I am attaching herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 29 to June 3, 1944.

[Initialed] J. W. F.

Attachment.

FH:lab 6/2/44
My dear Mr. Secretary:

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Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.V. Fehle

J.V. Fehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State.

Enclosure.
JUN 9 1944

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Mr. Louis Bean,
The Bureau of the Budget,
Room 435,
Department of State,
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosures...
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Honorable Myron C. Taylor,
Department of State.

Enclosure.

J. W. Pehle

Original signed

J.W. Pehle

June 9, 1944

MINister:agr 6-6-44
TEMPORARY HAVENS FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES

For some time now we have been exploring the possibility of establishing in this country temporary havens for European war refugees. On several occasions Secretary Morgenthau and the Executive Director have met with the President to discuss the matter. The President has indicated that he is deeply interested in the development of such a measure, and we are now working out the details of such a program.

Since early April, when the matter of "free ports" for refugees was first publicly proposed by newspaper columnist Samuel Grafton, there have been numerous indications that the establishment of such havens would meet with a favorable public response. Resolutions or statements in support of temporary havens have been adopted by the American Friends' Service Committee, the National Committee Against Persecution of the Jews, the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the National Farmers' Union, the International Labor Office and the Convention of the Diocese of Washington of the Protestant Episcopal Church, among others. An urgent appeal signed by former Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York and a committee of 72 other leading Americans has been addressed to President Roosevelt and to the governments of all the United Nations. This appeal, which was signed by the Governors of 16 States as well as by members of Congress, educators, clergymen, businessmen, labor leaders, and authors, declared temporary havens for refugees in this country to be a "moral obligation." In addition, we have received letters from some 250 individuals warmly supporting the proposed havens.

The prompt transfer of refugees from such "gateway" countries as Italy, Turkey, and Spain, with their limited facilities, to temporary havens elsewhere will not only pave the way for the escape from enemy territory of additional thousands of intended victims of the Nazi executioners; it will also demonstrate to the German, and to the world at large, that the policies and recommendations of this Government are being implemented by equally bold and concrete action.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH ITALY

Current military developments have increased the importance of the potential escape route not only of refugees from
Yugoslavia itself, but of refugees from the other Balkan countries and from Hungary through Yugoslav territory. The desperate plight of the Jews in Hungary and indiscriminate slaughtering by the Germans in the Balkans have made the expansion of this route all the more urgent.

Because of the limited facilities in southern Italy, however, Allied Military Forces have not been able, generally speaking, to encourage the escape of such refugees across the Adriatic to Italy. According to information reaching us, refugees have been arriving in Italy from Yugoslavia through their own efforts at the rate of some 1000 per week, and the problem of caring for such refugees has considerably burdened military authorities. In fact, we were advised that the facilities for the care of refugees in southern Italy became so overtaxed that the military authorities had decided to take steps to actually discourage the escape of further refugees to that area. We immediately discussed the matter with the Army, UNRRA, FEA and the President. The President indicated that under no circumstances should the entry of refugees into Italy be discouraged. Accordingly, appropriate instructions were sent to the military authorities in North Africa. In addition, the Board arranged for $50,000 to be sent to the Yugoslav Partisan Relief Committee in Bari for the specific purpose of facilitating the flow of refugees through Yugoslavia to Italy.

Temporary Havens for Refugees escaping through Italy

Since the crux of this matter is finding suitable places to which these people can be removed so that the flow of refugees need not in any way be discouraged or impeded, we are vigorously exploring a number of possibilities in addition to the temporary refuge to be afforded a limited number of refugees in the United States.

As many as possible of these refugees will be moved to camps in the Middle East. Toward this end, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is making every effort to supply sufficient medical and other personnel.

The President has suggested the possibility that some of these refugees might be taken to Sicily. Cyprus was suggested by the President as another possible haven. Accordingly, we have asked Robert Murphy and Board Representative Ackermann in Algiers to explore these possibilities carefully. Murphy and Ackermann have also been asked to investigate the possibility of a substantial expansion of refugee facilities on the Italian mainland.
While we do not consider it desirable to bring refugees from Italy to Camp Lycantey at Fedhala since all of the accommodations of that camp are to be made available for refugees being evacuated through Spain, the possibility of establishing other centers in French North Africa for refugees from Italy is under consideration. Murphy's recommendations on this score have likewise been solicited.

Insofar as Jewish refugees are concerned, we hope to move as many as possible to Palestine without delay. In this connection, in the case of Turkey the British have adopted the policy that all Jews escaping into Turkey from the Balkan countries will be permitted, after a preliminary security check, to go to Palestine. Once in Palestine, these people are placed in camps, where another security check is made by the British. If found satisfactory, they are gradually released as legal immigrants to Palestine against the current half-yearly immigration quota.

Since the application of a similar policy in the case of Jews now in southern Italy would make possible the prompt removal of such refugees to Palestine, we have asked Ambassador Wingate in London to ascertain at the earliest possible moment whether the British Government will cooperate by granting Palestine certificates to Jewish refugees reaching Italy and by facilitating their prompt removal to Palestine.

For some time we have been pressing the British to cooperate with us in the joint establishment of temporary havens in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. This proposal first arose in the course of the Bermuda Conference in April of 1943. Upon our recommendation, the British have repeatedly been approached over the past few months on this score, but without any results to date.

Board Representative for Italy Named

Permission has been granted by the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Theatre for the appointment, for territories adjacent to Italy, of a Special Representative to be attached to AGC Headquarters. In view of the importance of having an accredited Board Representative authorized to act in Italy, we are advising the War Department that we propose to authorize Leonard Ackermann, our Special Representative for the Mediterranean Area, to serve in this capacity.
RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN

While assurances of "warmest support and sympathy" have not been lacking, we have received little active cooperation to date from the British in connection with refugee rescue and relief. The failure of the Foreign Office to respond to our proposal that havens of refuge be set up on a cooperative basis in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania is a case in point.

The Ministry of Economic Warfare has continued to voice concern over our licensing of rescue and relief operations, particularly International Red Cross purchases, in enemy territories. In response to our proposal that Palestinian immigration certificates be authorized for certain child refugees reaching Switzerland from France so as to permit them to enter Palestine within the total allowed under the White Paper, the Foreign Office in effect declined on the grounds that, in the absence of any direct representations on the part of the Swiss Government to either the British or the Intergovernmental Committee and in the absence of any permission from Vichy to the Swiss with respect to exit permits, our proposal was "entirely hypothetical."

There is, of course, in the British Government no really comparable agency whose function it would be to cooperate with us in concrete measures. While the absence of a comparable agency does not necessarily preclude active cooperation any more than the establishment of such an agency would automatically guarantee it, our experience with the British to date suggests that this absence of even the framework for cooperative action has been a real stumbling block.

SITUATION IN HUNGARY

Minister Johnson has advised us from Stockholm that German authorities are reliably reported to have evacuated all Jews from the southern and northern frontiers of Hungary and to have concentrated them in ghettos in various communities.

An urgent memorandum outlining suggested methods of rescuing Hungarian Jews from annihilation has been addressed to us by the American Chapter of the Religious Emergency Council of the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain. This memorandum points to a recent report appearing in the New York Times from the Times correspondent in Istanbul, confirming previous advice as to the intentions of the Hungarian regime and its Nazi cohorts. "Baths" or gas chambers are reportedly being prepared to slaughter not only the Jews of Hungary but also large numbers of refugees of the Jewish faith from Poland and other Nazi-held lands who have found asylum within Hungary's borders.
Because of the limitations of underground channels, it was urged that Turkey be approached with a view to her permitting the entry of all genuine refugees, to be housed there in temporary camps, if necessary, under supervision of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

The memorandum also urged that the Apostolic Delegate in Washington be approached with a view to enlisting the aid and cooperation of the Vatican in certain specific rescue operations. It was suggested that, as a result of Vatican pressure, the authorities in Budapest might be influenced to permit a gradual exodus of Jews.

According to a report from Minister Harrison in Bern, Hungarian authorities are reportedly considering a memorandum said to have been prepared and submitted by Jewish leaders, proposing that Jews in Hungary be exchanged against Hungarian prisoners of war in Russian hands and against Hungarians residing in overseas countries. This proposal allegedly involves the creation of a mixed commission, including representatives of the Hungarian Government, the Jewish Agency in Hungary, and the International Red Cross, which would be requested to aid in the exchange.

In a cable to Ankara we have asked Ambassador Steinhardt to consider the advisability of directly or indirectly approaching the Hungarian mission there, or other personalities in Turkey, along the lines of Ira Hirschmann's talks with the Romanian Foreign Minister, as a result of which the Romanian Government agreed to facilitate the emigration of Romanian Jews.

Assistance from the Vatican Requested

In a cable from this Government to the Cardinal Secretary of State, we have called to the attention of the Holy See the recurrent reports that present authorities in Hungary are planning to slaughter the 600,000 Jews in that country. We have indicated that while this Government has warned the authorities and the people of Hungary of the material consequences that will follow the perpetration of such inhumane acts, we believe it to be both timely and fitting that they also be reminded of the moral values involved and of the spiritual consequences that must flow from indulgence in the persecution and mass murder of helpless men, women and children. In view of the great numbers of persons in Hungary professing adherence to the Roman Catholic Church, we have suggested that the Holy See may find it appropriate to express itself on this subject, by
radio and through the Nuncio and clergy in Hungary, as well as through a representative of the Holy See to be despatched to Hungary for that particular purpose.

Warnings Shortwaved to Hungary

In a stirring statement by members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, shortwaved to Hungary by the Office of War Information, the people of Hungary have been asked to use every means possible to protect the lives of their fellow citizens of the Jewish faith. Hungarians were asked to make note of authorities aiding the Nazi executioners as well as of those authorities who extend mercy, until such time as the guilty and the innocent can be adjudged.

According to a report from the U. S. Embassy in London, the British Broadcasting Company has now, in response to our request, broadcast warnings to the Hungarian Government against the continued deportation and persecution of Jews.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH TURKEY

Word has reached us from Jerusalem of the safe arrival in Haifa of the group of 317 refugees who reached Turkey recently on the "S.S. Maritza." Included in this group were a few Jews who escaped from Hungary early in May and who were able to forward to us the names of certain Hungarian officials actively associated with the Germans in the Jewish persecutions.

"Maritza" Reported to have Sunk

Ambassador Steinhardt subsequently advised us of the receipt of an unconfirmed report that the "Maritza" foundered at sea while on route to Constanta on her return to Istanbul after disembarking her load of refugees. "In view of the recognized unsavouriness of the "Maritza,"" Steinhardt said, "we must regard it as an act of Providence that the ship did not sink while carrying refugees en route to Istanbul."

Negotiations re the "Bardeland."

We have been advised by Minister Johnson and Senator Representative Olsen that the Swedish Foreign Office has continued to be extremely cooperative in response to our request that the "S.S. Bardeland" be chartered for evacuation operations in the Black Sea. The Swedish Minister in Berlin has now been instructed to ask the Germans for permission to divert the vessel and to grant it safe-conduct,
and the Swedish Red Cross has agreed to act as charter party on our behalf. Reassurances have been obtained from the master of the "Bardaland" to the effect that the vessel is sufficiently seaworthy to make the voyages proposed. After the proposed refitting in Istanbul to provide sanitary accommodations and lifesaving and kitchen equipment, it is estimated that the vessel will be able to accommodate between 400 and 500 persons.

In a cable to Ankara we have asked Ambassador Steinhardt to make all arrangements for the selection of refugees for embarkation, for their exit permits, and for assembling them at the port of embarkation, as soon as the likelihood of the "Bardaland's" sailing for Constanza becomes more concrete.

"Tari" Negotiations Continue

Minister Harrison has reported from Bern that in the course of his discussions with the Swiss Foreign Office he was advised that the Swedish Government had supported the International Red Cross request for German safe-conduct of the "S.S. Tari," but that its request had "not been productive nor had the German Government received it well."

Ambassador Steinhardt has advised us from Ankara that, despite the fact that the Director General of the State Steamship Lines has been pressing him on the matter for some time, to date he has been able to avoid signing the charter party for the "Tari" and thereby incurring a daily penalty for its idleness pending advice as to whether or not German safe-conduct is to be granted. Inasmuch as the matter has now been referred to the Turkish Foreign Minister, Steinhardt reported that he had explained to the latter the various reasons for his failure to sign the charter party thus far and had also asked about the prospects for a German safe-conduct. The Foreign Minister replied that although he had made four requests of German Minister von Papen for a safe-conduct for the "Tari," he was now convinced that it would not be forthcoming, particularly in view of the current severe strain on political relations between Turkey and Germany.

Steinhardt then proposed that the "Tari" be allowed to sail for a Bulgarian port without a German safe-conduct for the purpose of bringing refugees to Istanbul, where they might remain on board the vessel pending their gradual transportation to Palestine. The Foreign Minister replied that Steinhardt's proposal would be taken under consideration if he could secure a Bulgarian safe-conduct and permission for the "Tari" to enter a Bulgarian port. Steinhardt reported
that he has therefore asked the International Red Cross representative in Ankara to press the Bulgarian Minister for such a safe-conduct and for port-entry permission.

Although Steinhardt anticipates that the reply on these two points may be delayed as a result of the recent resignation of the Bulgarian Cabinet, the reply is expected to be favorable unless Bulgaria's two Black Sea ports are under complete German control.

Steinhardt also advised us that the Turkish Foreign Minister clearly implied in the course of their discussion that even though a contract has not yet formally been signed, he considers the "Tari" to be under charter to the Board. Eventual difficulties in determining the amount to be paid are therefore anticipated. In this connection, Steinhardt asked that we indicate to him the maximum obligation we are prepared to incur for the "Tari," whether or not the vessel is ultimately available.

In response to Steinhardt's request, we are indicating that we are anxious to retain the right to use the "Tari," as long as there is any reasonable hope that it may ultimately be permitted to sail. Steinhardt is being authorized to use certain funds previously transmitted to hold the "Tari," if necessary.

The reportedly sympathetic attitude of the Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm is also being relayed to Steinhardt for his confidential information, in case Steinhardt should find it desirable to enlist the support of the Bulgarian Minister there in connection with this or any other project requiring the cooperation of the Bulgarian Government.

Re-Chartering the Adana Ships

We have been advised by the State Department that the British are requesting this Government's views concerning appropriate conditions to be proposed to the Turkish Government in consideration for the renewal of the charters of five British cargo vessels now in Turkish service and known as the Adana ships. These vessels are said to have been chartered to Turkey originally for the on-shipment of military supplies from Egyptian ports to Turkey, but the stoppage of military shipments to Turkey has nullified the purpose for which the ships were originally chartered.

We have recommended to the State Department that, as one condition to the re-charter of the Adana ships, the Turkish
Government be required to make available either the "Tari" or a similar vessel for repeated refugee evacuation voyages across the Black Sea to a Turkish Black Sea port — with German safe-conduct, if possible — whenever in the opinion of the British and American Ambassadors to Turkey such voyages become feasible. The re-charter of the Adana ships would constitute fulfillment of any Turkish demand that a substitute passenger vessel be made available to the Turks while the "Tari" is engaged in refugee evacuation operations.

As another condition to the re-chartering of the ships, we have proposed that the Turkish Government agree to cooperate with Ambassador Steinhardt and with the British Ambassador to Turkey in making arrangements for additional evacuation operations across the Black Sea, without German safe-conduct to be carried on by small boats such as the "Maritza," the "Milka" and the "Belladotta," carrying relatively small numbers of passengers. We would, of course, agree to arrange for the payment of a reasonable charter-hire for the use of any such Turkish vessels made available, and to assume responsibility for the maintenance and support of refugees in transit or awaiting transportation in Turkey.

Because of the necessity of using for military purposes all passenger ships available to us, we are also recommending that if the Turkish Government insists upon a guarantee of replacement in kind in the case of loss of any Turkish vessel made available in the future for evacuation operations, consideration should be given to using the re-chartering of the Adana ships as a basis for requesting the Turkish Government to waive such a guarantee in the future, unless the Turks are willing to make a similar guarantee to replace any of the Adana ships that may be lost.

In a cable to Ambassador Steinhardt in Ankara we have outlined this situation in detail. We have indicated for Steinhardt's guidance, however, that if the giving of a guarantee in kind appears absolutely necessary in order to obtain the use of Turkish vessels, we will seriously consider giving such a guarantee in connection with future voyages of the "Tari" or any other Turkish vessel, because of the urgent humanitarian considerations involved. Steinhardt has also been advised that our original guarantee to replace the "Tari" in the event of loss on its first voyage still stands; the conditions we now propose refer to subsequent voyages of the "Tari" and any other Turkish vessels made available for evacuation purposes.
According to a memorandum from a Legal Advisor of the Greek Foreign Office transmitted by our Embassy at Cairo, approximately 60,000 Jews were involved in the German deportations to Poland last year from Greece. "There are serious reasons," the memorandum continued, "to fear that most of those who were shifted to Poland in sealed railway trucks (horse carriages) were exterminated when they ultimately reached their destination." Following the collapse of Italian administration in Greece in the fall of 1943, when the Germans began to enforce further anti-Jewish measures, most of Athens' 8,000 Jews are said to have found refuge in Christian homes, where many of them are still hidden. It was estimated that 20,000 to 25,000 Jews still remain in Greece.

Because of recent German orders threatening death to any Christians caught aiding Jews and offering informers fifty percent of the property belonging to any Jew exposed to the Gestapo, it has become increasingly difficult for the impoverished Jews of Greece to remain in hiding, according to this memorandum. The sending of funds as soon as possible, and the wide distribution of such funds, were urged as measures of more immediate importance than any expansion of the routes of escape by sea.

Minister Norweb has indicated to us that the matter of Sephardic Jews in Greece claiming Portuguese nationality, to whom we have urged that Portugal extend recognition and protection, has been referred by the Portuguese Government to its representative in Athens "for attention."

A report from Ambassador Steinhardt in this connection stated that the Turks have not, to his knowledge, refused assistance to any Jewish refugees arriving in Turkey from Greek Islands or from Greece itself, without visas. It was stated that, on the contrary, thus far Turkish authorities have promptly provided transportation from Izmir to Palestine for those refugees who have reached Turkish soil.

**EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SPAIN**

In the absence of any reports from Ambassador Hayes outlining more cooperative action in connection with our program, we propose to send a representative to Spain in order to review with Hayes the situation there. The services of James G. McDonald have been obtained for this mission. McDonald is to have diplomatic status while in Spain and will be attached to the Embassy as a Special Attache.
According to a report from the Lisbon representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 25 additional adults recently reached safety in Spain and are now being cared for by the JDC. It was also reported that seven additional children have reached Barcelona from France, bringing to 13 the total number of child refugees under JDC care in Spain, and making a total of more than 200 newcomers there of all ages. While the number of children reaching Spain clandestinely was expected to increase, it was pointed out that under present circumstances large numbers of child refugees cannot be anticipated there because of physical and other difficulties involved.

Ship's Sailing to North Africa Scheduled

Board Representative Ackermann has advised us from Algiers that because of failure to give advance notice of the sailing date, a ship scheduled to have sailed from Spain on May 20 bearing refugees for Lyautay was unable to depart. June 7 has been set as the new tentative date for the ship's departure. Ackermann also indicated that he is now at work on a major problem that has recently arisen in connection with Camp Lyautay -- that of securing Army aid for guarding the camp and protecting its property.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH PORTUGAL

According to a report from the Lisbon representative of the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference transmitted to us by our Embassy in Lisbon, there remained in Portugal at the beginning of May only between 1,000 and 1,500 refugees, exclusive of Spanish Republicans. In April, it was stated, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee had on its relief rolls some 600 persons, the Unitarian Service Committee about 250, the Quakers about 70, and the Catholic War Relief Services 80, these totals being exclusive of Belgian, British, Dutch and Polish refugees being supported there by their own governments.

The JDC is said to have sent 250 refugees to Palestine from Portugal in February. Another 150 refugees left Portugal aboard the Portuguese "Serpa Pinto" in March, bound for the United States and Canada.

"Serpa Pinto" Reaches U. S. Safely

According to the New York Times for June 1, the "Serpa Pinto," carrying still another load of refugees bound for the United States and Canada and sailing under a safe-conduct from the belligerent powers, was stopped in mid-Atlantic by gunfire from a German submarine. After the passengers were forced to spend nine hours in lifeboats on threat of torpedoing the vessel, the submarine departed, leaving the
ship and passengers unharmed, except for the accidental deaths of three of the 385 persons aboard and the taking of two American citizens as prisoners. The "Serpa Pinto" subsequently reached Philadelphia safely. The refugees bound for Canada were taken under guard from the ship and put aboard a sealed train for the last lap of their trip, without technical entrance into the United States.

EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE TO SWITZERLAND

According to a report from the JDC representative in Lisbon, during the past three months 500 child refugees from France succeeded in reaching safety in Switzerland.

Ambassador Long has reported from Guatemala that the Guatemalan Government, in response to our proposal, has agreed to accept from Switzerland up to 100 child refugees under conditions previously outlined. It was indicated that Guatemala would prefer that, insofar as possible, these children be selected from among French and Belgian refugees.

RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS

Reports reaching us indicate that a number of nationals and persons claiming the nationality of the United States and of other American republics may be held in camps situated in German and German-controlled territory to which the protecting powers and the International Red Cross have no access, or else access of the most restricted kind. Included in this category are the camps of Belsen-Bergen near Hannover, Bergau near Dresden, Dora or Tost in Silesia, and Drancy near Paris.

In a pending cable to Minister Harrison and Board Representative McClelland in Bern we are asking that the attention of the Swiss Government, as the protecting power of the United States, be drawn to this situation. The Swiss are to be requested to take steps to insure supervision by them of any and all camps and other establishments in German and Germany-controlled territory in which persons holding or claiming United States citizenship are held. We are asking Harrison and McClelland to stress the fact that this Government has taken the view that, insofar as persons in danger of persecution are concerned, claims of American citizenship are to be honored by Germany until notification has been received that the claim has been rejected by the country in whose name the document was issued or whose nationality was claimed.

A similar request with respect to such camps and establish-ments is to be addressed to the International Red Cross.
In a circular communication to our Missions in the various Latin American countries we are outlining the steps being taken in this connection. Our Missions are being asked to call this matter to the attention of appropriate authorities in the various Latin American countries, so that they may take parallel action.

According to a communication from our Embassy in Haiti, the Haitian Minister for Foreign Affairs proposes to ask this Government to transmit to the Spanish Government, in support of our own representations, a request that the Germans in turn be asked to accord all persons holding Haitian passports the rights of Haitian nationals until the receipt from the Haitian Government of a report on the validity of the passports in question.

In response to this report, we are indicating that since Switzerland is the protecting power of Haitian interests in enemy territory, the Haitian approach should be made through Switzerland rather than through Spain.

Ambassador Frost has reported that the Paraguayan Foreign Minister has now orally but officially confirmed the fact that his Government approves negotiations by this Government for an exchange of persons from American countries or holding passports of such countries, including Paraguay, and now detained in German concentration camps.

In a later communication Frost advised us that the Paraguayan Foreign Minister is extremely anxious to obtain a reply concerning the possibility of including in the proposed exchange two girls, native Paraguayan citizens, residing in the province of Hannover, Germany, as well as certain Dutch nationals related to a prominent Paraguayan.

We have been advised from Colombia that the Polish Minister there has, in accordance with the State Department's suggestion, indicated that he would refrain from sending his proposed notes to the Governments of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador. It was indicated that he planned to refer the matter back to his Government, which might in turn consider State's suggestion that the Polish Government consult the Inter-American Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense on the matter.

COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

It was recently proposed by Director Price of the Office of Censorship that we should assume the responsibility, from
a security standpoint, for the transmission to and from various foreign points of all messages having to do in any way with refugees. Under the procedure proposed, Censorship would pass incoming and outgoing messages only with our specific approval.

In a conference held with Mr. Price on June 2, Executive Director Fehle pointed out that by its nature the Board is not primarily a regulatory body, nor are we the only Federal agency concerned with refugee matters. Executive Director Fehle stated that while we deal only with those private agencies which we believe are sincerely interested in rescuing and helping victims of enemy oppression and which we believe to be thoroughly reliable, we do not have intelligence reports on the addressees and senders of such messages, nor do we have facilities for such reports. In order to insure cooperation to the greatest extent possible, however, it was agreed that we would designate someone to serve as liaison officer with Censorship, to examine selected communications and to indicate whether we have any special concern with them. This person would also be in a position to furnish Censorship with any information in our possession pertaining to individuals or situations referred to in the communications involved. Ultimate responsibility, from the security point of view, will remain with Censorship.

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director
My dear Mr. Malin:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 22 to May 27, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Patrick Malin,
Vice Director,
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,
C/o American Embassy,

Enclosure.
My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 28 to May 27, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Fehle

J.W. Fehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State.

Enclosure.
My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 23 to May 27, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehl
J. W. Fehl
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.
Dear Mr. Bean:

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Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle
J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Bean,
The Bureau of the Budget,
Room 436,
Department of State,
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.
Dear Mr. Taylor:

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Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,
Department of State.

Enclosure.
Secretary Morgenthau

Mr. Pehle

I am attaching herewith a copy of
the report of the War Refugee Board for May 22
to 27, 1944.

(Initialed) J. W. P.

Attachment.

FH:lab 5/31/44
My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 22 to May 27, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,
John G. Winant,
The American Ambassador,

Enclosure.
SITUATION IN HUNGARY

Ambassador Steinhardt has advised us of the receipt of a letter from the representative in Ankara of the International Red Cross, in reply to our request for information concerning the Jewish situation in Hungary. The International Red Cross stated that, in response to our inquiry, it has now instructed its Budapest representative to keep its representative in Ankara informed as to Hungarian developments. According to a preliminary report from Budapest, lack of transportation and the impossibility of obtaining Hungarian exit visas are virtually insurmountable difficulties in the rescue of Jews from Hungary. This report repeated previous advice to the effect that the Jews of Budapest have been placed in concentration camps near industrial centers on the outskirts of the city, in the hope that Allied planes will hesitate to bomb such areas.

According to a report from the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, in response to our recent cable, the Jewish Agency there has indicated its belief that only 12 to 15 persons are still under arrest in Rumania for aiding Jews to escape. The name of one Hungarian official allegedly involved in the Hungarian persecutions has been forwarded by the Jewish Agency as its only information along these lines to date. In a recent DNB report received by the Agency it was stated that up to April 25 over 300,000 Jews from the war zone had been interned.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS

A. United Nations

1. Great Britain

Upon our recommendation, clearance from the London Blockade Committee has now been obtained with respect to two proposals on the part of the American Friends Service Committee involving the purchase in neutral countries of foodstuffs to be dispatched for the relief of particularly needy displaced persons and refugees in France. This clearance, to which the Foreign Economic Administration also lent
its support, is based on the condition that the proposed purchases in Portugal and Spain be subject to the usual controls as to kinds of goods procured and firms or intermediaries dealt with, and on condition that the proposed exports from Switzerland comply with current instructions to our Legation at Bern. Appropriate licenses are to be issued permitting the transfer of $25,000 to the American Friends' representative at Lisbon and $25,000 to their representative in Switzerland. Distribution of the foodstuffs purchased is to be handled by an associate organization in France under International Red Cross supervision.

Through our Embassy in London we have been furnished with a copy of a letter from the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, asking confirmation of MEF's understanding that under the terms of Treasury licenses covering refugee rescue and relief operations, we are authorizing the expenditure of hard currencies in occupied countries only when it is "strictly necessary to secure assistance in effecting actual rescues, and that it is not authorized for the purchase of relief supplies in enemy territory." MEF also indicated that it would appreciate being informed of any general instructions sent Bern in connection with the procedure to be followed in the future concerning purchases made in Switzerland from remittances approved by us.

2. Yugoslavia

Through Ambassador MacVeagh in Cairo we have been advised of a communication from the Royal Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which agreement is expressed with the refugee policy of this Government. It was stated that Yugoslav diplomatic representatives and other organizations have received instructions to give all possible aid to Allied and international bodies concerned with war refugee questions.

B. Neutrals
1. Portugal

In a cable from Minister Norweb in Lisbon we have been informed that the representative in Portugal of the American Polish Relief Council has applied to his committee for additional funds to finance the sending of relief supplies to Poland. Board Representative Dexter has recommended that we approve increased remittances in the event the Relief Council in turn makes such an application.
2. Sweden

Board Representative Olsen in Stockholm has raised the question as to what concern we will have with the problems of bringing immediate relief to European refugees when hostilities cease. Numerous Swedish organizations are said to be engaged in such post-war planning, and the Swedish Government itself is reported to have appointed a commission and made a large appropriation in connection with promoting plans for immediate post-war action. Olsen stated that the Swedish Government is obviously interested in what this Government is planning along similar lines and would like to cooperate.

In response to this inquiry, we are advising Olsen that while the Board itself has no assigned jurisdiction in this particular field, our military authorities, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and the Intergovernmental Committee have all had discussions and made plans along these lines.

C. Latin American

1. Mexico

In a despatch from Mexico City Ambassador Messersmith has reported that to date no official reply has been received from the Mexican Foreign Office in response to the Embassy's memorandum of March 24 soliciting, in general terms, Mexican cooperation in war refugee matters. Messersmith again indicated his reluctance to approach the Mexican Government with a request for affirmative collaboration beyond the issuance of a general declaration on refugee policy.

In connection with our efforts to induce Latin American countries to guarantee visas for child refugees reaching Switzerland, Messersmith stated that he has not approached the Mexican Government because he fears that the answer to such a proposal "made in this way at this time" would be negative. Messersmith bases this fear on an informal conversation with the Minister of Foreign Relations, on the financial straits in which the Mexican Government reportedly finds itself at the moment and on what he describes as personal knowledge of the lack of facilities for the accommodation of such children.

Messersmith concluded with the observation that "so far as refugees are concerned, the Mexican Government is not in a position to collaborate for the present."
reiterated his belief that it would be inadvisable to urge
any specific measures on Mexico.

RELATIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

A. Approach to Germans concerning Unassimilated Civilian
Interned

Minister Harrison has transmitted to us the text of a
letter received from the President of the International Red
Cross in response to our proposal that the International Red
Cross attempt to obtain from the German and satellite gov-
ernments assurance that Jews and other persons detained, interned
or otherwise confined in Axis territory would be accorded
treatment equal to that of civilian interned. The Interna-
tional Red Cross response maintained that steps of the kind
proposed would go far beyond the "limits of their traditional
capacity" and that the governments to whom such a request
might be addressed would inevitably view the proposal in
that light. It was also pointed out that in provisions of
international agreements, the International Red Cross has
only a slender basis upon which to found its humanitarian
activities, and is therefore dependent upon the good will
of belligerent states. The International Red Cross felt
that it might thus lay itself open to the objection that it
was trespassing upon internal concerns of state should it
attempt to act on behalf of certain categories of persons
considered by the state concerned to be subject exclusively
to its domestic legislation.

In response to our request that the International Red
Cross at least press for an assurance of equal treatment
to the extent that interned persons would be permitted to
receive packages under International Red Cross supervision
on the same basis as civilian interned, the International
Red Cross declined on the ground that such a proposal would
be viewed by Germany and the satellite governments in much
the same light.

In connection with the civilian war relief work to which
the International Red Cross feels compelled to confine it-
self, it was stated that encouraging results have been achieved.
According to the International Red Cross, it was largely due
to our support a short time ago of proposed feeding projects
that urgently needed relief activities could be undertaken
in certain countries.
B. Supplies for Relief Programs

We are cabling Minister Harrison and Board Representative McClelland in Bern for additional information in connection with the proposal made to us by the International Red Cross that stockpiles of relief supplies be built up in Switzerland, to be drawn upon as opportunities arise for their dispatch to relief centers. More specifically, we are inquiring as to what assurances there are that such stocks will benefit unassimilated groups exclusively, and as to the names of camps where such programs could be undertaken with the usual distribution guarantees. We are also asking for estimates of the number of standard food parcels and clothing parcels that could be shipped monthly through existing Intercross facilities.

RESQUE AND RELIEF PROJECTS

A. Evacuations from Spain

According to a report from the representative in North Africa of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, transmitted by the U. S. Consulate in Casablanca, 38 recently arrived refugees are now well settled at Camp Lyauty. At the same time it was reported that a ship was ready to proceed to Spain to embark a group of approximately 500 refugees destined for North Africa.

Another report from the U. S. Embassy in Madrid indicated that 221 French refugees sailed from Algeciras for North Africa early in May, bringing to 906 the total number of such refugees evacuated from Spain since the beginning of the year. It was estimated that approximately 500 French refugees remain in Spain, with new arrivals crossing the frontier at the rate of about 10 a day.

B. Evacuation to and through Portugal

Reports we have received from Portugal indicate that there may be a conflict between the operations of the World Jewish Congress and the Joint Distribution Committee in their efforts to rescue child refugees from enemy territory. We are therefore sending James H. Mann, Assistant Executive Director of the Board, to Lisbon for a short visit of inspection, to confer with Board Representative Dexter and with representatives of both the World Jewish Congress and JDC. An attempt will be made in the course of this visit to obtain better coordination in the activities of these two organizations, thereby insuring more effective cooperation with the Board's program.
C. Evacuation to and through Turkey

We have advised Ambassador Steinhardt of our proposal that, in the event the Swedish Government permits the use of the "S.S. Bardaland" in evacuation operations in the Black Sea area, the vessel put in at Istanbul to be fitted with the necessary passenger accommodations. Steinhardt has been requested to suggest an alternative arrangement if the proposed refitting operations are not satisfactory to the Turkish Government.

We are also indicating to Steinhardt that Istanbul rather than Haifa would be the final destination of the proposed voyage of the "Bardaland." Such a final destination is proposed on the basis of urgent recommendations on the part of a representative of the War Shipping Administration, who suggested that obtaining safe-conduct from Constanza to Haifa would not only be extremely difficult but would be certain to entail delay. We are advising Steinhardt that this representative was also of the opinion that the alterations necessary to prepare the "Bardaland" for the short run between Constanza and Istanbul would be relatively simple and quickly installed, particularly in comparison to the alterations that would be necessary to prepare the vessel for the run between Constanza and Haifa. The latter run, we were advised, would call for greater attention as to the minimum comfort of the passengers and would also mean that fairly extensive feeding and sleeping facilities would have to be installed. It was suggested that many more, perhaps even twice as many passengers could be carried on the shorter run, particularly if weather conditions were such as to permit the carrying of passengers on the open deck.

D. Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France to Switzerland

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has thus far remitted $600,000 under its original license issued in January in connection with evacuating child refugees from France to Switzerland. Upon our recommendation, Treasury has now renewed this license for an additional six-month period and has authorized the remittance of another $50,000 for these operations.

We have been advised by our Embassy in the Dominican Republic that the Foreign Minister there has informally indicated that, since the Dominican Republic has no mission in Switzerland, it is his intention to send a note to our Embassy in the Dominican Republic requesting that the Swiss
Government be informed by our Legation in Bern of the Dominican Government's intention to accept from 1,000 to 2,000 child refugees. It was also indicated that the proposed note would suggest that this Government accept responsibility for the actual issuance of the visas.

E. Evacuations to Italy and the Mediterranean Area

Board Representative Ackermann has reported from North Africa that the continued evacuation of Yugoslav refugees to Italy depends on their continued removal to the Middle East or other areas. Although the Middle East is said to have agreed recently to accept an additional 14,500 refugees, this acceptance was on condition that the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration supply additional medical personnel. In order to avoid impeding the flow of refugees to places of safety, Ackermann has asked that we urge UNRRA to obtain the needed personnel immediately.

F. Latin American Passports

According to a cable from Minister Harrison in Bern, the Swiss Government has indicated that the matter of the interned removed from Vittel was discussed by the Swiss Legation in Berlin during a recent visit to the German Foreign Office. Information said to have been received in Berlin confirms previous advice to the effect that the Gestapo is proceeding with a careful examination of the identity papers of citizens of American republics interned at Camp Vittel and at Camp Compiêgne. It was stated that internees able to furnish satisfactory proof of their nationality are not disturbed, while those unable to do so are removed from the camps.

Minister Harrison was also advised that the Swiss Consulate at Paris in a report to the Swiss Foreign Office, had confirmed the fact that 163 persons were removed from Vittel. Harrison has asked the Swiss Foreign Office to endeavor to furnish a list of the 163 persons deported, along with an indication of their alleged citizenship claims. A list was also requested of persons at Vittel whose documentation status is such as to lead to the belief that they may be treated in a similar manner.

1. Colombia

In response to the report from our Embassy in Colombia that the Polish Minister there proposed to address a note to certain Latin American governments calling for the
issuance of a declaration concerning the recognition of passports held by internees, the State Department has

cabled its belief that such an approach might be embarrassing
to other American republics. State indicated its feeling
that the Polish government should first take up this matter
with the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense
at Montevideo, with a view to obtaining a recommendation
supplementing a resolution already adopted by the committee.
Our Embassy has been requested, however, to make it clear
that this Government is thoroughly in sympathy with the
Polish Minister's objectives, and that strong representations
on behalf of the individuals in question are being made by
this and other Governments.

2. Bolivia

In a communication from the U. S. Embassy in Bolivia
growing out of an unofficial discussion with the Bolivian
Minister of Foreign Affairs, we have been asked to forward
all available information with respect to Jews in Axis
territory said to be in possession of Bolivian identification
documents.

3. Cuba

In a cable from Havana Ambassador Braden has informed
us that he has been advised by the Cuban Ministry of State
that the Cuban Embassy in Madrid is being instructed to make
urgent representations in support of our approach to the
Spanish Government with respect to the return of the refugees
deported from Vittel.

We have been advised from London that, in response
to our request, the British Minister at Havana has been
instructed to assure the Government of Cuba that the recog-
nition of Cuban passports issued to refugees in countries
under enemy control has the approval of the British Govern-
ment.

4. El Salvador

Ambassador Thurston has advised us from San Salvador
that the Salvadorian Minister for Foreign Affairs has re-
ported having addressed a note to the Spanish Minister
there in support of our proposed exchange negotiations with
Germany, and with respect to the protection in the interim
of all persons holding passports issued in the name of El
Salvador. The Spanish Minister is said to have acknowledged
receipt of this note, and Madrid has presumably been duly
informed.
5. **Guatemala**

We have been advised by Ambassador Long in Guatemala that, in response to our proposal, the Guatemalan Foreign Office has requested the assistance of our Embassy there in transmitting to the Government of Switzerland, as the protecting power, a request that there be granted to all persons in Axis territory possessing Guatemalan documents or claiming Guatemalan nationality the fullest protection and rights. The Guatemalan Government has indicated that it is requesting such protection because of the humanitarian considerations involved, but reserves the right to investigate each case later and to reject any persons whose nationality cannot conclusively be proved.

6. **Haiti**

We have cabled our Embassy in Haiti to inform the Haitian Foreign Minister of this Government's disappointment over the failure of Haiti to support representations looking toward the protection of the lives of internees in Axis territory. We are also asking that the Haitian Government be advised that Ecuador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Venezuela have already expressed themselves as being in full accord with us on this matter, and that other Latin American countries concerned have given indications that they too will support our position.

Our Mission there is also being requested to approach Haitian authorities again with the request that the German Government be asked to honor all documents issued in the name of Haiti until advised to the contrary by the Haitian Government; that any adverse determinations of the validity of such documents be postponed until the claimants reach places of safety; and that our proposed exchange negotiations be supported by Haiti.

7. **Paraguay**

Ambassador Frost has advised us that, according to the Paraguayan Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs, a note has now been despatched to the Spanish Charge d'Affaires at Asuncion for transmission to the German Government, admonishing the Germans to respect the rights of internees holding Paraguayan passports.

Frost also transmitted a copy of a note to the Paraguayan Foreign Office from the Polish Minister at Buenos Aires, requesting protection for 52 Polish Jews confined in
Gamp Vittel and for one confined at Camp Compiègne. This note stated that the persons in question need not necessarily be accepted for entry into Paraguay, since they hold Palestine certificates. The Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs is said to have indicated that, as in the case of the approaches previously made by us in this connection, Paraguay's position will be an affirmative one with respect to the Polish request.

4. Venezuela

Ambassador Corrigan in Caracas has advised us that the matter of requesting protection for the holders of passports issued in the name of Venezuela has now been taken up through the Swiss Government. A copy of the memorandum submitted by Venezuela to the Swiss Government in this connection has been forwarded to us.

In a later communication Corrigan reported having again conferred with the Acting Foreign Minister and having urged further urgent representations in Madrid by Venezuela in support of the representations made by our Embassy there.

5. Jews in Greece

In a pending message to Ambassador Hayes in Madrid, we are asking for comments and suggestions with respect to a conversation concerning Jews in Athens claiming Spanish citizenship said to have been held recently between Ambassador Franco in Lisbon and the representative in Portugal of the World Jewish Congress. Ambassador Franco is reported to have stated that Spain is not only not anti-Semitic, but that on the contrary, his brother, General Franco, is very interested in the Jewish question. Ambassador Franco is said to have assured the World Jewish Congress representative that steps would be taken without delay to obtain from the Germans the release of 400 Spanish Jews in Greece, along with permission for them to leave that country.

Ambassador MacVeagh has transmitted from Cairo certain recommendations made by the JDC representative there concerning the rescue of refugees from Greece. Among other proposals, the active cooperation of the British War Office and of the War Department was urged in accelerating the transportation of refugees between Greece and Turkey. Representations to neutral governments, especially Spain, Portugal, and Turkey, with a view to the more energetic protection of their own Jewish nationals, were also recommended.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
Dear Mr. Malin:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week of May 15 to May 20, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. V. Fehle

J. V. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Patrick Malin,
Vice Director,
The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,
c/o American Embassy,

Enclosure.
Effective with the report dated May 15-20, 1944 and with the approval of Mr. Pehle, a copy of the weekly reports is to be sent by diplomatic pouch to Mr. Patrick Malin, Intergovernmental Committee, London. Mr. Pehle has stipulated that individual copies are to be sent only after approval by me. My office will inform you each week of my approval.
MAY 30 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 15 to May 20, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,
John G. Winant,
The American Ambassador,

Enclosure.
Secretary Morgenthau

Mr. Peble

I am attaching herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 15 to 20, 1944.

(Initialled) J. W. P.

Attachment.

FH:lab 5/23/44
My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugees Board for May 15 to May 30, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

Enclosure.
MAY 27 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy
of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 15
to May 20, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle
J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,
The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.
Dear Mr. Bean:

I am pleased to send you hereewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 15 to May 20, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Bean,
The Bureau of the Budget,
Room 435,
Department of State,
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.
Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 15 to May 20, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. V. Fehle
J. V. Fehle
Executive Director

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,
Department of State.

Enclosure.
According to a communication from the American Consulate General in Istanbul, representatives of Jewish refugee organizations there report that reliable evidence is available to indicate that the extermination of Jews in Hungary along Polish patterns will begin in the near future. Certain suggestions advanced by these organizations in an effort to halt such extermination have been forwarded to us by the Consulate and are now under study.

In a cable from the U. S. Embassy in London we have been advised of the substance of a report received by the London office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine from that organization's headquarters in Geneva. This report detailed recent anti-Semitic measures in Hungary and urged a step that we have already undertaken, namely, that an attempt be made to warn the people and officials of Hungary by means of radio broadcasts against receiving confiscated property and against aiding in carrying out comparable decrees.

In pending cables to Madrid, Lisbon, Ankara, Bern, and Stockholm, we are indicating this Government's grave concern over measures looking toward the mass extermination of Jews in Hungary. Our Missions are being asked to request the authorities of the various governments to which they are accredited to obtain as soon as possible detailed information from their missions in Budapest concerning the treatment of Jews in Hungary. We are also asking Tittmann, our representative at the Vatican to approach Vatican authorities with a view to obtaining such information through the Nuncio and clergy in Hungary.

Since the lives of some 300,000 persons in Hungary may well depend on the restraint resulting from the mere presence of that country of the largest possible number of foreign observers, we are also asking our Missions in Madrid, Lisbon, Ankara, Bern and Stockholm to make representations designed to induce the various governments to which they are accredited to take immediate steps to expand their respective diplomatic and consular staffs in Hungary and to distribute such personnel as widely as possible throughout the country. Such
diplomatic and consular representatives would, it is hoped, use all means available to them to persuade individuals and officials to desist from further barbarisms.

In another cable to Minister Harrison and Board Representative McCallum in Bern we are asking that the International Red Cross be advised of the persistent reports reaching us with respect to the systematic mass extermination of Jews in Hungary. Harrison and McCallum are being asked to convey to Interross the urgent hope of this Government that the special delegation previously requested will be sent to Hungary immediately. Failing this, we are asking that Interross be advised of our conviction that an immediate enlargement of the Interross delegation in Budapest and throughout Hungary, especially in the localities in which Jews are being concentrated, is an elementary humanitarian obligation of that organization.

SITUATION IN SLOVAKIA

Minister Harrison has advised us from Bern of a report reaching him from Bratislava to the effect that the civil administration of eastern Slovakia has now been placed under the jurisdiction of the Slovak War Minister. This report also indicated that military authorities are deporting Jews from many declared military areas in Slovakia.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS

A. United Nations

1. Belgian Government-in-Exile

According to word received through our Embassy in London, although the Belgian Government-in-Exile has already instructed all Belgian missions to cooperate fully in our refugee rescue and relief operations, the Belgian Foreign Office has indicated that, in response to our recent request, it will communicate again with its Legation at Lisbon in order to insure complete cooperation on the part of the Belgian Convention there in connection with the evacuation to Portugal of refugees from occupied territories.

2. India

In a communication from our Mission in New Delhi it has been suggested that in view of the fact that the Indian Government recently forwarded to us a somewhat guarded statement of its refugee policy, it would be inappropriate
at the moment to propose that India now issue a declaration of policy similar to that made by this Government upon the creation of the Board. Instead, it was suggested that inquiry might be made as to whether, in case the liability for 6,000 Poles suggested in the Indian Government's statement does not materialize, India would be prepared to accommodate a comparable number of other European refugees.

3. China

The Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs, in response to the approach made by our Embassy in Chungking, has now formally pledged the complete support of the Chinese Government in our efforts to rescue and care for the victims of enemy oppression. Full protection was promised the Jews and other minority peoples of Europe "who have been rendered homeless and wandered to China." Particularly gratifying to the Chinese Government was the mention of rescue and relief for "other victims of enemy persecution," including the victims of Japanese oppression.

B. Neutrals

1. Switzerland

We have received a report from Board Representative McClelland in Bern with respect to his activities there. In addition to urging continued assistance to reliable relief organizations in Switzerland, McClelland suggested that if possible all publicity with respect to the progress made by such organizations be avoided, inasmuch as publicity might compromise the aid which neutral authorities, such as the International Red Cross and Swiss officials might be prepared to lend to rescue and relief operations from Switzerland.

According to McClelland's report, fairly close contacts have now been established with respect to the situation of refugees in France. McClelland indicated that he hopes to forward to us shortly reliable reports on the plight of Jews and other endangered refugees in Hungary and northern Italy, along with suggestions as to possible rescue and relief measures.

2. Portugal

Detailed reports have been received from Board Representative Dexter in Lisbon with respect to the refugee situation in Portugal, including an account of his dealings
with the Portuguese representatives of various private rescue and relief agencies. These reports are now being studied by the Board.

3. **Sweden**

In response to the report from Board Representative Olsen in Stockholm indicating a sympathetic attitude toward the Jewish situation on the part of the new Bulgarian Minister to Stockholm, we are forwarding a detailed account of the manner in which Board Representative Hirschmann in Ankara handled a similar situation with respect to both the Rumanian and Bulgarian Ministers to Turkey.

A direct approach by Olsen to the Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm is proposed, along the lines of Hirschmann’s interview with the Bulgarian Minister in Ankara. We are suggesting that in such an interview it could be pointed out that Bulgaria’s failure to reply to the telegram and memorandum sent by the Bulgarian Minister in Ankara, as a result of the Hirschmann interview, has created an unfavorable impression on this Government. It is being suggested that the Bulgarian Government again be warned that such action will be taken into account in the final reckoning, for it is indicative that Bulgaria has not yet determined to turn its back on the Nazi ideology of race and minority persecution.

We are also asking that the possibility of an orderly evacuation of refugees from Bulgaria to Turkey, by land and by sea, be thoroughly canvassed.

In another communication to Stockholm we are indicating that the matter of financing activities of the two Swedish relief committees reportedly in need of funds has been discussed with several American organizations. Olsen is being advised of the feeling here that relief and rescue activities with respect to refugees in Rumania, Slovakia, Hungary and southern France can most effectively be handled from Switzerland, to which large sums are already being remitted regularly from this country. We are indicating, however, that certain American organizations are interested in the possibilities of accelerating rescue and relief work from Sweden in Poland and the Baltic area, and that funds will be available from these groups for such activities. Olsen is being asked to report on the possibilities and the amount needed in this connection.
Reports have been received from two private organizations in Sweden, through Olsen in Stockholm, with respect to the situation of Jews in Sweden and with respect to the position of stateless refugees in that country.

Even before the war began, Sweden is said to have supplied refuge for some 3,000 Jewish refugees. In 1942 nearly half of Norway's 1,500 Jews are reported to have reached Sweden, the balance having been deported to Germany. In 1943 thousands of Danish Jews arrived.

Conditions in Sweden are said to make it possible for many refugees to obtain employment. Although the Jewish population has trebled in the past few years, little anti-Semitism is reported. The Swedish government is described as having "constantly shown great understanding and given extensive cooperation" to private Jewish relief societies. Many non-Jewish organizations are also said to have been of great assistance.

RESCUE AND RELIEF PROJECTS

A. United Yugoslav Relief

The International Red Cross has proposed that relief be provided for some 1,800 Jews interned in three camps in Yugoslavia. Inter Oops plans to distribute two food parcels per internee per month. Negotiations in Portugal as to the various prices and types of products have already begun and are expected to be concluded by an Inter Orops representative on the spot. Distribution is to be made through the Jewish community of Zabreg, which has aided these people to date and which apparently has access to the camps under Inter Orops supervision.

United Yugoslav Relief has been asked to finance the sending of these food parcels from Portugal, and we are now endeavoring to work out such arrangements.

B. Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France to Switzerland

We have been advised by Board Representative McClelland that by date, none of the 4,000 U. S. visas recently authorized by this government have been issued to refugee children in Switzerland. Further investigations on the part of the organizations responsible for children refugees in Switzerland, for the purpose of determining eligibility for overseas emigration, are cited as one reason for the delay. In
connection with efforts to obtain information as to the whereabouts of each child's near relatives, one question said to be causing concern is the advisability of certifying for emigration children whose parents have been deported to the east but who cannot at the same time be considered as deceased. It was indicated that in some cases the question therefore arises as to whether it would not be more advisable to plan for a waiting period after the cessation of hostilities, or until it can be determined whether the parents are still alive and in Europe. McClelland indicated that all children unaccountably eligible for emigration to the United States can begin receiving their visas as soon as the investigation of individual cases from this angle is completed.

Approximately 3500 refugee and emigrant children under 16 years of age, who arrived prior to 1944, are reportedly in Switzerland at the present time. McClelland stated that only about 700 to 1,000 of these children, however, can be considered as "abandoned" because of the death, deportation or disappearance of parents, and therefore eligible for part of the 4,000 U. S. visas. About 350 parentless Jewish children under 16 are said to have entered Switzerland clandestinely from France between January 1 and May 4 of this year. Approximately 125 more child refugees are reported to have entered Switzerland with parents or relatives. It is said to be progressively more difficult for rescue organizations to bring children within striking distance of the Swiss border, however, since all movements of persons in France are now strictly controlled. McClelland stated that, for this and other reasons, it is doubtful if the number of children eligible for U. S. visas and able to reach Switzerland by July of this year will reach 600.

Inquiry was made as to whether it would be possible, in view of the small over-all number of refugee and emigrant children now in Switzerland and apparently eligible for U. S. visas, to consider our visas as available to all of them, rather than just to those who have entered the country since January 1.

1. Cuba

In a pending agram to the U. S. Embassy in Havana, we are advising Ambassador Braden that, in response to his suggestion, we have obtained a commitment from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to guarantee the maintenance of 1,000 refugee children who may be admitted to Cuba in accordance with the suggestions we have made to various Latin American countries. Such a program would actually be carried out by the Havana Joint Relief Committee.
2. Dominican Republic

In a cable to the Dominican Republic, we have asked our Mission to convey to the Dominican Foreign Office this Government's sincere appreciation of the Dominican Republic's offer to accept and provide maintenance for from 1,000 to 2,000 refugee children up to 16 years of age. We have also requested that our Mission ascertain whether or not the Dominican Foreign Office has instructed its mission in Bern to notify the Swiss Government of this offer. In the event Switzerland has not formally been notified, we have asked that the Dominican Foreign Office be requested to do so.

3. Ecuador

In a communication from Ecuador it has been indicated that our proposal with respect to guarantying visas for refugee children escaping to Switzerland has now been referred by the Foreign Minister to the Ecuadorian President. A decision on the matter is expected shortly.

4. Chile

In a cable from Santiago we have been advised that the Chilean Foreign Office has likewise reported that consideration is being given to our suggestion that Chile guarantee visas for child refugees reaching Switzerland. A definite reply has been promised as soon as the necessary study can be made.

C. Rescue of Christian Refugees from France

In view of the urgent request of Hugo Cederberg, who conferred with Board Representative Olsen in Stockholm, the American Committee for Christian Refugees has, upon our recommendation, been authorized to send an additional $25,000 to Geneva for rescue work in France.

D. Evacuation to and through Turkey

Ambassador Winant has informed us from London of the receipt by the British Ministry of Economic Warfare of a notice from the Swedes to the effect that the "S.S. Bardalastra" is being withdrawn from Greek relief operations and on May 18 intends to leave Piraeus bound for Lisbon on her way back to Sweden. Winant reported that, because of our expressed interest in the use of the "Bardalastra" for purposes of refugee evacuation in the Black Sea area, acceptance
of the Swedish notice is being temporarily withheld by the British. Winant asked that he be advised immediately as to the status of our negotiations with Sweden with respect to the possible use of this ship, in order that the British may act accordingly.

In reply we informed Winant that although we have not yet succeeded in arranging for chartering the "Bardalanda," MEW should be urged to withhold acceptance of the sailing notice pending our receipt of a final reply from Stockholm.

In a pending cable to Stockholm we are indicating that if the Swedish Government agrees to charter the "Bardalanda," it would be our intention to have the ship proceed to Istanbul to be fitted with the necessary passenger accommodations. From Istanbul the "Bardalanda" would proceed to Constanza, where there are a large but unknown number of refugees available for evacuation. We have indicated our desire to have the "Bardalanda," after embarkation of refugees at Constanza, proceed to Istanbul, where we would accept responsibility for arranging for the passengers' care until such time as they could proceed by rail to Palestine. In this connection we have asked Olsen to forward information as to the number of passengers the "Bardalanda" can carry after being fitted with passenger accommodations.

We are also asking Minister Johnson and Olsen whether they consider it more likely that the German Government would consider favorably a safe-conduct request by the Swedish Red Cross or by Intercross, for a ship chartered to either of these organizations rather than to the Board. If this should prove to be the case, we are indicating that we would agree to reimburse the Swedish Red Cross - or failing in that, Intercross - for all expenses incurred as a result of assuming the charter obligation. Olsen has been asked to conduct the necessary negotiations with the Swedish Red Cross or Intercross. To avoid delay, we are asking that the Swedish Government be requested to approach the German Government immediately for permission to divert the "Bardalanda" and for the necessary safe-conduct.

E. Rescue of Norwegians

Minister Johnson has advised us from Stockholm of further discussions with representatives in Sweden with respect to plans for operations under the Treasury license issued to American Relief for Norway. Certain operations were said
to be under way at the present time with the limited funds available, including the provision of medicines, shoes, clothing, and food to persons inside Norway. About 1,000 persons awaiting transportation across the border are reportedly being kept in hiding in Norway. It was indicated that when this "bottleneck" group has been removed, many others can be evacuated.

An initial remittance of $50,000 has been sent to Sweden for these operations. Additional financing has urgently been requested, however, and we are now working on the transfer of such additional funds.

F. Evacuation of Refugees from Finland

Minister Gullion has advised us from Helsinki of Finnish newspaper reports with respect to the evacuation from Finland of the 100 Jewish refugees from central Europe to whom Sweden has, at our request, granted visas. A number of these refugees are reported already to have arrived in Stockholm.

In an interview published in another Helsinki newspaper one prominent Finnish Jew is reported to have stated, in connection with the evacuation of these refugees, that the treatment of Jews in Finland in itself gives no cause for worry. Finland, according to this Jewish spokesman, is the only country fighting with Germany against Russia that has introduced no anti-Jewish laws.

G. Latin American Passports

In a cable to Madrid the State Department has indicated that in the list of nationals of the United States and other American republics approved by the Germans for exchange against a group of 60 Germans from the United States being repatriated on the "Gripsholm," there are included, contrary to previous recommendations, alien relatives of American citizens as well as persons bearing Latin American passports whose nationality has not yet been established. Ambassador Hayes has been advised that authorization for embarkation on the "Gripsholm" is to be granted only to those individuals from the list who are bona fide nationals of the American republics and whose status has been clearly established upon their arrival at Barcelona. With respect to such bona fide nationals and to alien relatives of American citizens, Hayes has been informed that non-immigrant visa requirements for all
passengers not in possession of appropriate visas are being waived. After their admission on a temporary basis, these persons coming to this country as immigrants will be admitted as non-immigrants and will be able to arrange later for immigration visas. Admittance is to be granted only in transit to those aliens who are on their way to other destinations in the western hemisphere.

Inasmuch as both Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic have already indicated that admittance will be denied to certain bearers of documentation issued in the name of those two countries, and since authorization has not as yet been granted for the admission of certain individuals to other Latin American countries, the State Department has indicated that authorization for embarkation on the "Gripsholm" of such individuals on the list cannot be granted. Until these particular refugees can be included in a transfer to Camp Lyautey in North Africa, Hayes has been instructed to arrange through David Blinkenstaff to provide for their care at our expense.

In another communication to Madrid, now pending at State, we are advising Hayes that instructions received by him in connection with the "Gripsholm" exchange in no way modify our policy with respect to persons holding passports or other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries. Hayes is being informed that all such persons are deemed by this Government to be eligible for exchange, although unquestioned citizens of such countries are considered to be entitled to priority.

1. Colombia

In response to the inquiry from our Embassy in Colombia with respect to certain notes which the Polish Minister there proposed to dispatch, we are indicating our entire sympathy with his proposal that the Governments of Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador be asked to issue public declarations of their willingness to accept interned citizens of their respective countries in exchange for German nationals now in Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador.

Copies of the circular airgrams previously despatched in this connection to other Latin American countries are also being repeated to our Embassy in Colombia for its information and action.
2. Costa Rica

In a cable from our Embassy in San Jose we have been notified the Costa Rican Government has now formally agreed to uphold the validity of all Costa Rican passports held by persons whose lives may otherwise be in danger. It was indicated that such persons may also be declared eligible for exchange, on the understanding that Costa Rica will not be expected physically to admit them.

3. Cuba

In a proposed airgram to our Embassy in Havana we are indicating our concern over the report that the Cuban Government would be "unable" to extend its protection in the event the German Government challenges the validity of certain of the passports issued in the name of Cuba. We are asking that Ambassador Braden approach the Cuban Government again on this score, as well as with respect to taking the affirmative action previously requested. Cuban officials are also to be advised that in any exchange negotiations that may be entered into, it is of course understood that unquestioned citizens of Cuba will be considered by this Government as being in a category entitled to priority over others.

4. Ecuador

We have been advised by the U. S. Embassy in Quito that the Ecuadorian Minister for Foreign Affairs has indicated that his government is in full agreement with our proposals with respect to the recognition of Ecuadorian passports held by internees in Axis territory, and with respect to supporting the proposed exchange negotiations. It was reported that Ecuador is sending a telegram to the German Government, through the Swiss Government, requesting that the rights of such persons claiming Ecuadorian nationality be safeguarded. With respect to the proposed exchange negotiations, inquiry was made as to what country would bear the expense of the exchange. Consul Gantbein has reported that he replied it was his understanding that the United States would bear all of the expense insofar as the American republics are concerned.

5. Guatemala

Ambassador Long has advised us that, following a confidential discussion with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, entire agreement was indicated with our policies. Long indicated that the Government of Switzerland, as the protecting
power for Guatemalan citizens, would be requested by the Guatemalan Foreign Office to assert the rights granted to interned civilians in conformity with the Geneva Convention. It was anticipated that this request would be made through our Embassy in Guatemala. The Foreign Office is also said to have indicated that if it should be suspected that any of the passports were incorrect, the Guatemalan Government would maintain its right to cancel or invalidate them, but that it would take such action only after the bearers had reached places of safety. Agreement to the proposed exchange negotiations was to be on the basis of the understanding that the bearers of such passports who are not desirable as immigrants to Guatemala would not be admitted there.

5. Nicaragua

According to an airgram from our Embassy in Managua, the Nicaraguan Foreign Office has listed certain of its nationals to whom it proposes that priority be granted in the proposed exchange of holders of Latin American documents against German nationals in the western hemisphere. The Nicaraguan Government is also reported to have consented to support the exchange of other internees in occupied Europe, but presumably on the basis of our assurances that these persons will not actually reach Nicaragua.

7. Paraguay

In a pending cable to Ambassador Frost we are indicating our gratification over the informal agreement with our policies recently expressed by the Paraguayan Foreign Minister. We are also asking that efforts be continued to obtain more affirmative action with respect to supporting the proposed exchange negotiations and with respect to inducing Paraguay to request that Germany honor all documents issued in the name of Paraguay.

8. Uruguay

In a cable from Montevideo we have been informed that the Government of Uruguay has expressed its readiness to cooperate fully in passport recognition and in support of the proposed exchange of internees.

H. Reinstatement of Turkish Citizenship to Refugees in France

Ambassador Steinhardt has reported to us the substance of a recent conversation with the Turkish Minister for Foreign
Affairs, in which the Turkish Minister was again urged to do everything within his power to stay the deportation from France of Jews claiming Turkish nationality. Although a considerable number of Jews claiming Turkish nationality have already arrived in Turkey, the Turkish Minister stated that their Ambassador's position in dealing with the authorities in Vichy was "none too advantageous," since over 90 percent of the Jews in France claiming Turkish nationality allegedly "have not the remotest claim thereto," their ancestors in many instances having left Turkey many years ago.

I. Recognition of Portuguese Jews in Greece

Minister Norweb has reported from Lisbon that it is difficult, at the moment, to press the Portuguese Government further on the matter of extending recognition to Sephardic Jews in Greece claiming Portuguese citizenship. Norweb has indicated that if all registered Jews are now in Theresienstadt, as certain reports would indicate, it would be difficult if not dangerous for the Jews themselves if the Portuguese Government were to intervene in behalf of unknown claimants to Portuguese nationality who are now in hiding. It was indicated, however, that efforts to obtain agreement to repatriation in principle would be continued, and that this might apply to claimants in Theresienstadt, if obtained.
Dear Mr. Bean:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugees Board for May 8 to May 13, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle
J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Bean,
The Bureau of the Budget,
Room 435,
Department of State,
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.
Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 8 to May 13th, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Faehle

J. W. Faehle
Executive Director

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,
Department of State.

Enclosure.
MAY 19 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 8 to May 13, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle
J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,
The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.
MAY 19 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 8 to May 15, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. V. Fehle

J. V. Fehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,

Enclosure.

80000612
Secretary Morgenthau

Mr. Pehle

MAY 19, 1944

I am attaching herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 8 to 13, 1944.

(Signed) J. J. Pehle

Attachment.

FH:lab 5/18/44
TEMPORARY HAVENS IN THE U. S.

The Executive Director had a personal conference with President Roosevelt this week and presented to him the memorandum which had been signed by the Board members, dealing with the problems surrounding the establishment of temporary havens for war refugees in this country. The President was deeply interested and made further specific suggestions on the subject which are presently receiving our careful consideration.
Developments during the week of
May 6 - 13, 1944

CONDITIONS IN THE SATELLITE COUNTRIES

We have been advised by Ambassador Steinhardt that he recently invited the attention of the Turkish Foreign Office to the fact that no Jewish refugees had arrived from Hungary of late. Steinhardt inquired as to whether the Turkish Consul in Budapest might be withholding the granting of Turkish visas for any reason, in spite of the assurance previously given by the Foreign Ministry that the granting of such visas would be facilitated. In response to this inquiry Steinhardt was informed that the Turk Consul at Budapest had sent the Foreign Office word that every Jew who entered the Turkish Consulate in Budapest was arrested as soon as he left and transported to an unknown destination.

A communication from our Embassy in London, based on information received from London representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, confirms the report that the deportation of Jews from Hungary and territories under its control has already begun. To date, 24,000 persons are said to have been deported from Sub-Carpatho Russia, in addition to the general deportation of Polish refugees seized by the Hungarian police. We are requesting our Missions in Moscow and London to endeavor to have the broadcasts from their respective countries transmit to German and satellite military and civilian personnel carrying out deportation proceedings the warning that they personally will be held responsible by the United Nations for their actions and for the deaths that may result from such deportations. We have also arranged to have such warnings carried by the Office of War Information transmitters in their foreign broadcasts.
Ambassadors Harriman and Winant are being asked to approach the Soviet and British Foreign Offices and attempt to have them use their influence upon the satellite governments and populations toward increasing resistance to German demands for the deportation and persecution of minority groups under satellite control. Vatican support in applying pressure on the satellites, and on Hungary in particular, is likewise being solicited.

According to another report from London, out of a large group of persons arrested in Bucharest for their activity in aiding the escape of Jewish refugees from Hungary and other areas, all but 30 Jews have been released. The remaining 30 are said to be facing immediate trial. We are asking the U. S. Consul General in Jerusalem to attempt to obtain further details with respect to the 30 persons detained. At the same time we are asking Ambassador Steinhardt in Ankara, when this information is received and at his discretion, to communicate with the Romanian Foreign Minister in Ankara and remind him of the assurances he gave to Board Representative Hirschmann in a conversation late in March to the effect that such persecution would not occur. Steinhardt is being asked to press for the release of the 30 detained persons and for an opportunity for them to leave Romania.

In our cable to the U. S. Consulate in Jerusalem we have also asked that the names of the Hungarian officials responsible for the reported arrests in Hungary be obtained and reported to the State Department.

According to information received from our Legation in Stockholm, the Bulgarian Minister there, who recently replaced a strong pro-Nazi, has expressed sympathy for the Jewish situation. Minister Johnson reported his belief that the Bulgarian Minister can be induced to lend aid to any rescue program we may be pressing in Bulgaria, and suggested that it would be helpful if we could furnish details of any program under consideration for Bulgaria. He also asked for any suggestions we may have as to methods of exploiting to the fullest advantage the Bulgarian Minister's sympathies.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS

A. United Nations

1. India

According to a report from the U. S. Mission in New Delhi, no reply has as yet been received from the
Government of India in response to our inquiry as to India's intentions with respect to aiding war refugees. It was reported that a statement recently issued by the Indian Government in another connection, however, would seem to bear out the Mission's previous prediction that India intends to limit her assistance in war refugee matters to payment of a share of the administrative expenses of the Intergovernmental Committee.

2. South Africa

In response to State's circular airgram of January 26, we have been advised by the U. S. Legation in the Union of South Africa that to date no official reply has been received from the South African Government with respect to possible cooperation in war refugee matters. The question of post-war immigration into the Union has meanwhile been raised in the South African House of Assembly, however, in a motion introduced by a majority party member calling for large-scale European immigration, to which an amendment was added specifically barring Jews. Such a restriction is reportedly favored by the majority of both leading political parties. Another amendment provided for the immigration of orphans under ten years of age "from countries from which the people of the Union have sprung." Debate on the proposed legislation was reported to be in progress.

3. China

We have been advised from Chungking that no reply has as yet been received to the U. S. Embassy's note to the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs with respect to cooperation in war refugee matters.

According to reports transmitted from diplomatic and consular officers in Kunming, Sian and Chengtu, however, the official attitude of the Chinese toward the entry of war refugees is generally negative. In view of the tremendous relief problems faced by the Chinese Government with respect to its own homeless and destitute peoples, it is considered doubtful if the Chinese reaction would be favorable to any concrete proposal involving the acceptance and care of substantial numbers of refugees. Moreover, transportation facilities into unoccupied China are said to be so limited that any refugee traffic would probably interfere seriously with the importation of essential materials. However, so far as is known, there is no specific bar to the entry of Jews and other war refugees from
Japanese-occupied areas into unoccupied China, nor have any cases been reported of the turning back of such refugees at the borders.

It was stated that no Jewish problem exists in any form in China. The condition of refugees generally in both occupied and unoccupied China is reported to be serious, but not more so than that of the Chinese themselves. There is said to be no evidence that the Japanese deliberately maltreat refugees in occupied areas, a statement seemingly borne out by the report that few if any refugees in Japanese-occupied Chinese cities appear to have made any effort to emigrate to unoccupied China.

D. Neutrals

1. Turkey

Ambassador Steinhardt in Ankara has been asked to endeavor to obtain Turkish transit visas for a small group of refugees in Bucharest, where they were said to have been evacuated with the aid of the Swedish Legation. According to information received from Minister Johnson in Stockholm, this group already has Swedish passports, Romanian exit visas, Bulgarian transit visas, and Palestine certificates. If transit visa authority can be cabled to the Turkish Mission in Bucharest, the group can proceed to Turkey. There it will be possible for them to pick up the Palestine certificates which the Jewish Agency has issued and have them properly stamped, a procedure not possible in Romania because Palestine visas must be stamped in British Consuls.

2. Portugal

According to a report from our Embassy in Lisbon, Diario de Noticias, Lisbon's leading newspaper, in a front-page editorial on the President's statement on Nazi atrocities, asserted its complete agreement with the sentiments of this government. At the same time Portugal's own efforts to provide haven for war refugees were eulogized.

The Lisbon Jornal do Comercio is also reported to have commented editorially on the "high political and moral significance" of the President's statement. Although no other editorial comment was noted, virtually all leading Lisbon and Oporto papers are said to have carried the President's statement in prominent positions under very favorable headlines.
3. Sweden

We have been advised by Minister Johnson that Swedish authorities are understood to be placing no obstacles in the way of Estonian fishing craft engaged in rescuing refugees from Estonia and transporting them to Sweden. A greater number of Estonians are said to be in hiding in the forests of that country at the present time than during the Russian regime, since most Estonians desperately fear being sent to Germany.

Minister Johnson has also advised us of extensive discussions held with the Chief Rabbi of Sweden, who is described as directing the work of two Swedish committees actively engaged in relief operations for Jews in Europe. Johnson's report summarizes the activities of these two groups in Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, France, and other German-controlled areas. Much of the current activities of these committees is said to have been made possible by the Swedish Foreign Office. Communication with persons in enemy and occupied territory, for example, has reportedly been through facilities of the Foreign Office and Swedish Missions in the various countries.

Johnson reports that at the present time the two groups are short of funds, however, and strongly urges that arrangements be made for supplying them with $50,000. In Johnson's opinion, with proper financial support, refugee relief as well as actual rescue operations from Sweden can be expanded to a considerable degree.

C. Latin American Countries

1. Argentina

In response to State's circular airmgram of January 26, the U. S. Embassy at Buenos Aires has advised us that the consensus of persons active in Jewish rescue and relief work is that so long as the present regime remains in power, no assistance whatsoever can be expected from the Argentine Government in refugee matters. Certain Jewish organizations in Argentina are said to own large tracts of land which might easily support several thousand refugee families if there should come a radical change in the Argentine Government under which such immigrants could be admitted. Argentina itself is said to be capable of absorbing millions of
immigrants, but "no conceivable political change would make possible the willing acceptance of a very large proportion of Jews among those proposed millions."

In another communication from Buenos Aires we have been advised of the visit to the Embassy of a delegation from the Argentine Jewish Associations for the purpose of expressing their appreciation of the President's statement on atrocities against the Jews. Very favorable treatment of the President's statement in the news columns of *La Prensa* and *La Nacion* was also reported.

2. **Colombia**

In a despatch from Bogota we have been advised that our Embassy there has approached the Colombian Government with the suggestion that Colombia implement its cooperation in war refugee matters by issuing a declaration of policy similar to that issued by this government. While a spokesman for the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is reported to have appeared sympathetic to this suggestion, he was noncommittal with respect to the proposal that instructions along the same lines be sent to Colombian diplomatic and consular officers abroad.

3. **Dominican Republic**

The Foreign Office of the Dominican Republic, in response to a memorandum from our Embassy there, has indicated that it will cooperate fully with the war refugee policy of this Government. Our policy, the Dominican note asserts, coincides with that which has been followed by the Dominican Government since 1937 when, on the occasion of the Evian Conference, the Dominican delegation was instructed to indicate that the Dominican Republic was prepared to receive up to 100,000 European immigrants. This policy was put into practice a short time afterward, according to the Foreign Office, with the signing of a contract with the Association for the Establishment of Colonists in the Republic, by virtue of which a great number of refugees are said to have been provided refuge.

D. **Other Countries**

1. **Afghanistan**

According to a report from our Legation in Afghanistan, there is little chance for any substantial number of refugees to be absorbed into the Afghan economy, nor is it
likely that they be welcome in a fanatically Moslem country. Because of the primitive economy and low standard of living in Afghanistan, there is said to be practically no opportunity for Europeans in the fields of domestic commerce, agriculture, or the service trades. It was indicated, however, that since the Afghan Government has in the past welcomed the coming of qualified technicians and professional men, it is possible that a small number—perhaps fifty—such refugees and their dependents might be accepted in Afghanistan. It was suggested that if the names and qualifications of refugees proposed for settlement in that country were to be submitted, the Afghan Government would be approached by the Legation and the matter discussed with them. In this connection it was added that although Jews are "not popular" in Afghanistan, there has been no serious discrimination against them.

RESCUE AND RELIEF PROJECTS

A. Evacuations from Spain to Lyautey

We have been advised by Board Representative Ackermann that he has obtained confirmation of our original understanding with the French that so long as the total number of refugees in Camp Lyautey does not at any one time exceed 2,000, no objection will be made to the entry of refugees merely because they arrived in Spain after March first.

B. Evacuation to and through Turkey

Ambassador Steinhardt has advised us that on May 1 the "S.S. Milka" again arrived off Istanbul from Constantza, carrying 272 Jewish refugees. Although the vessel arrived without proper papers and although the refugees on board were without Turkish entry or transit visas or Palestine certificates, the Turkish Foreign Office is reported to be making provision for the transportation of these refugees to the Syrian frontier. The British in Istanbul are issuing the requisite Palestine certificates.

Steinhardt urged that no public appreciation for the Turkish Foreign Minister's action be expressed at this time, since such public expression might embarrass Turkish relations with Arab countries and might be used against the Foreign Minister by certain political opponents. Steinhardt indicated that the "S.S. Marita," due to arrive in Istanbul shortly, would present a situation similar to that of the "Milka," and for this reason also, deferment of any public expression of appreciation was requested.
After talking with the representative in Ankara of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Steinhardt has advised us that he anticipates no great difficulty in transporting from Iskenderun to Haifa, by means of coastal schooners, the refugees who might arrive on the "S.S. Tari." Such schooners, it was pointed out, could probably be sent from Egypt or Palestine for that purpose at this time of year.

While Steinhardt was of the opinion that it was too soon to give up hope that safe-conduct for the "Tari" would be granted by the Germans, he did indicate his belief that the recent severe strain on relations between Germany and Turkey resulting from the discontinuance of chrome shipments from Turkey makes it improbable that the German safe-conduct will now be forthcoming.

In a later communication Steinhardt advised us that our offer to the Germans to change the destination of the "Tari" from Haifa to a Turkish port has thus far been unproductive of results.

If and when the "Tari" arrives in Turkey, Steinhardt has indicated that he would consider it inadvisable to approach the Turkish authorities with a request to transport this particular group of refugees by rail, since transportation by coastal schooners is possible. It was felt that any agreement on the part of Turkish authorities to transport these 1,500 refugees by rail would necessarily interfere with and probably reduce the movement by rail of refugees arriving on "illegal" boats in Istanbul.

Steinhardt further indicated his belief that the evaluation of railroad facilities in Turkey which we obtained from the Foreign Economic Administration was based on conditions prevailing prior to the departure from Istanbul of FEA's representative. It was pointed out that in less than two months the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has thus far arranged for the transportation of approximately 900 refugees arriving on "illegal" boats, such transportation being in addition to the Railroad's regular traffic. Steinhardt stated that there are only two trains weekly from Istanbul to the Syrian frontier, and these trains require approximately 45 hours to cover the 1,000 miles on single track lines. Steinhardt therefore repeated his previous assertion that the question is not so much the disposition of the Turkish Government, which continues to be most cooperative, but rather the number of cars and locomotives available and particularly the condition of the locomotives.
Although Steinhart anticipates that, in the event the "Tari" disembarks as many as 1500 refugees at a Turkish port and it is found impossible to transport all of them to Palestine immediately by coastal schooners, he may have to secure permission to house some of the refugees temporarily at their port of arrival, it was indicated that the necessary arrangements could undoubtedly be made with the British authorities to transport the excess number by rail.

Ambassador Winant has advised us of the receipt from the British Foreign Office of a formal reply confirming Winant's previous report that the British now have no objection to the diversion from the Greek relief fleet of the Swedish "S.S. Bardalanda" for the purpose of evacuating refugees from Balkan areas, provided the Swedish Government agrees and safe-conducts are obtained from Russia and from the German Government on behalf of itself and its allies. Because of the recent ban in Britain on code cables for foreign diplomats other than U. S. or Russian, no action was taken by Winant in connection with our request that he attempt to approach the Swedish Government on this matter through the Swedish Minister in London. We are therefore cabling Minister Johnson in Stockholm directly with the request that he ask the Swedish Government whether it would be willing to make the "Bardalanda" available for refugee evacuation from Rumania to Turkey or Palestine, and whether as a preliminary step it would immediately sound out the German Government's willingness to grant safe-conduct for such evacuation operations. Johnson is being advised that if use of the "Bardalanda" can be obtained, a charter would be executed in the name of the Board, which would also arrange for insurance, British and Russian safe-conducts, etc.

C. Evacuation of Children from France to Spain and Portugal

In accordance with our recommendation, a Treasury license has been issued to the World Jewish Congress permitting the remittance of $50,000 to its representative in Portugal for rescue and relief work. The license stipulates that the funds may be utilized by the World Jewish Congress representative in Lisbon only as authorized by Robert Dexter, our Special Representative in Portugal. An initial remittance of $10,000 has been made.

D. Evacuation of Children from France to Switzerland

In response to our inquiry, Minister Harriss has advised us from Bern that according to a spokesman for the Swiss Foreign Office, Minister Stucki in approaching the French
was understood to have attempted to secure general permission for refugee children to leave France and did not restrict the request to exit permits for Spain alone. In order to be sure, however, Harris is pressing for an answer to this inquiry from Stokski himself. It was pointed out in this connection that for some time now children have been denied permission to go to Switzerland from France for temporary sojourns for rehabilitation purposes.

We have been advised by our Embassy in Managua that the Nicaraguan Consul in Bern has been authorized by his government to grant visas to 100 refugee children, without regard for nationality or religion, and to keep these visas valid until transportation becomes available to Nicaragua.

From Montevideo we have been advised that, in response to our suggested approach through the Embassy there, the personal reaction of the Uruguayan Under-Secretary handling refugee questions was favorable. Early consideration of the matter has been promised.

In a report from El Salvador we have learned that the Salvadoran Government has expressed its sympathy with our efforts to obtain havens for refugee children from enemy territory. El Salvador has indicated that it would be willing to accept approximately 100 children, but before reaching a final conclusion would like to know whether the cost of constructing a suitable building and other maintenance expenses would be borne by the War Refugee Board.

Our Embassy in the Dominican Republic has advised us that the Foreign Office there has indicated that it would receive a minimum of 1,000 refugee children up to 16 years of age and a maximum of 2,000. Upon their arrival in the Dominican Republic, it was stated that private institutions subsidized by the State would take care of them.

In a communication from Honduras we have been advised that President Cortis appears willing for Honduras to receive a maximum of 50 refugee children. Acceptance of these children would be on condition that all transportation and maintenance expenses would be met by other than Honduran agencies. Inasmuch as Honduras has no diplomatic or consular representatives in Switzerland, we were requested to suggest some practicable form of visa procedure. Clarification was also requested as to whether the children would be expected to remain in Honduras or would be returned to their countries of origin after the war.
E. Latin American Passports

According to a cable from Minister Harrison in Bern, the Papal Nuncio in Bern has now been informed of the warm appreciation of this Government for the Holy See's efforts in connection with the problem of obtaining recognition of Latin American passports and travel papers. Harrison was advised that the matter was taken up with the Spanish Government by the Papal Nuncio at Madrid. The Spanish Government is reported to have indicated that on several occasions it has concerned itself with the fate of the Jews, but that the German Government has looked with disfavor upon intervention. With respect to the Jewish internees at Vittel, however, the Spanish Government is said to have promised to make an effort to accomplish exchanges of such internees against civilian internees in America.

1. Colombia

According to a communication from our Embassy in Colombia the Polish Minister there has consulted the Embassy to ascertain whether certain proposed notes on his part to the Governments of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador would be consistent with the policy of this Government. In the proposed notes and inquiry would be made as to whether these three governments would be disposed to issue public declarations of their willingness to accept interned citizens of their respective countries in exchange for German nationals now in Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador. The Polish Minister is said to feel that while such an exchange probably could not take place under present conditions, mere declarations by these governments along the lines proposed would serve a useful purpose in preventing further inhuman acts. We have been asked to indicate to the Embassy our judgment as to whether the proposed note should be sent.

2. Cuba

The U. S. Embassy in Havana reports that the Cuban Ministry of State has indicated that on the matter of passport recognition it was approached by the Netherlands Embassy in Washington rather than by the Vatican, and that its answer was that the question of the validity of passports issued in the name of Cuba would not be raised by the Cuban Government for the duration. If the German Government should make an issue of the fact that certain of these passports were improperly issued, however, it was reported that the Cuban Government would be "unable" to extend its protection.
No categorical answer regarding the possible eventual immigration to Cuba of bearers of illegal passports appears to have been given to the Netherlands Embassy. According to the Embassy's report, Cuba apparently will defer solution of this problem until the persons involved are outside enemy territory.

3. Ecuador

A reply has been received from the U. S. Embassy in Quito with respect to passports issued in the name of Ecuador. The Ecuadorian Minister for Foreign Affairs, when approached on the matter is said to have referred to a reply given on March 30th to the British Minister in response to a similar inquiry. In this reply the Ecuadorian Government is said to have stated that it is not disposed to confirm the validity of unauthorized passports, but that it will not cancel such documents prior to the date their holders reach places of safety. Ecuadorian consular officers abroad are said to have been advised of the Ecuadorian position on this matter.

4. Haiti

The Haitian Foreign Minister reportedly maintains a negative position with respect to acknowledgment by the Haitian Government of the validity of passports issued in the name of that country. Blanket approval of outstanding documents, it was contended, might prejudice later bona fide cases.

5. Venezuela

The U. S. Ambassador in Caracas reports that the Venezuelan Foreign Minister has informed him that Venezuela is taking active measures along the lines previously promised in connection with passport recognition and exchange possibilities. He is said to have added that the Venezuelan Government has no precise information regarding the number of Venezuelan passports that may have been issued to refugees in Europe.

F. Reinstatement of Turkish Citizenship to Refugees in France

We are advising Ambassador Steinhart of certain requests we have directed to the Turkish Ambassador here in connection with rescuing refugees in France claiming Turkish citizenship.
We have urged that the Turkish Government advise German and other authorities in France that upon the assertion of a claim to Turkish nationality, the claimant is to be extended all the rights, privileges, and immunities of a Turkish national unless and until, after investigation, the Turkish Government advises such authorities that it has rejected the claim. The position of this government with respect to refugees in German-controlled areas claiming U. S. citizenship was cited in support of our request.

Steinhardt is being advised that we have also indicated that, in the event the Turkish Government should find it possible, pending investigation, to bring about the evacuation from German-controlled areas of claimants to Turkish nationality whose lives may be in danger, we will undertake to make funds available from American sources for the maintenance and support of such refugees and will undertake to find havens promptly outside Turkey for any such refugees whose claims to Turkish nationality are eventually rejected by the Turkish Government.

Steinhardt is being asked to continue his efforts along the same lines begun some time ago with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs in Ankara.

G. Recognition of Jews in Greece

We have received from the U. S. Consulate in Istanbul information obtained in an interview with a Turkish Jew recently evacuated from Greece, where he was a prominent businessman. According to Consul General Berry, with whom the interview was held, this informant appeared to be unusually reliable. The refugee in question confirmed previous reports to the effect that on March 24th all registered Jews in Athens were sent to a concentration camp. According to this informant, the total number of the refugees interned was between 300 and 1,000. Any Jews not registered and any Greeks aiding such Jews were reported to be subject to immediate execution. Between 6,000 and 8,000 unregistered Jews were said to be remaining in the vicinity of Athens. This informant urged that efforts be made to persuade Turkey to give recognition to those of its nationals who had previously been refused visas because of their failure to pay certain taxes in the past. Efforts were also urged to persuade Spain and Argentina to approach Turkey for transit visas, or Germany for exit permits, for their respective nationals.
In a cable to Minister Harrison we are requesting that the International Red Cross be asked to bring all possible aid to those victims of Nazi oppression, including those reportedly evacuated. We are also asking that information be forwarded, if possible, as to the destination of the evacuees.

Minister Harrison has informed us that he has made the requested approach to Vatican authorities in connection with the recognition of Spanish Jews in Athens and the Vatican has in turn approached the Spanish Government on the matter.

Minister Norweb has advised us that the matter has been discussed with the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which had promised "sympathetically to inform the Embassy of possible action."

In follow-up cables to Ambassador Hayes at Madrid, to Minister Norweb and Board Representative Dexter At Lisbon, and to Harold Tittmann at Vatican City, we are reporting the substance of reports received relating to the fate of Jews in Greece. We are indicating that under these circumstances the steps previously requested to rescue Jews in Greece claiming Spanish and Portuguese nationality become especially urgent.
May 13 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 1 to May 6, 1944.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

Original signed by
May 13, 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 1 to May 6, 1944.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.
My dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 1 to May 6, 1944.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Fohr
Executive Director

Honorable Myron O. Taylor,
Department of State,

Enclosure.
May 13, 1944

Dear Mr. Bean:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 1 to May 6, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle
J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Bean,
The Bureau of the Budget,
Room 425,
Department of State,
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.
MAY 13, 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

Mr. Pehle

I am attaching herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 1 to 6, 1944.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

Attachment.

FH: lab 5/12/44
1. COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS

(a) United Nations

(1) Great Britain

In response to several approaches made by Ambassador Winant at our request to enlist British cooperation in the establishment of temporary havens for refugees in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, a formal reply has now been promised by the Foreign Office at an early date, despite the political problems said to be involved.

In a communication from the U. S. Embassy in London there was transmitted a copy of a letter from Lord Drogheda of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare on the matter of financing refugee operations in enemy territory. Reiterating the fear that funds transmitted under certain Treasury licenses for evacuation operations might be of benefit to the enemy, the letter again stressed the British view as to the undesirability of granting, without prior consultation with the British, licenses on terms cutting across "agreed blockade policy."

In the opinion of the British, the raising of funds in enemy territory by means of loans from persons in those areas against guarantees of post-war repayment is far superior to the actual use of dollars or Swiss francs in occupied countries.

The British propose that we should jointly supplement schemes already in operation by setting up a "guarantee fund" in the hands of the IIO. The British and U. S. Governments would contribute equally to such a fund. On the basis of information available to the British, it was indicated that Parliament would be asked for whatever sums may be necessary for this purpose up to 1½ million pounds as the British share.
(ii) Belgian Government-in-Exile

In a cable from Minister Norweb we have been asked to approach the Belgian Government-in-Exile with the request that instructions be issued to its Legation in Lisbon which would facilitate cooperation on the part of representatives of the Belgian Convention in rescuing adults and children from occupied territory. We have therefore cabled Charge d'Affaires Schoenfeld in London, asking that representations be made to the Belgian government-in-exile on the matter.

(iii) Greece

According to a cable we have received from Istanbul, certain new developments in the Jewish situation in Greece have been reported by repatriated Turkish Jews. Late in March all registered Jews in Athens are said to have been placed in a concentration camp; registered Jews from the provinces were subsequently added. On April 2 repatriation was said to have been ordered for Portuguese, Turkish and Spanish Jews; Argentine Jews were left in the camp. All others, totaling an estimated 4,000 are reported to have been loaded on trains for an unknown destination.

Vice Consul Squires of the U. S. Consulate General in Istanbul has indicated that these developments greatly complicate our proposal that he forward detailed suggestions for evacuating Greek Jews and non-Greek refugees since there are officially no Jews in Greece, the Jews who are registered having been removed, while the Jews in hiding "have lost the last remnant of rights" through failure on their part to comply with German registration orders.
(b) Neutrals

(1) Spain

The situation with respect to Spain is still very negative. Ambassador Hayes, in spite of our urgent requests, has refused to approach the Spanish Government with a view to gaining the latter's cooperation in accepting more refugees from occupied territory. He has turned down the War Refugee Board's proposal to establish and maintain refugee reception centers in Spain and has refused to notify the Spanish Government of our proposal which was designed to relieve the Spanish of any additional burden which might result from the arrival of more refugees in Spain. Hayes has also refused to approve the appointment of a full-time representative of the War Refugee Board for Spain. He has refused to deliver to the JDC Representative in Spain the text of a license issued by the Treasury Department in Washington permitting the JDC to carry on rescue and aid activities from Spain.

No report has as yet been received from Ambassador Hayes at Madrid to indicate affirmative action on the part of the Spanish Government in connection with our efforts to save from deportation and death Jews and other victims of enemy persecution holding Latin American travel documents. Our first request to Hayes on this score was in a cable dated April 10. On April 19 we urged Hayes to reply at once to our earlier request, at least with respect to what action he had taken toward requesting that the Spanish Government make representations to the Germans for the return to Vittel of the 236 interns reportedly evacuated to an unknown destination.

Hayes' reply, dated April 21, indicated that the Spanish Foreign Office had been approached as requested. A Foreign Office official is reported to have stated that the Government of Spain had no information on the reported deportations, although assurance was said to have been given that an attempt would be made to learn the facts "with a view toward endeavoring to arrange for the return of these refugees."

On April 27 we again drew Hayes' attention to the urgency of the matter and asked that he report promptly on any progress made in these approaches. In the latter cable Hayes was also advised of the Vatican's efforts to work out relief measures for the internes in question. Hayes was asked to act jointly with the Papal Nuncio in Madrid, or on his own, if joint action were not immediately forthcoming.
in pressing Spain to extend effective protection through the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin.

In another cable to Madrid dated April 21, in an attempt to forestall deportation and almost certain death for some 400 Sephardic Jews, Spanish nationals residing in Athens, we asked Hayes to approach appropriate Spanish officials and enlist their aid in obtaining Spanish recognition and protection for the refugees concerned. To date, we have received no word concerning affirmative action on the part of the Spanish Government or even concerning representations by Hayes that such action be taken.

(11) Sweden

In response to our cable for information as to whether there were Polish ships tied up at Stockholm, as reported, with cargoes of food and clothing originally intended for Polish civilians, Minister Johnson has replied that there is no knowledge locally of any such ships. Johnson did indicate, however, that approximately five tons of used clothing from the United States destined for Polish war refugees arrived last June in a Swedish vessel and are now stored in free harbor pending authorization from London and Washington of its distribution.

(o) Other Countries

(1) Italy

We have been advised by Minister Harrison in Bern that efforts are afoot in Italy to raise the anti-Jewish campaign there to the same level of intensity as the German-inspired campaigns in Hungary, Slovakia, and other satellite countries.

(11) Finland

In a cable to Helsinki we have indicated agreement with the U. S. Legation's suggestion that the political factors involved in connection with obtaining an official Finnish statement on war refugee matters outweigh any advantages that might accrue through the issuance of such a statement at this time.

With respect to the evacuation of minority groups in Finland whose lives would be endangered as a result of increased German influence, we have advised the Legation of the report from Minister Johnson in Stockholm that refuge would probably be extended by Sweden if the Finnish Government
requested the Swedish Government to allow such entries on the grounds that the lives of the persons in question were in jeopardy in Finland. Accordingly, we have authorized the Legation to approach the Finnish Government in its discretion, in the event developments make it desirable to evacuate from Finland potential victims of the Gestapo.

(d) Conditions in Hungary

Minister Harrison has advised us from Bern of the reported creation, by Budapest decree, of a Union of Hungarian Jews which is expected to be organized on a country-wide basis. Jews are reportedly being resettled in ghettos in Budapest.

According to a second report from Bern, the Axis press and other agencies have indicated that the 300,000 Hungarian Jews in Russia and other declared military areas are being interned in concentration camps. Certain food restrictions on Jews not in war industries were also reported.

Another cable from Harrison relays a report from the Swiss Committee for Aiding Jews in Hungary to the effect that the Hungarian Government recently issued a decree authorizing the confiscation of the property of Jews.

2. RESCUE AND RELIEF PROJECTS

(a) Feeding Projects

The program (financed by funds from the JDC here) to provide food and medical supplies to internees at Theresienstadt and other concentration camps has finally been approved by the blockade authorities in London and it is expected that the distributions by the International Red Cross will commence at once.

In connection with the JDC feeding program authorized some months ago to distribute food parcels from Turkey to internees in Rumania, Yugoslavia and Theresienstadt, we have received word that all food parcels sent from Istanbul (under International Red Cross supervision) have arrived safely in Rumania.

(b) Relief to Italians in Switzerland

On May 1, upon our recommendation, the Treasury licensed the remittance by the World Jewish Congress of an additional $4,000 for the relief of Italian refugees in Switzerland.
(c) **Evacuations from Spain to Lyautey**

In a cable to Board Representative Ackermann in Algiers, we are asking that Ackermann confirm our understanding that so long as the total number of refugees in Camp Lyautey does not at any one time exceed 2,000, the French will not object to the entry of refugees merely because they arrived in Spain after March 1.

At the same time we are indicating our belief that the Lyautey quota should not be filled by bringing Jews there from Italy, since bringing more refugees from Spain puts us in a position to encourage the reception by Spain of more refugees from occupied territory. The possibility that many Jewish refugees now in southern Italy may be taken to Palestine is also pointed out, since more than 20,000 refugees may still be admitted to Palestine under the terms of the White Paper.

(d) **Evacuation to and through Turkey**

Ambassador Steinhardt has advised us that as the result of a talk with the Apostolic Delegate in Ankara, he has been assured that the Vatican will be urged to make every effort to obtain German safe-conduct for the "S.S. Tari." Another report from Steinhardt indicates that German Ambassador von Papen in Ankara promised the International Red Cross representative there that he would send a fourth telegram to Berlin requesting that safe-conduct be granted for the "Tari." Von Papen is also reported to have stated that he asked the German Minister in Ankara to take up the matter personally, immediately upon his expected return to Germany.

In connection with the possibility that the Germans might grant safe-conduct to the "Tari" more quickly if its voyage terminated at a Turkish port instead of Haifa, we are suggesting to Steinhardt that the "Tari" could be routed to Istanbul and the refugees could then remain on the boat until transported by rail. We are further indicating that, while the Ambassador's knowledge of the railroad situation in Turkey is undoubtedly greater and more immediate than our own, discussions with the Foreign Economic Administration lead us to believe that existing railroad facilities are sufficient for the transportation across Turkey of many more refugees than are now being accommodated.

(e) **Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France**

In connection with our approaches to the Latin American republics with respect to giving assurances to Switzerland
that child refugees admitted by that country will eventually
be accepted elsewhere, we have been advised by Ambassador
White that the Peruvian Foreign Minister subsequently
requested information concerning the nationalities included
in the prospective child immigration. In response to this
inquiry we have indicated our belief that, for the most part,
Polish, French, Belgian and stateless children of German
and Austrian origin would be involved. We urged, however,
that emphasis be placed upon the humanitarian aspect of the
action suggested.

In a communication from Ambassador Braden in Havana
we have been advised of his belief that if the care of child
refugees were left to Cuban authorities, local irregularities
would probably occur, particularly in connection with any
financing that might be arranged by the Board. Braden has
therefore suggested that, before he approaches the Cuban
government on the matter of giving to Switzerland the
assurances requested, we ascertain whether the American
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee would be prepared to
care for such children through the Joint Relief Committee
in Havana and to provide the latter with the necessary funds.

We have been advised by the U. S. Embassy in Honduras
that the matter of giving similar assurances to Switzerland
with respect to child refugees has been discussed with the
Minister for Foreign Affairs, who appeared to be sympathetic
to the suggestion. Consul Faust indicated his belief that
the Honduran Government could probably be persuaded to
accept a few refugee children on the basis of an adequate
financial guarantee.

Ambassador Messersmith has reported from Mexico City
that in order to secure anything like a favorable reception
toward the suggestion that Mexico give such guarantees to
the Swiss Government, "it will be necessary to prepare the
ground carefully in the Mexican Government and among the
highest officials." Messersmith indicated his feeling that
no immediate reaction from the Mexican Government could be
expected on this matter.

In a cable to Minister Harrison in Bern we have asked
clarification as to whether the Swiss Government's approach
to Vichy, in connection with allowing the departure of
child refugees, is to consist of formal requests for children
or a request that the children be allowed to go to Switzerland
temporarily. Harrison has been advised that we would
welcome any additional suggestions he may have for expediting
the rescue from France of orphaned and abandoned children
subject to enemy persecution.
(f) World Jewish Congress Evacuation Program

In accordance with our recommendation, the Treasury license originally issued to the World Jewish Congress in connection with evacuations from France, Rumania and other enemy territory has been amended to permit the remittance of an additional $100,000 to Switzerland for these operations.

(g) Rescue of Christian Refugees from France and Italy

In a report from the Swiss representative of the American Committee for Christian Refugees we have learned that through the efforts of an associate group in France a total of at least 420 men, women and children have escaped to Switzerland since the summer of 1940. Several hundred other persons, especially younger men, are said to have been assisted in escaping to Spain. Several thousand additional refugees are reportedly in hiding and being cared for in France out of funds transmitted under the Treasury license issued to this organization early in March upon our recommendation.

(h) Evacuations to Italy and the Mediterranean Area

We have been advised by Ambassador MacVeagh that the British Embassy has been promised the support of Marshal Tito in rescuing Hungarian Jews. Tito is expected to aid them to escape and join his army or be evacuated elsewhere.

In connection with the possibilities for Yugoslavian evacuations reported by Board Representative Ackermann from Algiers, we have advised Ackermann, after clearance with State and War, that we have arranged for a sum equal to $50,000 to be furnished to the Refugee Committee in Belgrade for the rescue and relief of refugees regardless of race, religion or nationality. Ackermann's judgment is asked as to the form in which remittance should be made in order to insure its prompt and best use.

(i) Latin American Passports

(1) Costa Rica

In a despatch from Costa Rica, in connection with representations made with respect to recognition of Latin American travel papers and the possibility of arranging an exchange against German nationals of interned holding such documentation, we have been advised that the Costa Rican Minister for Foreign Affairs has indicated that it had been
his original intention to declare a number of these passports invalid and to restrict the periods of validity of others. As a result of our representations, however, the Minister is said to have stated that he would be inclined to cooperate along the lines recommended, in view of the humanitarian considerations involved. We are now pressing for more specific action, namely, an approach by Costa Rica to the German Government through the protecting power along the lines previously suggested.

(11) Nicaragua

Although there has been no formal reply from the Nicaraguan Government to our approaches through the U. S. Embassy there with respect to passport recognition and exchange possibilities, we have been advised of a statement by the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister to the effect that between 125 and 150 persons in occupied Europe are believed to have obtained Nicaraguan passports fraudulently. It was also reported that the practice of the Nicaraguan Government has generally been to decline to confirm the validity of such travel documents when questions were asked by the German Government through the protecting power. The Foreign Minister is now reported to have agreed to discuss with the President of Nicaragua the feasibility of approaching the Germans through the Swiss with a request that the interests of all bearers of Nicaraguan passports be safeguarded. The Foreign Minister is said to have expressed his belief that the President would agree to such an approach. With respect to exchange possibilities, it was indicated that inasmuch as it is not anticipated that Nicaragua will be obligated physically to admit any of the holders of such travel documents, the Nicaraguan President would also probably support this Government’s negotiations for such an exchange.

(111) Honduras

According to a report from Ambassador Frost, our representations to the Honduran Government have been completely successful, both with respect to passport recognition and the proposed exchange negotiations. Formal notes on both scores have been forwarded by the Honduran Foreign Minister to this Government. In the course of conversations leading to these decisions, the Honduran Minister for Foreign Affairs is said to have indicated that while no inquiries concerning the validity of passports had been received from the Spanish Government, he proposed to ignore any such inquiries as might later be received. Since we believe that
ignoring such inquiries might lead Spain to give Germany misleading information with respect to the Honduran attitude. Ambassador Frost is being requested to suggest that in case of inquiries by Spain, the Spanish Minister should be informed of the substance of the Honduran notes to this Government on the matter.

(iv) Paraguay

We have been advised through the U. S. Embassy in Paraguay that the Paraguayan Foreign Minister has stated informally that his Government will steadfastly recognize until after the war the validity of Paraguayan passports held by internees in Axis territory. The Paraguayan Minister is also reported to have taken a favorable attitude with respect to the projected exchange negotiations, although no formal affirmative decision has been forthcoming in either respect.

(v) Venezuela

We are currently pressing Venezuela for immediate action in connection with her promise of full cooperation in document recognition and the projected exchange.

(vi) Cuba

With respect to Cuba, it had been indicated from Bern that Cuba's reply to Vatican inquiries stated that passports issued in her name to Jews in German-held territory would be recognized by Cuba if Great Britain and the United States had no objection. Ambassador Braden in Havana has therefore been instructed to convey to the Cuban authorities our appreciation of the Cuban attitude, along with assurance that the United States has no objection to Cuban recognition of such documents. We have also asked Ambassador Winant in London to request that a similar assurance be given by Great Britain to Cuba.

(vii) Peru

According to a report from the U. S. Embassy in Peru, the Peruvian Foreign Office has indicated that the Swiss Government some three months ago submitted a list of 46 persons interned in Axis countries and inquired as to whether Peru would honor the Peruvian passports held by these internees. The Peruvian Government's reply was in the negative, as far as those 46 persons were concerned. In
response to our recommendation that in the future such passports be honored for humanitarian reasons, a Foreign Office spokesman is reported to have expressed sympathy with the suggestion.

In a follow-up circular airgram to the various Latin American countries we are advising our Embassies there of the instructions issued by this Government with respect to honoring all claims to American citizenship by refugees in German-controlled areas. It is suggested that these instructions may be of value in connection with pressing for cooperation in the rescue of refugees holding Latin American travel documents. We are also asking that the various Latin American republics be approached again with respect to supporting the representations we have made through Spain and Switzerland.

(j) Reinstatement of Turkish Citizenship to Refugees in France

According to a report from the Lisbon representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Ambassador Steinhardt in Ankara has again discussed with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs the plight of Jews in France of Turkish origin who are now threatened with deportation. Steinhardt is reported to have indicated that specific instructions have been sent to the Turkish Ambassador at Vichy.

(k) Joint Exchange Project

In response to the inquiry addressed to Minister Harrison in Bern with respect to how the proposed joint exchange project originated, we have been advised that official details can probably be obtained from London, inasmuch as negotiations have been conducted by Switzerland as the protecting power between German and British authorities.

(l) Recognition of Portuguese Jews in Greece

We have been advised that a small group of Jews in Greece claiming Portuguese nationality is in danger of deportation unless the Portuguese Government intervenes. Minister Harrison and Board Representative Dexter are therefore being requested to approach appropriate Portuguese officials with a view to enlisting the aid of the Portuguese Government in extending protection to the refugees in question. We are suggesting that the Portuguese Government be asked to advise German and other authorities in Greece that upon the assurance of a claim to Portuguese nationality, all
the rights, privileges, and immunities of a Portuguese
national should be extended to the claimant pending investi-
gation by the Portuguese Government. It is also being sug-
gested that the Portuguese Government be urged to postpone
making adverse determinations in such cases until after the
war, in view of the dire consequences that would befall
refugees whose claims were rejected.

In the event actual evacuation to Portugal proves
necessary for the protection of the persons concerned, the
Portuguese Government is to be assured that funds for the
support of such refugees will be made available, and that we
will take prompt action to effect their departure from
Portugal to other places of refuge.

In a cable to Harold Tittman, our representative at
the Vatican, we are asking that steps be taken to enlist
the support of appropriate Vatican officials in this human-
itarian task by means of representations in Portugal similar
to those to be made through the U. S. Legation there.