep of the refugees and the construction of shelter for them is paid by the Polish Government. An exception to this is a group of 400 refugees in North Rhodesia known as the "Cyprus Group" which is financed by the British Government, and a group of 500 children in India, supported by Maharajah Nawansharu.

All Polish administrative medical, hospital and educational personnel, are being paid by the Polish Government.

The cost of transporting refugees to their destination, as well as the expenses connected with the upkeep of transient camps is assumed by the British Government.

British personnel are engaged in the administration of the Polish Refugee camps; and the commandants of the camps and other administrative personnel are paid by the British Government.

In territories where Polish refugees are located the financial arrangements are as follows:

1. Palestine, Syria, Lebanon -- about 5000 refugees. All funds needed for the upkeep of the refugees are supplied by the Polish Government which remits for this purpose monthly allowances. At present, the amount remitted for this purpose is about 70,000 pounds monthly. This amount may be increased because of increases in the number of refugees due to demobilization of some of the Polish soldiers from active duty, such as invalids.

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3

2. Iraq -- About 10,000 refugees. The cost of upkeep of Polish Refugees in Iran at present amounts to 120,000 pounds monthly. This amount is advanced by the British Government which is then reimbursed by the Polish Government in London.

The British Government covers expenses connected with the transportation of refugees to Iran as well as to the transient camp at Ahwas and Karachi.

3. India -- About 4,000 refugees. The Government of India advances the cost of upkeep in refugee camps, settling these amounts later with the Polish Government in London. The average cost of the upkeep of refugees per month in India is about 34,000 pounds.

4. East-Africa -- About 16,000 refugees. Detailed information about the cost is not in our possession. The Governments of various colonies advance the needed supplies for the upkeep of our refugees submitting at a later date, an itemized statement. At this time, we estimate the expenses for this territory and about 100,000 pounds monthly.

Aside from the above mentioned amounts necessary for food and lodging for the Polish refugees, the Polish Government has expended a large amount for the purchase of clothing, as well as special foodstuffs (for children) and medical supplies.

Moreover, for certain definite purposes, i.e. educational help, and clothing for children, the Polish National Council in the U.S. contributes certain funds.

5. South Africa -- A camp for about 500 orphan children situated in Oudtshoorn near Capetown is being supported by the Polish Government. Local philanthropic organizations contribute certain assistance to this camp.

Summarizing: Polish refugees in all areas number 36,400 of whom all but 900 are financed by the Polish Government at about 330,000 pounds sterling monthly. The 900 are in Rhodesia and India and are financed by the British government.

100723

GREECE - PRICES (Food)

USAFIME intercept dated Feb. 15, 1944

Source : A refugee

Here are listed some of the chief food prices on the basis of 3,000,000 drachmas to one gold pound as of January 7, 1944.

Olive oil	450,000 drachmas per oke			
Bread	60-70,000	"	"	"
Vegetables	25-30,000	"	"	"
Dry Beans	120-130,000	"	"	"
Sugar	250-300,000	"	"	"
Meat	400,000	"	"	"
Small Fry (maridhes)	200,000	"	"	"
Fish	350,000	"	"	"
Corn	60,000	"	"	"
Wheat	70,000	"	"	"

The sub-source has had information since the beginning of January that the value of one gold pound has increased to 4,000,000 drachmas, and food prices have gone up in proportion. Ordinary people cannot afford to pay these extremely high prices, but the Red Cross "Popular Soup Kitchens" (laika sisitia) are improving every day, and now one can hardly say that people are dying of starvation.

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SEE: COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO U.S. MISSIONS

000726

COPY

LFR-703

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental Agency. (BR)

Lisbon

Dated February 14, 1944

Rec'd 6:30 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

468, February 14, 5 p.m.

Report received in Department's 10, February 14, 11 a.m. concerning War Refugee Board going forward in the next month.

I have brought the policy as expressed in the President's executive order to the attention of Secretary General of the Foreign Office who signified his agreement and sympathy with the principles thereof and willingness of Portuguese Government to continue its well-known liberal attitude toward refugee question along broad humanitarian lines. He explained that, of course, the question of refugees of Russian origin presented a special problem but he thought small numbers could be afforded transit through Portugal if included in group passports.

NORWEB

LMG

100727

sent 5:45

1/28/44

TO: Mr. Berle
FROM: Mr. Pehle

It would be appreciated if you would have the full text of the President's Executive Order of January 22, creating the War Refugee Board, and the press release issued by the White House in connection therewith, transmitted by cable or airgram to all diplomatic and consular officers.

(s) J. W. Pehle

JED
JEDuBois:ecr
1/28/44

see: cooperation with other gov. general instructions to US missions

JAN 26 1944

DISCUSSION OF CABLE TO MISSIONS RE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

During the discussions of the proposed cable among Mr. Charles P. Taft and Mr. Travers of the State Department and Mr. DuBois of Treasury, the State Department representatives made the following comments, among others:

Mr. Travers:

1. Stated that he hoped that he was going to have nothing further to do with refugee matters since they had been a terrible headache.
2. Stated that the British and Canadians apparently are upset by the establishment of the War Refugee Board and that it was quite possible that the Intergovernmental Committee would break up. He stated he understood that Mr. Myron Taylor had already resigned from such Committee. He further indicated that the Canadians had said that they would abandon the Intergovernmental Committee but upon questioning corrected himself to say that the Canadians had implied this.
3. Repeatedly referred to allegedly hairbrained schemes for refugee rescue and relief which had been presented by the private organizations in the field.
4. Stated that he could not see why the question of communication facilities was any business of the Treasury Department.
5. Stated that it was not possible for the State Department to give diplomatic status to the special attaches provided for in the Executive Order since such persons would not be accredited to any government.

Mr. Taft:

1. Stated that we have to be a little careful about our dealings with the various Jewish organizations which

000729

experience has shown fight among themselves and also frequently present impractical plans.

2. That the cable in question, according to consensus in the State Department, is one of the strongest that has ever been sent out and that the missions certainly will be shocked into action. It was also stated that some of the old people around the Department were somewhat troubled by such a cable. It was mentioned that the cable had been discussed with Mr. Dunn and Mr. Mackworth.

JBFRIEDMAN: ecr

~~SECRET~~

000730

JAN 26 1944

MEMORANDUM RE CABLE TO MISSIONS RE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

On Tuesday, January 25, 1944, at 4:00 p.m. Mr. DuBois and Mr. Friedman went to the office of Mr. Charles P. Taft in the State Department to examine the final draft of the cable to the various diplomatic missions prepared by the State Department upon the basis of the draft originally presented by the Treasury.

Mr. Travers of the State Department was in Mr. Taft's outer office and when the typing of the final draft cable was completed Mr. DuBois discussed the document with Mr. Travers. Before and during the reading of the document Mr. Travers made the following comments to Mr. DuBois:

(1) That he hoped that he was going to have nothing further to do with refugee matters since they had been a terrible headache.

(2) That the British and Canadians apparently were upset by the establishment of the War Refugee Board and that it was quite possible that the Intergovernmental Committee would break up. He stated that he understood that Mr. Myron Taylor had already resigned from such committee. He further indicated that the Canadians had said that they would abandon the Intergovernmental Committee but upon questioning corrected himself to say that the Canadians had implied this.

(3) Mr. Travers repeatedly referred to allegedly hair-brained schemes for refugee rescue and relief which have been presented by the private organizations in the field.

After reading the cable Mr. DuBois raised the following objections to it:

(1) One or two sentences had been inserted requesting the missions to report with respect to necessary private financial assistance and with respect to the organizations through

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which the work could be done. Mr. DuBois indicated that in his opinion it was not appropriate to discuss this matter in the first cable but that it should appropriately be left for subsequent discussion after the Board had met.

(2) The part of the cable relating to the use of the communication facilities by private organizations had been substantially changed in the sense that the missions were to transmit messages only if they were thought to be in harmony with coordinated and integrated programs effective to carry out the policy of the President's executive order. Mr. Travers indicated that one of the principal things they were trying to avoid was the possibility that time would be wasted in sending messages containing perfectly silly and futile suggestions and also that they wished to centralize the matter in Washington preventing the sending of messages to London and other places. Mr. DuBois indicated his view that this well might interfere with the Board's effort to get all possible information and stated that it was his opinion that the Board itself was the agency to determine the feasibility of various plans upon the basis of all information available. Mr. DuBois agreed that it was desirable for all such messages to be centralized in Washington. The alternative suggested by Mr. DuBois was that communication facilities should be made available for all appropriate messages in connection with the carrying out of the policy set forth in the executive order and the cable.

At one point in the discussion Mr. Travers stated that he could not see why the question of communications was any business of the Treasury Department, to which Mr. DuBois replied that the Treasury had been asked by Mr. Stettinius to read the cable and make such comments as it saw fit. Mr. Travers indicated that the language used was language approved by Mr. Stettinius and that he could not change it.

(3) Mr. DuBois inquired of Mr. Travers why there had been deleted from the cable "the Department is determined to do everything in its power to carry out this Government's policy", etc., substituting an instruction to the missions to do everything possible to effect the policy. Mr. Travers stated that this change was made in order to put the cable

in the usual State Department language and that in his opinion the State Department's form was even stronger than the other.

Prior to reading the cable, Mr. Travers had mentioned the fact that the order provides for the appointment of special attaches to diplomatic status who would travel around the various countries. He indicated that it was not possible for the State Department to give that diplomatic status to persons who were not accredited to any government. In this connection he mentioned that Mr. Ira Hirschmann had recently requested and been refused a diplomatic passport. Mr. DuBois pointed out that he did not believe that this was necessarily so since he, Mr. DuBois, had a diplomatic passport during his stay in North Africa although he was not accredited to any government and although there existed no government to which he could be accredited.

The above mentioned matters relating to the cable were then discussed with Mr. Charles P. Taft. In the course of the conversation Mr. Taft stated among other things:

(1) That we had to be a little careful about our dealings with the various Jewish organizations which as experience has shown fight among themselves and also frequently present impractical plans.

(2) That the cable, according to consensus in the State Department, is one of the strongest that has ever been sent out and that the missions certainly will be shocked into action. It was also stated that some of the old people around the Department were somewhat troubled by such a cable. It was mentioned that the cable had been discussed with Mr. Dunn and Mr. Hackworth (at one point Mr. Travers interjected that the Department itself would never have sent this kind of cable). Mr. Taft agreed to make the changes suggested by Mr. DuBois, i.e., deletion of material relating to financial questions and modification of the paragraph relating to communications.

At the end of the conversation Mr. Travers and Mr. Taft discussed the question of whether or not the cable should be sent in code. Mr. Travers raised the question of whether it was intended to make this document public and indicated that

if there was this possibility that he would prefer that the message be sent in code. Mr. DuBois indicated that so far as he knew there had been no intention up to the moment of making the cable public and indicated his view that the form of sending the cable was a matter for the State Department.

Mr. Taft was unable to get in touch with Mr. Pehle to discuss the changes in the cable and Mr. DuBois indicated that he would take responsibility for approving the cable in the form agreed upon by Mr. Taft.

JBFriedman:ecr
1/28/44

100734

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

January 28, 1944

State's cables containing instructions to the Missions re War Refugee Board were dated January 25, 1944, and numbered as follows:

London - 634
Lisbon - 200
Madrid - 207
Stockholm - 131
Bern - 251
Ankara - 68

The instructions were sent by airgram to all other Missions under date of January 26, 1944.

CC - Messrs. Pehle, Luskford, DuBois, E. H. Bernstein, Lessor, Friedman
Miss Hodel

PHodel:hd 1/28/44

*See correspondence with
Lester G. G. G. G.
in 5
memo*

100735

COPY

TELEGRAM SENT

January 25, 1944
Midnight

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental Agency. (BR)

Embassy
London.

634

The President has instructed the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. In an executive order issued January 22 the President declared QUOTE it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war UNQUOTE. The order established special governmental machinery for executing this policy. It creates a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. The Board is charged with direct responsibility to the President in seeing that the announced policy is carried out. The President indicated that while he would look directly to the Board for the execution of this policy, the Board would cooperate with the Intergovernmental Committee, UNRRA, and other interested international organizations. The President stated that he expected the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other governments in carrying out this difficult but important task. He stated that the existing facilities of the State, Treasury and War Departments would be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible. He stressed that it was urgent that action be taken to forestall the plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

You should do everything possible to effectuate this policy of this Government, bearing in mind that time is of the essence. You should cooperate closely with all public and established private agencies who are active in your area in this field, aiding them in the development of coordinated programs and in the effectuation of integrated measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of victims of enemy oppression, etc.

The communication facilities should be made freely available to these private agencies for all appropriate messages for carrying out the policy of this Government herein stated, keeping the War Refugee Board advised through the Department. You should give them every assistance in obtaining and verifying information.

You are requested to render an immediate report concerning the actual situation as it exists today in the country to which you are accredited. This report should include a full statement as to what is being done to rescue the Jews and other persecuted minorities from Hitler, including particularly (a) the extent to

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which these war refugees are permitted to enter the country to which you are accredited (b) the extent to which such country actually encourages and cooperates in their entry and (c) the extent to which such refugees are not able to enter such country because of the failure of such country to cooperate in their entry. This report should cover actual cases which have come to your attention involving refugees being turned back at the border and the reasons why such refugees were turned back. You should also report periodically on cases of this character which come to your attention in the future.

You should include in your report your recommendations as to what you feel this Government can do to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, including particularly what can be done to make the government of the country to which you are accredited cooperate more fully in carrying out this policy. Your report should cover any special obstacles which you feel are interfering with the rescue and relief of these victims and your recommendations as to what can be done to remove these obstacles.

You are requested to approach the Government to which you are accredited, explain the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order referred to above, and ascertain from such Government the extent to which it is prepared to cooperate.

Diplomatic and consular officers are instructed to do everything possible to carry out the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order. This cablegram has been transmitted by telegram or airgram to all diplomatic and consular offices.

Repeat to consular offices under your jurisdiction.

HULL
(ES)

CODE ROOM - Repeat to Missions at Lisbon as 200, Madrid as 207, Stockholm as 131, Bern as 251, and Ankara as 68.

840.48 Refugees.

FD:RKT:RS 1/15/44 WEA A-B

eh:copy

2-1-44

Distributed to: Secretary (Mr. E.M. Bernstein); Mr. D.W. Bell (Mr. Dietrich); Mr. Paul; Mr. White (Mr. E.M. Bernstein-Orig.); Mr. Luxford; Mr. Pehle; Mr. E.M. Bernstein; Mr. Glasser; Mr. Taylor; Mr. Ness

From Miss E. Hynes - Rm. 225

000737

23

100738

17
JH

January 25, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Points raised by Bergson:

1. Bergson emphasized the importance of the use of propaganda through short-wave broadcasting and possible leaflets to impress the German Government and its people, as well as the satellites, that this Government is prepared to do everything it can to rescue the Jews. He said that, if in addition we could show we meant business by rescuing several hundred thousand Jews, the satellites would fall in line.
2. Bergson said that the failure to recognize the problem publicly as a "Jewish" problem might not be important here but was very important in Germany and the occupied countries. He felt that the failure to mention the Jews in the Moscow Declaration on Atrocities was an act from which Germany could argue that the United Nations had no interest in the Jews.
3. He said that OWI was already broadcasting the story of the War Refugee Board to Europe and that this had been worked out with Jim Barnes of the New York office of OWI and James Warburg of the OWI office here.
4. Bergson said that, while Hitler had in his New Year's Day Declaration made it again clear that the policy of the German Government was to exterminate all of the Jews, the German newspapers were not carrying stories of atrocities being committed and that short-waving such stories to Germany would have appreciable effect.

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2/3/44

Copies to:

Mr. Pehle
Mr. Luxford
Mr. DuBois
Mr. Lesser
Mr. Friedman
Miss Hodel

JOSEPH C. HY

000741

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
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270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

5
TRB
FILING A
RE: 1/27 & 1/28
GUS.
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MOSES A. LEAVITT, *Secretary*

January 24, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle, Assistant to the Secretary
Foreign Funds Control
U.S. Treasury Department
Sloan Building - 12th and G Street
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I enclose for your information, copies of reports we received through our Lisbon office concerning the condition of Jews in Germany and in Greece.

The report about Germany was received from a man who escaped from Berlin on October 29th and arrived in Lisbon at the end of November 1943. The information with respect to Greece was obtained in a conversation with a gentleman passing through Lisbon, who had recently come from Athens.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:EK
encls.

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There are n
was dissolv
Half-Jews, t
Berlin

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EDGAR B. STERN, *New Orleans*
HENRY M. STERN, *Rochester*
HORACE STERN, *Philadelphia*
HUGH GRANT STRAUS, *Brooklyn*
MRS. ROGER W. STRAUS, *New York*
LEWIS L. STRAUSS, *New York*
FRANK L. SULZBERGER, *Chicago*
LEON C. SUNSTEIN, *Philadelphia*
AARON TEITELBAUM, *New York*
MORRIS C. TROPER, *New York*
JEROME I. UDELL, *New York*
F. FRANK VORENBERG, *Boston*
*EDWARD M. M. WARBURG, *New York*
MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, *New York*
*MAX M. WARBURG, *New York*
EUGENE WARNER, *Buffalo*
*DAVID M. WATCHMAKER, *Boston*
ADOLPH WEIL, *Montgomery*
FRANK L. WEIL, *New York*
HENRY WINEMAN, *Detroit*
MOSES WINKELSTEIN, *Syracuse*
*JONAH B. WISE, *New York*
DAVID P. WOHL, *St. Louis*
MORRIS WOLF, *Philadelphia*

† Serving in the Armed Forces of the United States

RECEIVED
FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL
TREASURY

100743

CONDITION OF JEWS IN GERMANY

November 30, 1943

There are no Jews in Berlin since April or May, when at that time the "Gemeinde" was dissolved and its affairs taken over by the "Gestapo".

Half-Jews, the so-called "Geltungsjuden" and children of mixed marriages are in Berlin and wear the yellow star.

My informant suggests that in Berlin live about 5,000 Jews in hiding, who are called "getauchte Juden".

The Jewish Hospital in the Iranische Strasse is still in existence for the "Geltungsjuden", and a few Jewish doctors and nurses, as well as "Geltungsjuden" are employed there. This Jewish personnel is, however, gradually used to accompany transports to Theresienstadt and then remain there.

Until November 1941 Jews in Berlin had only their "Kennkarte" with the famous "J" and most of them were working in all sorts of war factories. Shortly after the outbreak of the war, Jews between 16 and 60 years of age were made to work in these factories, regardless of previous professions and occupations and formed often 25% of the workers at a factory. They were advised and supervised by foremen, who were directed and supervised themselves by the "Juedisches Arbeitsamt", which then existed as a department of the Gestapo.

Jews had their ration cards stamped with a "J" and were allowed only certain hours to purchase their rations; they never have had "Kleiderkarten", or "Berliner Vorzugsausweise", which apparently were a kind of point system on which additional rations, sweets or other food was distributed.

In September 1941 the yellow star was compulsorily introduced and at that time the "Gemeinde" had to send out questionnaires to certain Jewish people in which all belongings, such as furniture, clothing, beddings, linen, china, etc. were to be registered. It seems that there was no system in the sending out of these questionnaires, but it turned out later, that those who had got them, were selected for the first transports of deportees from Berlin. These people were rounded up in their dwellings on a Thursday evening on October 13th, harshly treated and brought to the local "Polizeirevier", being allowed half an hour to dress and get ready (in presence of the Police) and to take with them small suitcases with whatever they packed. Next morning they were brought into the Levetzow-Strasse-Synagogue. The district was guarded by the Gestapo and relations and other Jewish people not allowed to see them. There was no indication what should happen to them. The "Gemeinde" provided hot meals and sandwiches. On Saturday, by lunch-time, 1,500 Jews were transported in lorries to "Verladebahnhof Grunewald".

The mother of my informant, who was amongst these first 1,500 Jews, was a wealthy Jewess, living near Charlottenburg Station. She managed to write from Lodz and received money and parcels up to March 1942, when a letter was returned with the indication "unbekannt verzogen". Her flat had been sealed on the evening of her being taken away; two Jewish men who had rooms let at her flat, were taken away at the same time.

(Over)

000744

On beginning of November, all the furniture, clothing, household articles were publicly auctioned. Jews in general and non-Jewish friends of the inhabitants of such flats were not allowed to take part, nor to buy anything.

My informant said that many gentile Germans objected to that attitude toward the Jews, especially against the deportations, but that they did not dare to do anything and if one or the other gave expression in excitement, when coming across such scenes, he was immediately arrested and put into concentration camps.

Such rounding up of a few thousand Jews and transports to the East, were frequently repeated and mostly with the same procedure, i.e. being taken away in the evening - since the war a curfew was imposed upon the Jews who had to be at home from 8 P.M. to the morning hours before they had to leave for work - spending the first night at the local Polizeirevier, gathered at the Levetzovstr. Synagogue, there they stayed a day and a half and brought to Verladebahnhof, Grunewald.

My informant describes Berlin, especially the S.W. - Zehlendorf, Wilmersdorf, Lankewitz, Dahlem, Schoenberg, Kaiserallee, Prager Platz, Bayrischer Platz - badly damaged by British bombing during August. The German population is suffering, but Hitler's prestige seems to be still very high. The population wishes the war to be over, but many are convinced that their suffering and the suffering of their sons in the army would have been in vain if they capitulated. They are afraid of the Russians.

My informant describes the reaction of the liberation of Mussolini upon the Germans, was a stir up of the moral.

Jews in factories were replaced by workers from the occupied territories whom they introduced into the work. Even high classified specialists could not be saved by their firms from deportation, though it was often attempted.

The workers, who work hard and long hours feel hungry, in the opinion of my informant. Black market exists and is largely frequented. Cost of live, as rations are concerned, went up by about 30% but enormous prices are being asked and paid for, for black market article: 500 grs. butter M. 80 - (the price of the same quantity rationed: RM 3,6; 500 grs. coffee RM 300.-.

There is much anagogism between the German population and the workers from occupied territories. Poles who do not want to become Germans and who were residents either in German territories until 1919, or in territories which Hitler incorporated into the Reich, and who did not apply to German citizenship, are specially marked with a "P" and given the lowest jobs.

Many Germans, though not publicly, ask each other why Jews were deported and foreign workers had to replace them and it seems they are regarded, more than the Jews were, as ill-elements.

This attitude seems to be rather general with the elder Germans, but cannot be applied to the younger generations, who was brought up under nazism. In August, the "Reichsvertretung" was taken over by the Gestapo. At that time, that quarter of the Kantstrasse, Zoo, were not destroyed by air raids, and, in no way, the closing down of the "Reichsvertretung" can be attributed to external circumstances.

My informant suggests that Theresienstadt is made the centre of Jewish deportees above 60, or 65 years of age, and comparatively few younger people who are there, in their capacities of doctors, nurses, constitute the exemption of that rule. In addition, too, younger people, Kriegverletzte from the last war, were deported to Theresienstadt, instead of being sent to the East.

RECEIVED
FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE CONTROL
JAN 22 1945

000745

SITUATION OF JEWS IN GREECE

November 17, 1943

Mr. H. told us that up to February 1943, the about 40,000 Jews at Salonica were unmolested by the German authorities in occupation. At that time Athens was occupied by Italian forces.

In February 1943 the Germans summoned the Chief Rabbi and demanded a list of wealthy Jews. The Chief Rabbi told them that there were none. A fortnight later, Jews had to register their names and addresses and after another couple of weeks they all had to move into certain quarters and form the Salonica ghetto. Portugese, Spanish and Turkish Jews, i.e. citizens of neutral countries, living at Salonica, were advised by the German authorities to leave Salonica within 48 hours but transport was not provided and those of these Jews who could not manage to get away, were deported too. The Italian authorities did not allow the Germans at Salonica to deport Jews who were Italian citizens or of Italian descent, and 350 of them approximately, were taken by the Italians to Athens and to places where Italian authorities were in control.

In April already began the deportation from the ghetto at the rate of about 1,000 to 1,500 a transport a week.

Mr. H. informs us that since August 1943 none of the 40,000 Jews of Salonica have remained in the ghetto; all deportations left by train to the East.

He describes the attitude of the Greek population of that town as sympathetic to the German action of creating the ghetto and even towards deportation. The attitude of the Italian authorities in occupation in Athens and the Greek population there towards the Jews was human and sympathetic. Only after the collapse of Italy and, in its consequence, the taking over by Germans, the position of the Jews in Athens worsened rapidly.

Mr. H's estimation is that 15,000 Jews were at Athens. The German demand for registration was followed by about 250 while the others did not register. A great number of Athenian Jews joined the Greek guerilla forces and left Athens. The procedure of the Germans in Athens started by summoning the Chief Rabbi and asking the list of wealthy Jews. The Chief Rabbi then disappeared and lives in hiding.

1/21/44

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Mr. Lesser
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MEMORANDUM

February 19, 1944

On Thursday, February 17, 1944, Morris Ernst had a small dinner at his home to introduce me to certain commentators and other persons interested in the problems of the War Refugee Board. The following were present:

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Ernst
Helen Reid of the New York Herald Tribune
Samuel Grafton
Quincy Howe
Russell Leffingwell
Sam Shore
Shaw of News Week
George Fielding Elliott.

I summed up briefly for the group the purposes and plans of the War Refugee Board and there was a long discussion of the problem and what can be done to meet it. The following comments were particularly significant:

- (1) We discussed the activities of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. The Committee was criticized by Sam Shore and praised by Samuel Grafton who said that the Committee followed the same propoganda tactics as the farm bloc with comparable success.
- (2) Several of the commentators were very interested in the psychological warfare problem of bringing pressure on the satellites. Quincy Howe suggested that we play up the good things about what the Hungarian and Swedish Governments have been doing and presumably will take this line in some of his radio comments. In particular he was impressed with the idea that certain German soldiers are now asking refugees for some evidence they can carry in their possession indicating that they have been humane in their treatment of the refugees.
- (3) Russell Leffingwell was very sympathetic with the War Refugee Board problem. He felt strongly that the problem of getting the endangered out of occupied Europe is the job of the American people and not just of the Jews in the United States.

100748

(4) Sam Shore felt that I had overemphasized the dissension between the Jewish groups and that he could do a lot to bring them together. I told him to go ahead on his own and do what he could and that as far as I was concerned I was going to work with the various groups separately unless they got together, which I doubted very much.

(5) George Fielding Elliott was very sympathetic although he did not contribute much to the discussion. He said afterward that he would be glad to do what he could in connection with the military.

After dinner we were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Pilpel. Harriet Pilpel is a partner of Greenbaum, Wolfe, and Ernst. Her husband is a representative of the JDC who is going to Lisbon for them and who we have just assisted in getting transportation.

After the dinner the Ernst's, Pilpel's, and I called on Dorothy Thompson and her husband and had a long discussion, particularly as to the psychological warfare aspects of the problem. Dorothy Thompson felt that this Government had never really appreciated the potentialities of the use of psychological warfare on the German people and emphasized the fact that the Germans are by nature sentimental and their sentimentalities can be taken advantage of if a proper approach is made. For example, she said that in broadcasting to Germany we should assume that the German people do not know of the atrocities against the Jews and do not agree with the actions of their Government. She said it is very important to make it clear not only that we are watching the Germans who commit atrocities, but we are also making note of the Germans who refrain from engaging in such activities. She seemed convinced that psychological pressure on the satellites is bound to be very helpful.

The following morning I called on Louis Dolivet of the Free World Association and had a short talk with him during which he summarized the meeting of the night before attended by Friedman.

JWP:mgt 2/19/44

(Signed) J.W. Peltle

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DIVISION OF
PRESS INTELLIGENCE
O.W.I.
Tempo V Bldg.

PH. ~~VM~~

SY. ~~WK~~

Herald Tribune
New York, N. Y.

101
DATE

P. SEP 15 1945

President Orders End Of War Refugee Board

Says Assigned Task Is Done
With Liberation of Europe

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14 (AP).— President Truman today dissolved the War Refugee Board composed of the Secretaries of State and Treasury, with William O'Dwyer, of New York, as executive director.

The board was established Jan. 22, 1944, to succor the persecuted minorities of Europe. A White House announcement said the "defeat of Germany and the liberation of Europe by the Allied armies terminated the specific task assigned to the board."

The President said the board, through representatives in the field and a small staff in Washington, had saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of victims of Nazi oppression.

Dewey Views U. S. as Haven

OSWEGO, N. Y., Sept. 14 (AP).— Governor Thomas E. Dewey believes the Federal government should give the refugees at the Fort Ontario emergency shelter "equal opportunities with other applicants for immigration."

Joseph H. Smart, former director of the shelter, who now heads the Friends of Fort Ontario Guest-Refugees, said today that Governor Dewey had expressed that view in a letter which also said:

"America must always remain the haven of the oppressed, particularly in these times when people have fought our enemies in their own homelands. Their plight calls for prompt and generous action by our own government."

Of the 982 refugees from seventeen nations originally brought to the shelter as duration guests, sixty-seven voluntarily have returned to their homelands or emigrated to other countries. Most of the remainder desire to remain in the United States but the final decision has not been made by immigration authorities.

DIVISION OF
PRESS INTELLIGENCE
O.W.I.
Tempo V Bldg.

PH. ~~VM~~

SY. ~~WK~~

Post
Washington, D. C.

140
DATE

P. SEP 15 1945

Truman Pleads For War Victims And Closes WRB

A plan for immediate rehabilitation of the innocent victims of Nazi oppression in Europe, and a humane, international solution of the problem of their ultimate resettlement was made by President Truman yesterday as he ordered liquidation of the War Refugee Board.

The President credited the board whose representatives were scattered all over the world with saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children, whom he termed survivors of Nazi savagery.

The board was created January 22, 1944, to rescue and bring relief to the persecuted minorities of Europe in imminent danger of death at the hands of the Nazis because of race, religion or political belief. Mr. Truman said its specific task ended with the defeat of Germany and the liberation of Europe by the Allied armies.

The board, composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, maintained a small staff in Washington. William O'Dwyer served as executive director.

000751

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 14, 1945

My dear Mr. O'Dwyer:

The President today signed an Executive Order entitled "Termination of the War Refugee Board," a copy of which is enclosed.

Very sincerely yours,



M. C. LATTA
Executive Clerk

Honorable William O'Dwyer,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

000752

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 14, 1945

President Truman today signed an Executive Order providing for the dissolution of the War Refugee Board. This Board was established on January 22, 1944, to rescue and bring relief to the persecuted minorities of Europe in imminent danger of death at the hands of the Nazis because of race, religion or political belief. The members of the Board were the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, and the Executive Director was William O'Dwyer. The defeat of Germany and the liberation of Europe by the Allied armies terminated the specific task assigned to the Board.

The President stated that the War Refugee Board, through representatives in various parts of the world and a small staff in Washington, had succeeded in saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent victims of Nazi oppression. He stressed the important part played by private American relief agencies in financing and executing many of the projects of the unique and difficult life-saving mission undertaken by this Government, through the Board, as a part of the total war against Nazi principles. He pointed out, however, that the tremendous effort which went into the saving of these lives will have been in vain unless steps are taken for the immediate rehabilitation of these survivors of Nazi savagery, as well as for a humane, international solution of the problem of their ultimate resettlement.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

TERMINATION OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States it is hereby ordered as follows:

The War Refugee Board, established in the Executive Office of the President by Executive Order No. 9417 of January 22, 1944, is hereby terminated.

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed (1) to liquidate all of the activities and obligations, and wind up all of the affairs, of the Board as rapidly as practicable, and not later than June 30, 1946; (2) to utilize therefor such of the personnel, property, records, and unexpended appropriations of the Board as may be necessary; and (3), consonant with applicable law and regulations and at such times as may be appropriate, to separate the personnel from the service of the Board and to dispose of its property and records.

This order shall become effective at the close of business September 15, 1945.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

THE WHITE HOUSE,

September 14, 1945.

000753

War Ref Bd - (20)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

March 21, 1944

TO Mr. J. W. Pehle

FROM Ward Stewart

Subject: Need for Further Clarification of Organization and Supervision

In my memorandum of February 25 I suggested the urgent need of action to clarify the working relationships of the principal War Refugee Board staff members. Considerable progress has been made since that time largely through the development of informal understandings among the persons concerned, but there is still a great deal of uncertainty, not to say bewilderment, as to just how you want some of the staff to operate, with the result that there is all too much waste motion, duplication of effort, and in a few cases, sheer idleness for lack of proper direction and supervision.

The problem arises not so much in connection with the group that has worked with you before as it does in connection with those who came in from the outside with only a vague understanding as to what their duties and supervision were to be. I think most of this group feel, justifiedly or not, that they are frequently being left on the periphery, sort of "outside looking in," rather than participating actively in the development of the program. The extent of this feeling, of course, varies among the individuals and with respect to any one individual it changes from time to time. Without any reflection whatever upon the persons concerned the situation is in my judgment becoming serious with respect to Mr. Akzin, Miss Laughlin, Mr. McCormack, and Mr. Standish, all highly qualified specialists whose prime concern at this time is to have a chance to do a real job with the War Refugee Board along whatever lines you may lay down.

I am consequently repeating my recommendation of last month that some official grouping of functions and personnel be established very soon, or at the very minimum that every staff member be told unequivocally by you (a) whom he reports to, and (b) what duties he is to perform. Such action cannot help but have a healthy and invigorating effect upon a staff which is already showing some frayed edges.

Ward Stewart
Assistant Executive Director
(Management)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000754

WAR REFUGEE BOARD PROGRAMS AND POINTS

1. Organization

A. Head Office

1. Location of head office in Treasury.
2. Need for several deputy and assistant directors as well as Assistant to Director.
 - (a) Give associates appropriate titles and office facilities so that they can relieve Director of heavy burden of interviewing important men and organizations in field.
 - (b) Free Director from problems of administration so that he can focus on:
 - (1) Adoption of programs worked out by staff and private organizations.
 - (2) Obtaining cooperation of agencies of this Government by direct dealings at top level.
 - (3) Negotiations with foreign governments.
 - (4) Important Public Relations problems including the job of harnessing all of the organizations involved into one team behind the Board.
3. Need for specially designated State, Treasury and War Department representatives to be assigned to the Board.
 - (a) Liaison with Agencies represented so that they can operate as trouble shooters within such agencies.
 - (b) Authority to speak for respective Departments on most matters so that clearance of projects, etc., can be speedily accomplished. *prop. to
EAO
public
dept.*
 - (c) Serve at staff level and not be involved in W.R.B. operations except to the extent that their respective departments are directly involved.

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4. Need for specially designated F.E.A., War Shipping, etc., representatives (same points as those discussed under 3)
5. Daily Staff meeting to coordinate staff and operations and to pass on policy and program proposals.
 - (a) Include operating staff, Department representatives and in appropriate cases specialists on problems to be raised.
 - (b) Each member report significant developments, conferences, plans, etc.
 - (c) Special staff assignments for next day covered.
 - (d) General purpose would be to permit each member of staff to devote bulk of day to his own special assignments with a minimum of intra-office consultation and then achieve over-all coordination in evening.
 - (1) Save Director's time.
 - (2) Save having to detail two or three top assistants to one assignment to insure coordination.
 - (3) Show up man who is failing to carry his full burden.

B. Field Offices

1. Designate at once acting representatives for each strategic capital.
 - (a) Place someone already in area in job until permanent replacement can be located.
 - (b) Prepare instructions and guides for such representatives now so that they can proceed with work now.
 - (c) Designate one man to leave at once to give temporary attaches personal account of developments and what we expect.
2. Proceed at once with recruiting of permanent field staff.
 - (a) Bring them into Washington to see how we operate, and get acquainted with staff and get the "feel" of what we expect to do.
 - (b) Give them at least one top assistant so that frequent personal contact with Washington will be possible.

LIST OF IMMEDIATE PROJECTS

1. Transit visas for people who have entry permits and visas for Ecuador or Peru.
2. A transit group visa for 50 people who can be evacuated from Portugal and Spain to Canada.
3. Visas for French children.
4. Feeding refugees in Transnistria by purchase of food in Rumania - distribution by International Red Cross.
5. Evacuation of children from Bulgaria and Rumania to Turkey by boat across the Black Sea.- money and boats are needed for this operation.
6. Military (AMG) from Italy and North Africa - no visas necessary.
7. Additional shipping facilities to evacuate more people from Spain to Palestine.
8. Evacuation of Jews from Poland into Hungary.
9. Evacuation of Jews from Transnistria into Rumania and from Rumania into Turkey.

000757

TO: Mr. White

FROM: Mr. Pehle

I would appreciate it if you would arrange to have some of your people get information for me on the following items:

1. The approximate number of Jews presently in (a) France and the Lowlands, (b) Poland, (c) Czechoslovakia, (d) Rumania, (e) Transnistria - Spain, Hungary.
2. Methods of transportation available from (a) France into Spain; (b) France into Switzerland; (c) Poland into Hungary; (d) Rumania into Bulgaria and Turkey.
3. Food and medical supplies in Switzerland, Spain, Turkey, the Middle East, liberated Italy, and North Africa.
4. Housing and water facilities in Tripoli, Cyrenaica, Benghazi.

100758

TO: Mr. White

FROM: Mr. Pehle

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2. Methods of transportation available from (a) France into Spain; (b) France into Switzerland; (c) Poland into Hungary; (d) Rumania into Bulgaria and Turkey.
3. Food and medical supplies in Switzerland, Spain, Turkey, the Middle East, liberated Italy, and North Africa.
4. Housing and water facilities in Tripoli, Cyrenaica, Benghazi.

000759

ACTION TAKEN1. OFFICE

Left Foreign Funds Control in charge of Assistant Director.

Operating from temporary space in Main Treasury on first and second floors.

2. PERSONNEL

The following people have been assigned to work full time on the program:

J. E. DuBois
Ward Stewart
Lawrence L. Lesser
Joseph B. Friedman
Florence Hodel

A. F. Luxford and E. M. Bernstein are devoting a considerable amount of time to advisory work.

3. ORGANIZATION

An organization chart has been prepared and is presently under study.

4. MEETINGS

An afternoon meeting has been scheduled for every day for the purpose of discussing developments and coordinating the work being done by the above-named people.

5. INTERVIEWS

Conferences have been held with the following people:

Miss Caroline Flexner
Mr. M. A. Leavitt of the JDC
Mr. George Warren of the State Department
Miss Ferrier of the International Red Cross
Mr. Harry Schulman of the American Jewish Congress

6. DOCUMENTS

Press Release.
Cable to Legations giving detailed instructions.

7. EVACUATION PROJECTS

Children from France into Switzerland.

A study has been made of the laws and regulations governing the issuance of visas and the entry of persons into the United States.

A cable is being drafted from State to Bern making assurances that the United States will issue visas to 5,000 children in Switzerland or to children who may hereafter get to Switzerland.

Instructions to the Consular officials in Switzerland to issue up to 5,000 visas to children under 16 who may be in Switzerland or hereafter arrive there, and to renew or re-issue such visas if any of them expire before they can be utilized by the children to whom they have been issued.

000151

ACTION TAKEN1. OFFICE

Left Foreign Funds Control in charge of Assistant Director.

Operating from temporary space in Main Treasury on first and second floors.

2. PERSONNEL

The following people have been assigned to work full time on the program:

J. E. DuBois
Ward Stewart
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6. DOCUMENTS

Press Release.
Cable to legations giving detailed instructions.

100762

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100753