World Jewish Congress, Volume I
(Folder 3 of 4)

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WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .·. CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

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

NEW ADDRESS:
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JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

June 1, 1944

In reply refer to: No. 69

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I call your attention to the following message we received from Mr. Ernest Frischer, member of the Czechoslovak State Council in London:

April 12, 1944

"According to a report received from Switzerland some 230,000 Jews are concentrated in Upper Silesia and in the neighbourhood of Katovice and Oswierzim in various industrial and labour establishments. They ask for provisions to supplement their rations. They are often transferred from one place to another. Addresses, which must include date of birth, are in fact the addresses of the relevant concentration camp to which the person in question belongs, e.g. Bilenau, Schoepfenwalde, Katowice, Ravenheim, etc. The District Upper Silesia does not come under the Juedische Unterstuetzungsstelle in Krakow and belongs to the Reichs-territory like the Warthegau and Lodz/ Litzmannstadt./ Three transports of Dutch Jews have arrived in Katovice, predominantly women, who are occupied by cleaning streets, also as attendants in cloak rooms. They receive in the camps adequate food in view of the fact that they must be fit for work. They ask for clothes, medicaments and tonics."

I need not stress the importance of the information contained in this message. It is particularly stimulating from the viewpoint of the food program for Jews segregated in internment, concentration and labor camps which we submitted to the War Refugee Board. An exceptional opportunity offers itself to the War Refugee Board through the International Red Cross to save these remnants of the Jews in and imported to Poland.

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We will be extremely grateful to you for any information you will convey to us on the action taken by the Board on this matter.

Sincerely yours

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

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JUN 1 1944

Dear Dr. Kubowitski:

Reference is made to your letter of May 23, 1944, forwarding a message which you desire to send to Mr. Isaac Weissman in Lisbon.

I regret to have to inform you that the War Refugee Board is not prepared to permit the sending of messages of this type through its facilities.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitski,
Head, Rescue Department,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

Cleared with Mr. Pehle
FH:lab 5/31/44

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World Jewish Congress

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MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

June 5, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 75

Hon. J. W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I ask you to kindly forward, through the State Department, the attached message to Mr. Chaim Barlas, representative of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul.

As you know, the Office of Censorship insists that such messages be dispatched through your facilities. In addition, if such a cable were sent by commercial means, it could endanger the people mentioned in it.

Please let me know whether this message has been forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kubowitzki

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

Under to Leon
outgoing cable

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MESSAGE FROM: DR. A. LEON KUBOWITZKI, WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS,
1834 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 23, NEW YORK

TO: MR. CHAIM BARLAS, PERA PALACE, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

URGE that YOU GET TURKISH TRANSIT VISAS FOR FANNY LOBEL BARUCH HALPERN WIFE TAUBE DAUGHTERS ETHEL ESTHER ADDRESS STIRBEI VODA 68 BUCHAREST ISAC HALPERN WIFE SALY DAUGHTER EUGENIE SONINLAW JEAN BERCOVICI ADDRESS VASILE CONTA 3-5 BUCHAREST. ~~STOP~~ PALESTINE CERTIFICATES ARRANGED THROUGH ASSISTANCE BROTHER ISRAEL HALPERN 21 HESS STREET TELAVIV. ~~STOP~~ ARE INTERESTED IF CERTIFICATE NUMBERS ISSUED to THEM. ~~STOP~~ CHECK MATTER, ASSIST them in PROCEEDING to PALESTINE, and CABLE ANSWER.

LEON KUBOWITZKI

HILEL (GILEL) STORCH
FURUSUNDSGATAN 10
TEL. 61 60 15

STOCKHOLM June 6, 1944.

Mr. Naum Goldman,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York, USA.

Dear Mr. Goldman:

Enclosed I beg to send you the upper sheet of a German magazine "DIE WOCHE" dated June 16, 1943, on which you will find an impudent and profane caricature of you. Our situation is too sad in order to deal with such things, but in spite of it I will send same to you as one finds your name underneath.

Yours very truly,

G. Storch

Encl.

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Zu unserem Bildbericht:

PIRATENJAGD

An Hand der Karte wird der Plan zur Säuberungsaktion festgelegt

PK-Aufnahme: Kriegsberichter Steinmetz (sch)

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VAS DIE WOCHE DAZU SAGT!

Hölderlin und die Soldaten

Die hundertste Wiederkehr von ...lderlins Todestag hat die Be...nung auf den eigentümlichen ...ythmus gelenkt, in dem sich die Wirkung dieses Dichters auf das deutsche Volk vollzog: Widerhall in kleinem Kreis zunächst, dann Absinken in Bemitleidung und Halbvergessenheit, endlich, am Beginn unseres Jahrhunderts, tiefere und immer breiter werdende Resonanz. Im Ganzen herrschte bei den Betrachtungen, die diesem Thema galten, die Neigung vor, den frühen Ruhm Hölderlins etwas zu gering anzusetzen. Das ist schade, denn es ließen sich hier recht aufschlußreiche Beziehungen zeigen zwischen Hölderlin und der deutschen Freiheitsbewegung von 1806—13. Nur ein Beispiel. Wenn im Briefwechsel zwischen Carl und Marie von Clausewitz (Erich Weniger weist darauf in seiner schönen, jüngst ...bform erschienenen Studie ...he und die Generale" hin) Zitat aus dem „Hyperion" ... zwanglos einstellt, wo eine en scheidende Lebenssituation beleuchtet werden soll, dann ...ß schon ein nicht geringer ...rad von Vertrautheit zum mindesten mit diesem Werk des Dichters in den führenden Kreisen der preußischen Armee vorhanden gewesen sein — und auch die Empfindung einer Wahlverwandtschaft. Schon damals hat Hölderlin offenbar gerade den ...ldaten angesprochen, der seine ...rufung bewußt durchlebt — ...mals wie 1914, wo die Generation von Langemarck an Hölderlin zu einem ernsteren Weltgefühl gefunden hatte. Und, so dürfen wir sagen, wie heute. Denn es ist gewiß kein Zufall, daß die Subskription der neuen Stuttgarter Hölderlin-Ausgabe mit einer gewaltigen Überzeichnung endete. Der Wunsch, das ganze Werk des Dichters in gültigem Text zu besitzen, ist gerade in einem Kriege wie diesem das Bekenntnis zu einer geistigen Welt, die jenseits aller gefälligen Bildungssphären allem radikalen Fragen und Suchen einen Halt bietet.

Wunder der Biskaya

Der Krieg hat es den Fischern am Biskaya-Golf nicht leichter gemacht. Dazu wird dieser von beiden Seiten mit viel zu großer Härte und Verbissenheit geführt, als daß sich ihm und seinen Folgen irgendjemand entziehen könnte. Auch den Neutralen gelingt dies nicht. Aber zuweilen wartet doch auch der Krieg mit einer freudigen Überraschung auf. Dies sollte erst unlängst wieder eine Flottille von Fischerbooten aus Santander feststellen, die weit draußen, auf offener See, plötzlich auf einen seltsamen Fang stieß. Dieser bestand aus riesengroßen, würfelförmigen Ballen, die — ein Spielzeug der Wellen — munter auf dem Meere dahintrieben. Man holte einige von diesen Ballen ein, entfernte die aus feinster indischer Jute bestehende Umhüllung und merkte nun, daß es sich um Rohgummi handelte, der offenbar von einem im Atlantik torpedierten Schiff stammte und dann von der

Treibgut kennzeichnet den Weg nach USA *PK.-Aufnahme Kriegsber. Weiß*

Strömung in die Biskaya getrieben worden war. Das war in der Tat ein Fang! Die spanische Regierung zahlt nämlich für jedes Kilo Kautschuk, das als Strandgut zu betrachten ist, einen anständigen Preis. Für die glücklichen Fischer aus Santander sah daher ein ordentliches Geschäft aus der Sache heraus. Auch Fischern aus Vigo winkte wenige Tage darauf ein ähnliches Glück, und da im übrigen aller guten Dinge bekanntlich drei sind, ging dieser Gummisegen aus der Biskaya schließlich auch an den Fischern aus Pasajes nicht spurlos vorüber. So kam es, daß man in jenen Tagen an den Küsten der Biskaya regelrecht von einer Gummikonjunktur sprechen konnte. In den Fischerkneipen ging es hoch her, bei teueren Weinen und französischem Sekt, und so gar mancher wackere Seemann dürfte insgeheim ein Hoch auf die deutschen U-Boote ausgebracht haben, denen er diesen unerwarteten Segen zu verdanken hatte. Aber in alle Zeiten wird diese Konjunktur natürlich nicht anhalten können, sicherlich weniger deshalb, weil die deutschen U-Boote in Zukunft etwa weniger rührig sein werden als bisher, sondern einfach aus dem Grunde, weil die Yankees gar nicht in der Lage sind, den Briten — selbst bei bestem Willen — jeden Tag einen Gummifrachter herüberzuschicken. Und dann werden die baskischen Fischer eben schauen müssen, daß in ihren Netzen statt der Kautschukballen wieder silberglänzende Sardinen zappeln, aus deren Erlös man dann zwar keine teuren Weine in zweifelhaften Kneipen wird kaufen können, die aber ihren Mann auch ernähren, wenn auch nur bescheiden. Im übrigen ist er vom Schicksal ja nicht verwöhnt, der Fischer im Biskaya-Golf . . .

Ofenheizung oder Zentralheizung?

Zur Vorbereitung der Grundlagen für das Nachkriegs-Wohnungsbauprogramm der Reichshauptstadt wurden kürzlich an Berliner Mieter einige tausend Fragebogen versandt, um festzustellen, wie man augenblicklich wohnt und wie man in Zukunft wohnen möchte. Durch diese Umfrage fällt auch auf die Frage der gegenwärtigen und künftigen Wohnungsbeheizung ein interessantes Streiflicht. Ohne Zweifel befindet sich die Zentralheizung im Vormarsch. Zwar besaßen noch 90,4 v. H. aller Befragten Ofenheizung — aber nur 53,8 v. H. wünschen sie zu behalten. Es handelt sich hier vor allem um Schichten mit so geringem Einkommen, daß scharf mit jedem Pfennig gerechnet werden muß, und andererseits um Rentner, die den durch die Ofenheizung entstehenden Zeitaufwand nicht weiter veranschlagen. Gewiß hat die Ofenheizung ihre Vorzüge: Sie ist die individuelle Heizung, die sich sowohl dem Geldbeutel wie den jeweiligen Bedürfnissen am besten anpaßt, indem nur die wirklich benutzten Räume beheizt werden. In der Übergangszeit, wenn es sich noch nicht verlohnt, die Zentralheizung in Gang zu setzen, man sich aber gleichwohl, namentlich in den Abendstunden, nach etwas zusätzlicher Wärme im Zimmer sehnt, ist ein behaglicher Ofen gewiß nicht zu verachten. Dennoch wird besonders da, wo ein großer Teil der Familienmitglieder außerhäuslich berufstätig ist, das Anheizen und Beaufsichtigen der Öfen als unbequeme Last empfunden. Durch den Wegfall der Feuerstätten läßt sich bei der Zentralheizung eine bessere Raumausnutzung erreichen, auch das Bauverfahren verbilligt sich, weil viele Schornsteine wegfallen können, durch wirtschaftlich konstruierte Großkessel wird eine bessere Verwertung der Brennstoffe erzielt, und schließlich vermindern sich durch Einbau von Aschefanganlagen die Rauch- und Rußmengen, die den Himmel unserer Städte verdüstern.

Nach USA verschoben?

Einer der bekanntesten Buchhändler vom Piccadilly in London hat unlängst die englische Öffentlichkeit mit der Mitteilung überrascht, daß er den größten Teil der Privatbibliothek Sir Isaac Newtons, des berühmten englischen Naturforschers, an das Pilgrim-Kuratorium verkauft habe. Es handelt sich alles in allem um 858 Werke aus dieser Bibliothek, die dem damaligen Geschmack entsprechend alle in Kalbsleder gebunden sind. Unter den veräußerten Büchern befinden sich die erste und zweite Ausgabe der „Principia", ferner ein Exemplar des Barrowschen „Euklid" in zwei Bänden mit zahlreichen Randbemerkungen von der Hand Newtons. Überhaupt enthält eine ganze Reihe von den Büchern aus der Bibliothek Newtons solche Randbemerkungen. Ein großer Teil der nunmehr an das Pilgrim-Kuratorium verkauften Werke aus der Bibliothek Newtons scheint von diesem übrigens im Jahre 1661 erstanden worden zu sein, vor allem das griechisch-lateinische Wörterbuch, das er laut Eintragung am 29. März jenes Jahres für ein Sixpencestück bei einem Trödler in gut erhaltenem Zustand gekauft hat. Das Jahr 1661 war das Jahr, in dem Newton im Alter von 18 Jahren in das Trinity-College in Cambridge eintrat. Im Zusammenhang ... dieser Nachricht aus London wäre im übrigen noch zu bemerken, daß sich vor allem der wissenschaftlich interessierten Kreise in Großbritannien der Verdacht bemächtigt hat, daß das Pilgrim-Kuratorium nur als Zwischenkäufer aufgetreten ist und daß hinter dieser ganzen Transaktion wiederum gewisse Universitätskreise in den USA stehen, die die Notlage Englands schon seit Beginn des Krieges ausnützen, um sich wertvollen englischen Kulturbesitz zu sichern.

Die Lösung des Programms

Aus einer Rede Nahum Goldmanns vor dem zionistischen Kongreß:

„Seit vielen Jahrhunderten hatte das jüdische Volk nicht eine so glänzende Gelegenheit zur Lösung seines Programms wie augenblicklich." *Zeichnung Sotz*

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World Jewish Congress

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MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

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

June 7, 1944.

In reply refer to letter no.79

Mr. I.M. Weinstein, Assistant Director
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein,

As I intend to be in Washington next Wednesday, June 14, I would like to have a talk with you on the matters now pending. I will be at the headquarters of the American Red Cross at about 10 A.M., and I would be very grateful if you would let me know when it is most convenient for me to see you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

KURT R. GROSSMAN,
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

KRG:er1

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TELEPHONE: LOngacre 5-2600

June 8, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 85

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

I beg to let you have below the text of a cable sent by Dr. Goldmann to Mr. Barlas as a result of a conference which took place between representatives of the World Jewish Congress and the Vaad Hahatzalah.

"YOURS 2420 IMPLIED GRIFFEL KLARMANN AGREED THEIR ACTION UNNECESSARY STOP CABLE SEVENTEENTH FROM GRIFFEL KASTNER KLARMANN TO VAADHATZALA STRONGLY DIFFERS STOP WAR REFUGEE BOARD ANXIOUS HAVE ALL RESCUEWORK COORDINATED STOP WE HERE ENDEAVORING REACH AGREEMENT VAADHATZALA PLEASE CABLE SUGGESTIONS SETTLEMENT

NAHUM GOLDMANN"

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bm

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C-O-P-Y

VITALIS NACHMIAS
130 West 42nd Street
New York 8, N.Y.

June 5, 1944

Mr. Leon Kubowitzki
% World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York, N.Y.

~~VERY CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Mr. Kubowitzki:-

I refer to our last meeting and herewith inform you that I can recommend my brother-in-law - George Kisseloff - as the most appropriate person to be contacted for any political work in Bulgaria.

He is a Christian, of very high standing in the political and economic life in Bulgaria. He was, and may still be, the Vice-President of the Commercial Union (Chamber of Commerce) and President of the Industrial Council. He is the head of the largest textile concern in Bulgaria, the name of which is "Fortuna", President of the Printing Plant "Presse" which controls the largest and most influential newspaper in Sofia, "Zora".

He belongs to the so-called high Society in Bulgaria and has the best contacts with the King's Court, the Army and the political circles, also with the Metropolit Stefan.

For your information, he was the head of a commercial delegation sent to Moscow in 1940, and of another one sent to Italy.

In my judgment, he can be very useful and can be used as an intermediary in order to get in touch with today's rulers in Bulgaria.

As a personality, he has a very fine character. According to my informations, he is now in Turkey with his family.

If I am permitted, and assured of secrecy, I might write a personal letter to him to introduce the person who is to approach him. I might even go there by plane and meet him, if the Government thinks it necessary, and I am sure to be able to accomplish the most difficult task.

As you know, before coming to this country I was in the manufacturing and wholesale newsprint business and I controlled more than 80% of the Bulgarian press.

My contacts with the journalistic circles in Bulgaria were more than intimate and I can safely say that I had quite some influence among them. I do hope that they still hold me in high esteem.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Vitalis Nachmias

fh

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June 9, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 88

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

I thought you might be interested in the attached report. Please consider it as strictly confidential.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

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TRANSLATION

A REPORT BY LOUIS SEGAL ABOUT THE CONVERSATION HE HAD IN TORONTO WITH A CERTAIN PERSON WHO HAD ARRIVED LAST APRIL FROM LISBON.

When I was in Toronto on April 12th, Baruch Zuckerman called me up long-distance and told me that there had arrived in Toronto, as one of the group of 400 refugees admitted into Canada, a certain person (for obvious reasons I cannot divulge his name). As that person was in possession of important materials for the World Jewish Congress, Zuckerman asked me in the name of the Executive of the W.J.C., to look up that person, to obtain from him the aforesaid materials and any other information he was in a position to transmit.

I met the person in question on that very same day. He was greatly frightened. At the beginning he was very reticent. He explained his attitude by the fact that for several years he had been living day and night in constant fear lest he fall into the hands of Nazi spies. But after a while he finally composed himself and began to tell me his story.

He lived in France for many years. He knew Jarblum, as well as many other friends. He mentioned the names of a number of leading personalities of French Jewry. When the Nazis occupied Vichy-France, he and his wife and child escaped to Spain. There he met a number of the former leading personalities of the Spanish loyalist movement who had subsequently, because of the establishment of the Franco-regime, escaped to France and had lived there for some time. While in Vichy, they had helped in organizing the underground movement of France, and because of their knowledge of French and Spanish they served as liason men between the underground movements of both countries, Spain and France.

My informant's greatest interest was in the plight of the Jews and in the available possibilities for their rescue. Being an electro-technician, he succeeded in obtaining some work in Spain. But during his spare hours he was active in the underground movement as well as in the legal Jewish committees.

The underground work in both countries, France and Spain, is being conducted in the following manner:

1) Rescue of children. Most important of all in this field is to maintain con-

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tact with the residents of the frontier zone (there are hundreds of them). French women are permitted to have with them, during their travels, two children without any identification documents (provided they are less than 12 years old). One of these women residents is then instructed to go to a definite place in France where she removes a Jewish child and takes it along with her to the frontier, i.e. to her own home. If the conditions on the other side of the frontier are favorable (the guards, the reception committee of the underground movement, etc.,) this child is immediately transported across the frontier. If, however, the conditions are not so favorable, the child remains temporarily in the custody of the French family until such time when the respective conditions become favorable for its transportation accross the border.

When the child has already succeeded in crossing the frontier, its maintenance is being taken over by the Jewish Relief Committee which receives financial support from the Joint Distribution Committee. But until its arrival into a neutral country, the Joint refuses to take part in this rescue work, as it will have nothing to do with any kind of illegal activities. These co-called illegal activities are therefore conducted by the underground movement and are financed from sources other than the Joint's. My informant emphasized very strongly that our organisations should reckon with this fact and that they should assist their associates overseas.

2) Rescue of adults: The underground movement conducts important activities in the matter of rescue of grown-ups as well. The possibilities for this kind of rescue work have lately been increased. For many Nazi officials have sent away their families to neutral countries. These families, who need money to live on, are approached by members of Silberschein's staff who give them the necessary funds. The Nazi families, in turn, notify their husbands, brothers, relatives etc., as to what has to be done. There are unlimited possibilities to rescue people in this way, my informant emphasized again. But one should get rid of the notion that these things can be accomplished through legal channels.

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3) Passports: In the domain of obtaining passports Silberschein has accomplished wonders. Because of this work many officials of various governmental offices have often found themselves in great danger, and ways and means had to be found to remove these dangers. Silberschein has found them. He considers this phase of rescue as of great importance. He regrets that very few people and very few institutions were able to appreciate the value of the urgent proposals advanced by him for this work.

My informant further told me that the underground movement of Spain and France has established courses for the training of those who are able to rescue children and adults. The "students" are being taught how to climb mountains, how to defend themselves when caught, what explanations to give about the documents that may be found on them during their rescue work, etc. Everyone signing up for this course gives a written pledge that he will disregard his own life while discharging his duties.

He further assured me that Jarblum, Silberschein and many others of our European friends are in close contact with these groups. He also told me about Weissmann's activities, which he praises very much. Much bitterness was felt in his words when he told me about the secret and open fight that the Joint representatives in Lisbon have led against Weissmann, a fight that has finally led to Weissmann's arrest. He explained to me that the attitude of the Joint people is that they, and they alone, know how to conduct relief and rescue activities, and that all others engaged in parallel activities are merely a hindrance, and that therefore the Joint has a right to wage war upon such bodies or individuals, as for instance, against Weissmann.

He thoroughly acquainted me with the activities and attitude of the Joint in the European countries. Their attitude is that they can offer aid to those only who are already in a neutral country, provided also that the neutral Government in question does not object to such aid. My informant has strongly emphasized that if we should stick to this point of view, more than 90 percent of the rescue activities would have to be discarded, as it is impossible in a legal way to rescue children or grown-ups, to organize training-courses for the underground groups, etc.

6/6/44-fh

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CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .·. CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

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NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

Relayed to Katzki

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55 New Cavendish St., W 1

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JERUSALEM
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MONTREAL
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Sonora 174-4

June 9, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 81

Hon. J. W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I attach a copy of a letter which I received from Mr. Vitalis Nachmias who is the secretary of the Bulgarian Jewish Representative Committee affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

George Kisseloff is now in Istanbul. He may be contacted through Mr. Vitalis Nachmias' cousin, Benno Nachmias, 24/26 Tahta Kale, Istanbul.

In the conference I had on June 7th with Mr. Katzki, I called his attention to Mr. Kisseloff.

May I ask you to kindly keep me informed of the developments in this matter?

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bm
Enc.

421

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WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

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Sonora 174-4

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TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

June 12, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 91

Hon. J. W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

It is the opinion of many of our friends that it is urgently necessary to broadcast instructions to the Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe. May I submit to you a draft of such instructions, prepared by my assistant, Mr. Kurt R. Grossman.

I will be grateful to you for keeping me informed of any action you decide to take upon this suggestion.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

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DRAFT

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE: INSTRUCTIONS FOR JEWS IN NAZI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY

1. General View

A. The hour of decision will not be far off. Therefore, those Jews who have been able to survive the ordeals imposed upon them should take measures which will prevent them from being victims of any further persecutions.

B. We know how difficult it is to make this work a reality. However, past experience shows that those Jews who 1) did not wear the yellow badge 2) did not register as Jews 3) went into hiding 4) joined guerilla forces 5) disguised themselves or 6) cooperated with the Underground - were able to escape the persecutions suffered by millions of their fellow-Jews.

C. The measures to be taken will not be alike in all countries. They will vary in accordance with the particular situation in each district. It is most essential to know the names of those who are responsible for the persecutions. It is a fact that Gestapo officials and officials of the satellite countries can be bribed, intimidated, or warned, and, if any should show sympathy for the suffering population, they could be encouraged.

II. The instructions which we offer to you so that you may be in a position so save your life, should be adjusted to the specific situation of the district in which you live.

A. If you are still at liberty, do nothing which would direct the attention of the Nazi authorities to your existence.

B. Disguise yourself and try to discard your yellow badge. Pretend to be a Gentile or one of the foreign workers of whom there are millions in Nazi-occupied territories now.

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C. Try to obtain documents that would help you to identify yourself as the disguised person in case the necessity arises.

D. If you are in a critical situation, investigate the possibility of remedying it by means of bribing a Nazi official.

E. Should you find it necessary to change your residence, take everything with you, and, if this is not possible, destroy it so that no traces whatsoever are left.

F. If you feel strong enough to be of help to others, be aware of the fact that you can be in contact with only two other persons, and that each of these persons should not know that you are working with the other.

G. If it is necessary for you to go in hiding, try to contact the underground, but be especially careful, as there might always be the danger of the presence of agents provocateurs. Take full precautions before you speak freely to the man who is supposed to represent the Underground. Do not offer any information until you are certain that he is a friend of yours.

H. In the event that you establish secure contacts with the Underground, follow the suggestions of those people who are experienced in working with it. Cooperate with them in making broader plans for the rescue of your fellow-Jews, and be careful of not giving away too many names. Always try to decrease the number of persons who might be endangered.

I. If you find it necessary to bribe a Nazi official or one of the officials of the satellite countries, never give him the money before he has done what he promised to do. However, if this is not possible, pay him only a part of the full amount in advance, and pay the remainder after he has fulfilled his promises. Inform a trustworthy friend of your dealings with the Nazi official so that he could

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expose him in case he is deceitful.

J. Be aware that the Intelligence Services all have agents in various districts. Try to contact these agents, but take care not to disclose their important work. Then try to save as many endangered Jews as possible through them.

K. You must remember that only a fraction of the endangered Jews, and not masses of them, could be rescued through these means. Therefore, save those who are least expendable, and also those who are in the greatest danger. In saving these people, and also children eventually, it is important to know that they will find refuge in Switzerland, Portugal, and Spain, and in all the areas liberated by the Allied armies, such as the Russian Army, the forces of Tito, and the British, French, and American armies.

KRG:fh

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Files

June 16, 1944

In reply refer to
Number 95

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to inform you that Dr. Goldmann received from Mr. Chaim Barlas the following cable, sent from Ankara on June 9th.

"Numerous arrivals representatives organizations interested rescuework liable embarrass activities overlapping duplicating efforts stop it is suggested you undertake steps centralizing matter appealing to organization refrain from sending additional representatives as impeding work stop desirable your uptaking matter with Board wire
Chaim Barlas"

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kubowitzki

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

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June 20, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 101

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I thought I should give you the attached report from the Czechoslovak representative in Geneva, concerning the possible utilization of the Juedische Unterstuetzungsstelle in Krakow for relief on behalf of the Jewish camp internees in Poland.

This report, although dated April 12, reached us recently, and contains many a timely sentence.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kubowitzki

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

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Report received by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs from their representative in Geneva according to the Ministry's letter dated 12th April, 1944.

[redacted]

According to a report received by Dr. Riegner on the 12th of March, the Krakow Unterstuetzungsstelle keeps working under the direction of Dr. Weichert. According to an official confirmation by the German Red Cross the German authorities have granted permission to the International Red Cross for further wholesale supplies to Krakow. It is permitted to send medicaments, provisions, clothes and underwear. According to a report by the Krakauer Unterstuetzungsstelle, the latter are in contact with all the camps in Poland and in a position to distribute the supplies to them. They suggest that the Czechoslovak representative in Lisbon should send for a test 6,000 parcels without stating names to the "Beauftragte des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes, Krakau, fur Judische Unterstuetzungsstelle fur General Gouvernment, Postfach 211." The Czechoslovak representative further reports that, after a conference with the International Red Cross, Riegner suggested to the World Jewish Congress in New York to put at the disposal of the International Red Cross 50,000 - 100,000 parcels prepared by the War Refugee Board. The International Red Cross are in a position to assist in arranging the shipment and the distribution.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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JUN 20 1944

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

For your information there is herewith enclosed a copy of a resolution recently adopted by the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense and transmitted to the Governments of the American republics for implementation.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York 23, N. Y.

Enclosure

L.S.L.
LSLesser:als 6/19/44

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Pehle

June 22, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 106

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 20, enclosing a copy of Resolution XXIV, adopted by the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense of the Western Hemisphere.

I beg to offer the expression of the sincere appreciation and admiration of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress, as well as my own, for this great achievement of the War Refugee Board. I know of few undertakings in which more preconceived notions of legality and illegality, preventions, prejudices, as well as legitimate apprehensions, had to be overcome.

The War Refugee Board has taken up the fight for the rescue of the unfortunate holders of documents issued in the name of Latin American republics with a courage and a daring for which we will remain lastingly indebted to yourself and your collaborators.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kubowitzki

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

421

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June 22, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 108

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I attach a copy of my letter to Mr. Pehle.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

421

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June 22, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 107

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have just received the April 11 issue of the Palestinian Labor Daily "Davar," and read in an interview with two "Milka" passengers the following passage:

> "The last weeks were filled with good and bad happenings. The German retreat in Southern Russia affected visibly the situation in Bucharest, and the retreating Nazis looted and murdered on a large scale. The Rumanian authorities were very much impressed by the German rout, and became more careful in their attitude with regard to the Jews. There is no doubt that the warnings issued by President Roosevelt had their effect. There is evidence of it."

The underlined sentence is underlined in the text. I thought you might be interested in this testimony.

Sincerely yours,

ALK:bg

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

000092

Gen. Corresp., World Jewish Congress

JUN 23 1944

TO: Mr. Berle

FROM: J. W. Pehle

We are advised by the World Jewish Congress that it would be of assistance in connection with relief and rescue projects if Mr. Eliahu Dobkin, Head of the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, who is now in Lisbon, were permitted to come to the United States for a short visit to confer with the officers of the World Jewish Congress and others. We are further advised that Mr. Dobkin possesses a Palestinian passport, No. 152148, and that application has been filed on his behalf for a visitor's visa.

If the same can be done in conformity with your policy and ~~the~~ applicable law and regulations, we would ~~appreciate the expeditious issuance~~ favor of a visa to Mr. Dobkin which would enable him to pay a short visit to the United States for the purposes indicated.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

Original signed by Mr. Pehle
copy to: Mr. Leaver

L.S.L.
LSLesserials 6/21/44

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE June 20, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle

FROM L. S. Lesser

Reference is made to the attached letter from Dr. Kubowitzki with respect to Mr. Dobkin's proposed visit to the United States.

The desire to have Dobkin come here may have resulted from my clear-cut "no" to Dr. Kubowitzki's inquiry as to whether we would assist him (Kubowitzki) in getting to Lisbon. If you agree, I will call Dr. Kubowitzki and tell him that when, as and if we are informed that Dobkin has applied for a visa to enter the United States temporarily, to consult with the World Jewish Congress on refugee and rescue problems, we will see whether it is possible for us to be of some assistance.

Attachment

OK JWPehle LSL

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WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

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June 16, 1944

In reply ~~refer~~
to No. 94

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

As you may know, Mr. Eliahu Dobkin, Head of the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency, is now in Lisbon where he is conferring with the Lisbon representative of the Jewish Agency and with private Jewish agencies on questions connected with the immigration to Palestine of people rescued from occupied Europe.

We think it would be most important that we should be in a position to confer with Mr. Dobkin on a number of questions connected especially with the granting of Palestine certificates to people in occupied Europe. Matters of an extremely confidential and delicate nature are involved in Mr. Dobkin's activities, on which it is impossible to get information or to consult other than orally.

We like to think that it might be useful for the War Refugee Board to confer with Mr. Dobkin, and to have the benefit of his judgment and experience on a number of rescue problems. May we consequently ask you to urge the competent authorities to see to it that Mr. Dobkin is granted, at the earliest opportunity, a visa for a limited stay in the United States, as well as the required priorities for his arrival in this country.

Mr. Dobkin has a Palestinian passport #152148.

I need not stress the urgent character of this matter, as his duties may require Mr. Dobkin's speedy return to Jerusalem.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kubowitzki

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

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Pehle

June 23, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 110

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to refer to my talk of June 13 with Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser, in which I called his attention to the offer we received from Mr. Imre Chairman, who is eager to proceed to the territories held by the Tito forces in order to devote his experience, his knowledge, and his abilities to the rescue of Jews from Hungary through free Yugoslavia.

Mr. Chairman is better known as Imre von Csernyak. He was born in Budapest in 1897, and after graduating from the Technical Military Academy in Vienna, he became a Career Officer in the Imperial Austro-Hungarian Army. From 1914-1918 he was Commander of the Third Flying Squadron, and when the revolution broke out he was elected Commander in Chief of the Hungarian Army. He became a member of the armistice delegation which went to Belgrade, and together with Professor Jassy and Count Karolyi he concluded the armistice agreement with the French Marshal Franchet d'Esperey.

In the United States, Mr. Csernyak taught aeronautics at New York University, and later became consultant to various airplane firms. He is now working with the War Department.

Democratic and pro-Jewish feelings are traditional in Mr. Csernyak's family, which is non-Jewish. In 1848 his grandfather organized an artillery squadron which distinguished itself in Louis Kossuth's army.

Mr. Csernyak speaks Hungarian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovakian and German. He has a fair knowledge of French and Italian. He is experienced in guerrilla warfare, and knows the geographical situation in Yugoslavia and Hungary very well.

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In Mr. Csernyak's opinion, the escape route to Tito's territory should follow the line of the Danube to the region surrounding the town of Pecs, which is industrialized and where the help of the working classes could be enlisted. In the immediate vicinity of Pecs are the Bakony woods which offer excellent hiding places (further east is a German-administered region, Backa). West of Pecs the Drave River will have to be crossed or forded. There the Slovenian forests offer their protection. It is the region where Tito's Partisan Movement originated. Thereafter, the Save River will have to be crossed, and from there the way to the Dalmatian ports will have to be found under the guidance of Tito's troops. Eventually the Danube waterway may serve partly as a line of transportation.

A map sketched by Mr. Chairman is attached.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

000097

I. Imre Chairman Csernyak
Former Comander in Chief
of The Hungarian Republican
Army

For the Jewish Congress

New York City May 18,1944

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

File +

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

JPC

DATE

TO Mr. Lesser

June 22, 1944

FROM B. Akzin

Rabbi Kalmanowitz phoned to inform you of his conversation with Berle.

(1) Berle informed him that the consent of the Dominican Republic to the application procedure had been received last night. Our text of the proposed letters has been accepted. Berle will send it over to us tomorrow and will want us to draft a cable to Switzerland, since the letters will be written by the Dominican representatives in Switzerland.

(2) Berle favors the $2,000,000 programs for Slovakia and Hungary, even though it may result in a temporary solution only. Gaining time is very important at present. Berle is in favor of the WRB contributing financially to these projects. He has promised Kalmanowitz to speak to Mr. Pehle about it.

(3) Berle consents to Sturmer's journey to Ecuador and to Rabbi Bergman's trip to Central America. He asked, however, that they should come to see him, since he wants to look them over before they go.

(4) Since the Dominican matter was wholly initiated by their organization, the Rabbi wants assurances that the major part of the documents be distributed by ~~Sturmer~~ who is best acquainted with the background of Hungarian ~~Jewry~~. Sternbuch

Jewry

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June 26, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 118

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to let you have the text of the following cable which Dr. Wise received from Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, Member of the Polish National Council.

"Got message addressed to me from Jewish underground-movement confirming 7000 Jews from Theresienstadt gassed by Germans end march in slaughterhouse Oswiecim message includes call for warnings and nations action to prevent further imminent deportation inform press act accordingly."

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:blg

421

World Jewish Cong -
(RG Oil)

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June 26, 1944.

In reply refer to letter 120.

I.M. Weinstein, Special Agent
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein,

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter written to Mr. George Lanyi of the Office of War Information, as well as the three drafts of leaflets to be scattered over Hungary which are mentioned in the letter.

I am very much interested in learning your reaction.

Very truly yours,

KURT R. GROSSMAN,
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

KRG:erl

34

000101

cc: Mr. Weinstein

June 26, 1944.

Mr. George Lanyi
Office of War Information
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lanyi,

It has been suggested that leaflets be scattered over Hungary, and we take the liberty of enclosing herewith three different drafts of such leaflets.

I would be grateful to you if you would let me know your reaction.

Very sincerely yours,

KURT R. GROSSKAR,
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

KRG:erl

000102

Copy of leaflet for Hu ary NO. 1.

Hungarians:

This message is brought to you by fliers of the great United States you know so well because so many of kinsfolk live there. They are Americans now, prosperous and happy and they are sending you the following message:

"Our Hungarian brothers. With all our hearts, we condemn the despicable acts of your Quislings. They are not Hungarians; they are the enemies of Hungary.

"They want you to fight us. They want you to kill the hundreds of thousands of Jews and refugees in your midst. We make you responsible for the lives of these people. They are your own brothers, Hungarians, and your guests. Do not lend a hand to the Nazis in sending them to their doom. Each of them will be accounted for, every act of atrocity will have to be answered.

"It is not merely your fate that is at stake. The fate of your country is in your hands. The criminal accomplices of the Nazis have plunged Hungary into disaster. We cannot believe that the people of Louis Kossuth, you, peasants, artisans, factory workers, clerks, officials, would forget the teachings of your great leader as to make common cause with the Nazi and Quisling desperadoes.

"The end of the war is in sight. At the peace conference table Hungary's fate will be decided. You are the ones to write the terms by holding the accursed Nazi hand in your midst so that it should not strike the innocent. Your action will be taken into account before the pact is sealed. You can hide the people who are marked for doom. You can sabotage the Nazi efforts to exterminate your Jewish neighbors and your guests. You can act through your priests and ministers, through your churches. You can do a lot of things your heart will tell. Act before it is too late. Should you fail to act promptly you, and you alone, will be responsible for the fate of yourselves and of your country."

Hungarians; These are the words of your countrymen, now loyal citizens of the United States. Heed their warning, act promptly. It is not too late yet. But it may be late soon. Waste no time. Save yourselves and your nation from the deserved punishment for acts you will have every cause to repent.

fh

000103

Copy of a leaflet for Hy NX NO. 2.

Hungarians:

The armies of liberation are on the march. The German enemy is being cornered. They could not prevent us from cracking their western defenses. They had to surrender Rome without a fight. Their Axis is cracked - their famous Berlin-Rome Axis. Its southern pivot crumbled in our hands. Soon its northern pivot in Berlin will also be at our mercy.

The victorious Red Army has reached the Carpathian frontiers of today's Hungary. Soon the Nazis' last remaining defenses will be battered down. In their mad fury the beaten Germans will fight to the last round of ammunition and in their fight will use you as their human shield.

Your loyalty should go to your own country and not to its worst foes. We shall give you instructions as to how you can save your country and your own neck. This is our first instruction. We shall watch you carefully, how you execute it.

There are hundreds of thousands of Jews and refugees in your midst. Most of them are your own countrymen, Hungarians of Jewish creed, who have lived with you all these years. They are not your enemies, as you very well know. They helped you build up Hungary. The other refugees are guests, admitted into your country and they trusted you, because they knew about your hospitality. Should you harm them in any way, the Hungarian name would be besmirched for all times. Hungarians were never in the habit of killing their guests.

You will answer with your life for each and every Jew and refugee. Your country will answer for each and every one of them. We already know much of what you are doing and we, the United Nations, will know more when our armies will stand on the Danube.

This is what you must do. Sabotage the Germans and your Quislings in their attempt to exterminate Jews and refugees. There are millions of you, where there are only thousands of them. They are impotent to act against you if you fail to carry out their criminal orders. Do not believe their telling you that it is not a crime to kill a refugee and a Jew. It is a crime, a mortal crime, before God and man.

fh

000104

Copy of leaflet for Hungary NO. 3.

Hungarians:

This message is sent to you from America, dropped on your land by our fliers. The armies of the United Nations are marching toward a decisive and quick victory. Hitler's much-vaunted Atlantic wall was cracked in a few days, and will be cracked again and again until it crumbles into dust. After taking eternal Rome, desecrated by the Fascist beast of prey, our armies are marching toward northern Italy's beautiful valley of the Po. The hosts of Soviet soldiers are battering down the last remaining remnants of Nazi opposition. Now they are standing on the crest of the Carpathian mountains and soon will cross into your own plains. You knew by your own experience the United Nations fliers are in command of Europe's skies.

The Germans have shot their bolt and lost the game. In a last desperate attempt to save their skins they are using you as cannon fodder. Once before they did that, and your fathers remember the First World War when another gang of Germans plunged your land into disaster. You survived the ordeal. Will you survive again?

Your nation has survived the tempests of a thousand years, survived the attacks of Turk and Tartar, the depradations of the Habsburgs and the Russian Czarist armies. In 1848 your ancestors were surrounded by a hostile world and the enemy stood on your soil. The outcome of the battle could not be in doubt. Yet, they stood up against the hostile world. On the plains of Vilages they had to yield their arms. Yet it was a day of victory and not a day of defeat because it established your country's life to live - a right that even the former foe had to recognize.

Hungarians: It is your own hands that hold the future of your country, of yourselves and your children. You will lose the treasure you have cherished for a thousand years if you back up the savage beast in its last minute attempt to save its vicious skin in its lair. This is your chance to strike the deadly blow that will deliver your country from the greatest danger it faced in a thousand years.

000105

Prove yourselves worthy of leniency on the part of the United Nations by not lending yourselves to the desperadoes' last criminal act to exterminate your Jewish neighbors and the guests in your midst. Don't forget that in this war all decent humanity is on one side. You surely do not want to share the fate of the enemy of God and man.

fh

000106

JUN 27 1944

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 23, 1944, enclosing copies of three recent cables you have received from Mr. Barlas. Your making these copies available to the Board is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann
World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York 23, New York

FHiro 6/26/44

000107

JUN 27 1944

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

Thank you for your letter of June 20, 1944, (#101), enclosing a report from the Czechoslovakian representative in Geneva, concerning the possible utilization of the Juedische Unterstuetzungsstelle in Krakow for relief on behalf of the Jewish camp-internees in Poland.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Rescue Department,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

RBHutchisonjagr 6-24-44

000108

JUL 1 1944

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

There are forwarded to you herewith two letters from Mr. Storch which have been received through the American Legation in Stockholm.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Enclosures:

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Rescue Department,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

PH:JB 6/30/44

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File 72+

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TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 5, 1944

In reply refer to: No. 135

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I call your attention to your letter of June 21st by which you forwarded to Dr. Goldmann a confidential message from Dr. Riegner and especially to the third paragraph of this message concerning the insistance of the Swiss Political Department that transfers to France should pass through the Swiss Clearing Office which procedure would cost 3.60 to 4.00 Swiss francs for 100 French francs while our friends in Geneva obtain now a normal rate of 1.60 to 1.80.

Dr. Riegner requested us to examine with the Board "whether in the future our rescue fund should not be sent through their (the Board's) representative in Bern in a manner by which such Swiss control would be eliminated."

Looking forward to hearing from you so as to be able to instruct Dr. Riegner, I remain

Sincerely yours

A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

7/13/44
Mr. Lowrey will tell Mr. Pehle
to advise Mr. Goldman that funds
in question could not be sent
through Swiss channels to McClelland -
also that we were opposed to interfering with local Swiss regulations

000110

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TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 8th, 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In accordance with your request may I give you the following information concerning the planned trip of Dr. Leon Arieh Tartakower to South America.

Dr. Tartakower is member of the Executive Committee and Director of the Department for Relief and Rehabilitation of our organization. The Executive Committee is anxious to have him go for a few weeks to South America in connection with urgent work to be done there and the aim of which is to support the rescue work od the World Jewish Congress. The duty of Dr. Tartakower will be first to inform the leaders of the jewish communities in those countries, which as you certainly know are affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, about the character and the aim of the rescue work and second to raise the funds necessary for the continutation of the work, as also to communicate with the proper personalities and bodies in those countries with a view to secure documents which may be necessary for the rescue work. Dr. Tartakower is to go first to Chile, then to Peru and next to Argentine, Uruguay and Brazil. All necessary preparations for his trip were already made and only the problem of transportation remains to be solved.

I hope that you will share my opinion as to the importance and the urgent character of this trip. If the rescue work is to be considered as part of our war effort, as it certainly should, then the importance of Dr. Tartakower trip for the war effort is evident.

May I, therefore, repeat my request for your kind intervention with the proper authorities to have them grant the air priority for the transportation of Dr. Tartakower from Miami via Panama to Chile, respectively from Miami via Colombia to Chile, so as to enable him to leave within the next few days. May I point out that the urgent character of Dr. Tartakower's trip apart from reasons mentionned above, is still strenghtened by the fact that the rescue campaign in all those countries was already started and that Dr. Tartakower must be back from his trip around the middle of September to participate in the session of the Council of UNRRA scheduled for September 15 in Montreal and where Dr. Tartakower is to go on behalf of our organization.

I shall be most gratefull for your kind cooperation in settling this affair.-

Faithfully yours,

James Waterman Wise

James Waterman Wise
Washington Representative of the World Jewish Congress

000111

WS

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July 10, 1944

Mr. Lawrence L. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

You no doubt remember that in the course of our conference last Friday, one of the problems discussed was that of cooperation which we may expect from the War Refugee Board in securing the priority for my trip to the Latin-American countries.

Upon my return to New York, I found out that our Washington representative, Mr. James Waterman Wise, had discussed this problem on the same day with Mr. Pehle, who was kind enough to promise his cooperation. Mr. Pehle, however, asked for additional information, which may enable him to pursue the matter in the State Department.

Enclosed please find copy of the letter, which, in accordance with Mr. Pehle's request, was sent to him by Mr. Wise.

May I appeal to you to also have the necessary steps taken on your part, in order to have the priorities secured for my trip. I am sure that you are just as interested as we are to have this trip effectuated as soon as possible, in view of its importance for the continuation of our rescue activities.

Thanking you again for the valuable information, which you were kind enough to transmit to me during our conference, and looking forward to your answer, I am, with kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Arieh Tartakower

at/ld
Encl.

000112

July 8th, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In accordance with your request may I give you the following information concerning the planned trip of Dr. Leon Arieh Tartakower to South America.

Dr. Tartakower is member of the Executive Committee and Director of the Department for Relief and Rehabilitation of our organization. The Executive Committee is anxious to have him go for a few weeks to South America in connection with urgent work to be done there and the aim of which is to support the rescue work of the World Jewish Congress. The duty of Dr. Tartakower will be first to inform the leaders of the Jewish communities in those countries, which as you certainly know are affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, about the character and the aim of the rescue work and second to raise the funds necessary for the continuation of the work, as also to communicate with the proper personalities and bodies in those countries with a view to secure documents which may be necessary for the rescue work. Dr. Tartakower is to go first to Chile, then to Peru and next to Argentine, Uruguay and Brazil. All necessary preparations for his trip were already made and only the problem of transportation remains to be solved.

I hope that you will share my opinion as to the importance and the urgent character of this trip. If the rescue work is to be considered as part of our war effort, as it certainly should, then the importance of Dr. Tartakower's trip for the war effort is evident.

May I, therefore, repeat my request for your kind intervention with the proper authorities to have them grant the air priority for the transportation of Dr. Targakower from Miami via Panama to Chile, respectively from Miami via Colombi to Chile, so as to enable him to leave within the next few days. May I point out that the urgent character of Dr. Tartakower's trip apart from reasons mentioned above, is still strengthened by the fact that the rescue campaign in all those countries was already started and that Dr. Tartakower must be back from his trip around the middle of September to participate in the session of the Council of UNRRA scheduled for September 15 in Montreal and where Dr. Tartakower is to go on behalf of our organization.

I shall be most grateful for your kind cooperation in settling this affair.

Faithfully yours,

James Waterman Wise
Washington Representative of the World Jewish Congress

000113

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July 11, 1944.

In reply please refer to letter 149.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We sent to the OWI the enclosed instructions* to Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe. Lt.Col. Charles A. H. Thomson, Infantry, Chief of Liaison, of the OWI, writes us as follows:

> "As you know, the Office of War Information gears its overseas activities very closely to the foreign policy of the United States as stated by the State Department, and to the military policy laid down by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. All of our work -- including such work as you suggest -- must be cleared with these agencies, and discussed with other interested agencies of the Government, such as the War Refugee Board".

In view of this, we are submitting to you the draft of the instructions. We hope that you will take adequate measures.

Very truly yours,

KURT R. GROSSMAN,
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

KRG:erl

* no instructions enclosed when received
LHH - 7/13

34

000114

יידישער וועלט-קאָנגרעס / הקונגרס היהודי העולמי

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

330 WEST 42ND — NEW YORK

Delegate for PORTUGAL & SPAIN: — ISAAC WEISSMAN

LISBON / 179, Avenida da Liberdade / *Cables:* REFUGEERELIEF / *Telephone:* 4 1101

July 12th, 1944.

Dear Mr Mann,

On the eve of your departure for the United States, I beg you to accept, on my behalf and on behalf of the World Jewish Congress, grateful thanks for your considerate kindness and your untiring efforts which culminated in the agreement with the Joint Distribution Committee and ourselves in the matter of the rescue work.

I want to signify my great satisfaction at the achievement of this agreement which will so largely facilitate our common task in rescuing our unfortunate people from the horrors of Nazism and persecution.

Meanwhile, here in Lisbon I shall remain at your entire disposal and you may rest assured of my personal collaboration and co-operation in all matters concerned with the afore-mentioned agreement.

Hoping that we may one day meet again and wishing you "bon voyage" and all success in the future, I beg to remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Isaac Weissman.

James Mann, Esquire,
Assistant Director and Delegate
War Refugee Board,
American Embassy,
Lisbon, Portugal.

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WJC - Reg. file

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July 12, 1944

In reply please refer to letter 151.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle,

I sent you a letter yesterday with which was supposed to be enclosed the copy of the instructions for Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe. However, I neglected to enclose it and I herewith attach it with sincere apologies.

Very truly yours,

KURT R. GROSSMAN,
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

KRG:erl

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000116

DRAFT

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE: INSTRUCTIONS FOR JEWS IN NAZI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY

I. General View

A. The hour of decision will not be far off. Therefore, those Jews who have been able to survive the ordeals imposed upon them should take measures which will prevent them from being victims of any further persecutions.

B. We know how difficult it is to make this work a reality. However, past experience shows that those Jews who 1) did not wear the yellow badge 2) did not register as Jews 3) went into hiding 4) joined guerilla forces 5) disguised themselves or 6) cooperated with the Underground - were able to escape the persecutions suffered by millions of their fellow-Jews.

C. The measures to be taken will not be alike in all countries. They will vary in accordance with the particular situation in each district. It is most essential to know the names of those who are responsible for the persecutions. It is a fact that Gestapo officials and officials of the satellite countries can be bribed, intimidated, or warned, and, if any should show sympathy for the suffering population, they could be encouraged.

II. The instructions which we offer to you so that you may be in a position to save your life, should be adjusted to the specific situation of the district in which you live.

A. If you are still at liberty, do nothing which would direct the attention of the Nazi authorities to your existence.

B. Disguise yourself and try to discard your yellow badge. Pretend to be a Gentile or one of the foreign workers of whom there are millions in Nazi-occupied territories now.

000117

C. Try to obtain documents that would help you to identify yourself as the disguised person in case the necessity arises.

D. If you are in a critical situation, investigate the possibility of remedying it by means of bribing a Nazi official.

E. Should you find it necessary to change your residence, take everything with you, and, if this is not possible, destroy it so that no traces whatsoever are left.

F. If you feel strong enough to be of help to others, be aware of the fact that you can be in contact with only two other persons, and that each of these persons should not know that you are working with the other.

G. If it is necessary for you to go in hiding, try to contact the underground, but be especially careful, as there might always be the danger of the presence of agents provocateurs. Take full precautions before you speak freely to the man who is supposed to represent the Underground. Do not offer any information until you are certain that he is a friend of yours.

H. In the event that you establish secure contacts with the Underground, follow the suggestions of these people who are experienced in working with it. Cooperate with them in making broader plans for the rescue of your fellow-Jews, and be careful of not giving away too many names. Always to decrease the number of persons who might be endangered.

I. If you find it necessary to bribe a Nazi official or one of the officials of the satellite countries, never give him the money before he has done what he promised to do. However, if this is not possible, pay him only a part of the full amount in advance, and pay the remainder after he has fulfilled his promises. Inform a trustworthy friend of your dealings with the Nazi official so that he could

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expose him in case he is deceitful.

J. Be aware that the Intelligence Services all have agents in various districts. Try to contact these agents, but take care not to disclose their important work. Then try to save as many endangered Jews as possible through them.

K. You must remember that only a fraction of the endangered Jews, and not masses of them, could be rescued through these means. Therefore, save those who are least expendable, and also those who are in the greatest danger. In saving these people, and also children eventually, it is important to know that they will find refuge in Switzerland, Portugal, and Spain, and in all the areas liberated by the Allied armies, such as the Russian Army, the forces of Tito, and the British, French, and American armies.

KRG:fh

000119

JUL 13 1944

Dear Mr. Wise:

In response to your letter of July 8, we have written a letter to the State Department asking their assistance in arranging the necessary air priority for Dr. Tartakower. We are glad to do what we can in this matter, but of course cannot guarantee that the priority will be received.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. James Waterman Wise
World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York 23, New York

WStewart; pdk 7/11/44 W.S.

000120

13 1944

My dear Mr. Shaw:

The War Refugee Board understands that Dr. Leon Arieh Tartakower, a member of the Executive Committee and Director of the Department for Relief and Rehabilitation of the World Jewish Congress is contemplating a trip to South America under the auspices of that organization. We understand that Dr. Tartakower's proposed itinerary includes Chile, Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil and that all of the necessary preparations for the trip except the air priority have been completed.

In view of the War Refugee Board's interest in this trip and the fact that much of the material and information that Dr. Tartakower will bring back ~~will~~ be of value in connection with the Board's refugee operations, it is urged that the necessary air priority be granted to Dr. Tartakower if ~~at~~ ~~all~~ feasible. Your assistance to that end will be appreciated.

should

Yours very truly,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable G. Howland Shaw
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Tartakower calling Warren to give him dates & times.
W.S. 10:00 A.M.
7/19/44

WStewart; pdk 7/11/44 W.S.

000121

WJC

JUL 14 1944

Dear Dr. Wise:

Reference is made to my letter to you of June 30, 1944, relating to the procedure to be employed in recommending holders of Palestine certificates within enemy territory for exchange.

We are now advised that organizations and individuals desiring to have persons in whom they are interested considered for exchange, should communicate not with the Colonial Office in London, but with the Commissioner of Migration and Statistics, at Jerusalem.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

L.S.L.

LSLesser:tmh 7-13-44

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TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 14, 1944

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

I wish to refer to yesterday's telephone conversation at which time you relayed to me discouraging news.

May I remind you of our discussion on the question of retaliation and request you to consider the advisability of it in the light of the grave situation of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe. We should let the German Government know again that the United States Government considers the interned Jews as civilian internees and therefore, in the opinion of this government, the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1929 must be applied. In view of the horrible reports received by the United States Government regarding the treatment of the Jews, this government must reconsider its attitude towards the civilian internees in its power, since it wishes the interned Jews to be treated on the same level as it treats the civilian internees. If such a statement could be made in concert with the various South American countries, I believe it could help to alleviate the very grave situation of the jews.

Thank you for giving this matter your thought.

Very truly yours,

KURT R. GROSSMAN,
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

KRG:erl

000123

July 14, 1944

Mr. Lewis Revy
Hungarian Desk
Office of War Information
224 West 57th Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Revy:

With reference to today's telephone conversation I want to submit to you the address delivered by the Rev. George E. Kerekes Borshy at the service of the New Light Temple, Bronx, New York, last Sunday. I am enclosing both the Hungarian original and the rather inadequate English translation.

I understand that another declaration for the American Hungarian Federation, supposedly based on the above-mentioned declaration, will be recorded and broadcast by the OWI. May I recommend that Rev. Borshy (Boshy Kerekesh) c/o The Hungarian Reformed Federation of America, 1726 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Kossuth Building, Washington, D.C.) be invited to deliver this address. Of course, our Hungarian friends would like that the full text of the address of July 9 be given, but I understand very weell the technicalities that would make this difficult. However, I wish to convey to you the good wishes of our Hungarian friends.

Thank you for giving this matter your consideration.

Very truly yours,

KURT R. GROSSMAN,
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

KRG:erl

000124

Translation of the Declaration of the American Hungarian Federation read by the Rev. George E. Kerekes Berthy in the Hungarian language on July 9th, 1944 at the open air demonstration of the New Light Temple, Bronx, New York.

Dear Brethren in Hungary:

The usurping Prime Minister of the Nazi-Government foisted upon you, had the audacity recently to send us a radio message "in the name of the old-country". We Americans of Hungarian descent will never recognize this Nazi leader Szalasy (alias Szojamovics) as for representative of the Hungarian people and we wouldn't think him even worthy to answer his message. At the same time, however, we want to talk with you, people of Hungary.

Even if we live in another part of the globe, even if we are separated from each other by the ocean and are embittered against each other by this atrocious war, we never have lost and shall never lose the spiritual connection with you, liberty loving descendants of the Hunyadis, Rackoczis and Kossuth's.

We know that the people of Hungary did not want to start this war and neither do they want to continue it even now. Your lips are sealed, we know, but we can speak freely. And we did announce to our President on January 7th, 1941 already that only we are in a position to talk freely in behalf of the silenced people of Hungary. And we are talking. In full contrast with your so-called Prime Minister who is violating all constitutional rights and falsifying history we declare continuously that through thousand years our eternal enemy was always the dominating German. When Hungary needed real help against the invasion of Pagans, the German was preoccupied; when Hungary was in real trouble, the German left us flat; the German tried to confiscate from us anything we succeeded in saving for ourselves; even to-day, the German does not defend the boundaries of Hungary but tries to save its own skin.

Hundreds of thousands of Hungarian soldiers do not perish, the national assets of Hungary are not devasted in the interest of Hungary. No, and a thousand times no!

Neither can you be beguiled by the shameful lies that the "III.Reich" helped you to correct the injuries of Trianon. Look around and see what marrow-bone they threw you. Those who crushed and subjugated so many countries and so many nations! Do not let be fooled. Don't let them mention Trianon to you. They want to put you even in worse situation than you had it by Trianon. And let not the Nazi scoundrels dare to speak of the salvation of Christian civilization while they are desecrating it with their every deeds and while they crush, ruin, burn everything in their path. Neither should you be protected allegedly from the leather-coated boys of Bela Kun by those who in turn let the "Gestapo" scoundrels loose upon you.

Your Nazi leader tried to fool us too with his promises. He sent us a message that he is prepared to make room for us in the future Hungary by the extermination of Jews.

Brethren: We American Hungarians are industrious and constructive people. We are used to secure our place in society by our honest work. We don't want any kind of robbed property. Only a scoundrel can even suggest and propose anything of this sort to us and he even becomes a bigger scoundrel when he dares to ask us for "spiritual exchange" in turn. We despise this kind from the bottom of our hearts, we never were and never will be in any kind of connection with this kind of people and we shall never mistake them for the honest people of Hungary, and we denounce their inhuman persecution of Jews without reservation.

We were not driven out to come here by the Jews. The land left by us empty was not grabbed by the Jews. What could they take from the "have nots"? Next to an empty knapsack we brought here only our God given strength, ability and our noble Hungarian traditions: the love for work, for religious and civil liberty and ancient human feelings. By possessing said virtues we have regarded and we do regard as brothers those Hungarians of Jewish faith who identified themselves with us in the past and those who are proving their common interest in the fate of the Hungarian people; with them did we build here our Hungarian churches and civic institutions; with them in conjunction did we acquire recognition and honor to our names, to the names of Hungarian people, to your names. Your Nazi leader, Szfojay, intends to rob us from even this honor by calling upon us to commit the crime of treason against our country, America. This tops every dishonesty and proves that he himself was never a Hungarian and that he has no idea of what Hungarian honor means.

Brethren: The first known Hungarian, Colonel Michael Kovats, in offering his services to the fight for independence of America in 1776, closed his letter as follows: "Fidelissimus ad mortem" ("Faithful until death"). And as a commanding officer of the army of George Washington he remained faithful until he met his heroic death on the battlefield. The same is our leading idea and motto toward this our country which adopted us with loving care, gave us bread in exchange of our work, full liberty for our loyalty. No traitor, offering "German bunk", no miserable Goebels imitator can sway us from this our beloved country even if he calls himself the Prime Minister of Hungary a hundred times.

This miserable creature falsely begs us to become "ideologically united" with him. Even the shadow of such a thought is far away from us. We have no community of interest with him or his friends and every honest Hungarian should free himself from the very shadow of it. This means especially you, brethren in Hungary, suffering people of our father, Kossuth.

You should harbor those when they persecute; you should drive out those who are shielded by them; cross their every paths; obstruct their every order with force if possible, with tricks day and night. Fight and oppose them.

This is the only way of your liberation.

And we here, American Hungarians, will strive with our blood, sweat and fortune to end your sufferings as soon as possible. We are with you, the silenced, crushed, suffering, bleeding people of Kossuth. We cannot offer gold

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bridges to you but if you shall get rid of these Nazi-gangsters so much hated by all of us we shall be ready to bring our sacrifices. We know what sacrifice means as we Hungarians were always ready for sacrifices. Keep this in mind and be ready for the greatest deeds and sacrifices yourselves. Let this be a new fight for the sake of the old unblemished reputation, for the old Hungarian honor and old glory.

And then don't worry about the future. About a million Hungarians overseas did not forget you. You must know that about 100,000 boys of Hungarian origin are fighting in the American army for liberty, equality and fraternity, for you! We shall come with the liberating army. Wait for us with self sacrifices, with patience, with brotherly love; Wait. The day of liberation is fast approaching and with it we hope there will come a better future, a happier world and a happier Hungary too.

This is our message to you.

000127

WJC - Key file

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TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 14, 1944

In reply please refer to letter 154.

Mr. I. M. Weinstein, Special Agent
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I sent today to Mr. Lewis Revy of the Office of War Information together with an English translation of the address mentioned in the letter. The Hungarian original was sent to Mr. Revy. I hope that you will back us up in our request that the Rev. Borshy be invited to deliver the address prepared by the OWI.

Thank you for giving this matter your attention.

Very truly yours,

KURT R. GROSSMAN,
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

KRG:erl

000128

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TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

In reply refer
to No. 158

July 18, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am very glad to give you herewith the text of a cable we received from Mr. Dobkin, the representative of the Jewish Agency at present in Lisbon, and Mr. Weissman, the World Jewish Congress representative in Lisbon:

"Happy inform reached agreement Joint with our full consent stop Henceforth work peninsula will be done by combined committee with representatives Agency Congress Joint stop Regards

Eliahu Dobkin Isaac Weissman"

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

34

000129

World Jewish Congress - Reg file

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

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JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 18, 1944

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Mr. James Wise informed me about your kind intervention with the State Department concerning the air priority to be granted for my trip to South America. May I express my deep gratitude and also the gratitude of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress for your cooperation in settling this affair, the importance and urgent character of which was explained to you by Mr. Wise.

From the report, which I received today from our representative in Washington, Mr. Louis E. Spiegler, I understand that the State Department may be inclined to consider favorably the request for air priority, but that they expect an itinerary to be submitted to them containing the details of my trip. This itinerary is to be submitted through your office. Therefore, please be informed that I shall proceed from this country via Panama to Chile. From Chile I shall go to Argentine, from Argentine to Uruguay, and from Uruguay to Brazil. From Brazil, I shall return to this country.

I shall be most grateful if you would kindly transmit this information to the proper officials in the State Department. As stressed in the letter of Mr. Wise to you, I am most anxious to leave in the course of the next few days, in view of the fact that I must be back around the middle of September, in order to be able to go to Montreal, where I am to represent the World Jewish Congress at the second session of the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Thanking you again, I am

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Arieh Leon Tartakower

Dr. Arieh Leon Tartakower

at/ld

000130

COPY

PROCLAMATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN HUNGARIAN PROTESTANTS

A proclamation has been issued by the Association of American Hungarian Protestants at its convention which was held at Ligonieri, Pennsylvania, during the week of June 5-9.

After pleding emphatically their faithfulness to the United States and to the democratic way of life, the proclamation stresses the point that the Hungarian nation cannot be blamed for its being forced into war with the United States. The Treaty of Trianon which disarmed and gagged them is responsible for their being delivered to their oppressors. They appeal to the Hungarian nation to resist their oppressors. "We know that although the bleeding body of the nation is impotent today, the souls of Bocskar, Rakoczi and Kossuth are still alive. Imbued with their spirit, our message to our brethren is to resist all oppression and any kind of tyranny that intends to trample underfoot the freedom of religion or civil liberties. We are aware that this entails new sacrifices, but we have ever been a victimized nation. Let them, therefore, look for an expedient consistent with their past, so that, once out of this danger, every Hungarian should be able to look with clear enscience into the eyes of his Hungarian brother. Our wishes and prayers and sacrifices will be with them in all their struggles and sufferings that they experience at the hands of their oppressors. The overwhelming majority of our membership comes from those strata of the Hungarian nation which, through the Hungarian forms of evangelical christianity, came into close spiritual contact with the descendants of the Pilgrim fathers, the nation which first dedicated itself to religious freedom..... We have ever been proud of the fact that our Hungarian race has never persecuted the people of the Old Testament. It was 400 years ago that Hungary, before all other nations, wrote into its code of laws the freedom of religion. Even today, when its oppressor forced it into the enactment of anti-Jewish laws, it did not execute these laws which were passed under external pressure but, as its has been acknowledged already officially by America, countless Hungarians shelter the persecuted Jews at the risk of their own lives.....perhaps today is the time when the army of the United States is making preparation to enter Hungary, and a fervent prayer rises to God that this army may not be too late and that it should not only occupy, but keep under occupation our native country up to the time that freedom and liberty is assured to every inhabitant of the nation."

JSFterl

000131

WJC - see file

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CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 19, 1944

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
253 Broadway (Rm.801)
New York City

Dear Mr. Weinstein,

With reference to yesterday's telephone conversation, I herewith attach a copy of the proclamation of the Association of American Hungarian Protestants.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

KURT R. GROSSMAN
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

KRG:erl

000132

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CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 20, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 163

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

During the conference I had this past Wednesday with Mr. Lesser, I called his attention to the following passage in a wire from London to the New York Times, published in this paper's issue of July 19:

> "As a kind of last hope, there has been a proposal that the United States and Britain grant protective citizenship to Jews still left in Hungary.
>
> This is not such an academic question as it seems. Spain has agreed already to grant rights of passport if not of citizenship to those Jews trapped in Hungary who can trace their ancestry back even over a couple of centuries to Spain. Sweden has agreed to extend protective citizenship to 800 unfortunates trapped in Hungary.
>
> This protective citizenship, according to an authority on international law, can be given by Britain and the United States tomorrow without complicating their immigration problem one bit."

May I reiterate the suggestion I made to Mr. Lesser that a statement be issued forthwith by the United States Government, by which this country proclaims that it considers all Jews remaining in Europe as being under its protection as far as their physical safety is concerned, and that any infringement upon this safety (as removal from their dwellings, subjection to starvation diets, etc.) will be dealt with as if American citizens were concerned. May I add that in order to have its full effect, this statement should have the widest publicity.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

000133

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CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 21, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 164

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I take the liberty of calling your attention to the attached letter to the Editor, published by the "New York Times" on July 20.

I think that the fact that the "New York Times" publishes such a letter is revealing of the change of mind which has occurred in the public opinion of this country with regard to the question of retaliation, which is of the greatest interest to the policy on which the War Refugee Board is working.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

34

000134

Letters to The Times

Reprisals on Enemy Sought

United Declaration of Ruthlessness Is Urged to Curb Atrocities

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Nazi mass murder of civilians, execution of our captured fliers, looting, robbing, extinguishing whole towns of innocent women, children and the aged, ghastly and incredible as they are, still continue.

After devoting a column to it, it baffles Anne O'Hare McCormick, who rightly says "to save ourselves from ignominy" we must raise our voices. Yes, Secretary of State Hull raised his voice in lamentation. Foreign Minister Eden raised his, also in lamentation. Both promise the criminals, after trial at the end of the war, due punishment. President Roosevelt recently went so far as to make an intellectual observation that the Nazis were bent on mass murder and woe unto them when we catch them. It wasn't an ultimatum and wasn't staged and sent out with force.

Diplomacy Sidetracked

Is there no other course or style of action but the diplomatic? To save the lives of a million innocent citizens, Jews, hostages and fliers! Must we wait several months hence until our victorious marching forces overthrow the Nazi criminals in their last stand in Germany?

In THE NEW YORK TIMES editorial of July 13, "Victory Comes High," appears this realistically significant sentence: "We have to fight the kind of war that a degraded enemy has forced upon us." The top leading voices of the Allies early in the war delivered a resounding ultimatum, that if the Nazis or Japanese used poison gas as a weapon we would use poison gas and wipe them out. We were prepared to stoop to their level of fighting and they knew we meant it.

So far this ultimatum method has worked. But why hasn't the same ultimatum force and formula been applied to the hostage ten-to-one and mass murder side of the war? Isn't this as deadly as poison gas?

What has kept our leaders—Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin and Chiang-Kai-shek—from issuing jointly as a four-ton blockbuster over the air which will be heard by all Germans, Nazi and otherwise, an ultimatum that for every prisoner murdered we will take ten German lives, for all civilian mass murder we will take an equivalent number of Germans the minute we reach their soil—we ourselves will treat all prisoners according to civilized warfare. Murder is not warfare and will be punished as criminal murder. Yes, some of this has been said diplomatically and in a whisper. If the Nazi-Prussian leaders heard it from the Commanders in Chief of the four powers, with fists banged on the table, they would know that we meant business along that line. It is horrible to contemplate, but what other way is there?

Leaders in Desperate Mood

The Nazi poison-drunk leaders are at bay and in a desperate mood, promising to pull all Europe down into chaos if they cannot have their way, which is now a negotiated peace instead of the hard, unconditional surrender we insist upon.

Our radio blockbuster ultimatum, however phrased, but well staged and a policy to back it up, must come soon. It must come with the unprecedented force of the two or three or four top leaders who can agree on the ultimatum. It must not be too little and too late to save the millions of helpless civilians now due for slaughter before our very eyes. It hasn't been tried as a new weapon. We must forge new weapons. On the psychological front we need to send a new type of "flying torpedo" aimed at Hitler's chancellery to save ourselves from ignominy.

CARL BECK.

Orangeburg, N. Y., July 17, 1944.

THE NEW YORK TIMES
JULY 20, 1944

000135

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

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Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 21, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 169

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I thought I should send you a copy of the letter which was sent to one of our officers by Mr. Peter M. Leavitt, President of the New England Division of the American Jewish Congress.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

000136

COPY

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

New England Division

294 Washington Street

Boston 8, Mass.

July 11, 1944

Mr. Morris Margulies
American Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

Dear Morris:

There have been quite a few warnings to the perpetrators of crimes committed/against civilians in the Hitlerite-dominated countries. These warnings have brought not the slightest cessation of the crimes. The massacres continue, and if the war in Europe lasts long enough- few, if any, of our Jews will remain to witness the punishments.

The leaders have committed so many crimes that they know that defeat means death to all of them. A criminal awaiting the electric chair cares not about how many more crimes he commits. He can only die once.

May I suggest, for the consideration of yourself and the other leaders in our organization, a new approach to the subject: that the leaders of the United Nations issue a new warning that will reach not only the criminal heads in Europe, but all of the people. This new approach will reach and affect them more than the perpetrators; that the warning stipulate that for every civilian destroyed by whatever method, one-tenth of a square mile of land will be taken from the country guilty of the crime. This penalty is to be imposed without regard to other conditions arrived at at the peace tables.

You will see that if such a warning could be made, for every hundred thousand Jews or others killed, ten thousand square miles would be taken from Germany or Hungary, or any other country guilty of the crime. Such a warning may sufficiently arouse the inhabitants of each country to stop innocent slaughter.

Sincerely yours

Peter M. Leavitt
President

000137

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

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CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 21, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 170

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

May I call your attention to the attached wire from the Associated Press, London, published by the "Herald Tribune" on July 19.

It is heartening to see that the British Army has finally decided to warn the German soldiers directly that any of them known to have committed an atrocity would be punished mercilessly.

But it is very distressing to realize that when it comes to specific references, the slaughters of Jews are omitted. You may perhaps find some way of communicating this impression to the factors concerned.

May I submit: 1- that the time has now come for a warning emanating from the American Army and directed to the German soldiers; and 2- that specific reference be made in such a warning to atrocities committed against Jews.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

000138

COPY

33 More Allied Flyers Slain "Trying to Escape" Nazi Camps

LONDON, July 18. -- Thirty-three more Allied flyers have been shot by the Germans, most of them allegedly while attempting escape, bringing to 152 the known total of prisoners killed by their Nazi captors, War Secretary Sir James Grigg disclosed in Commons today.

Grigg gave no details, except to say the Germans had reported twenty-seven of the flyers killed during attempts to escape. But it was learned in London tonight that they were cut down, not in a group, but in various breaks from prison camps or trains.

He had reported to Commons last August that sixty-nine British prisoners of war had been shot in Germany. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden on June 23 disclosed that fifty airmen had been killed during alleged attempts to escape Stalagluft 3, prison camp near Dresden.

Strong protests have been lodged through the Swiss government, Grigg said, and an account of these latest thirty-three victims will be given to the War Criminals Commission.

Grigg's disclosure, in reply to a question by Colonel H. W. Burton, Conservative, followed a broadcast warning directed to German soldiers that any of them known to have committed an atrocity would be punished mercilessly.

The warning, broadcast by a British Army spokesman over the British Broadcasting Corporation's facilities, referred specifically to the reported slaughter of French civilians in the village of Oradour-sur-Glane, and the shooting of the fifty airmen at Stalagluft 3.

Earlier, the Berlin radio had rejected the demand by General Dwight D. Eisenhower that French Forces of the Interior be treated as regular soldiers under his command.

HERALD TRIBUNE
July 19, 1944

000139

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

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CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 25, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 184

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to inform you that we received the following cable from our British Section under date of July 15:

"REPLYING OUR CABLE ASKING HIM SUPPORT OUR REQUEST POPE ACT HUNGARIAN JEWISH TRAGEDY MYRON TAYLOR CABLED US FOLLOWING QUOTE TELEGRAM RECEIVED AND INFORMATION CONVEYED TO APPROPRIATE QUARTERS UNQUOTE STOP ALSO RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM APOSTOLIC DELEGATE LONDON QUOTE AT THIS MOMENT I HAVE TELEGRAM FROM HOLY SEE TO SAY HOLY FATHER HAS APPEALED PERSONALLY TO REGENT OF HUNGARY ON BEHALF YOUR PEOPLE AND HAS BEEN ASSURED REGENT WILL DO ALL POSSIBLE TO HELP UNQUOTE STOP WE ARRANGED INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION BROADCAST HUNGARIAN RAILWAYMEN NOT OPERATE DEPORTATION TRAINS ALSO BROADCAST INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE TO ONE MILLION HUNGARIAN COOPERATORS PROTECT JEWS AGAINST GERMAN TERROR STOP THESE BROADCASTS MADE SEVERAL LANGUAGES AND BEING REPEATED."

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

000140

World Jewish Congress
(Regards)

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

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MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 25, 1944

In reply refer to No. 176

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C1

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

It appears from several reports that although there has been great improvement in psychological warfare as far as the aspect of warnings is concerned, no perceptible change has been observed as regards the telling of the facts and more specifically the details of the exterminations. A great number of broadcasts to occupied Europe included threats of punishment to the accomplices to these crimes, but it seems that even at this time very little is known in Germany proper of the horrible methods by which Jews and other peoples are being murdered.

From the very beginning it has been the contention of the World Jewish Congress that it is imperative that the Germans, the men and women at home, be told the gruesome story of the annihilation of the Jews with all the brutal details; that this story be not only broadcast, but that it be also contained in leaflets and repeatedly dropped by plane over German towns and villages.

I need not tell you that we would be very happy to learn that the suggestion repeated in this letter has been accepted and long since put into effect.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Rescue Dept.

ALK:lw

000141

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

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MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 25, 1944

In reply refer to No. 174

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I call your attention to the attached copy of a letter, addressed to the World Jewish Congress by Mr. Leon G. Levy, Chairman of the Association of Bulgarian Jews in the United States.

As you will recall, the World Jewish Congress has taken the liberty on numerous occasions of drawing your attention to the Turkish transit policy and of submitting various suggestions pertaining to it.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki,
Head, Rescue Dept.

ALK:lw

ASSOCIATION OF BULGARIAN JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES

New York 6, New York
120 Liberty Street
Room 504

July 13, 1944

World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York City

Att.: Dr.Shear.

Gentlemen:

We wish to inform you that members of our Association received recently letters stating that about 2000 immigration certificates were granted to Bulgarian Jews and that only very few were used. The reason for this is that the Turkish government is denying transit visas and making all kind of difficulties.

We are quoting below extracts of some letters regarding this matter.

Let. of 6/2/44 from Mr. Avram Cordovi, prominent Bugarian Jew now residing in Palestine: "The Turks are making it difficult to obtain transit visas and that is the reason why only few people are able to escape and arrive here. It is therefore urgent that the American Government undertakes steps and requests the Turkish government to grant transit visas liberally. Otherwise almost all of the 2000 certificates will remain unused. America is the only country that could help."

Let. of 6/6/44 from Mr. Avram Levy, resident of Tel Aviv: "Recently 8-10 families were able to leave Bulgaria. Many more could come to this country provided the Turkish government would grant transit visas."

Let. of 6/14/44 from Mr. Avram Levy: "Plenty of certificates for Bulgarian Jews were issued, however no Turkish transit visas are being granted."

We ask you kindly to bring the above to the attention of the War Refugee Board in Washington and to request them to intervene anew before the Turkish government for granting of Turkish visas to Jews who possess Palestine immigration certificates.

Very truly yours,

ASSOCIATION OF BULGARIAN JEWS IN THE U.S.A.

(Signed) Leon G. Levy

fh

000143

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 25

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 27, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PEHLE

Your letter of July 24, 1944 to Mr. Shaw asking for priority for Dr. Nahum Goldmann's trip to Mexico City, has been received. We do not ask priority in this sort of case, since priorities can be granted only for travel certified to be necessary for the successful prosecution of the war. Fortunately this should not occasion any difficulty for Dr. Goldmann. Priority travel by Pan American Airways from Brownsville to Mexico City averages less than fifteen percent of available space; and he should encounter no difficulty whatever in getting regular accommodations.

Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

000144

JUL 21 1944

My dear Mr. Shaw:

We understand that Dr. Nahum Goldmann of the World Jewish Congress is contemplating a trip to Mexico August 12 to August 20 in connection with the rescue and relief program of that organization.

In view of the interest of the War Refugee Board in this trip and the probability that the findings of Dr. Goldmann will be of value to the Board, it is requested that the necessary air priorities for Dr. Goldmann be arranged at the earliest possible date.

I would appreciate being informed when these priorities have been arranged.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable G. Howland Shaw
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

CC. Treas.

W.L. 7/22.

Stewart; pdk 7/22/44

000145

Secretary Morgenthau

___Mr. Gaston	___Mr. Lesser
___Mr. Paul	___Mr. Luxford
___Mr. White	✓ Mr. Stewart
	___Mrs. Taylor
___Mr. E.M. Bernstein	___Files
___Mr. DuBois	
___Mr. Friedman	
___Miss Hodel	

Please prepare usual letter.

JWP

J. W. Pehle

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: (1) Mr. Pehle (Room) (Bldg.)

(2) (Room) (Bldg.)

(3) (Room) (Bldg.)

If you think we ought to be helpful in getting Goldmann priorities, let Paul know

From: Lesser (Date)

(Room) (Bldg.)

TELEPHONE NATIONAL 9068

W OFFICES
E. SPIEGLER
ERN BUILDING
GTON 5, D. C.

July 20, 1944

hann

o to Mexico August 12 to August 20
Congress in connection with its rescue
circumstances, it would be greatly
us to facilitate obtaining air
priority for the round trip.

Inasmuch as you are familiar with the work of the World Jewish Congress, as well as Dr. Goldmann, and its rescue and relief program, it is believed no useful purpose would be served going into any great details relative same.

Deeply appreciating your courtesy and prompt attention to this matter, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Spiegler

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Representative World Jewish Congress

LES:sp

000147

TELEPHONE NATIONAL 9068

LAW OFFICES
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
SOUTHERN BUILDING
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

SOL M. ALPHER

July 20, 1944

Mr. Lawrence Lesser
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

In re: Dr. Nahum Goldmann

Dear Mr. Lesser:

Dr. Goldmann plans to go to Mexico August 12 to August 20 on behalf of the World Jewish Congress in connection with its rescue and relief program. In these circumstances, it would be greatly appreciated if you will assist us to facilitate obtaining air priority for the round trip.

Inasmuch as you are familiar with the work of the World Jewish Congress, as well as Dr. Goldmann, and its rescue and relief program, it is believed no useful purpose would be served going into any great details relative same.

Deeply appreciating your courtesy and prompt attention to this matter, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Spiegler

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Representative World Jewish Congress

LES:sp

000148

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

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MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

July 31, 1944

In reply refer to: No. 192

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I call your attention to the following cable we just received from Mr. Dobkin:

> "Returned today from Madrid stop on British Ambassadors request Spanish authorities gave in principle favorable answer re 1500 transit visas stop please inform WRB"

Sincerely yours

A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

34

000149

LAW OFFICES
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
SOUTHERN BUILDING
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

SOL. M. ALPHER

NATIONAL 9068

July 31, 1944

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

In re: Dr. Nachum Goldmann

Dear Mr. Pehle:

A request was recently made of you to facilitate obtaining air priority for Dr. Goldmann's contemplated trip to Mexico in the interest of rescue work and to negotiate with the Mexican Government relative passports for Jews from Nazi-dominated countries.

I have been informed that the matter hasbeen forwarded to the appropriate official in the State Department.

I have been requested by Dr. Goldmann to give you the following additional information which you will please be good enough to pass on. Dr. Goldmann intends to leave New York on Saturday, August 12th, and Mexico on August 18th or 19th.

Very truly yours,

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER

LES:sp

Discussed with Spiegler by phone.

NAR
W.D. 8/4

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