

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, Volume 1
(Folder 1 of 4)

000937

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

VISA DIVISION

1/7/44

Memorandum:

The information on Polish refugees in Iran given in the attached letter was received from Mr. Harold Miner, in NE.

LWH

000938

C O P Y

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

175 East Broadway

New York, N. Y.

December 17, 1943

Honorable Breckenridge Long,
Assistant Secretary of State
State Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Long:

I want to thank you for sending me a copy of your testimony before the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The members of the Administrative Committee of our organization, and I, read it with a great deal of interest and profit.

We are indeed happy to know that the fate of the Jewish people in the Nazi-dominated lands is of deep concern to our government and State Department. At the same time, however, we take the liberty of calling your attention to a number of statements made by you before the House Committee which beg for correction, since they might ultimately result in harm to the distressed and tortured Jews of Europe, whom we are mutually endeavoring to help.

We are particularly referring to your remark on page 23 of the published proceedings of the hearing where you say: "We have taken into this country, since the beginning of the Hitler regime and the persecution of the Jews, until today, approximately 580,000 refugees."

According to the official annual reports of the Department of Labor and the Department of Justice, only 476,930 aliens were admitted into the United States for the decade beginning July 1, 1933 and ending June 30, 1943.

Of this

840.48 Refugees/4913

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Of this number, it is our belief, a deduction should be made for the aliens coming from non-invaded countries (Canada, Mexico, and Central and South American countries) numbering 163,666, and about 17,232 who arrived here from Asia, Africa, and other parts of the world, other than Europe. From the whole of Europe, then, during the ten year period in question, only 296,032 entered the United States.

The number of Jews among these, according to official reports, was only 165,756.

To be sure, during this ten year period about 43,000 Jews entered this country on various temporary visas. These, however, cannot simply be added to the 165,756, because up to 1939 all temporary visitors were obliged to return to their respective countries, and since 1939, people with temporary visas were asked to apply for permanent visas, but in order to receive them, they first had to depart from the United States to such neighboring countries as Canada, Mexico, and Cuba, and then re-enter on the basis of a permanent visa. In this case, they were counted in official State Department statistics as new aliens admitted to the United States.

We wish to emphasize that the number of Jewish aliens admitted into the United States since the war -- from July 1, 1939 to June 30, 1943 -- according to official reports by the Labor Department, the Department of Justice, and the Commissioner of Naturalization and Immigration, totaled only 75,995:

From July 1, 1939 to June 30, 1940....	36,945
From July 1, 1940 to June 30, 1941....	23,737
From July 1, 1941 to June 30, 1942....	10,608
From July 1, 1942 to June 30, 1943....	4,705
Total.....	<u>75,995</u>

And yet, these four years were the most tragic in the lives of the Jews under Hitlerism, since it was in this period that the Nazi campaign of Jewish extermination reached its climax.

You stated, among other things, that "hundreds of thousands of refugees who fled from Poland to Russia,

finally

In reply refer to
VD 840.48 Refugees/4816

My dear Dr. Goldman:

In your conversation with Mr. Long on September 16, 1943 you presented certain proposals for assisting surviving groups of Jewish people who still remain in enemy-occupied territories of Europe. This matter was referred to the American Embassy at London on September 29, to be presented to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. The Department is now in receipt of a telegram from London, dated November 29, outlining the steps being taken in connection with your proposals. The pertinent facts contained in this report as well as other developments which have taken place are presented below for your information.

The Director of the Intergovernmental Committee has communicated with the International Red Cross at Geneva requesting that organization to supply at the earliest possible date, a list of projects which can be recommended as practicable for assisting the groups in question. The International Red Cross has not as yet been able to reply, but it is expected that a reply will be received in the near future as the urgency of the situation has been fully explained. The International Red Cross has also been asked to consider arrangements whereby funds might be placed at its disposal to enable it to take advantage of opportunities as they arise of meeting emergency needs. Such arrangements, it was

pointed

Dr. Nahum Goldman,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West Forty-second Street,
New York, New York.

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pointed out, would be dependent upon the fulfillment of three conditions: First, that the German Government obtain no benefit from the execution of any project; second, that there must be assurance of supplies reaching the intended beneficiaries; and third, that an account be rendered. In considering the above proposal the International Red Cross was asked to submit an estimate as to the amount which it might be necessary to expend during the next three months.

As soon as the necessary information is available from the International Red Cross and specific projects are recommended, the material will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee for action. In the meantime, factual data is being gathered by the Director of the Committee from both private and governmental sources which will show what is being done and the most effective means of rendering assistance to those in enemy territory. The Department has recently given considerable information of this sort to the Intergovernmental Committee in order that it might have as much information as possible upon which to base its action.

You of course recognize the complications and difficulties which arise in an undertaking of such wide scope but you may rest assured that all possible effort is being made to provide assistance for those who so urgently need help.

Sincerely yours,

H. K. Travers
Chief, Visa Division

VD:RU:RWG:GF:BT

12/4/43

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Mr Pell

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Memorandum on Ways and Means to Save
the Jewish People of Europe

SUBMITTED TO: Hon. Edward R. Stettinius,
Under-Secretary of State

BY: The Emergency Com-
mittee to Save The
Jewish People of Europe

DEFINITION OF THE PROBLEM:

The problem of the Jews of Europe is a specific war problem and not merely a part of the refugee problem. It concerns the some 4,000,000 Jews who are today living in European countries occupied by Hitler or under his domination. The extermination of the Jews by the Germans is a challenge to the basic principles of humanity and civilization for which this war is being fought. As such, it is a general problem of urgent and immediate concern to all the United Nations and particularly to the leading power of the world today -- the United States of America.

It is a grave and tragic mistake to confuse this war problem by either making it a part of the refugee problem (with which it has very little in common) or by considering it as a Jewish problem of concern only to Jewish-Americans. This mistake has been greatly responsible for the fact that a war problem involving the lives of millions of people has not even been put on the Agenda of the United Nations' leaders for serious consideration.

Two years have passed since the Nazis embarked on their campaign to exterminate the Jews of Europe. According to conservative estimates, about 2,000,000 or more have already been annihilated. Still, nothing whatever has been undertaken by the United Nations to stop the massacre and to save the surviving Jews.

It is not true that nothing can be done before victory is won. Much could be done if there were an earnest desire on the part of the democratic powers, particularly the United States and Great Britain, to make the necessary efforts.

If something is not done and the present policy of inaction is allowed to continue, a million or more Jewish men, women and children will be overtaken by horrible and useless death, from which most of them could have been saved.

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Memorandum on Ways and Means to Save
the Jewish People of Europe

The action which can and must be undertaken by the United Nations is twofold:

I. Enaction of steps to force Nazi-Germany and her satellites to stop the mass murders.

II. Transfer of the Jews from Nazi-dominated countries to territories outside their control.

I. Steps to force Nazi-Germany and her satellites to stop the mass murders.

In order to halt the persecutions, it is necessary first of all to make clear beyond any doubt that the atrocities against the Jews provoke as much indignation on the part of the United Nations as the atrocities against all other peoples, and will lead to the same degree of retribution.

Not once since the war began has President Roosevelt or Mr. Churchill mentioned the Jews of Europe in their speeches to the world, even when those speeches dealt with and elaborated upon the suffering of the various peoples of Europe under the cruel yoke of Nazi occupation.

This omission was climaxed in the recent statement on atrocities published by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin, which specified not only nations and countries, but also various groups such as "peasants and officers."

It is irrelevant whether one considers to the Jews a nation, a people or a religious group. The fact is that the Nazis exterminate Jews as Jews. They are a specific entity bearing the brunt of the atrocities. These victims must be called by name.

The fact that no action has been undertaken on the plight of the European Jews and that it has been so consistently ignored by the United Nations, has created in the Nazi criminal mind the definite impression that the Allies are not concerned with their fate. This impression, therefore, is serving to intensify their campaign of extermination.

The following steps are recommended:

A. A specific statement regarding the atrocities committed against the Jews, by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin, along the lines of the general statement recently published.

Memorandum on Ways and Means to Save
the Jewish People of Europe

B. A warning to Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Vichy-France that they will be held accountable and will be punished for every Jew forcibly deported from these countries for murder by the Nazis.

(Comparatively few Jews have been killed in these countries, but more than 600,000 were deported by them to Poland, where most of them have been murdered.)

Such a warning, at the present stage of the war, may be effective in stiffening the attitude of the satellites, and thereby preventing additional deportations of their citizens.

C. A systematic campaign of getting these facts and warnings to Germany and her satellites through the mediums of leaflets dropped during bombing operations, short-wave radio, etc.

The following measure, too, should be given consideration:

The population of a German city whose military objectives have been bombed by the Allies should be informed by means of leaflets, radio, etc., that the city was chosen for that particular bombing in retaliation for the murder of such and so many Jews by local Nazis. This could induce the population to demand the stopping of atrocities against the Jews.

II. Transfer of the Jews from Nazi-dominated countries to territories outside their control.

A. It must be made clear first of all to all European nations that every Jew escaping Nazi death and finding his way to United Nations territory will be admitted and given temporary shelter.

(All neutral Sweden had to do was to make a declaration to this effect. As a result, in a few days some 6,000 Jews were rescued.)

B. Neutral countries have to be impressed and prevailed upon to adopt the same policy as a general practice.

C. Arrangements should be made for the establishment in several neutral and Allied territories, such as Turkey, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, Morocco, Algeria and Libya, of special reservation camps into which all escaping Jews can be brought for temporary shelter and care.

Memorandum on Ways and Means to Save
the Jewish People of Europe.

With the sizes of these camps varying to accommodate some ten to thirty thousand people each, approximately 200,000 Jews could be thus rescued.

Only when they will have reached these camps will the doomed Jews of Europe become refugees; only from that point would they fall under the jurisdiction of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees. With the help of this Committee they could be transferred from the reservation camps into various United Nations and neutral territories and, particularly, into Palestine where some 600,000 could be accommodated and taken care of during the war period. By this process of constantly emptying the various reservation camps, new arrivals could be accommodated regularly.

In this way, via Turkey and the other countries, several hundred thousand Jews could be evacuated and saved in the very near future.

This is a difficult problem, requiring serious, concentrated efforts. Only a specific agency, charged exclusively with the task of rescuing the European Jews, would be able to carry out effectively this complicated work.

Such an agency would provide the necessary machinery for action, would take advantage of existing possibilities, and find new ways and means for effecting the rescue of this trapped people. The very fact of the establishment of such an agency would greatly improve the situation of the European Jews, showing the importance attached to the problem by the United States, and by the Allies, especially if it would become an agency of the United Nations as a whole. It would also release the democracies from their share of the responsibility before God and history.

(Copied by VD:RU:GF)

000947

--MEMORANDUM--

January 15, 1944

TO: Mr. Travers

FROM: Mrs. Crowe

With reference to despatch no. 12660, December 8, from London, enclosing a copy of a communication from Sir Herbert Emerson and reports from the International Red Cross and the American Joint Distribution Committee, the following points are referred to and in some instances request reply or clarification:

At the suggestion of Sir Herbert the representative of the International Red Cross at London cabled Geneva asking that funds be placed at its disposal to enable it to meet emergency needs. In paragraph #2 of Sir Herbert Emerson's letter of December 7, International Red Cross suggests the sum of 300,000 Swiss Francs for this purpose.

Yes when we get funds.

He indicated approval. Do we concur?

In telegram #7865, November 11, from London, a letter from Director of IGC states he understands the procedure would be for the issuance of licenses for the purchase of food and supplies in Neutral countries.

In paragraph #2 of Sir Herbert's letter of December 7, it was also suggested by International Red Cross that it be given authority to make purchases in Rumania and Hungary.

We would require permission from EH & Treasury.

Mr. Long in a Memo assured FD that the purchases would be made in Neutral countries only.

Do we approve purchases in Hungary and Rumania?

In paragraph #3 of Sir Herbert's communication of December 7, he outlines points concerning financial

arrangements

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arrangements which require clarification as follow:

- (a) What part of the funds, if any, will be supplied from private sources? and
(b) are the British and American Governments prepared to share the cost in so far as it is not met from private funds?
- Yes - Private
organs. to put
up two million
we to share with

In telegram #6009, September 29, to London we said that Dr. Goldman stated that the Jewish people in this 8 million country could raise approximately \$2,000,000; that he thought the total cost would be about \$10,000,000; that we had informed Dr. Goldman that the Executive Committee of the IGC had been established in London to act on proposals of this nature and that we had agreed with British Government to jointly underwrite the cost of specific projects such as he described; that we would bring this matter to the attention of the Executive Committee and the British Government and would be prepared to share with Great Britain the costs of specific projects approved by the Executive Committee.

Shall we reiterate the fact that Jewish organizations are prepared to contribute \$2,000,000 and say that we will just contribute \$4,000,000, Great Britain also to contribute \$4,000,000?

we are asking Con- Also in the same paragraph as above Sir Herbert asks gress for confirmation that the IGC should be the authority: 5 million.

- (1) through which funds are placed at the disposal of the International Red Cross,
- (2) to which the International Red Cross would render regular accounts, and
- (3) which would be responsible to see that the conditions attaching to the grant are satisfied by the International Red Cross.

I believe the IGC.

He further suggests that this should apply to private funds as well as Government funds and refers to the recommendation adopted at the meeting of the Executive Committee on August 4 which gives the Executive Committee the power to receive and disburse public and private funds. He suggests that the project under consideration may be used to inaugurate the principle of utilizing the Executive

Committee

Committee for the expenditure of private funds.

See above
(I believe
the IGC).

Do you wish to comment?

In his letter to the Embassy dated November 10, referred to his telegram #7865, November 11, the Director states he requires information concerning what is being done by Allied Governments for their own nationals and also what private organizations are doing for the Jewish peoples, in occupied territories.

In his letter of December 7, Sir Herbert encloses a memorandum prepared by Mr. Schwartz of the Joint Distribution Committee concerning aid by certain Governments and the J.D.C. given to the refugees in question.

Sir Herbert in his letter dated November 10, referred to above, also asks that information be sent to him concerning licenses issued by the Treasury. This was done in telegram #7745 of December 7. However, Sir Herbert had not received it when he wrote his letter of December 10. In that letter he suggests that when assistance is offered by reliable organizations all encouragement should be given, consistent with considerations of policy.

See later
telegram.
(#7745,
Dec. 7?)

Sir Herbert further suggests that it might be convenient to designate the IGC as the authority through which private organizations would approach the American and British Governments for licenses directly concerned with relief of refugees in Europe, and be the authority responsible for the satisfactory fulfillment of conditions imposed. He does not wish consideration of this last proposal to delay the specific project under consideration.

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o.k. to
me.

Do you wish to comment?

Sir Herbert states in his letter of December 7 that when the questions pertaining to financial arrangements have been clarified the project will be presented to the IGC.

VD:RU:MCCrowe:GF

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EMERGENCY COMMITTEE To Save The Jewish People Of Europe
INITIATED BY THE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW YORK-
JULY 20-26, 1943

January 17th
1944

Mr. Howard K. Travers
Chief, Visa Division
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

(Discussed with him
by telephone ---
HKT)

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of January 16,
which is in reply to ours addressed to Mr. Breckinridge
Long of December 28th.

Let me say frankly that I am surprised at
the attitude which your letter maintains. It was
on August 12th, 1943, that we first presented to
Secretary Hull our request that we be permitted to
dispatch emissaries overseas, in order to have up-to-
date facts and to assist in efforts towards rescuing
the Jewish people of Europe. Now, on January 17th,
you inform us that our request is "under consideration."
If you refuse to facilitate the journey of our repre-
sentatives, why don't you say so squarely?

The second part of your letter is even more dis-
tressing. You said: "The Department has upon sev-
eral occasions suggested that all of the various
Jewish organizations which are operating on behalf
of refugees jointly select persons who could repre-
sent their interests. Thus far, the Department has
received no word that this step has been taken."

I do not see how such an argument could be
advanced against our Committee, which is not, as
you said, a "Jewish organization," and which also
is not operating "in behalf of refugees."

Ours is a non-sectarian organization composed
of Americans of all creeds and national extractions,
who seek to secure aid for some four million Jews
now facing extinction at the hands of Nazi Germany.
There are scores of us non-Jews in this Committee
working as devotedly and as hard as its other mem-
bers.

I therefore take the liberty of suggesting that
your attitude towards our request has been based upon

840.48 Refugees/5040

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DATE OF RECEIPT: 28 SEP 1944
TO: MR. HULL
FROM: MR. ALFANGE

Mr. Howard K. Travers
New York

RECEIVED BY THE EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWS

2. Mr. Howard K. Travers
January 17th, 1944

a misapprehension. We do not seek to send representatives abroad in the interests of refugees. This indeed might be duplication, since there exists the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, on which our country is represented.

But there does not exist any governmental body to deal with the specific and urgent problem of the Jews of Europe, nor does there exist any other American Committee which was created specifically for this task. Ours is the only body of citizens which has gotten together for this purpose exclusively, as a result of the deep shock which was felt by every American who has learned the facts of the disaster which has befallen the Jews of Europe. We felt, therefore, that much good could result if our representatives could go to such neutral countries as Turkey and Spain, in order to verify on the spot as to current possibilities for effectuating the rescue of Jews from Europe.

I regret exceedingly that because of lack of clarity on the subject, the question has been delayed so long, and I have used frank and straight expressions in this letter out of my deep anxiety to clarify the situation. My whole activity with the Emergency Committee emanates from a sense of duty to help save innocent human lives. Every day that passes brings death to thousands of Jews in Europe. I want to be able to say that we have done all humanly possible to attempt to save at least some of them from this useless death.

Because of the grave humanitarian importance which we attach to this problem, we are taking the liberty of addressing a copy of this letter to Secretary Hull. I trust and pray that the Department will review its stand in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Dean Alfange
Co-Chairman

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EASTERN HEMISPHERE

January 21, 1944

VD - Mr. Ribble:

Re: Refugees

Attached please find a memorandum to Mr. Pehle of the Treasury, which I believe you will find self-explanatory.

This matter originated in a conference which Rabbi Kolmanowitz had with Mr. Berle on Tuesday last. Mr. Hooker of Mr. Berle's office advised me that I was to take such action as might be necessary to expedite the issuance of an appropriate license. Accordingly, I called Mr. Schmidt this morning (in Mr. Pehle's office), and the attached memorandum merely confirms our telephone conversation.

Mr. Schmidt advised me that he would have the matter looked into immediately, and would, if possible, arrange for a license to be issued without the filing of a formal application by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, etc.

This afternoon, Mr. Michael Tress, the secretary of the organization, called Mr. Berle, and Mr. Hooker had him transferred to me. I advised Mr. Tress of the present status of the matter, and told him that I had every hope that the license would be issued within the next day. I then asked Mr. Tress if he could give me a few further particulars which would be of assistance in drafting a license. In particular, I asked him whether he could state in what countries the operations would take place. He advised me that the refugees in question were now in Poland, and the purpose of the program was to accomplish their evacuation to Hungary. (I had not understood this from Mr. Hooker. It had been my impression that the refugees were in various countries in the general neighborhood of Switzerland, and their evacuation was sought to neutral or United Nations territories.) I then asked Mr. Tress whether he could give me any detailed idea as to the proposed financial transaction. In reply, he stated

that he

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that he was not sure whether the funds would stay in Switzerland, or whether they would be forwarded on to Hungary.

I described to Mr. Tress the two methods set forth in the licenses issued to the World Jewish Congress and the Joint Distribution Committee, (viz (1) acquisition of Rumanian or French currency in Switzerland, and physical transportation thereof to Rumania or France, as the case might be, and (2) acquisition of local currency in France or Rumania, in exchange for claims against a blocked account in Switzerland, frozen for the duration.) I did not mention the names of the two agencies involved.

Mr. Tress stated that he rather thought that the latter of the two methods would be employed, but he could not be sure. His principal difficulty apparently is that the operation may require the eventual purchase of Polish currency, as well as Hungarian currency, and he does not know (and cannot reasonably be expected to know) just how this operation could be carried out.

As soon as I had completed my telephone conversation with Mr. Tress, I telephoned Miss Hodel (Mr. Pehle's assistant) and advised her of the additional information. She recognized the dilemma which the case presents, and told me that she would contact Mr. Pehle just as soon as possible, and would be in further touch with me.

In view of the fact that this plan proposes to evacuate persons from one occupied territory to another, it may not fall squarely within the precedent established by the WJC and JDC plans, which envisaged the evacuation from occupied areas to neutral or United Nations areas. Provided, however, that this plan ~~won~~ will not furnish foreign exchange directly to enemy-occupied territory, this distinction would appear to have little substance.

After completing my telephone conversation with Miss Hodel, I telephoned Mr. Travers, and advised him of the foregoing. He expressed his substantial agreement therewith.

William I. Riegelman

cc: EUR - Mr. Reams
SWP - Mr. Kuppinger
A-B/H - Mr. Hooker
Copied:VD:RU;BT

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TO:

1/31/44

Messrs. Pehle ✓

Luxford

Glasser

Lessert

Friedman

Miss Hodel

MR. J. E. DUBOIS

000955

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .: CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

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55 New Cavendish St., W 1

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37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

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TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

January 24, 1944

Mr. J. E. Dubois
Chief Counsel
Foreign Funds Control Division
Treasury Department
Main Building - Room 172
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dubois:

As I told you over the phone on Friday, the World Jewish Congress has no direct communication from Riegner in Geneva concerning the escape of Jews from Poland into Hungary. Members of the Executive of the Congress have, however, received during the past three to four months frequent reports from other organizations as well as from people who have come recently to this country that such an escape is organized and has been in process for the past seven to eight months.

As far as we are able to, the situation can be summarized as follows: - The flow of escape from Poland to Hungary increases from day to day. It is now already organized. The problems are always merely of a financial character for the organization of the escape and later for the hiding of the people. Good connections have been established in Hungary with governmental circles and the refugee questions are gradually being settled there in a favorable manner. It is established that during the last four months more than 3,000 people have thus escaped from Poland to Hungary.

I regret that I cannot, at the moment, give you more direct information. I am looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday.

Very sincerely yours,

Irving Miller
Rabbi Irving Miller

IM:bl

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WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
Congres Juif Mondial - Congreso Judio Mundial
330 West 42nd Street
New York 18, N. Y.

January 24, 1944

Mr. J. E. DuBois
Chief Counsel
Foreign Funds Control Division
Treasury Department
Main Building - Room 172
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. DuBois:

As I told you over the phone on Friday, the World Jewish Congress has no direct communication from Riegner in Geneva concerning the escape of Jews from Poland into Hungary. Members of the Executive of the Congress have, however, received during the past three to four months frequent reports from other organizations as well as from people who have come recently to this country that such an escape is organized and has been in process for the past seven to eight months.

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I regret that I cannot, at the moment, give you more direct information. I am looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Irving Miller

Rabbi Irving Miller

IM:bl

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FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL

To: *Mr. Friedman*
1) (Room) (Bldg.)
2) (Room) (Bldg.)
3) (Room) (Bldg.)

I have not written a memorandum on the attached material because others working for the Board probably know more about these current developments than I.

From: *Hunting* *2/23/44*
..... (Date)
..... (Room) (Bldg.)

100958

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EASTERN HEMISPHERE

January 26, 1944

VD - Mr. Ribble:

Re: Refugees - Union of Orthodox Rabbis, etc.

In further reference to my memoranda of January 21, and January 25 on this subject, I received the Treasury's draft of the license which had been issued to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, etc., around 2:00 o'clock Saturday afternoon, January 22. I immediately called Mr. Pehle and raised two questions with him:

(a) I pointed out that the license as drafted merely followed the pattern of the licenses issued to the World Jewish Congress and the Joint Distribution Committee and authorized, in effect, operations designed to evacuate persons in danger of their lives to areas of safety. In view of the fact that the operation intended in this case was the evacuation from Poland to Hungary, I told Mr. Pehle I did not feel that the words "areas of safety" were suitable. He agreed, and we changed the language to authorize the evacuation to places of relative safety as might be selected by the representative of the Union in Switzerland.

(b) Three methods of payment were provided in the license, the third authorizing the direct transmission into enemy-occupied territory of foreign exchange. Mr. Pehle advised me that this matter had been carefully considered in the Treasury, and that they felt that under the circumstances, it would no longer serve any useful purpose to attempt to prevent the Germans from acquiring a small amount of foreign exchange involved in payments of this kind, in view of the over-all humanitarian objectives of the program. Mr. Pehle conceded that this probably involved the direct renunciation of the "no ransom" policy. I told Mr. Pehle that in view of the already established precedent, I personally did not feel inclined to disagree with the Treasury's conclusion, but that I would have to discuss the matter with Assistant Secretary Berle.

Subsequently,

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Subsequently, Mr. Hooker and I had a conference with Mr. Berle, at which the latter of the two points was discussed. Mr. Berle was firmly of the opinion that the "no ransom" policy was probably no longer suitable to the times, and that in this case, he definitely approved permitting payment of free foreign exchange into Axis or Axis-occupied territory. I told Mr. Berle that I did not disagree with this conclusion, but had only one reservation - namely, whether this did not involve a breach of what almost amounted to a commitment to the British. Mr. Berle was of the view that this aspect of the matter did not need to be considered at this time.

Accordingly, the telegram to Bern was drafted and dispatched over Mr. Labouisse's signature. (Mr. Berle had left for the day, but had instructed Mr. Hooker and me to be sure that the telegram to Mr. Labouisse for signature, advising him that it had been drafted pursuant to Mr. Berle's instructions. Accordingly, Mr. Labouisse signed the telegram, although he stated to me when he next saw me that he had done so on Mr. Hooker's recommendation, and without any knowledge as to the merits of the matter.)

Simultaneously, Mr. Hooker and I prepared a letter to the Union for Mr. Berle's signature, confirming the fact that the license had gone forward, and discussing briefly the question of the manner by which the Union should acquire the necessary Swiss francs. This letter was signed by Mr. Berle on Monday.

This morning, Rabbi Kolmanowitz telephoned me from New York, and was told that we would be glad to transmit any messages which they might have in connection with the matter. I advised Rabbi Kolmanowitz' secretary that as a matter of fact, no messages should be sent by any other means, and he agreed to follow this procedure.

William I. Riegelman

cc: EUR- Mr. Reams
SWP - Mr. Kuppinger
A-B/H - Mr. Hooker

EH:WIR:AMN
Copied: VD:RU:BT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

~~DIVISION OF INFORMATION~~
EASTERN HEMISPHERE

February 4, 1944

FFC - Treasury - Mr. Pehle:

Re: World Jewish Congress

Attached hereto is a paraphrase of
telegram number 655, February 1, from the
American Legation at Bern.

wir

William I. Riegelman

EH:WIR:AMN

000961

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
DATE: February 1, 1944
NUMBER: 655
*

Reference Department's telegram number 304, January 29. The quoted message was delivered to Dr. Riegner^v on February 1. A request has been made that Dr. Riegner reply to the message through the Legation at Bern.

HARRISON^v

RECEIVED FEB 1 1944

EH:WIR:AMN

2/3/44

RECEIVED

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000962

TELEGRAM RECEIVED
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT
FEB 6 1944

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMERICAN LEGATION, Bern
DATED: January 29, 1944, 4 p.m.
NUMBER: 304

[REDACTED]

Given below is the substance of a message for Dr. Riegner from the World Jewish Congress. It is requested that you urgently deliver a paraphrase to him.

We understand that it may be possible for private persons in Switzerland to communicate with persons in Rumania able to arrange the evacuation of Jewish persons from Transnistria. It is also understood by us that it may be possible to transmit funds for this purpose to Rumania. It is requested that you report at once your opinion as to what action should now be taken in this connection, provided the necessary authority and funds are given to you. Treasury has informed us that the necessary licenses covering both the funds and the necessary communications will be issued. Furthermore we are informed by Treasury that it is willing to allow the acquisition of the necessary goods, services and local funds from persons

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1975

000963

persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against reimbursement in the form of free exchange or free currency notes provided that the two methods set forth in the license recently issued and transmitted to you cannot effectively be used to finance the operations. You will be required to take reasonable steps to avoid the payment of any such free foreign exchange or free currency notes to persons who might supply the same to the enemy.

The United States Legation in Bern will transmit to the War Refugee Board the information requested above and for this purpose the information should therefore be reported to Minister Harrison.

We request that you take all possible action to help in the implementation and development of this type of project by private agencies in accordance with our previous cable dated January 25, 1944, no. 251.

HULL

TO:

Files

This letter
corresponds with
the Jerusalem cable
dated

March 30, '45

11:30 A.M.

000965

To:

Miss Har E

Shall I call Jim
Brunot & as
recommended

PJM

This letter was referred
to me within the past
week.

000966

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .: CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

February 21, 1944

Hon. J. W. Pehle, Acting Exec. Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Dr. Gerhard Riegner, World Jewish Congress representative in Geneva, has just conveyed to us, through the Royal Yugoslav Embassy in Washington, confidential information of the highest importance.

The Zagreb representative of the International Red Cross has sent a confidential report to the Geneva headquarters to the effect that there are still 1200 Yugoslav Jews in concentration camps on the territory of "Pavelic's Croatia." The International Red Cross is prepared to send food parcels to the internees and to have the parcels distributed under the personal control of the International Red Cross representative. It asks, however, for funds and believes that an amount of 24000 Swiss francs would be sufficient.

Chief Rabbi Issac Alcalay and Dr. Paul Neuberger of the Yugoslav Jewish Representative Committee affiliated with the World Jewish Congress discussed this matter with Mr. Bart Andress, National Director of the United Yugoslav Relief Fund, who promised the whole hearted assistance of his Organization.

It may be expected that the United Yugoslav Relief Fund will in the next few days apply to the President's Control Board in order to be authorized to allocate the said amount of 24,000 Swiss francs for the abovementioned rescue action. May I be bold enough to request your kind intervention in order to have the consideration of said application expedited and favorably acted upon. The 1200 internees in question are the remnants of a distinguished Jewish community which has been subjected to unparalleled cruelties.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kubowitzki
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Dept. European Jewish Affairs

ALK:bm

MEMORANDUM

February 23, 1944.

Remnant Groups Sponsored by World Jewish Congress. (Status of Project as Disclosed by file in Visa Division, State Department)

1. The earliest document in this file is a memorandum of conversation on September 16, 1943 ^{1/} between Mr. Long and Dr. Nachum Goldman, of the World Jewish Congress, relating to remnant groups of refugees in different parts of Central Europe, who were dying of starvation and privation. Dr. Goldman proposed that the International Red Cross be the agent to reach these persons and gave the impression that the Red Cross had expressed its willingness to do so. He asked whether the American Government would contribute funds which would permit the Red Cross to buy medicines and concentrated foods in Europe as opportunities developed. The Jewish people in this country could raise approximately \$2,000,000 of the \$10,000,000 which the program would require, and he wondered whether the United States would be willing to put up \$8,000,000.

Mr. Long told Dr. Goldman that no funds were available that he knew about. The only possible source would be money in the President's fund, but Mr. Long doubted whether there was much, if any, in that account which would be available for the purpose indicated. However, Mr. Long stated that the Executive Committee of the IGC had been established by the United States and other member governments as the agency to act upon proposals of this character. The American and British Governments had jointly agreed to underwrite the cost of specific projects to help refugees in Europe in a situation such as described. Mr. Long stated that the Department would be glad to bring Dr. Goldman's proposal to the attention of the Executive Committee of the IGC and the British Government, and would be prepared to share with Great Britain the cost of specific projects approved by the Executive Committee. He stated that the Department would also be glad to recommend to the consideration of the Executive Committee the possibility of accepting the Red Cross as the agency in occupied territory which would carry out approved projects, and that the Committee favorably consider such projects as the Red Cross might recommend. Mr. Long stated that if Dr. Goldman applied to the Treasury for a license to transmit private funds to the Red Cross, the Department would be glad to support such an application to the Treasury. Mr. Long further assured Dr. Goldman that the Department would advise the London Embassy for its information and for that of the IGC, the Department's attitude as expressed in the memorandum of conversation.

Mr. Long noted that adoption of the program on a project basis would obviate the necessity of seeking large over-all sums of official funds. The American Government could operate under its general commitment with

1/ Copy of memorandum of conversation, dated September 16, 1943, is attached hereto.

*Solving Mr. Lasser's problem
all Enclosures met
LWS*

100968

the British to underwrite the cost of specific projects undertaken by the Committee. In case the total cost amounted to an unexpected figure, consideration could then be given to that matter. The point was that, in committing the Department to the program in principle, it could always review the mounting cost of any particular project. It was assumed that the President's authority to make the agreement with Great Britain carried with it the assurance that reasonable sums for particular projects would be available.

2. On September 29 ^{1/} the Department wired the American Embassy in London the import of the above conference and requested the Embassy to bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Committee and advise the Department of any action taken thereon. The Embassy was instructed to bear in mind that the adoption of a program on a project basis would obviate the necessity of seeking large over-all sums of official funds; and it was expressly stipulated that the foregoing was subject to the general promise that the German Government would obtain no benefit from the project.

3. On November 11 ^{2/} Winant in London reported that the Embassy had communicated to the IGC the substance of the September 29 telegram and had received a reply dated November 10, in which the Director requested certain information probably in the possession of the Treasury. The Director stated that the IGC had written to the International Red Cross asking for an outline of particular projects that it might recommend. It was further suggested that the Red Cross should limit itself to recommending projects whose nature was such that only lack of funds prevented their being undertaken or extended. No reply had yet been received from the Red Cross.

However, the IGC had received some information regarding the help that is being given, (1) by allied governments to their own nationals, including Jews, and (2) by voluntary organizations, mainly Jewish, to Jews in occupied territory. It was understood that the normal system was for the American or British Treasury to grant licenses giving exchange facilities for the purchase of food, etc., in certain neutral countries. The food so purchased was then sent into occupied territory, under certain guarantees, for the benefit of the Allied nationals or the Jewish groups respectively.

The IGC was presently inclined to believe that whatever may be the reply of the Red Cross, the extension of the existing system may be a

^{1/} Copy of Department's 6009, September 29, is attached hereto.

^{2/} Copy of Embassy's 7865, dated November 11, is attached hereto.

000969

contribution towards the problem that has been referred to the IGC. Accordingly, the IGC would be grateful if the Department could obtain from the Treasury information regarding licenses now in force which have been issued for this purpose, the governments or organizations to which they have been granted, and the amount of exchange to which they relate. (Apparently this telegram was answered on December 7 in Department's 7745, which was not found.)

4. On November 29 ^{1/} Winant in London wired the State Department, referring to the Department's telegram 7287 of November 17 (which is not in the file). The wire stated that the Director of the IGC replied on November 26 to a letter of November 18 written by the London Embassy. (The letter of November 18 was not found.)

The Director stated that he was still awaiting a reply from the Red Cross in Geneva to the written inquiry which went forward in the middle of October. The Director's office appreciated the Department's urgent desire to obtain a decision favorable to the proposal, but it was necessary to present somewhat specific projects for consideration by the IGC. To expedite matters the IGC had an additional conference with Red Cross representatives in London, and they were cabling to Geneva again along the following lines. They are asking for a cabled reply to the IGC's original inquiry giving details as to possible projects, and in addition they are asking the Red Cross to consider the possibility of a further arrangement whereby funds might be placed at its disposal to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Such an arrangement would depend on the fulfillment of three conditions: (1) that the German Government obtain no benefit from any project; (2) that there must be assurance that supplies will reach the intended beneficiaries; and (3) that an account will be rendered. The Red Cross Committee in Geneva was being requested to cable the amount of an initial advance which could be spent during the next three months. As soon as a reply was received from Geneva, the matter would be presented for consideration by the Executive Committee, which was informed at its November 18 meeting of the State Department's original letter of October 1. ^{2/}

5. On December 4 ^{3/} Mr. Travers reported to Dr. Goldman the status of the project as revealed by the foregoing telegram of November 29.

^{1/} Copy of Embassy's 8328, November 29, is attached hereto.

^{2/} This probably was the London Embassy's letter which was based upon Department's 6009, dated September 29.

^{3/} Copy of letter is attached hereto.

6. On December 8 ^{1/} the London Embassy submitted to the Department copies of a letter dated December 7 from the Director of the IGC, a telegram from the Red Cross in Geneva to the London Delegation, and a memorandum dated November 14 by Mr. Schwartz, Executive Head in Europe of the Joint Distribution Committee. The Director's letter reported the Red Cross had replied to the October inquiry as follows: (1) the Red Cross was in a position, through existing Red Cross delegates, to undertake distribution and to exercise control in Roumania, Croatia, and Hungary; (2) that it was prepared to set up a delegation for the purpose in Slovakia; and (3) that so far as Germany and occupied territories were concerned, there was less possibility for relief, except that some relief could be given to internees in Theresienstadt.

The Red Cross suggested that 300,000 Swiss francs be placed at its disposal, which, in the Director's opinion, was a reasonable request. The Red Cross stressed the difficulty of purchasing food in neutral countries and suggested that it should have authority to make purchases in Hungary and Roumania, where it was still possible to obtain certain varieties of food.

Before placing the scheme before the Executive Committee, the Director desired clarification on several points: (1) What part of the funds, if any, will be supplied from private sources? And are the British and American Governments prepared to share the cost in so far as it is not from private funds? (2) The further question arose as to the functions of the IGC. The Director suggested that this Committee should be the agency for placing funds at the disposal of the Red Cross; and should be responsible for seeing that the Red Cross satisfies the conditions of the grant. The Red Cross would render its account to the Committee. This would apply not only to Government funds, but also to funds from private sources.

When the above points are clarified, the case will be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration.

7. On January 15, 1944 ^{2/} Mrs. Crowe of the Visa Division wrote a memorandum to Mr. Travers, which summarizes the above letter of December 7 from the Director of the IGC and outlines the questions raised. Notations in the margin of the memorandum, apparently made by Mr. Travers, indicate his view as to the Department's position on these questions.

^{1/} Embassy's Despatch No. 12660, dated December 8, and enclosures are attached hereto.

^{2/} Copy of memorandum, dated January 15, is attached hereto.

000971

It was noted that the Department would approve sending 300,000 Swiss francs to the Red Cross "when we get funds." As to purchases in Hungary and Roumania, the Department would require permission from "E.H." and the Treasury. Concerning the source of the funds, it was noted that private organizations in the United States would put up \$2,000,000 and the American and British Governments would raise the remaining \$8,000,000. Mrs. Crowe asked whether the Department should reiterate the fact that the Jewish organizations are prepared to contribute \$2,000,000 and that the American and British Governments would contribute \$4,000,000 each. The comment on this question was, "President just approved and we are asking Congress for \$5,000,000." It was indicated further that the IGC should be the agency which would disburse the funds, supervise the Red Cross projects, and receive the account from the Red Cross.

8. On February 1 ^{1/} Winant in London wired the Department asking for instructions as to the reply the Embassy should make to the Foreign Office's letter of January 28 (not in the file) requesting comments on the IGC Director's December 7 letter. With respect to the IGC Director's suggestion that 300,000 Swiss francs be sent to the Red Cross, the Foreign Office's letter apparently stated that this could conveniently be done by consultation with MEW and EWD, which have established an appropriate procedure. The Foreign Office's letter further stated that the British would be glad to facilitate help from Jewish organizations to their co-religionists in enemy occupied territory in so far as the blockade permits and the demands on foreign exchange for this purpose can be coordinated with those of Allied governments for relief of Allied nationals in such territory. The Foreign Office would be glad to know in particular the views of the Department regarding the provision of funds from public sources as opposed to contributions by private organizations. This point seems to raise important questions of principle, and the British would be glad to discuss it further with the Embassy if the Embassy could indicate the American Government's attitude.

The file does not disclose whether any reply has been made to the above inquiry.

K. E. Hostwing

^{1/} Embassy's 883, dated February 1, is attached hereto.

MAR 9 1944

In reply please
refer to: 209

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

I have received your letter of February 21,
1944, and wish to advise you that the problems presented
therein are presently under study by the Board. You
will be advised further concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Department European
Jewish Affairs,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, N. Y.

*Original signed
by Mr. Pehle -*

EST
FH:hd 3/6/44

421

000973

MAR 7 1944

Dear Mr. Peter:

For your information I am sending you herewith a copy of a message from the War Refugee Board to your headquarters in Geneva.

The World Jewish Congress has recently approached the War Refugee Board concerning a plan to send standard food parcels from the United States to internees in concentration camps in Germany and German-occupied territories. Before we consider this proposal further, it would be appreciated if you would advise us concerning the position taken by the German Government with respect to sending food parcels to civilians detained in concentration camps. In this connection, we are informed that your headquarters in Geneva and your delegate in London have been working on this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Marc Peter,
Delegate in the United States
of the International Red Cross
Committee,
2500 Q Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original signed
by Mr. Pehle
EBT*

FHodel:hd 2/28/44

000974

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .: CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

209
FILING AUTHORITY
TO: Mail & Files
ANS.
NO ANS. REQ.
INITIAL
DATE

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St, W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P.O.B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

February 21, 1944

Hon. J. W. Pehle, Acting Exec. Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I take the liberty of calling your urgent attention to the following:

The Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United States has been informed by its Headquarters in Geneva that their Delegate in London has contacted the Foreign Office and Ministry of Economic Warfare, for the purpose of obtaining permission for the dispatch of standard food parcels to concentration camps and prisons in Germany and German-occupied territories.

The Delegation's Headquarters in Geneva have informed the Ministry of Economic Warfare and the Foreign Office that, in this connection, they are constantly receiving the most pressing appeals from their Delegate in Berlin for help in favor of these civilian prisoners from occupied countries. The Geneva Headquarters have stated that they have no parcels available for these unfortunate people, as British and American Red Cross standard parcels are, in terms of the directions given by the blockade authorities, reserved exclusively for the recognized prisoners of war and civilian internees.

Their Delegate in London furthermore forwarded to the above mentioned offices two photocopies of receipts which have reached the Committee, following an experimental dispatch of fifty parcels of Swiss origin. Apparently, by chance, a brother of one of the recipients visited Geneva and confirmed the latter's signature.

In answer to their Delegate, the above mentioned offices have stated that they were not in a position to grant permission for such standard food parcels to be sent to concentration camps.

May I express the hope that the War Refugee Board will bring this matter to the urgent attention of the blockade authorities and request them to

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .: CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St, W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM
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MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

- 2 -

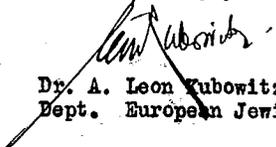
February 21, 1944

permit the "detained civilians" in concentration and internment camps, ghettos and prisons to receive British and American Red Cross standard parcels?

We have been told that the German authorities were opposed to the sending of food parcels to civilian prisoners. If the situation has changed in this respect, no time should be lost, in our opinion, in alleviating the food plight of these unfortunate people.

Looking forward to your reply, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,


Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Dept. European Jewish Affairs

ALK:bm

MAR 9 1944

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

I have received your letter of March 1, 1944, concerning the situation of Jewish and Yugoslav refugees on the Island of Rab.

I am pleased to inform you that the War Refugee Board has been working on this problem and arrangements have been made for an initial remittance of \$25,000 to be sent through the British Foreign Office for use in evacuating refugees from the Island of Rab to southern Italy.

The Board is also working on other methods for the rescue of these people. Any suggestions you may have concerning this problem will be greatly appreciated by the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, N. Y.

*Original signed
by Mr. Pehle*

FH:hd 3/7/44

000977

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .: CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

March 1st, 1944

LONDON
One Harley Street, W. 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-9c

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

Hon. J. W. Pehle, Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

At the request of the Yugoslav Jewish Representative Committee affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, I call your most urgent attention to the Jewish and Yugoslav refugees who are on the island of Arbe (Rab).

On October 2, 1942, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the WJC, informed Mr. Breckenridge Long in a telegram that 4000 Jewish and Yugoslav refugees who had been in internment camps or free along the Dalmatian coast, had been removed to the Adriatic island of Arbe (Rab), which had been captured by the Yugoslav partisans. He expressed the request that these refugees be removed, as soon as possible, to safer areas such as southern Italy or Sicily.

On October 16th, Mr. Howard K. Travers, Chief of the Visa Division, wrote to Dr. Goldmann that the information in his aforementioned telegram had been sent to the Embassy in London, with the request that it be referred to the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee as well as to other appropriate authorities for such action as might be deemed advisable.

On January 3, 1944, Mr. Travers wrote again to Dr. Goldmann, informing him with regret that the efforts of the State Department in connection with the above had been interrupted by the capture of Arbe by German forces.

It now appears from information received by the Yugoslav Embassy, that the island since a few days ago is once more in the hands of the Yugoslav guerillas. We have no accurate information as to the fate that has befallen the Jewish refugees there during the Nazi interregnum. You will readily agree with us however, that urgent action ought to be taken in order not to leave them to the uncertain course of the war in that region and that they should be removed without delay to safer zones.

(I would deeply appreciate hearing from you concerning the action you will take in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kubowitzki
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki

ALK:lw

268

FILING AUTHORITY

FO: Mail & Files

ANS.

W. ANS. 500.....

INITIAL

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK.....

TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

000978

MAR 11 1944

Dear Dr. Perlzweig:

I have received your letter of March 3, 1944, enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to you by the Apostolic Delegate in Washington.

I am pleased to advise you that the War Refugee Board has arranged to send a message to Dr. Riegner, advising him that the Vatican has secured a promise from Monsignor Tiso that the Jews in Slovakia will not be persecuted, but will only be interned and given an opportunity and facilities to go to other countries.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig,
Political Department,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42 Street,
New York 18, N. Y.

FH:lab 3/10/44

000979

MAR 11 1944

Dear Dr. Perlzweig:

I have received your letter of March 3, 1944, enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to you by the Apostolic Delegate in Washington.

I am pleased to advise you that the War Refugee Board has arranged to send a message to Dr. Hiegner, advising him that the Vatican has secured a promise from Monsignor Tiso that the Jews in Slovakia will not be persecuted, but will only be interned and given an opportunity and facilities to go to other countries.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig,
Political Department,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42 Street,
New York 18, N. Y.

FH:lab 3/10/44

000980

MAR 11 1944

Dear Dr. Perlzweig:

I have received your letter of March 3, 1944, enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to you by the Apostolic Delegate in Washington.

I am pleased to advise you that the War Refugee Board has arranged to send a message to Dr. Biegner, advising him that the Vatican has secured a promise from Monsignor Tiso that the Jews in Slovakia will not be persecuted, but will only be interned and given an opportunity and facilities to go to other countries.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig,
Political Department,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42 Street,
New York 18, N. Y.

FH:lab 3/10/44

000981

301

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority _____
To: Files _____
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

March 3, 1944

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-9c

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P.O.B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

Hon. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

In addition to the memorandum which Dr. Wise is sending on our behalf today, I venture to draw your attention to the situation to which reference is made in the enclosed letter from the Apostolic Delegate.

We received information from various sources a few weeks ago that the remaining Jews in Slovakia were being registered, and we assumed that this would be followed by their deportation. Since Slovakia is a largely Catholic country, and the head of its puppet government is a Catholic prelate, Monsignor Tiso, I appealed, both personally and in writing, to the Apostolic Delegation to secure the intervention of the Vatican. The enclosed letter from Archbishop Cicognani shows that the Vatican has secured a promise from Monsignor Tiso that the Jews, after internment, "will be given opportunity and facilities to go to some other country".

We are naturally anxious that advantage should be taken of this opportunity, and these facilities, in so far as they are provided, and we should like this information passed on to our representative in Geneva, Dr. Gerhard Riegner, who will know how to make use of it. Since the information is confidential, and it is obviously important that it should not become known to the Nazi authorities, we cannot send him an open cable. Accordingly, I am passing on the information to you in the knowledge that the War Refugee Board will be glad to do whatever is possible and will not hesitate to use the services of Dr. Riegner and the office of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva.

I ought to add that I have today cabled this information to Dr. Nahum Goldmann at our office in London, but no other use has been made of the information.

I need not assure you that we shall be glad to be helpful in any way within our power, and that one or another of us will always be glad to go to Washington whenever we are needed.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice L. Perlzweig

Maurice L. Perlzweig
Political Department

mlp/id

481

100982

P
Y
APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

No. 581/42

February 26, 1944.

Reverend Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig
World Jewish Congress
330 West 42 St.
New York, 18, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Perlzweig:

Referring to your letter of February 4, 1944, and my reply of February 11, 1944, concerning the welfare of Jews remaining in Slovakia, I wish to inform you that I have been assured that the Holy See has taken up the interests of these unfortunate people. It seems that the census was made for the purpose of investigating certain specific suspicions. It likewise appears that the President of the Republic has promised that the Jews will not be persecuted, that is, condemned to severe punishments, but will only be interned and will be given opportunity and facilities to go to some other country.

The Holy See will continue to take interest in the sad and uncertain condition of these unfortunate people.

With sentiments of esteem and every best wish, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

S.G. Cicognani (signed)

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

000983

Root Smith

MAR 11 1944

In reply please
refer to: 300

Dear Mr. Wise:

Thank you for your letter of March 3, 1944, submitting a memorandum of suggestions to aid the Board in formulating its rescue programs.

The proposals which have been presented will receive prompt and careful consideration, as will such further views and suggestions as you may wish to offer in the future.

This letter will also confirm the appointment for discussions with officers of your organization in my office at 9:30 a.m. on March 15, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Stephen S. Wise,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, New York.

EPT EBTowler: *JA* 3-10-44

000984

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

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300

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Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

March 3, 1944

Hon. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to send you herewith a memorandum on general measures of rescue which is submitted on behalf of the Executive of the World Jewish Congress. This will be the first of several such memoranda, but it is being sent to you immediately in order to avoid delay.

The Executive of the World Jewish Congress has the advantage of being assisted by representative committees consisting of outstanding leaders now in New York, of all the European Jewish communities whose countries are now under enemy occupation. We are anxious that the knowledge and experience of these leaders should be placed at the disposal of the War Refugee Board. Accordingly, we should be grateful if you would kindly consent to receive a deputation of officers of the World Jewish Congress, which would include a number of these European leaders, and I should be grateful if you would indicate when such a deputation could see you.

I take this opportunity of renewing our assurance that we shall always be glad to place ourselves fully at your disposal in the historic task with which you have been intrusted.

Faithfully yours,

Stephen S. Wise
Stephen S. Wise

ssw/ld
enc.

*No attachments when
Received in file*

*Appointment has
been made for
9:30 Wed 3/16/44
mjt*

MAR 14 1944

In reply please
refer to: 308

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of March 9, 1944, quoting for our information excerpts from a report of November 26, 1943, from one of your representatives in Geneva to one of your representatives in Lisbon.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Department European
Jewish Affairs,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, New York.

EBT
EBTowler:agr 3-13-44

000986

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

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MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

March 9, 1944

Hon. J. W. Penle, Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Penle:

I beg to bring to your attention the following information which has been conveyed to one of our representatives in Lisbon by one of our Geneva representatives.

Since the report was of November 26, 1943, it may well be that it is outdated. It is, however, of such serious character that I felt you would want to check on it. The information reads textually:

"You certainly heard that only young people below sixteen are permitted to enter Switzerland; in addition families with children. Others are being sent back. You can picture our state of mind. The authorities stick to these rules. A month ago people arrived here from Belgium. We registered them in the Interior in the town of Z. The result was that those who took care of them were arrested and held in prison for a week. This is not as important as the fact that people are being sent back. Our proteges finally remained, but I am worried about the others still to come.

"The situation of our brethren and our youth who have suffered everywhere and who are now compelled to take refuge here should be explained to the Swiss authorities."

This information has been quite a shock to us even as it would be to public opinion were it to learn that Switzerland is rejecting refugees. I repeat, however, that this information may be obsolete.

MAR 11 1944

May I suggest that the War Refugee Board approach the Swiss Government and request it to open its doors to all the Jews who manage to escape. If Switzerland would uphold a policy such as described in this report it would mean a terrible blow to the possibilities of rescue from France and Italy.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours



Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Department European Jewish Affairs

ALKW:ef

000988

192

Executive Office of the President

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

FROM:

- TO: _____ Mr. Pehle
- _____ **Miss Channsey (Sec'y)**
- _____ Mr. Abrahamson _____ Mrs. B. King
- _____ Miss Alexander _____ Miss Laughlin
- _____ **Mr. Bernstein** _____ Mr. Lesser
- _____ Mrs. Conn
- _____ Mr. DuBois _____ Mr. Luxford
- ✓ _____ Mr. Friedman _____ Mr. Mann
- _____ **Mr. Gaston** _____ Mr. Marks
- _____ Miss Hodel
- _____ Mr. McCormack _____ **Mr. Standish**
- _____ Mr. Murphy _____ Mr. Stewart
- _____ Mr. Parke _____ Mrs. Taylor
- _____ **Mr. Paul** _____ Mrs. Towler
- _____ **Mr. Poliak** _____ Mr. White, H.D.
- _____ **Mr. Reines**
- _____ Mr. Smith

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Cable F
Herschen

March 16, 1944

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Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am sending you herewith the photostat of the telegram to which I referred during our discussion of yesterday.

The father and brother of whom the writer speaks, escaped from Bratislava to Hungary and you will notice that they have both Palestine certificates and "all necessary transit visas except Turkish". This is evidently a case in which the two people concerned are in jeopardy solely because of the policy pursued by the Turks, and it could conceivably be used as a test of the genuineness of Ankara's change of attitude.

The cable was addressed to a responsible businessman in this city who passed this copy on to me. He is not related to the lady who signs it, but he is well acquainted with all the persons concerned.

You will notice the reference to yourself. You are in danger of becoming a kind of precursor of the Messiah to thousands of Jews throughout the world. We are doing our best to save you from so difficult and dangerous a role, but I do not know whether we shall succeed. However, I hope that you will allow me to repeat the assurance that we are most anxious to be of assistance to you in any practical way that we can.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice L. Perlzweig

Maurice L. Perlzweig

mlp/id
enc.

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IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATE AND AIR TICKETS AVAILABLE

EXCEPT TURKISH TRANSIT VISA STOP TURKEY IMMEDIATELY

LIMITED NUMBERS TRANSIT VISA FROM HERE IMMEDIATELY

UNSUCCESSFUL STOP CENTLY GREATLY WARRS HERE FOOD VASIT

-N COULD HELP PLEASE SEE JOHN W. BROWN JR. DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR TREASURY DEPARTMENT WASHINGTON D.C. 20540

Telephone: HANover 2-1811

000991



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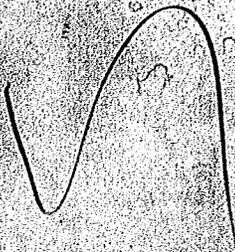
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MAY SAVE BOTH STOP COUSINS IN BRITISH ARMY NOBODY ELSE
FOR ADVISE AND HELP THANKS FOR SPEEDY INTERVENTION

ANN FRANKL



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FORM 111-1A-1931-15

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MAR 13 1944

In reply please
refer to: 305

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

This is to acknowledge and thank you
for your letter of March 9, 1944, enclosing
five additional copies of the memorandum which
the World Jewish Congress recently submitted,
suggesting a program for relief and rescue of
Jews.

Very truly yours,

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

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Department European
Jewish Affairs,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, New York.

EBTowler:agr 3-13-44

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March 9, 1944

305
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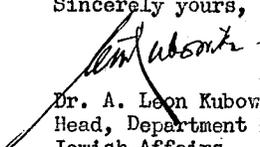
CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

With reference to the letter Dr. Wise sent you on March 3rd, I am very glad to enclose herewith 5 additional copies of our "Program of general measures of Relief and Rescue of Jews threatened with extermination by the enemy".

Sincerely yours,


Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Department European
Jewish Affairs

ALK:lw

100994

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
330 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y.

PROGRAM
of general measures of
RELIEF AND RESCUE OF JEWS
threatened with extermination by the enemy

Submitted to the
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
by the
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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P R O G R A M
of general measures of
RELIEF AND RESCUE OF JEWS
threatened with extermination by the enemy

Submitted to
The War Refugee Board by
The World Jewish Congress

In setting up a War Refugee Board the President declared that "it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war."

The release issued on January 22nd by the Secretary of the President stresses the President's view "that it is urgent that action be taken at once to forestall the plan of the Nazis to exterminate all the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe."

The Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board has repeatedly proclaimed the need for a bold program, which would not be held up by the cautions and conventional formalities which might be proper in less pressing circumstances. On the way to the rescue of the remnants of European Jewry many a Gordian knot will have to be cut. Any attempt to un-

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tie it would be wasting the little time left, and the cost would be counted in human lives which can still be saved.

It is generally admitted that the situation has immensely changed for the worse since the World Jewish Congress representatives in Geneva first acquainted the United States Minister in Bern with the facts relating to the extermination of the Jews of Europe. In Axis occupied Europe there are no longer any legally free Jews. There are Jews who are more or less legally free only in Hungary and, to some extent, Rumania (with the exception of occupied Transnistria). In all the other regions of Axis Europe the Jews are either in hiding or interned in death, concentration or labor camps.

A cable sent from Jerusalem to the Congress on February 6th reads as follows:

"POLISH JEWS ARRIVED HERE RECENTLY REPORT OF UNINTERRUPTED EXTERMINATIONS. ONLY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS REMAIN OF MILLIONS OF POLISH JEWS AND OTHERS EXILED TO POLAND. THE SURVIVERS ARE IN LABOR CAMPS OR IN HIDING. BOTH CATEGORIES ARE UNDER CONSTANT THREAT OF EXTERMINATION. IN THE CAMPS THE WEAK OR SICK ARE KILLED. THE SAME FATE AWAITS THOSE HIDING WHO ARE CAUGHT AS THE GESTAPO IS OFFERING REWARDS."

If the purpose of the War Refugee Board is to be ful-

filled, customary procedures must be superseded. The rescue of Jews from the clutches of the Nazis now falls for the most part within the spheres of underground activity, and commando and guerilla warfare. For example, there is no legal way, with the exception of exchange, to get a Jew out of Nazi occupied Europe. Since autumn 1941, a rigid ban on exit permits has been enforced inside the Greater Reich and in German occupied countries. "In fact," states Sir Herbert Emerson in his report of August, 1943, to the League of Nations, "with very few exceptions, people who have managed to escape since that time have done so in a clandestine manner." The High Commissioner had himself taken up some individual cases of intending emigrants. "Not a single successful case can be reported. Even people over 65 years of age, whose maintenance was guaranteed in Switzerland for the rest of their lives, and in respect of whom the Swiss authorities granted entrance permits, were not able to avail themselves of these facilities." And Sir Herbert concludes: "These facts need be stressed, as public opinion does not seem to appreciate them fully.

The general measures of rescue to be taken can be subdivided as follows:

I. Psychological and Diplomatic:

1. Solemn Warning and Appeal.
2. Dissemination of Information on the Facts of Extermination.
3. Trials of Criminals and Accomplices.
4. Continued Pressure on the Satellites.
5. Encouragement of the Neutral States.
6. Recognition of segregated and interned Jews as Civilian Internees.

II. Practical:

1. Public:
 - a- Havens and Camps of Refuge.
 - b- Rescue of Children.
 - c- Transportation and Transit Facilities.
 - d- Exchange Possibilities.
 - e- Food, Medical Supplies, Clothing.
 - f- Periodic Inspection by Red Cross Delegates.
 - g- Funds for Red Cross Activities.
 - h- Removal from Liberated but Unsafe Regions.
 - i- Relaxation of Censorship.
2. Underground:
 - a- Hiding.
 - b- Smuggling.
 - c- "Documents."
 - d- Funds for Underground Activities.

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I. Psychological and Diplomatic Measures:

I. Solemn Warning and Appeal.

The World Jewish Congress has repeatedly insisted from the outset of the extermination process on the immense value of solemn, specific and reiterated warnings. Such warnings would be addressed by the leaders of the United Nations, especially President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, to the Nazi leaders, their satellites, accomplices and agents, and would make it clear that they will be held responsible for their crimes against the Jews and brought to trial at the earliest opportunity. The heads of the United Nations would also urge the populations, on grounds of humanity and religion as well as of self interest, to resist the policy of persecution by succouring the victims.

Dr. Wise took up this matter again during his visit to the President in August, 1943, and in a letter, dated August 17, 1943, to General Watson, he confirmed "the suggestion to which the President seemed to assent, that this is the time for a most emphatic and solemn warning to the Hitler-ruled countries against the continued slaughter of civilian populations and especially those whom it is resolved to exterminate, namely, the Jewish people."

Unfortunately, there has been no such specific warning since the messages addressed to Dr. Wise by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill in July, 1942, and the statement of

the United Nations of December 17, 1942. In the opinion of many informed and experienced people, a new warning should be issued without delay as, whatever its disadvantages may be supposed to be, they would be more than outweighed by the following probable effects:

- a) The warning would counteract Nazi propaganda, which presents America and Great Britain as the homes of growing anti-Semitic movements, a propaganda which carries with it the suggestion that crimes against the Jews will not be punished;
- b) It would deepen the moral cleavage between the Nazi leaders who are responsible for the acts of extermination and those sections of the German population who disapprove of them;
- c) It would have a deterrent effect on tens of thousands of non-German officials, police officers and agents with whose help the Nazi policy of extermination is being carried out;
- d) It would encourage the satellites in their desire to adopt a policy which, on the day of settlement, could be brought up as a mitigating circumstance;
- e) It would strengthen the hands of the Gentile population in occupied Europe in its efforts to aid the Jews to escape persecution;
- f) It would give support in neutral countries to those sections of public opinion which favor a liberal policy with regard to the admission of refugees;

g) It would hearten and prolong the endurance of those Jews in occupied Europe who would hear of it.

2. Dissemination of Information on the Facts of Extermination.

The question whether the German population is aware of the mass killings of which the Jews are the victims in Eastern Europe is the subject of controversy. It remains a fact, however, that the German leadership consistently refrains from telling the German people the facts of extermination. Even Hitler and Goebbels allude to their policy of annihilation in abstract terms; in boasting about it they resort to somber circumlocutions.

The fact that the Nazis conceal from the German people the gruesome story of the murder of a people proves the importance of telling it.

There has been recently in this respect some improvement in the policy of the BBC and OWI. Beaming the facts of extermination, in particular the cruelties against children, the methods employed in the killings, should become an integral element in psychological warfare. But radio broadcasts are not enough. The facts should be made known also by means of leaflets, dropped from planes regularly over Germany and German held territory, until the populations are seized with horror and their silent complicity become for them an unbearable burden.

The need for such leaflets, devoted specifically to the

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Jewish martyrdom in Nazi Europe, has been repeatedly stressed in conferences and memoranda to the Administration. It is not known whether it has been recognized and acted upon.

3. Trials of Criminals and Accomplices.

As the war moves slowly forward and the promise of victory, though certain, does not appear to be immediate, the pledge of retribution is likely to lose its effect if no public attempt is made to implement it.

It cannot but be regretted that the proceedings of the Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes have so far not been calculated to inspire confidence in its intention to carry out the pledges made by the Governments. It was on October 7, 1942, that Lord Simon first announced the establishment of the Commission, but it was not until October 15, 1943, that the Commission held its first meeting. And even at that meeting the opportunity was not taken to make a public demonstration of the Commission's determination to bring the criminals to justice. A declaration by the representatives of the principal powers of their resolve to punish all administrative acts, as well as the actual atrocities themselves, which were designed to effect or hasten the extermination of the Jews, could have produced great repercussions. The apparent inactivity of the Commission reassures and emboldens those who proclaim that their crimes will remain unpunished.

That is why the trial held in Algiers, of the torturers

of the Colomb Bechar camp, is of such historic importance. Its proceedings and verdict should be beamed to Europe in the most effective way. The decision, if it is made known, will have a deterrent effect on the minor officials among the Quislings, who have accepted collaboration because of its immediate benefits, but who are certainly not willing to risk their lives.

Similar trials should be conducted whenever and wherever possible, without waiting for the end of the war. Those, for instance, who were responsible for the Cyrenaica deportations, which cost the lives of 500 members of the Benghazi Jewish community, should be sought out and brought to justice.

4. Continued Pressure on the Satellites.

The pressure on the German satellites to refrain from cruelties and deportations, to facilitate the emigration of their own Jewish populations, to grant asylum to Jewish refugees and to help them leave their territories, should be continued firmly and consistently.

Although it appears that many satellites are inclined to relinquish their anti-Jewish policy, a continuous vigilance is indispensable to counteract the steady pressure of the German diplomatic and military representatives. For such counteraction it is important to enlist the cooperation of the Churches: Of the Holy See, in relation to Slovakia and Hungary; of the Exarchate for Bulgaria. In this respect the International Red Cross can also play a considerable role, since the satellites

may well be willing to grant it many facilities which are being refused in Nazi occupied regions, as has been proved by recent Red Cross activities in Transnistria.

The most important of these satellites in Hungary, which calls for constant vigilance, alertness and encouragement, not only because it now shelters the largest Jewish community in Europe, but also because it is the country of refuge for the thousands who have succeeded and the hundreds who are still succeeding in escaping the Nazi hell. The task of watching and utilizing the situation in Hungary is such that special attaches of the War Refugee Board might well be appointed in Switzerland and/or Turkey for this purpose.

5. Encouragement of the Neutral States.

Neutral Governments should be encouraged to continue to receive refugees by offers of help through provision of funds, food, clothing and other requirements, and also by the undertaking to facilitate the repatriation or resettlement of the refugees after the war.

The manner of assistance, of course, would vary with the conditions of the country concerned. For Portugal, Spain and Turkey, for example, early evacuation is essential and practicable; the case of Sweden and Switzerland is for obvious reasons different.

However friendly and humanitarian they may be, the neutral

countries need constant encouragement. In Switzerland, for instance, while public opinion has not only supported the policy of the federal government but even pressed for greater concessions, the authorities are much concerned about the future. As Switzerland is not, at present, able to provide for even a small measure of reemigration, she is anxious to obtain firm and repeated assurances that she will be relieved of her burden after the end of hostilities. In addition, her food conditions are precarious and her economy needs a special allowance so that she may be able to feed her people and her guests.

Special attention should be given to the attitude of Turkey, which holds a key position in any undertaking intended to rescue Jews from Eastern and Balkan Europe. She should in particular be assured that the Jews whom she will permit to cross her borders or to whom she will grant transit visas will continue their journey.

6. Recognition of segregated and interned Jews
as Civilian Internees.

Measures should be taken to secure the status of Civilian Prisoners of War for Jews confined in ghettos, concentration and labor camps.

It appears from explanations offered by the International Red Cross that Germany does not recognize those Jews as civilian internees, but as "detained civilians." No justification has been offered for this distinction. The 1929 Convention on

001007

Prisoners of War has been promulgated in Germany, and the Reich has declared that it would be applied by analogy to the civilians who would be interned.

It is the accepted opinion of the foremost international jurists that every individual who is deprived of his liberty by an occupying authority for reasons other than for a common crime has the claim to be treated as a prisoner of war. (Vid. Oppenheim-Lauterpacht, International Law, Vol. II, pp. 278 seq.)

Germany and Fascist Italy have recently made several pronouncements, stating expressly that their reason for treating the Jews as they do, is a military one. A German spokesman, Suendermann, declared at a foreign press conference on October 7, 1943, that the German measures against the Jews were caused by the fact that the Jews were a power waging war on Germany.

In addition, the draft of the Republican Fascist Constitution, adopted by the Fascist party congress at Verona, on November 17, 1943, states under Art. 7, that "Jews are foreigners who belong to an enemy nationality."

In view of this theory there can remain no doubt that the surviving Jews in Nazi Europe and Fascist Italy are entitled to be treated as civilian prisoners of war, and to benefit by the protection of the International Red Cross.

The recognition of the Jews in ghettos, concentration and labor camps as civilian internees, and the inclusion of their

care within the scope of International Red Cross activities, can spell the physical deliverance of remaining European Jewry.

It is submitted that the first steps to be taken in this respect are the following:

a) The International Red Cross should approach the Nazi Government and ask for a justification of the distinction it has established between civilian internees and "detained civilians";

b) It should examine the advisability of making a public statement that it considers the Jews confined in ghettos, concentration and labor camps as civilian internees and is prepared to give them the assistance to which they are entitled, by analogy, according to the Convention on Prisoners of War.

II. Practical Measures:

1. Public Methods:

a) Havens and Camps of Refuge.

It is essential that the United Nations and neutrals repeat publicly from time to time their readiness to receive such refugees as may succeed in escaping. Such statements have appreciable practical and psychological effects. As far as the United States and Great Britain are concerned, they should be combined with the warnings mentioned under point I, 1.

The statements should not remain platonic. The procedure now prevailing in the United States administration with regard to

the existing immigration laws should be adjusted so that the present quotas may be used in full. The complicated procedure which was introduced in 1941 should be modified. It should not be forgotten that more than half of the total visas issued since 1933 were never used, evidently because they arrived too late.

Refugee camps should be provided for the temporary accommodation, pending resettlement, of refugees collected from neutral or enemy occupied countries in places easily accessible under Allied control. It is urgent, in this connection, to provide for the outflow from Spain. The Spanish Government has shown consideration toward the refugees, and measures of internment and confinement have been relaxed. But it is necessary to see to it that the outflow be as important as the inflow. As Sir Herbert Emerson states in his report; on the solution of this problem "may depend the maintenance of the lifeline through Spain, which is now the only channel of escape out of Western Europe."

The immigration restrictions laid down in the White Paper on Palestine of May, 1939, should be cancelled and the country declared open to any Jew who can escape or be removed from Axis occupied or dominated Europe.

b) Rescue of Children.

In his statement of November 26, 1943, before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, Mr. Breckenridge Long mentioned two programs for sheltering children in neutral countries: one, concerning a haven of refuge for

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Jewish children, a second, concerning a temporary asylum for children in general.

With regard to the first program, the Assistant Secretary of State evidently referred to the initiative taken by the World Jewish Congress, a representative of which induced Sweden to ask the German government to let her take out of Germany into her own territory 20,000 Jewish children and take care of them there. Mr. Long added: "The neutral Government was unable to get any favorable response from the German Government. The original inquiry is still being conducted. The German government, the request having been made some time ago, has not indicated that it will accept; nevertheless, we are trying to get the neutral Government to continue its activities."

It may be pointed out that the negotiations started in the Spring of 1943. It will soon be a year since the Swedish government gave its agreement in principle to take up this matter with the German government. It is submitted that the War Refugee Board investigate without delay whether this scheme has any prospect of realization.

The uncertainty in this matter is particularly heart-breaking because of the desperate situation of the Jewish children in France, who are being hunted by special Gestapo squads. Those who are still left, face the constant danger of deportation to Poland, due to the extension of the new "block" system to the previously unoccupied part of France.

001011

This new system subjects the children to the permanent control of the Gestapo, forbidding them to leave their places of residence without special permits. Less than three weeks after the introduction of the scheme in Paris, 800 children were thrown into cattle vans, 60 into each, without any straw to lie on, without water, and deported to Poland.

With regard to the other project, Mr. Long spoke as follows: "Then there is the support of the plan for removing children temporarily from Axis-held territory to neutral countries in varying numbers up to a maximum of 100,000 for rehabilitation in those countries where they could get food and where we would put the food, where the children could be nourished and brought back to something like a normal state of physical well being and, after they had been there for two or three months and had gotten strong, they would go back home and some other children would come in."

It would appear that this plan has received some beginning of execution, not in favor of Jewish children, but of German children. The "New York Times" of September 15, 1943, reported the arrival of 500 German children in Switzerland for a bomb free vacation.

c) Transportation and Transit Facilities:

Many rescue possibilities from the Balkan countries have been lost because of inadequate transportation facilities.

For Jews from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Rumania, and

001012

Bulgaria, Turkey is the transit country to lands of refuge. However, the Turkish railway facilities are not available for the transportation of refugees (Turkey allows only one railway carriage per week for this traffic), so that the use of ships as ferry boats between ports in Rumania and Turkey on the one hand, and ports under Allied control on the other, is indispensable.

The tragic failure of the efforts to get out of Bulgaria 4000 children and 500 adults for whom Palestine certificates had been obtained, is known. One of the chief causes of this failure was that the ships, which were considered in this connection, did not meet the conditions governing the grant of the insignia of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of its protection. Moreover, the approval of the British authorities was required before boats of the Turkish Steamship Company could be leased, and such approval could not be obtained for reasons which have not been satisfactorily explained to date.

In another case the Bulgarian Government had guaranteed exit visas to a thousand Jews on condition that they would leave within a certain period of time. A ship was secured, but the British authorities on the spot had to get the consent of London before acting. This took seven weeks, by which time the Bulgarian Government announced that the limit it had set had expired and the permission to leave was no longer valid.

The exodus to Palestine of refugees who were stranded in Spain and in Portugal was also hampered for months, because the

negotiations for the chartering of the "Nyassa" were dragged out endlessly.

It seems that the best solution would be to provide the International Red Cross with a number of boats for the transportation of refugees and the sending of food supplies to internment camps. The International Red Cross has recently acquired its 70th prisoner of war relief ship, when it received the P.H. Damm, a former Danish cargo vessel, bought some time ago by the American Red Cross to speed the delivery of parcels to Allied men in German prison camps. It would be an admirable gesture if the Government of this country would augment the number of Red Cross vessels with ships which, flying the flag of Switzerland and under the charter of the International Red Cross, would be devoted to the rescue of the Jews and other persecuted minorities in occupied Europe.

In addition, Portuguese, Swedish and Turkish ships could be leased for the same purpose. It is well known that Portuguese and Spanish liners, running between Europe and this Hemisphere, have ample unoccupied accommodations.

Finally, ships which have brought troops and supplies to Allied ports, or food to Greece, could, on their homeward trips, be used to transport refugees to places of safety.

No less important than transportation opportunities is the removal of legal obstacles to transit, and in this connection Turkey's attitude is of paramount importance, since Turkey, as

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as already mentioned, is the transit country for the Jews coming from eastern Europe and the Balkans. It is further indispensable to secure the right to enter Turkey if advantage is to be taken of the immigration certificates for Palestine, since the certificates can be delivered to such Jews only in Turkey.

Without a visa it is impossible to cross the frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey. The terrible fate that befell a Jewish family which took the risk of such a venture has been described by the Bulgarian writer Mihail Padev in a book recently published in London. Moreover, the Turkish consuls in Budapest, Bucharest and Sofia are permitted to grant individual visas at a rate of no more than nine families per week in each country (approximately 400 persons per month). Transit under this scheme began in September, 1943. During the first two months 215 emigrants succeeded in arriving in Istanbul. On December 18th, 1020 transit visa cases were still pending at the Foreign Office in Ankara.

On January 3, 1944, Dr. Mayer Ebner, former leader of Bucovina Jews now in Tel Aviv, cabled to the World Jewish Congress that the departure of hundreds of Palestine certificate holders from Transnistria was impossible because of the Turkish transit visa procedure.

It is submitted that the Turkish Government be requested:

1. to issue instructions to its frontier guards to the effect that the crossing of borders be facilitated for all refugees persecuted because of race or religion;

2. to instruct its consuls to grant transit visas, without limitation as to numbers and duration of validity, to all those for whom immigration certificates for Palestine are being held by the representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Istanbul.

d) Exchange Possibilities.

Many Jews under Axis control could be saved by exchanging them for certain categories of Axis nationals now in the territories of the United Nations.

The two main possibilities are at present:

1) Exchange of Dutch and Belgian Jews, as well as of Jews interned in the camps of Vittel and Titmoning, for German internees on the Isle of Man, in various American countries, in South Africa, etc.

The plight of approximately one thousand Dutch Jews who are in possession of immigration certificates for Palestine and who are kept in reserve by Germany in a special camp in Southern Germany, deserves special consideration. There is every reason to fear that if the exchange of these Jews will not be put under way in a very short time, they will meet the same fate that has befallen the immense majority of the Jewish community in Holland: deportation and death. There are a number of German nationals under the jurisdiction of the Dutch Government: 150 Germans are in Dutch Guiana, 150 in Bonaire (Netherlands West Indies), and

several hundred who were previously interned in the Netherlands East Indies are now under British guard in Colombo.

The Dutch Government should be urged to make these Germans available for exchange without further delay.

The availability of exchange material should be thoroughly investigated.

It appears that some hundreds of Germans are still interned in French Africa. There is further a considerable number of Italian Fascists interned in Tunisia. There must be exchange material in the former Italian colonies, in Corsica, Belgian Congo, South Africa, Peru. (On January 15, 1944, the Peruvian Government announced that a number of conspirators, including Germans and Japanese, plotting a New Year's pro-Nazi Coup, had been detained and would be deported.) A pool should be made of all those who would be of no help from a military point of view if returned to their country.

Meanwhile, the Jewish exchange material should be protected. There are about 1200 people in Poland, the Protectorate, etc., for whom the Jewish Agency has obtained entry permits into Palestine. Negotiations are being conducted between the British and German Governments, through the Swiss Federal Government as the protecting power, to exchange them for German nationals living on British territory. Mr. Barlas, representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Istanbul, has requested Col. H. Bon, a Director of the International Red Cross, to undertake the

necessary steps to insure the protection of these unfortunates. It should be possible to have the concentration camps where they are kept considered as camps for civilian internees, falling within the scope of Red Cross activities, until the materialization of the exchange scheme.

Attention is also drawn to the strong moral claim of American citizens, many of whom are in the armed forces, to have special measures taken to rescue, by means of exchange, their Jewish wives or children who are in enemy hands and are consequently in danger of death.

2) Exchange of Shanghai Jewish refugees for disloyal Japanese.

The terrible situation of the twenty thousand Austrian and German Jews living in Shanghai has been confirmed by one of the "Gripsholm" passengers, Mr. Arthur Huston Allen. They "have been banished" he said, "to a ghetto and are suffering unusual hardships at the hands of the Japanese." (New York Post, December 2, 1943.)

We understand that the repatriation of a number of disloyal Japanese is contemplated. Of course, the Americans who are still in Japanese detention will be the first to benefit by any exchange agreement. It seems, however, that there will be a surplus of thousands of Japanese, which should be used in the interest of the starving Shanghai Jewish refugees.

On February 22, 1944, the population of the Tule Lake Center for Disloyal Persons of Japanese Ancestry was upward of

15,500. At that time 1400 more were expected from Manzanar and several hundred from other relocation camps in the Far West.

e) Food, Medical Supplies, Clothing.

The deliberate withholding of food and medical supplies constitutes an important element in the policy of extermination. In this respect, the Jewish population is in a far worse situation than the other subjugated populations. Supplies sent to the ghettos, concentration and labor camps, would be an effective means of retarding the process of annihilation.

Food parcels are now being sent to Terezin (Theresienstadt) and to Transnistria.

With regard to Terezin, two one-pound food parcels a month are being sent to 6000 internees, whose names are known, by the Lisbon agencies of the Joint Distribution Committees and the Czechoslovak Government - but there are fifty to sixty thousand Jews in Terezin. The remainder depends on the collective food shipments, which the Red Cross is willing to make.

In this connection we would urge reconsideration of the formalistic attitude adopted by the American and British authorities.

The International Red Cross Headquarters have complained that they have no parcels available for concentration camps, as British and American Red Cross standard parcels are, in terms of the directions given by the Blockade authorities, reserved exclusively for recognized prisoners of war and civilian internees.

The Red Cross Delegate in London has contacted the Foreign

Office and Ministry of Economic Warfare, who have stated that they were not in a position to grant permission for such standard food parcels to be sent to concentration camps.

It appears that, while the Germans refuse to recognize the Jews who survived their brutalities as civilian internees, they sometimes permit food parcels to be delivered to them in a number of camps. Thus we recently were informed by Mr. Ernest Frischer, member of the Czechoslovak State Council in London, that he had been requested by telegram from Geneva to procure navicerts from the British or American authorities for consignments of cocoa for children in internment camps. It was stressed that these consignments could go by ships of the International Red Cross, and that confirmation had been received in Slovakia of delivery of parcels sent to Birkenau in Silesia.

In his report to the League of Nations of August, 1943, Sir Herbert Emerson confirms that "food parcels dispatched from Portugal are said still to reach their destination in Polish ghettos and, where the exact address was known, money remittances and shipments of medicaments from Switzerland have also reached the beneficiaries."

It is submitted that the American authorities should be prepared to take full advantage of the de facto situation tolerated by the Germans. Red Cross standard parcels should be allocated for the Jews confined in ghettos, concentration and labor camps. Medical supplies which cannot be purchased in Europe should be made available, especially, since a number of supplies requested are not on army priority lists.

f. Periodic Inspection by Red Cross Delegates.

While this activity would depend chiefly on the eventual recognition of segregated and interned Jews as civilian internees, it is submitted that full advantage be taken of existing possibilities.

Since the belligerent powers have generally extended to the civilian internees the application (by analogy) of the Geneva Convention regarding prisoners of war, the International Red Cross has incorporated within its program the service of aiding civilian internees. Its delegates visit almost all internment camps the world over. However, with the exception of some visits to internment camps in occupied France in 1941 and of a recent visit to Transnistria, the Red Cross delegates have not visited any ghetto, internment or labor camp for Jews in any other region of occupied Europe. As indicated above, such visits would be of great importance.

It should be stressed that the first visit of the International Red Cross delegate to Transnistria resulted immediately in a number of improvements.

g. Funds for Red Cross Activities.

On September 8, 1943, the World Jewish Congress headquarters received a cable from their London office to the effect that continuous reports were arriving there, which disclosed that the condition of the Jews in Europe was steadily deteriorating and that there existed a grave state of distress due to the lack of food, clothing, medical supplies, and other relief commodities; that relief action on a large scale was necessary but obviously

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beyond the capacity of the private resources of any Jewish or other voluntary organization; that the only organization capable of reaching the surviving Jews and of bringing them relief was the International Red Cross.

On September 16, 1943, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the World Jewish Congress, called the attention of Mr. Breckenridge Long to the inability of the Red Cross to send food, tonics, medicine, and clothing to the surviving Jews, because of the lack of financial means, and suggested that the Governments of the United States and Great Britain grant the International Red Cross an adequate sum of money to enable it to conduct its relief work whenever and wherever an opportunity would present itself.

On December 8, 1943, we were informed that this matter had been referred to the American Embassy in London on September 29th, to be presented to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees; that the director of this Committee had communicated with the International Red Cross and that it was expected that a reply would be received shortly.

This information was rather disappointing, as Mr. Breckenridge Long's statement before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on November 26, 1943, had aroused the hope that the project was well under way, and that the United States and Great Britain were only waiting for the approval by the Intergovernmental Committee of the International Red Cross blueprints and approval which could be shortly expected for each government to contribute \$4,000,000 to finance the project.

It should also be mentioned that a cable from Dr. Gerard Riegner, World Jewish Congress representative in Geneva, of December 2nd, reported that the International Red Cross had already answered positively the inquiries of the American Legation and of Sir Herbert Emerson, and that there were considerable possibilities of assistance from Switzerland.

Unfortunately, nearly three months have passed since December 8th, and it does not seem that much progress has been made in this most important matter, a matter of life and death.

The International Red Cross complains that it does not command sufficient funds to send to the Transnistria deportees more than a limited quantity of food; that it is unable, because of lack of funds, to secure the pharmaceutical products needed for the camps in Slovakia; that the lack of appropriate shipping, necessary to take out people from the Balkans is also, if not chiefly, a question of lack of funds; that if it had money, it could send food parcels to the 1200 Jews the remnants of Yugoslav Jewry who are still interned in concentration camps on the territory of "Pavelic's Croatia."

h. Removal from Liberated but Unsafe Areas.

Under this heading, plans should be worked out for the immediate removal of Jews from areas of military operations where, in case of reoccupation by the Nazis and their allies, they are likely to be exterminated.

As has been proven in a number of cases, the liberation of formerly occupied regions is not always final. Experience at Koss,

Leros and other places has shown that the enemy may be able to re-take certain islands, towns and hamlets, with the result, for the population, of all kind of oppression and vengeance, especially if it has taken an active part in driving the enemy out. It has been reported that 230 Jews were massacred in Spalato, which had been freed by Yugoslav guerillas, and reoccupied by German and Croat troops. The Adriatic island of Arbe (Rab) has passed through a series of occupations and liberations. Each return of Axis troops brought in its wake new suffering for the Jews.

It is submitted that special emergency squads be attached to the military headquarters, whose exclusive concern it should be to evacuate as soon as possible to safer regions Jewish and other oppressed populations who are considered to be in danger.

It should be said in this connection that the necessity of such kind of action was stressed not only by the World Jewish Congress, but by the neutral press in Europe as well. On August 2nd, the "Aftontidningen" (Stockholm), published an article entitled "Jews in the Balkans in mortal danger in case of Italian capitulation." It stressed the fact that if the Italian troops should evacuate the regions garrisoned by them, such Jews as were still alive would be abandoned to an all too certain fate. "The Allied leaders, headed by Roosevelt, have repeatedly declared that they have thoroughly discussed by what means the remainder of the Jews in the occupied countries can be saved from extermination. Now a chance arises for saving several thousands Jewish men, women and children still alive, from abandonment to their desperate mortal enemies."

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What actually happened to the Jews in Italian occupied Greece after the capitulation of the Badoglio Government is only too well known.

1. Relaxation of Censorship.

The rescue work has often been jeopardized because of the rigid enforcement of censorship regulations. Letters from relatives in the occupied countries to their relatives in the United States, which give in veiled terms indispensable information as to their present situation, the possibilities of relief and salvation, are often delayed for months or entirely withheld.

Residents of this country are forbidden to ask for and prevented from getting any information as to the present whereabouts of people in occupied countries. Every investigation must be made through the exclusive facilities of the International Red Cross, which resorts to a procedure so slow, that its findings, when finally produced, have lost every usefulness because they have in the meantime become obsolete.

Censorship rules are so severe that cables from refugees who have arrived in Switzerland are not delivered to their relatives here, so that the latter continue to exert themselves in efforts to save people already saved, instead of concentrating on those who are still in distress.

There is an urgent need for a revision of these regulations.

2. Underground Methods.

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a) Hiding

It is impossible to estimate the number of Jews in various European countries who, in order to escape persecution, deportation and execution "dived under." The estimates concerning the number of hidden Jews vary so widely as being, with regard to Belgium for instance, between fifteen hundred and thirty thousand. Former Greek Minister George Exintaris reports that three thousand Salonika Jews have been provided with identity cards, bearing non Jewish names, and smuggled out to various towns throughout Greece. The same method was employed later with respect to thousands of Athens Jews.

The Jews are not the only ones who live this life of perpetual tension. According to Arvid Fredborg, more than 150,000 persons have "gone underground" in Germany itself and are living as outlaws. Some of them are Jews, but the majority are anti-Nazi Germans. All of them belong to an underground Europe which has developed its own rules and its own way of life.

Of the various underground rescue measures, hiding is the simplest, the speediest, the least expensive; yet it imposes upon the hidden a continuous strain and exposes them to constant danger of betrayal. To make full use of this possibility the following prerequisites are necessary:

- 1) The friendly attitude of the population, which must be encouraged by frequent appeals through radio and leaflets dropped from airplanes, and by warnings that informers will be ruthlessly punished.

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2) Financial support to the hidden Jews so that they may be able to compensate their hosts and to purchase food in the black market if they have no "aryan" ration cards. Since these Jews have been for years now excluded from any gainful activity, most of them have no savings left; and many a place of hiding is quite expensive. It appears from a report by a delegate of the Polish Government to the underground in Poland that, to induce Polish peasants to shelter Jews, the compensation offered must be considerable: if caught, not only the lives of the hosts but those of their families are at stake.

3) The hidden Jews must be provided with "aryan" documents (birth certificates, identity cards, ration cards) so that, if reported or discovered, they could put up some "legal" defense and move from place to place.

All this, of course, requires close contacts and cooperation with the various underground movements and guerilla units.

b) Smuggling.

Jews are being smuggled out from Holland, Belgium, France to Spain and Switzerland, from Poland to Slovakia and Hungary, from Slovakia to Hungary.

We have no accurate figures concerning the results achieved through this contraband in human beings. Reports from Istanbul and Geneva tell of hundreds of grownups and children from Slovakia, Croatia and Prague, and thousands from Poland who have crossed into Hungary and have been saved. A letter from

Istanbul states: "If we could dispose of larger amounts, we could succeed in saving hundreds and thousands." A representative of the World Jewish Congress succeeded in smuggling out of France 400 children to Switzerland in a relatively short period of time.

The smuggling out of Jews has been left entirely to the initiative and endeavors of Jewish organizations and individuals. To our knowledge no government in exile is concerned with it; no underground movement gives it any particular consideration. In too many instances this work is done by individual contrabandists, and only such people as still retain some part of their fortune are in a position to pay the expensive passage toll.

Throughout Europe smuggling is an important part of the activities of the resistance movements: but they do not sufficiently take into account the mortal danger in which Jews constantly find themselves as J e w s. Their attention is devoted nearly exclusively to persons who are jeopardized because of their political past, their present activities, or their usefulness for the prosecution of the war.

In this respect some figures are disturbing. According to a statement, made by Luis Garcia Guijarro, commercial counselor at the Spanish Embassy in Washington on January 20th, refugees from Nazi occupied countries are making their way to Allied territory in Morocco through Malaga, Spain, at the rate of nearly 6000 every fifteen days. Even if the more moderate figure be accepted of 2000 passages a week, given by other sources, the small per-

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centage of Jews among these refugees cannot but be very striking, as the figure of Jews who escape through Spain is but a small fraction of that mentioned above.

It is consequently submitted that contacts be made with the various underground movements and guerilla units in order that the smuggling out of Jews, especially of children, become part of their activities. Special sections of these movements, provided with financial means of documents of identity, should be entrusted with this task.

Although heroism is involved even in these "civilian" smuggling operations, situations may arise when real commando raids or guerilla operations may be necessary to remove Jewish groups in danger of extermination. There is no doubt that Jewish volunteers can be found who will be glad to form rescue squads to remove Jewish refugees from the Adriatic islands which have been retaken by the Axis troops or from other places where they are in jeopardy.

c) "Documents."

A number of Jews of various nationalities who were provided even after Pearl Harbor with genuine passports of certain Latin American countries (Paraguay, Peru, etc.), have been interned by the Germans in two camps in Bavaria and France (Titmoning and Vittel) for exchange purposes. At one moment they were in danger, because the Paraguay Government indicated its intention to withdraw the citizenship granted through these passports. After many

an intervention and many assurances given, it would appear that the matter was straightened out.

Our representatives in Switzerland insist time and again that the various countries of the Western Hemisphere be approached and requested to authorize their diplomatic agents in Bern to deliver emergency passports to Jews of other nationalities. "It is," writes one of our representatives, "absolutely indispensable to obtain authorization that a few thousand passports be granted for rescue purposes... (entry) visas (for neutral countries) are of no avail because no exit permit from occupied territory can be obtained."

The Governments concerned should of course be given the assurance that the passports would be restored to them after the war, and the Jews in question returned to their countries of origin or of former settled residence, or resettled elsewhere.

d) Funds for Underground Activities.

These activities require important financial means. They should be dispatched through underground channels and earmarked for the rescue of Jews.

It should be mentioned in this connection that the World Jewish Congress has been informed time and again by its Geneva offices that definite possibilities exist of bribing Gestapo officials and of inducing them to halt deportations and extend their protection to already deported or interned Jews.

In a letter from the Palestine Labor Delegation in Istanbul, dated July 25, 1943, it is said expressly about the situation in Slovakia: "Three times, the expulsion of the entire community was postponed with the help of money." Concerning Rumania the same letter states: "With the help of money you could always arrange things in this country. Nowadays without it you cannot do a thing." With regard to the smuggling of Jews out of Hungary the letter says: "If we could dispose of larger amounts, we could succeed in saving hundreds and thousands."

The proper implication should be drawn from this information and Jewish organizations provided with licenses for the transmission of the necessary funds.

Funds are also necessary for the purchase of means of defense. Properly speaking, this is no method of direct rescue, as most of the Jews who offered resistance did not escape alive. Psychologically however, it is of the utmost importance that the Nazi torturers know that there is a risk involved in the accomplishment of their gruesome task. It is also important that as many as possible of the executioners be destroyed.

Contact should be sought, consequently, with Jewish youth leaders in ghettos, concentration and labor camps. They should be provided with weapons so as to be in a position to defend themselves if the worst comes to the worst.

March 3, 1944.

001031

MAR 13 1944

In reply please
refer to: 294

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

This is to acknowledge and thank you
for your letter of March 8, 1944, enclosing for
our information a copy of an extract from a let-
ter written by a Captain in a Palestinian Jewish
military unit on December 18, 1943, concerning
conditions in refugee camps in Southern Italy.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head,
Department of European Jewish
Affairs,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, New York.

elbr *JWP* ~~Dr. Kubowitzki~~ 3-13-44

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March 8, 1944

Hon. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I take the liberty of calling your urgent attention to the attached excerpt from a letter written by a Captain in a Palestinian Jewish military unit in Italy on December 18, 1943.

This letter praises the attitude of the Allied authorities who extend more substantial help to the refugees in Ferramonti, Bari, and Campagna than to the native population. It stresses, however, that since the whole of Italy is in great distress, food and clothing must come from outside, and should this assistance be delayed "one can foresee almost with certainty that many of those whose moral resistance has been weakened will break down under the strain".

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kubowitzki
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Dept. of European Jewish Affairs

ALK:bg

Encl.



Extract from a letter written by a Captain in a
Palestinian Jewish military unit in Italy, on
December 18, 1943

I have just returned from a four day tour of Southern Italy. The journey was very tiresome but very interesting. Among other places I visited the Camp for Jewish Refugees in Ferramonti. I thought that you might be interested to hear about them.

In general the refugee problem in Italy weighs heavily upon our minds, when I say we, I mean the few Palestinian units present in this theatre of operation.

Upon our arrival here in the first days of invasion we met the first refugees and had to face the burden of help, which even now doesn't seem to be anybody's baby. We formed an inter-unit committee, collected in 24 hours more than 1000 pounds and proceeded to give such help and assistance as were within the scope of our financial and organizational ability.

Out of the estimated number of 15,000 Jews interned in camps or confined in various villages and towns in small groups or singly, in the whole of Italy before the invasion, approximately 3000 can now be counted in the part recently liberated. There is a steady but insignificant trickle through the front line, but what is the fate of the large number remaining under the German occupation is left to speculations and rumors of which the latest has it of approximately 10,000 deported recently to Poland. The refugees in our part of Italy are either concentrated in Ferramonti (1400) Bari (200) Campagna (100) or live in towns. Theoretically all receive the same help and treatment at the hands of Allied authorities as those in need of help among the native population. Generally however, the help is more substantial. There is however no general policy towards the refugee problem so that when, for instance, Bari camp inmates receive a full army ration, clothing and blankets, Ferramonti receives only a small supply of foodstuffs barely enabling to keep them above starvation line, Campagna receives only the subsidy in money. Refugees living in towns receive or are supposed to receive a subsidy but the amount varies according to the point of view of the local charge d'affaires and in all cases is far from sufficient.

Our help till now has been concentrated in Ferramonti and Campagna. But we realize that our resources are no match to the great need and demands. We have been in touch with Allied authorities here but there is little hope for help from their side. The whole of Italy is in great need and distress and the importance of a few thousand refugees pales in comparison. We have been promised money from Palestine. This will help but not much. Food is scarce even for money, and clothing unobtainable.

This problem must be tackled from outside. Food, clothing and medical supplies in sufficient quantities can now be obtained only outside Italy and then the final solution, i.e. emigration can be solved only outside. Many of the refugees are in possession of certificates. For many more certificates could, I suppose, be obtained. The liaison with Army and Navy as regards necessary shipping can be established only under pressure exercised in London or New York.

There are many side issues. The question of citizenship. There are Poles and Greeks as well as Germans and Austrians. There is the risk that the problem will be apportioned among various governments according to nationality.

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But what I
want to see
is the
the

Should the help be delayed or its volume limited one can foresee almost with certainty that many of those whose moral resistance has been weakened will break down under the strain. That the women may become whores and the men racketeers is only one of the possibilities of which the beginnings are made.

My picture is anything but exaggerated.

PAGE 01 PAM

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WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL : CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

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Kralji Petra 71

Mr. John Pehle
 War Refugee Board
 Main Treasury Building
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I was very glad of the opportunity to have a talk with you in your capacity as Director of the War Refugee Board. Your appointment was a source of great encouragement to all of us who know you and are impressed with your deep interest in the problem and your determination to achieve results. I was especially gratified to note your sympathetic reaction and understanding of all the projects I discussed with you and your colleagues yesterday.

I am enclosing the three memoranda for which you asked. The report of the Jewish National Committee from Poland, to which one of them refers, will be sent to you from our New York office, as I have no copy of it here.

I will appreciate it if you will let me know as soon as possible the decisions on the Polish situation and the Jews in France.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Nahum Goldmann
 Nahum Goldmann



001036

Washington, D. C.
March 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM: On Report of Jewish National Committee--Poland

As is shown in the report of the Jewish National Committee (to follow), there are only 200,000, or less, Jews left in Poland, out of a population of more than three million. According to the report, the only way of saving the remnant still alive is to put funds at the disposal of the Jewish National Committee in Poland for releasing the survivors from concentration camps and arranging for them to live as Poles, or to organize their immigration into Hungary, if that is still possible after the Nazi occupation. For these purposes considerable amounts of money are necessary, in dollars, as no one in Europe will accept pounds.

The Polish Government has already sent three million zloty to the Jewish National Committee and would be prepared to send more, if they had dollars. The budget of the Polish Government is provided by the British Government in pounds. The Polish Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior, with whom I conferred, told me that there was an item of five million pounds in their budget for use in Poland, which cannot be spent, because it is useless to send pounds into Poland. It is, therefore, necessary to find ways of putting considerable amounts in dollars at the disposal of the Polish Government, in the form of a loan, a donation, or as an exchange for pounds, which can be used in London. The Polish Embassy in Washington is, naturally, ready to discuss the details of such a transaction with the American Government.

Finally, may I point out that an immediate decision is necessary. The money must be taken to Poland by plane. As the nights are growing shorter with the approach of summer, it is increasingly difficult to send planes there. I urge, therefore, that this matter be taken up as soon as possible and that, if necessary, the Polish Embassy be called in to discuss details.

Nahum Goldmann

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Washington, D. C.
March 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM: JEWS IN FRANCE-- Reports of Underground Movement

The reports I received in London from French Jews active in the French underground movement, who came to London to meet me, indicate that the number of Jews in France, and, perhaps in Holland and Belgium, is larger than some of us had thought. Some estimate the number of Jews in France as 300,000, others at 200,000. Most of them are in hiding, with false passports, as French Catholics. This is true of many Jewish children also, who are living with French peasants. In addition, there are tens of thousands living in their old residences, as Jews, and constantly menaced with deportation. It is recognized that the nearer the invasion, the more disposed the Germans will be to deport these French Jews, and it is known that the Germans have asked the Vichy Government for the names of all French Jews, usually a prelude to deportation.

The only way to save those adults and children still registered is to facilitate their escape into Switzerland or Spain. Switzerland will admit children and old people, but has some restrictions as regards the young and adult groups. Some action should be taken with respect to this, with the Swiss Government. Spain will admit all age groups. The difficulty of organizing the escape into Spain or Switzerland, is that in many cases professional smugglers must be employed. They charge large sums of money, about \$300.00 per capita, for such escapes. The Geneva office of the World Jewish Congress is doing a great deal to facilitate the escape of children from France and has recently brought 500 children into Switzerland.

During my discussions with French Jewish underground workers, active both in France and in London, a scheme was developed for organizing a small clandestine group in France, to organize the escape of those in danger. I discussed this plan with the French Commisar of the Interior, M. D'Astier, who is also in charge of the underground work in France, and was in London on his way from Algiers. He, in turn,

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discussed the matter with the French official in London in charge of underground activities in France-- a French Jew, M. Boris. Both were in favor of the scheme and gave instructions to the French underground movement to assist such an organization when it is established. The French underground movement cannot, itself, undertake to do this, because it has not the necessary manpower.

The World Jewish Congress has a number of young men at its disposal, who are experienced underground workers, both in London and Switzerland, ready and able to go to France to organize this work. Their efficiency would be greatly increased if one of the governments which has been doing underground work in France would be ready to lend technical assistance (transportation facilities, radio equipment, etc.). In my opinion this would be the most effective, if not the only way, to save hundreds of thousands of Jews escape from France. It would be enormously helpful if the War Refugee Board were ready to support such a scheme by giving American authorities in charge of similar activities, instructions to lend such technical assistance as is necessary.

This activity of the World Jewish Congress will be directed from London and Lisbon. The representative in charge in Lisbon is Isaac Weisman, Avenida Liberdade 179, who is known to the American legation in Lisbon. M. Baron, who is in charge in London and is the head of the Committee of French Jews, is experienced in this work. It is my suggestion that the War Refugee Board, if prepared to support such a scheme, instruct someone in London and Lisbon to contact Mr. Weisman and M. Baron-- the latter can be reached at 55 New Cavendish Street, London, and discuss details with them.

I would be grateful for an early reply on this question, as the organization of the work depends to a large extent on whether technical assistance from the American Government would be forthcoming.

Nahum Goldmann

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Washington, D. C.
March 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM: War Refugee Board

During my stay in London, I had occasion to meet with the various governments-in-exile, with members of the British Foreign Office, with Sir Herbert Emerson and his staff, a great number of British members of Parliament, journalists, publicists, and leaders of public opinion. They were all deeply interested in the news of the establishment of the War Refugee Board. Some attempt was made, unofficially, in British circles to whittle down the impression made by this news, by characterizing it as window-dressing and a political manoever in an election year. I did my best, and, I believe, with some success, to convince all those with whom I talked and the private groups which I addressed, that the War Refugee Board meant real business and was set up because of the sincere desire of the American Government to do something effective to save the Jews of Europe. On the whole, though, the creation of the Board made a very deep impression.

I suggested to various governments-in-exile, that they take similar action and establish War Refugee Boards of their own on which should be appointed high officials assigned to deal exclusively with the problem of saving European Jews. The Polish Government decided to set up such a Committee, which will soon be announced. The French Military Association agreed to appoint a high official in Algiers to deal with the question of the rescue of Jews and has instructed M. Boris, his representative in London to lend his support. A similar assurance was given to me by President Benes and Mr. Masaryk, whose department is in charge of such activities. The representatives of the Dutch, Belgian and Norwegian governments had several talks with representatives of the World Jewish Congress in London concerning their participation in such work and are prepared to allocate considerable amounts of money for saving deported or hidden Dutch, Belgian and Norwegian Jews.

In general, I am convinced that the creation of the War Refugee Board has helped enormously to make all these governments conscious of their responsibilities

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in this matter. I came back from London with the definite impression that all these governments, not excluding the British, will sooner or later follow the policy of the American Government, which today, is the farthest ahead in its understanding and methods. But the initiative will have to continue to come from Washington. As regards Great Britain, public opinion was also greatly impressed by the creation of the War Refugee Board, as indicated by numerous articles in the British press. Wide sections of Parliament, especially the Committee to save the victims of the Nazi terror, of which Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., is the leading member, were ready to renew their public campaign in order to get the British Government to adopt policies similar to those of the War Refugee Board.

Nahum Goldmann

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In reply please
refer to: 357

MAR 25 1944

Dear Dr. Kubowitski:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of March 21, 1944, quoting for our information the text of the cable sent by Avram Asa to Mr. Vitalis Nahmias.

Your cooperation in making this information available to us is appreciated. I assure you that the Board is directing unstinted efforts to the solution of the problems precipitated by recent developments.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Peble

J. W. Peble
Acting Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitski,
Head, Department European
Jewish Affairs,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York 18, New York.

EBT

EBTowler:agr 3-24-44

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Sonora 174-4

Hon. J. W. Pehle, Acting Exec. Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D.C.

March 21, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Referring to our conference of Wednesday, March 15, I beg to give you herewith the text of a cable sent by Avram Assa, one of the Bulgarian Jewish leaders now in Palestine, to Mr. Vitalis Nahmias, Chairman of our Bulgarian Jewish Representative Committee affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

The text is as follows:

TELAVIV 57 29
NLT VITALIS NAHMIAIS

PLEASE PUT BEFORE JEWISH WORLD CONGRESS SOS OUR BRETHERN BULGARIA
REQUEST PROMPT ARRANGEMENT THEIR SALVATION FOR SITUATION NEARING CALAMITY EVERY HOUR STOP REQUEST PARTICULARLY GREATER MASS PASSAGE THROUGH NEUTRAL COUNTRY BORDERING BULGARIA STOP DETAILED REPORT THESE BRETHERN SITUATION FOLLOWS ... AVRAM ASSA

It is clear that the neutral country to which this cable refers is Turkey, and it appears from this cable that Turkey still clings to her policy in the matter of transit visas.

(Sent to Mr. Rosen 3/11)

In the memorandum which the World Jewish Congress submitted to the War Refugee Board, the following suggestions were made in connection with this problem:

"It is submitted that the Turkish Government be requested:

1. to issue instructions to its frontier guards to the effect that the crossing of borders be facilitated for all refugees persecuted because of race or religion;

2. to instruct its consuls to grant transit visas, without limitation as to numbers and duration of validity, to all those for whom immigration certificates for Palestine are being held by the

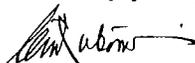
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representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Istanbul."

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain

Respectfully yours,


Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Department European Jewish Affairs

ALK:dn

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MAR 27 1944

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

I wish to thank you for your letters of March 23, 1944, and the memoranda which you were kind enough to send on to me.

I wish to assure you that the matters we have discussed and the proposals which you have made are receiving our careful attention.

Very truly yours,

(Signed J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
330 West 42nd Street,
New York, New York.

 FH:lab 3/24/44

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MAR 25 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

Mr. Pehle

The attached memorandum from
Dr. Nahum Goldmann of the World Jewish Con-
gress will be of interest to you in connec-
tion with the reaction in Great Britain to
the establishment of the War Refugee Board.

(Signed J. W. Pehle

JK

FH:lab 3/24/44

001046

Washington, D. C.
March 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM: War Refugee Board

During my stay in London, I had occasion to meet with the various governments-in-exile, with members of the British Foreign Office, with Sir Herbert Emerson and his staff, a great number of British members of Parliament, journalists, publicists, and leaders of public opinion. They were all deeply interested in the news of the establishment of the War Refugee Board. Some attempt was made, unofficially, in British circles to whittle down the impression made by this news, by characterizing it as window-dressing and a political maneuver in an election year. I did my best, and, I believe, with some success, to convince all those with whom I talked and the private groups which I addressed, that the War Refugee Board meant real business and was set up because of the sincere desire of the American Government to do something effective to save the Jews of Europe. On the whole, though, the creation of the Board made a very deep impression.

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these governments conscious of their responsibilities in this matter. I came back from London with the definite impression that all these governments, not excluding the British, will sooner or later follow the policy of the American Government, which today, is the farthest ahead in its understanding and methods. But the initiative will have to continue to come from Washington. As regards Great Britain, public opinion was also greatly impressed by the creation of the War Refugee Board, as indicated by numerous articles in the British press. Wide sections of Parliament, especially the Committee to save the victims of the Nazi terror, of which Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., is the leading member, were ready to renew their public campaign in order to get the British Government to adopt policies similar to those of the War Refugee Board.

Nahum Goldmann

CROSS REFERENCE ON .. World Jewish Congress...

FOR:

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

For letter #404 dated 3/27/44 from the World Jewish Congress re:
the President's statement and reply of 4/10/44 from Mr. Pehle.

SEE: MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARD HALTING PERSECUTION: STATEMENTS, POLICIES,
AND INFORMATIONAL COMPAIGNS INSPIRED BY THE BOARD
PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT (LETTERS & CABLES)

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