

World Jewish Congress, Volume 2
(Folder 1 of 2)

000221

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

FEM

PLAIN

August 30, 1944

*War Ref
Mr.
Pehle*

EMBASSY,

BUENOS AIRES.

1357, Thirtieth

not in files

Your 2230, August 28.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Priority should be granted to Tartakower
whose travel is sponsored by War Refugee Board.

HULL
(JDW)

310.79611 Reservations/8-2844

AD:JOB:H.K. 8-29-44

WRB

000222

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

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

September 5, 1944

In answer refer
to: No. 232

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

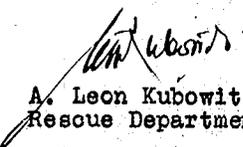
Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I am attaching the translation of an article
which was written for the Moscow paper, "Freies Deutsch-
land" by a former German military judge now a war prisoner
in Russia.

The article was reproduced in the German-American
of July 15th.

I thought you might want to make use of it.

Sincerely yours


A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

PUNISHMENT FOR THE GUILTY ONES
By Hubert Klein
(Member of the Union of German Officers)

NOTE: The following article was written for the Moscow paper "Freies Deutschland" by Dr. Hubert Klein, a military judge now a war-prisoner. This accusation by a German judge was dropped over the German lines.

The declaration issued by the Moscow Conference of the Allied Nations about the responsibility of the War Criminals is of particular concern to the German people. A declaration like this must stir up our own people to find sufficient strength for critical self-deliberations. Its discussion demands a most solemn earnestness and the profoundest thoroughness. The reply given by the German people to this question may equally serve as a decision about the entire future fate of the nation.

Deeply shocked, we are standing today before the horrid picture of blood and tears which is presented by the epoch of the fascist reign of violence and terror in the occupied territories. It is beyond human strength to reproduce this picture in all its horrifying details. We know; thousands upon thousands of human beings are slaughtered, hundreds of thousands are carried off; human habitations and settlements are needlessly being wiped out and reduced to ashes. Life, liberty, property and honor are trampled under foot. The evil-doers do not even find it necessary to preserve a semblance of right. Sheer despotism and rude violence have been elevated to take the place of law. Above all, we helplessly ask ourselves: "How can human beings perpetrate such barbarous deeds? How is it at all possible?"

Nothing in human history happens accidentally. Nor these shameful horrors. They are merely symptoms of a deeper-lying disease. If we really want to free our German fatherland from its sufferings, we must track down the very source of this disease and remove it. The more serious the sickness, the more simple its diagnosis.

The roots of the evil are to be found in the total mentality of fascism, or rather in its essential soullessness. The national-socialist criminals, in their insatiable lust for power and in their covetousness not to be appeased, have by their barbaric methods driven and stirred up the people to this war. These miserable hirelings have by their horrors broken every vestige of military law which had up to now set humane limitations even to this essentially inhuman enterprise. But that clique of irresponsible elements could find ready instruments for the perpetration of all cruelties only in such a people, the broad circles of which have been already poisoned by the Nazi putrefaction.

Now and then it pleases Nazi Socialism to speak of themselves as of the very essence of the values of the entire German past. Yes, they are an unheard of synthesis; but a synthesis not of positive values, but rather of unworthinesses. Nazi Socialism has taken over and perfected everything bad in German tradition, everything that had impeded our people on its forward path, - Nazi Socialism has taken over all these negative traits and has helped them to blossom forth into the most evil growths. Absolute despotism, imperialism, police terror, high-handed justice, militarism and capitalist monopoly are cooperating in a manner hitherto unknown in history. But let no one say that the Nazis haven't proved

000224

themselves to be creative! Yes, they have understood how to add to the above conglomeration of unworthiness a new unworthiness of their own. Its exponents have at first taught the people disrespect for the qualities of the spirit, intellect and reason which the entire civilized world was accustomed up to now to honor as the highest human faculties. Then, upon the desecrated altar of reason they have elevated instead the animal instincts. They have liberated the instincts from under the regulating control of reason and have proclaimed them to be the only creative forces. But such a "philosophy", when applied as a guide to political life, means nothing else than the slogan: "Gangway for bestialities." Finally, this repugnant Nazi growth had to bring forth, as its crowning fruit, those shameful horrors before which the world today stands aghast, full of disgust and loathing.

What is to be done now?

First of all, to recognize the committed acts of horror and violence as crimes against the oppressed peoples, as offenses against the German people and as a betrayal of humanity itself. In short, to call the child by its real name. But here, opinions will begin to differ.

For I can already hear those supine ones, those who are always carefully balancing, those who are neither fish nor fowl, who like to play in so-called diplomacy and to put up a front of dignified bearing. Bigoted and hypocritical, they at once raise a hue and cry: "Eie, one mustn't throw filth into one's own nest!"

But who was it that has soiled the nest? No one else than these very scoundrels of war criminals. It is their filth which can no longer be covered up and is no longer to be concealed; it is their filth that the German people is forced now to clean up. Why haven't those over-smart fellows come out with their pretty solution at the right time, and squarely in the very face of the blackguards? This would have spared the German people from doing the dirty work of cleaning up!

The war criminals will not evade their just punishment. Even now this is being assured to them in the Moscow Declaration, clearly and emphatically. In the future the German people will be secure against these elements. This is indeed of great importance. But it will be of much more decisive importance, even more important than the punishment of the war criminals themselves, when the German people will also inwardly begin to feel at one with the call and summons sounded in the Moscow Declaration.

German people! the problem of the war criminals has become a question of destiny. It is either -or. Either you try to justify the miserable acts of these war criminals; then you identify yourself with them and you are condemning your own selves. Or you speak up courageously and you pronounce the word "Guilty!" over these enemies of the fatherland, and by a liberating act you draw a line of separation between yourselves and those blackguards; then you can bravely and consoled face the verdict of history.

1000225

RECEIVED
TO
FROM
DATE
BY
OFFICE
NO. 100-100000
JUL 15 1944
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

German people! Take advantage of your time before it becomes too late, before foreign military powers will have to solve by force what is essentially your own national problem and duty. As yet the world's indictment is directed not against you, but solely against those greedy criminals who have thrown Germany into this war, and against the monstrous crimes, the blood-thirsty hate and immense sufferings perpetrated by them over the populations of the occupied territories. As yet it is time to prove by a determined action that you, the German people, have been deceived by the war criminals, that you really want to have nothing in common with them, and that you yourselves, even more than the other oppressed people of Europe, have become victims of those criminals.

Officers and soldiers! there must be for you no longer any dallying or wavering. Issue no more commands and execute no more commands which are contrary to international military law! Justice and humanity are of greater value than that blind obedience which tries to make criminals out of yourselves as well.

If you have already erred, do not sink still deeper into guilt! A decisive turning away from your past will expiate your offenses! Start organizing an active struggle against the Nazi clique which with every day tries even to surpass that terror in which they expand their strength and which leads them closer to their end. The aims of the manifesto of the "National Committee for a Free Germany" are also your aims for a march to a better future. The slogan is: A just and pitiless sentence over the war criminals! Death to the Hitler-tyrants!

The German American
July 15, 1944

#738-9/6/44-fh

000226

Gen. Counsel, World Jewish Congress

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

Files

SPL. M. ALPHER

NATIONAL 9068

September 6, 1944

Mr. John w. Pehle, Executive Director
war Refugee Board
Treasury building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I regret to advise you that I was informed that the State Department apparently will not concur in the application for reentry permit for Mr. Leon Kubowitzki, the Joint Chiefs of Staff refusing to approve same.

Inasmuch as Mr. Kubowitzki's trip to Europe is in the general interest of the War Refugee Board program, your good offices are solicited to assist Mr. Kubowitzki in obtaining an approval for his reentry permit which is a necessary prerequisite if he is to depart the United States to perform his mission.

As you may know, the Belgian Embassy in Washington has given Mr. Kubowitzki a "Charge de Mission" which document is in the nature of a diplomatic or semi-diplomatic document.

The World Jewish Congress, as well as Mr. Kubowitzki, will profoundly appreciate any assistance you may render in this matter.

Very sincerely,

Louis E. Spiegler

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Washington Counsel and Representative
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

LES:sp

000227

SEP 6 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Dr. Leon Kubowitzki is planning to visit Spain as representative of the World Jewish Congress for the purpose of studying certain refugee problems. Dr. Kubowitzki is head of the rescue department of that organization.

His trip to Spain, as well as to certain other European countries, has the approval of the War Refugee Board. We will be grateful for your assistance in expediting action on a visa to your country.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Spain
2700 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle*

Copy to: Abjira

BA. K.S.R.
BAKzin:ar 9/4/44

000228

SEP 6 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Dr. Leon Kubowitzki is planning to visit Portugal as representative of the World Jewish Congress for the purpose of studying certain refugee problems. Dr. Kubowitzki is head of the rescue department of that organization.

His trip to Portugal, as well as to certain other European countries, has the approval of the War Refugee Board. We will be grateful for your assistance in expediting action on a visa to your country.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

The Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Portugal
Portuguese Embassy
Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, D. C.

*Original signed by
Mr. Fehle*

Copy to Ghojin

B.G. L.S.L.

BAksin:ar 9/4/44

000229

AUG 31 1944

My dear Mr. Consul General:

Dr. Leon Kubowitski is planning to visit Portugal as representative of the World Jewish Congress for the purpose of studying certain refugee problems. Dr. Kubowitski is head of the rescue department of that organization.

His trip to Portugal, as well as to certain other European countries, has the approval of the War Refugee Board. We will be grateful for your assistance in expediting action on a visa to your country.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Consul General of Portugal
630 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle*

Copy to: Mr. Abzin

BA. L.S.L.

BAkzin:ar 8/26/44

000230

AUG 31 1944

My dear Mr. Consul General:

Dr. Leon Kubowitzki is planning to visit Spain as representative of the World Jewish Congress for the purpose of studying certain refugee problems. Dr. Kubowitzki is head of the rescue department of that organization.

His trip to Spain, as well as to certain other European countries, has the approval of the War Refugee Board. We will be grateful for your assistance in expediting action on a visa to your country.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Consul General of Spain
515 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle*

Copy to: Mr. Abzug

BA. L.S.L.
BAkzin:ar 8/26/44

000231

AUG 31 1944

To: Mr. Berle

From: J. W. Pehle

Re: Proposed visit to Portugal, Spain, and France by
Dr. Leon Kubowitzki.

The Board understands that Dr. Leon Kubowitzki, head of the rescue department of the World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York, N. Y., is about to apply for the necessary papers and travel priorities that would enable him to proceed to Portugal, Spain, and France in the interest of the relief and rescue of victims of enemy persecution. In view of the urgency of his business, any assistance you may be able to give toward the expeditious issuance of the necessary papers, visas and priorities to Dr. Kubowitzki would be appreciated.

(Initialed) J.W.P.

Copy to: *Begin*

B.A. R.S.L.
BAK:inar 8/30/44

000232

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE August 26, 1944

TO Miss Hodel
FROM Mr. Akzin

In accordance with our telephone conversation, I have prepared the attached papers to assist Dr. Kubowitzki in his intended trip. In doing so I followed closely the latest precedents, namely those of our letter to State of June 5 regarding Rabbi Bergman of the Vaad Hshatzala and our letters to foreign consuls and messages to American missions abroad in connection with the recent trip of Waldman and Landau, of the American Jewish Committee, to Latin America.

I do not see how we can, in all fairness, do less for Kubowitzki.

It should be borne in mind that Kubowitzki is an alien (Belgian). You will note, however, that we have written far warmer recommendations to the Department of State in the case of other aliens, viz., Eri Jabotinsky and Tocker. In the case of Jabotinsky we have also communicated with the Turkish Ambassador about a Turkish visa.

I have abstained from drafting a letter to any French representative in this country about admission to France, since I believe that this is a matter which may have to be adjusted with the Allied military authorities.

BA.

Attachments

12

000233

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR NORWEB FOR DEXTER, LISBON, PORTUGAL

Dr. Leon Kubowitzki, head of rescue department of World Jewish Congress, wishes to visit Portugal and some other European countries on a mission from his organization connected with refugee matters.

Please lend him all appropriate assistance in his mission including assistance in obtaining Portuguese visa for which we understand he is applying.

BAKzinar 8/26/44

000234

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

NATIONAL 9068

SOL. M. ALPHER

August 24, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

As you have been informed, the World Jewish Congress proposes to send Mr. Leon Kubowitzki, Head, Rescue Department, abroad on a most important mission; namely, to investigate and determine the number of Jews who have survived the debacle and secondly, to investigate and study the political and legal implications affecting Jewish communities.

The facilities of the War Refugee Board are invoked to assist Mr. Kubowitzki in obtaining visas for Spain, Portugal and France, as well as travel priorities. I understand you will be good enough to ask your Mr. Dexter to interest himself in behalf of Mr. Kubowitzki.

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Spiegel
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Washington Counsel and Representative
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

LES:sp

*Belgian part
no re-acting possible*

000235

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

File
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

MS-740
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (SECRET)

Lisbon
Dated September 6, 1944

*4 - War Ref
Bel (m)
Dehle*

Rec'd the 12:39 p.m., 7th

Secretary of State
Washington
For security reasons text of this message must be closely guarded

CONTROL COPY
SEP 8 1944

2769, September 6, 7 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Kubowitzki is a Belgian citizen. Belgium Legation applied for 6 months visa for Portugal which was refused. This is WRB 182 REURTEL 2420, September 5. They then telegraphed suggesting that they request 30 day visa and notify them of date and place of application and they would intervene with police. They have had no reply thus far. They do not think there is any thing Embassy can do at moment but when new application comes and if Embassy can help will advise. Will do all possible.

NORWEB

MEV

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 9 1973

000236

LAW OFFICES/
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
SOUTHERN BUILDING
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.
NATIONAL 9068

Warren

SOL. M. ALPHER

September 26, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Attached hereto is a copy of a message from the Executive World Jewish Congress to Mr. Zachino Habib of Tripoli which the World Jewish Congress has tried twice unsuccessfully to get through.

We wonder whether the War Refugee Board would be generous enough to transmit this cable through its facilities for which of course we will be very grateful.

Very truly yours,

Louis E. Spiegler
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER

LES:sp
Attach

*9/30/44
Mr. Spiegler informed
by telephone to take
matter up with Visa Division
at State, as Mr. Warren
informed Mr. McCormack
this would be a routine
matter for them.
Attachment mailed
back to Mr. Spiegler 9/30/44.*

*Mr. Pehle
Mr. Spiegler
Mr. Warren
Mr. McCormack
Mr. Alpher*

100297

LAW OFFICES
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
SOUTHERN BUILDING
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.
NATIONAL 9068

*files
Spoke to Spiegel
10/5/44*

JOL. M. ALPHER

September 29, 1944

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

In re: WEISSMAN, Isaac - Lisbon

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have been informed that Mr. Weissman was granted a visa as far back as April 22nd, as a delegate to the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress scheduled to be held in New York City on or about November 11, 1944.

The World Jewish Congress takes the position that it is of considerable importance that Mr. Weissman come to this country in the capacity of a delegate.

May I, on behalf of the World Jewish Congress, respectfully request you to contact the representative of the War Refugee Board in Lisbon urging him to facilitate, if possible, obtaining travel facilities.

We will be deeply grateful for whatever assistance you may be able to render in this connection.

Respectfully yours,

Louis E. Spiegel
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Washington Counsel and Representative
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

LES:sp

000238

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Coirientes 1979

JERUSALEM In reply refer
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471 to No. 247

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St., W Hon. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
MEXICO CITY Treasury Building
Sonora 174-4 Washington, D. C.

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

October 4, 1944

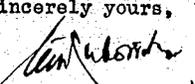
Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am informed by Mr. Ernest Frischer, member of the Czechoslovak State Council, that on August 31st the Czechoslovak Ministry for Foreign Affairs communicated to him the following contents of a message received from their representative in Ankara:

"The Turkish Foreign Ministry have complied with the request of our representative to issue, upon application, Turkish transit-visas to all Czechoslovak Jews living in Hungary. To obtain a transit-visa, any Czechoslovak Jew may apply to Mr. Kraus of the Jewish Central Office in Budapest for a confirmation identifying him as a Jew of Czechoslovak nationality and upon calling with this document at the Turkish Consulate, he will be issued a visa by the Consulate who already have instructions to this effect. Production of certificates is no longer made a condition."

I wonder whether this initiative of the Czechoslovak Government could not be usefully followed by other governments.

Sincerely yours,


A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

Files

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

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

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

October 12, 1944

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

In reply refer
to No. 254

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

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

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I thought I should call your attention to the following
excerpt from a letter received from Buenos Aires.

"On September 10th, the following notice appeared
in the Argent. Tagblatt, the only pro-Allied news-
paper in German language published in South America:

Nazi attempt to create an alibi. A reader of
the Argent. Tagblatt received a letter from
Theresienstadt via Switzerland in which a woman
who is interned there writes: "We are here
about 45,000 Jews. The camp was completely
taken over a few months ago by Sweden and Switz-
erland. The Germans have withdrawn and these
two countries are now in charge. We are well-off."

It seems as if the Nazis would attempt to create an
alibi for themselves."

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kubowitzki
A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

000240

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON.
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

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

October 18, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 262

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

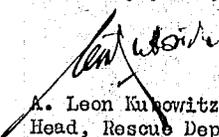
Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to inform you that I received from Mr. Hillel
Storoh, Stockholm, a letter dated September 11, from
which I quote the following excerpt:

"Already in May of this year I informed you
through the medium of Mr. Olsen of the War Refugee
Board that I had certain information by an authen-
tic source according to which the Germans have
found out a new vulgar trick which they are pre-
paring viz. that all massacre has been done by the
population of the occupied territories, and that
the Jews in the territories where the Germans were
and are ruling have been protected by them."

As I don't remember that the information in question
has been forwarded to us, I would be grateful to you for
transmitting it to us should it have reached the Board in
the meantime.

Sincerely yours,


A. Leon Kucowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

000241

*would
grant copies*

1944 OCT 25 PM 6 26

WU6256

EB:NEWYORK NY OCT 25 538P

Files

JOHN W. PEHLE, WARE REFUGEE BOARD TREASURY BLDG
(WASHNDC)

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE MEMBER ITZCHAK GURENBAUM CABLES
FROM JERUSALEM QUOTE NAZIS CONTROLLING BUDAPEST HIMMLER
IN CHARGE THERE STOP DANGER EXTERMINATION JEWS BUDAPEST
AND NEIGHBORINHOOD BEFORE RUSSIAN CONQUEST PLEASE APPROACH
IMPLORE YOUR GOVERNMENT TAKE AL MEASURES PREVENT FINAL
SLAUGHTER STOP SUGGEST PROCLAMATION STRONG WARNING OR
OTHER USEFUL MEASURES GOD GRANT THESE MEASURES BE NOT TOO
LATE UNQUOTE.

LEON KUBOWITZKI.

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P
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000242

NOV 2 1944

Dear Dr. Kubowitzki:

Reference is made to your letter of October 30, 1944, addressed to Mr. Pehle, in which you request a copy of a release issued by the War Refugee Board concerning its rescue activities.

This is to advise you that we are unable to identify among the press releases issued by the War Refugee Board any release of the nature mentioned by you.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Special Assistant to the
Executive Director

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

*Discussed
with P.*

FH:hd 11/1/44

000243

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

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

October 30, 1944

In reply refer
to: No. 270

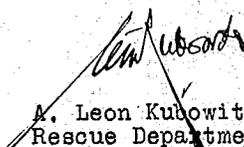
Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I listened yesterday to the weekly radio program of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe and gathered from the explanations given by several speakers that the War Refugee Board recently issued a release concerning its rescue activities which resulted in the salvation of 93,000 Jews.

I would be grateful to you for letting me have a copy of the release in question.

Sincerely yours


A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REBUISE BOARD

To: ~~Mr. [unclear]~~
(1) ~~Mr. [unclear]~~ (Room) (Side)
(2) ~~Mr. [unclear]~~ (Room) (Side)
(3) Files (Room) (Side)

The suggestion
may have merit
from the psychological
point of view - but
even then, I don't think
we can socialize it.

From: L. L. [unclear] *L. L. [unclear]*
J. F. [unclear]
(Date)
(Room) (Side)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE Nov. 4, 1944

TO Mr. Lesser

FROM E. Akzin

Subject: Letter from World Jewish Congress No. 272

In view of the limited scope of the War Refugee Board's activities, it would not seem advisable to accept Kubowitzki's suggestion that we support his request to the Apostolic Delegate that Mass be said in Catholic churches in liberated regions to pay tribute to Christians who participated in rescue of Jews at their own peril.

To support such a request would involve (a) taking a step which is only remotely, if at all, connected with the actual rescue of people in danger of enemy persecution; and (b) making a suggestion regarding exercises of a purely religious nature to be undertaken by the Catholic church -- a suggestion which, coming from a government agency, would hardly be appropriate.

For both reasons, Kubowitzki's initiative, however laudable it may be in itself, should not, in my opinion, be supported by any action on behalf of the War Refugee Board.

Laque. L.S.V.

BA.

000246

Nov. 4, 1944

Mr. Lesser

B. Aksia

Subject: Letter from World Jewish Congress No. 272

In view of the limited scope of the War Refugee Board's activities, it would not seem advisable to accept Kubowitzki's suggestion that we support his request to the Apostolic Delegate that Mass be said in Catholic churches in liberated regions to pay tribute to Christians who participated in rescue of Jews at their own peril.

To support such a request would involve (a) taking a step which is only remotely, if at all, connected with the actual rescue of people in danger of enemy persecution; and (b) making a suggestion regarding exercises of a purely religious nature to be undertaken by the Catholic church -- a suggestion which, coming from a government agency, would hardly be appropriate.

For both reasons, Kubowitzki's initiative, however laudable it may be in itself, should not, in my opinion, be supported by any action on behalf of the War Refugee Board.

Bakzia:tmh 11-4-44

000247

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

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

November 1, 1944

In reply refer
to: No. 272

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I attach herewith a copy of a
telegram I have just sent to the Apostolic Delegate.
Should my suggestion meet with your approval, I
would sincerely appreciate your supporting it.

Sincerely yours

A. Leon Kubowitzki
A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

November 1, 1944

Day Letter

The Apostolic Delegate
3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington 8, D.C.

At this crucial moment when Germans and remaining satellites seem determined annihilate remnants Jewish population Europe and so much depends on active solidarity manifested by Christian neighbors of the harassed I venture submit to Your Excellency a suggestion springing from my anguish for the persecuted and designed to encourage the faithful taking risk of hiding and helping them stop Would not Your Excellency consider appropriate submit to Holy See holding of solemn masses very near future all churches liberated regions to pay tribute in suitable manner to all Christians who had fortitude engage in rescue^{Jewish brethren} at peril their safety and very lives stop Am convinced such services if adequately publicized in still occupied lands would result in increased readiness help those now being hunted down like animals by an unsatiable foe

World Jewish Congress
Leon Kubowitzki

129 words
ALK:fh
Charge: World Jewish Congress

Via Western Union

100249

World Jewish Congress

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DEF-614

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

Bern

Dated November 9, 1944

Rec'd 7:14 p.m.

*7- War Ref Bd
1 m
Pell*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 10 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State,
Washington,

7439, November 9, 9 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Legation's 7268, November 1.

Any assistance WRB could give World Jewish Congress in securing places on plane between Paris and London for Abraham Silberschein and wife (she represents Self-Help in Switzerland) would be appreciated. They are going to WJC conference opening in New York November 26 and expect to be in Paris around November 16.

HARRISON

JT

CONTROL COPY

EX-104-11-10-01

WASHINGTON D C
RECEIVED BOARD

000250

NOV 14 1944

Dear Sirs:

I am pleased to send you herewith a letter from your office in Geneva which was received for you through the United States Legation in Bern.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

World Jewish Congress,
1836 Broadway,
New York, 23, New York.

Enclosure.

EST RBH RBHutchison: 11/13/44 Jol-

*The enclosure
has been returned
see file*

000251

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bern, October 26, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am pleased to enclose for your information and for forwarding to the World Jewish Congress, a set of rather interesting documents covering the discussions which have taken place during the past few months between the World Jewish Congress office at Geneva and the International Committee of the Red Cross. They concern the various attempts of the World Jewish Congress to secure the extension to Jews of the rights granted, by analogy to the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention of 1929, to interned civilians of belligerent countries in German hands.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland

Enclosure:

Documents as stated.

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

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

100252

NOV 17 1944

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: Mr. Pehle

There is forwarded to you herewith for consideration and appropriate action a letter received from Dr. Kubowitzki of the World Jewish Congress.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

Attachment.

JW Cleared
with Pehle 11/17/44

000253

O
P
Y

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
1834 Broadway
New York 23

November 14, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 278

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I call to your attention the following wire from Bucharest which I read in today's "New York Times":

"Bucharest, Nov. 12 (Delayed)(U.P.) -- The German and Hungarian Governments, accepting a request from Rumania, will permit a Red Cross Commission to inspect the situation of Rumanian Jews in Hungary, International Red Cross circles said today."

I need not stress the extreme importance of this German acceptance. It may establish a precedent of which advantage could be taken by other governments whose civilian nationals are in Germany and German occupied territories.

May I venture to suggest that Mr. Roy M. Melbourne be requested to investigate this matter fully, as well as the circumstances under which the Rumanian request was made and accepted, so as to ascertain whether they constitute an example which could usefully be followed.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ A. Leon Kubowitzki

A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

000254

NOV 18 1944

Dear Sirs:

I am pleased to enclose herewith a letter and its enclosures from your organization in Geneva which were received for you through the United States Legation in Bern.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Arjeh Tartakower,
Mr. Chaim Finkelstein,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

EHSJ RBHutchison:inp 11/18/44

Def -

000255

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bern, November 6, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am taking the liberty of enclosing under cover of this letter, for delivery to the World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York, New York (to Mr. Arjen Tartakower and Mr. Chaim Finkelstein), six lists of Jewish deportees at present in the camp of Bergen-Belsen, Kreis Celle, bei Hannover, and in the Ghetto of Theresienstadt, "Protectorate" of Bohemia and Moravia. These lists are being forwarded with an introductory letter to the World Jewish Congress by Dr. Gerhart Riegner, the representative of this organization in Switzerland.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

Enclosure:

As stated.

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

100256

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

Iif/43.062

Geneva, November 1st, 1944.

Dr. Arjen Tartakower
Mr. Chaim Finkelstein
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway
New York.

Dear Friends,

On your repeated request I am sending you herewith enclosed a certain number of lists of Jews interned in Theresienstadt and in the camp of Bergen-Belsen, District Celle, near Hannover, as follows:

1. A list of 4,356 persons interned in Theresienstadt;
2. A supplementary list of about 1,500 persons who equally are interned in Theresienstadt.

Please note that only those persons of whom the exact address in Theresienstadt is known are contained in these lists which have been established in common by Dr. F. Ullmann and by myself, on basis of all available informations.

Supplements, containing the name also of those persons who are in Theresienstadt, but whose exact address is not known, are in preparation.

3. A list of 1,366 persons interned in the camp of Bergen-Belsen who constitute a group of Jews from Hungary.
4. A list of 615 persons equally interned in the camp of Bergen-Belsen, who formerly resided in the Netherlands.
5. A list of 54 persons having also resided formerly in the Netherlands, with the exception of those under No. 45, 46 and 54.
6. 2 further supplementary lists of Jews of various nationalities equally interned in Bergen-Belsen; some of them may be included in the former lists too.

All these lists have been communicated by me also to our Representative in Stockholm, for the intended dispatch of food parcels.

The requested lists of refugees in Switzerland have already been mailed to you through the good offices of the Polish Legation, and I hope that they will have reached you meanwhile.

I shall keep sending you all further names of Jewish refugees in Europe in order that you may complete your respective register.

With my best regards, I am

very sincerely yours,
/s/ G. M. Riegner

100257

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bern, November 6, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am taking the liberty of enclosing under cover of this letter, for delivery to the World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York, New York (to Mr. Arjeh Tartakower and Mr. Chaim Finkelstein), six lists of Jewish deportees at present in the camp of Bergen-Belsen, Kreis Celle, bei Hannover, and in the Ghetto of Theresienstadt, "Protectorate" of Bohemia and Moravia. These lists are being forwarded with an introductory letter to the World Jewish Congress by Dr. Gerhart Riegner, the representative of this organization in Switzerland.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Roswell D. McClelland

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

Enclosure:

As stated.

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

100298

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

II f/43.062

Geneva, November 1st, 1944.

Dr. Arjeh Tartakower
Mr. Chaim Finkelstein
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway
New York.

Dear Friends,

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With my best regards, I am

very sincerely yours,

/s/ G. M. Riegner

File

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

November 20, 1944

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

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

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

Attention: Dr. Benjamin Akzin

In Reply Refer to No. 283

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am informed that there exists a list of people who are interned in camp Bergen-Belsen.

If this information is correct, I would indeed be very grateful to you if you would be good enough to let us have a copy of this list, in the interest of the many concerned relatives of these internees.

Thanking you in advance for your kind cooperation, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Kurt R. Grossman
Kurt R. Grossman, Assistant
Rescue Department

KRG:t1

*List already transmitted,
B.G.*

World War II

*War Ref
Bd (Mr. Rhee)
for information
only*

MS-1343
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. ~~(RESTRICTED)~~

Ankara
Dated November 21, 1944
Rec'd 8:12 p.m.

CONTROL COPY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 22 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2232, November 21, 3 p.m.

X
Five Bulgarian delegates to the Jewish World Congress at New York have applied at the Embassy for visas. The names and titles of the delegates are as follows:

- One. David Jeroham, president of the consistory of Jews in Bulgaria.
- Two. Jacque Natan vice president of the consistory.
- Three. Nastj Aisaakova member of the consistory.
- Four. Josef Alkalay member of the consistory.
- Five. Jacob Herchcovitch secretary of the delegation.

The delegation is sending a telegram to members of the Congress in New York to furnish necessary information to the Department and to arrange transportation from Cairo. Each member of the delegation bears a Bulgarian special passport describing his status as given above. Please instruct regarding issuance of visas.

STCOR.

WMB

STEINHARDT
RECEIVED

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World Jewish Congress

Files

WAR EMERGENCY CONFERENCE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

ATLANTIC CITY

NOVEMBER 26-30, 1944

St. Charles Hotel

Headquarters: New York, 1834 Broadway

ADDRESS BY ISAAC WEISSMAN
PORTUGAL AND SPAIN

WAR EMERGENCY CONFERENCE -- November 27, 1944

I have been asked to report concerning our work in Portugal and Spain. Before making a brief report, permit me to say a few words about the Jewish community in Portugal and its situation at the time we began work.

The Jewish community in Portugal is a very small one, consisting of about 400 Sephardic and 500 Ashkenazic Jews. The Sephardic or Portuguese Jews, as they are called, have been living in Portugal for several generations and most came originally from Morocco. Most of the Ashkenazic Jews emigrated from Poland after 1920, with a small number of German Jews arriving since 1933.

The majority of Sephardim are merchants, many of them well-to-do and some even extremely wealthy. The Ashkenazim for the most part consist of petty tradesmen and peddlers, with some engaged in the manufacture of knitted and leather goods.

The community organization is controlled by Sephardim, although there are a few Ashkenazim in the Executive Committee. The Polish Jews have their own synagogue. Most of the Jews live in Lisbon.

Before the War, very little was heard of the small Jewish community in Portugal, which lived in more or less passive isolation. The influx of refugees did not strengthen the community, for the newcomers live in restricted areas far from Lisbon and do not participate in community activities.

Ever since the collapse of France in June, 1940, thousands of refugees passed through Portugal in transit. Their only desire was to obtain a visa and leave Europe. Portuguese Jews were not organized for the extension of any refugee aid whatsoever. They themselves lived in a state of fear and, for various internal political reasons, they were not particularly active on behalf of the refugees. Their community kitchen was expanded to some extent with the financial aid of the Joint Distribution Committee but very little more was done by the Jews of Portugal. At that time both the Joint and Hicem opened offices in Lisbon. The Joint distributed money to needy refugees while Hicem provided transportation for those who could get visas.

All this was certainly important and useful work. But the headquarters of the World Jewish Congress in New York and the office in Geneva immediately understood that this was not enough and that the presence of a political representative was required. The office of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva approached me to undertake this work. I initiated our activities under the name of Relico, which was the Relief Department of the Congress. Much later we obtained permission to work in the name of the Congress itself. Thus beginning in 1941, the Congress was the first and only political institution to undertake this work.

Even though the Congress had to contend with various difficulties, certain results of significance were achieved. Permit me to give you some details.

As the Conference knows, after the Germans occupied Southern France, a mass of refugees fled across the Pyrenees into Spain. This was a particularly arduous experience in those winter months of November and December 1942, and many died of hunger, exposure or accidents. Those who succeeded in reaching Spain or Portugal were all without documents or visas. Spain imprisoned or interned them with the exception of a few who succeeded in hiding from the police.

A few hundred such refugees reached Portugal at that time, many of them after week-long treks. There too they were imprisoned.

100242

Individual refugees in Portugal had been imprisoned even earlier for entering the country without permission—some of them having been detained for as much as 19 months merely for having entered without permission. A small number were incarcerated at that time, (November 1942). They were released only upon obtaining visas to leave the country. At this time however the prisons began to be filled with refugees, and the police organized a strict guard of the frontiers, as well as searching private quarters for hidden refugees, in order to stem the influx.

Relief organizations avoided any contact with the refugees in hiding for fear of difficulties with the police. At best, they dared only extend a small degree of assistance under cover. No Jewish organization even attempted such a thing as intercession with the government on behalf of the poor wretches in the prisons, let alone an organized attempt to aid those who lived in constant peril, hidden away.

In December 1942 the Congress decided, despite the difficulties and danger involved, no longer to permit this situation to continue but to intercede openly with the Portuguese government on behalf of refugees. This step was completely successful. Portugal decided to release all those imprisoned and to legalize the situation of all those in hiding by permitting them residence in restricted areas. The police accepted our proposal to settle such refugees in Ericeira, a beach resort about 25 miles distant from Lisbon. We immediately issued a circular to all legations and organizations announcing this fact and they sent to our office all those they knew who were in hiding so that they might be legalized. We spent day and night for weeks at this work.

On January 22, 1943 we brought the first group of about 100 refugees to Ericeira where we had arranged the necessary housing for them. The report of this achievement had a sensational effect. The press, especially foreign correspondents, was present when the first group arrived in Ericeira and some of them accompanied the refugees on the trip. The "March of Time" sent special reporters and photographers and filmed a record of the arrival and reception of the refugees and also the luncheon which was given by the World Jewish Congress for the press and the local authorities. The reactions to this event are generally known. The London Times, for example, twice commended the World Jewish Congress for this action. The Swiss press carried long articles with illustrations of the arrival of refugees in Ericeira. In America too, some periodicals wrote about it. We hope that with further success in the War, the Portuguese censorship will release the film for distribution and that the general public will have the pleasure of witnessing the happiness and joy of those people who had been freed from imprisonment or from hiding.

Altogether we obtained the liberation of 51 persons and legalized the status of about 200 persons in hiding. At the present time, there are still about 80 refugees in Ericeira.

The refugees, including a number of non-Jews, were of Polish, French, Belgian and other nationalities, and we received expressions of gratitude from several legations and organizations including one from M. Rene Massigli, General de Gaulle's Foreign Minister at that time, in a letter of February 26, 1943.

The decision of the Portuguese government to legalize the status of persons who entered without visas and the reaction of the foreign press had its influence in Spain. A few weeks later, Spain also released from its prisons and concentration camps thousands of refugees. Adopting the Portuguese procedure, Spain permitted such people to live in restricted areas. In this way, the Congress action meant the release of thousands of unfortunate refugees in Portugal and Spain.

* * *

I pass now to a problem which is no less important. Our Swiss friends had organized underground connections with such countries as Poland, Rumania, and Czechoslovakia by which they obtained information and reports. The problem was how to bring such material from Switzerland to the free world without being caught by the Gestapo censorship. We succeeded in creating clandestine channels for this purpose and immediately sent such reports to New York and London, enabling the free world to learn in detail of the martyrdom of our brethren in the satellite countries. The importance of these clandestine underground contacts whereby the Congress brought material from Switzerland to Portugal is indicated by the fact that several allied governments used these channels through our good offices for their own correspondence.

* * *

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We also faced the problem of sending food packages to ghettos and concentration camps. Through the initiative of our Swiss office, the Congress began to send such aid from Portugal as early as 1941. In addition to scores of thousands of parcels of sardine cans, we got permission in 1942 to send, through the Portuguese Red Cross, a shipment of thousands of kilograms of such prohibited articles as coffee, tea, and chocolate. We are happy to state that in 1943, perhaps somewhat too late, other organizations, following our example, began to send packages to Theresienstadt and certain other concentrations.

In connection with our relief work it is worth mentioning that, again at the request of our Swiss office, we obtained permission in 1941 to send over one thousand kilograms of clothing for two hundred Jews who had been wrecked off the Island of Rhodes on their way to Palestine. We obtained confirmation of the receipt of these vital supplies.

I shall now make a few remarks about the Turkish Jews in France and how we were able to save them from impending catastrophe. Many Turkish Jews who had lived in France for many years were of unsettled citizenship. On their French identity cards, they were registered as Turkish citizens and were accepted as such by the Germans. Consequently, as citizens of a neutral country, they suffered relatively less than other Jews. In 1943, however, the Germans learned that the citizenship of most of the Turkish Jews was in question and they determined to treat them in the same way as all other Jews, which meant concentration camps and deportation to Poland.

No sooner did we learn of this than we sent urgent appeals to the Congress offices in New York and London, to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, and our friends of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul. They immediately took action, with the result that Mr. Lawrence Steinhardt, American Ambassador in Ankara, interceded with the Turkish government, which thereupon contacted Vichy and brought about the postponement of decision with regard to Turkish Jews. Mr. Steinhardt notified our friends in Istanbul to this effect in his letter of February 9, 1944. There were several thousand Turkish Jews living in France at that time.

In the beginning of 1944, we got an urgent telegram from our friends of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul asking us to intercede on behalf of 400 Sephardic Jews of Spanish origin who were in the Haidari camp in Greece and whom the Germans were about to deport to Poland. In response to our request, Don Nicholas Franco, Spanish Ambassador in Portugal and a brother of General Franco, immediately contacted his government. Later the Ambassador informed us that the Spanish government had determined to protect the Jews in question and had communicated with the Germans for this purpose. Thus the 400 Sephardic Jews in the Haidari camp were saved from deportation to Poland.

This effort on our part led to the decision of the Spanish government to take under its protection all Sephardic Jews of Spanish origin who would apply to the Spanish consulates in occupied countries, whether in possession of Spanish papers or not. At a later time, the Spanish Ambassador, Don Franco, in an interview which Mr. Dexter, representative of the War Refugee Board, had with him, in the presence of the representative of the World Jewish Congress in Lisbon, declared that according to information which he received from his government, several hundred Sephardim had applied to the consulates and were recognized as being under Spanish protection and thereby saved from deportation.

I now come to one of the most important activities of the Congress in Lisbon: our child rescue campaign. It is generally known that about four to five thousand Jewish children, chiefly orphans, lived in hiding in private houses, farms, and cloisters in France, a large number of them under false names and pretending to be Catholics. In October 1943, we learned that the Germans were preparing to search for these children. We instantly turned to the de Gaulle Free French Committee. As a result of our intercession, repeated appeals were broadcast by the London and Algiers radio stations to the French population asking that the French continue to hide Jewish children and on no account deliver them to the Germans. Simultaneously, the Free French Committee, at our request, sent instructions to the resistance movement in France that they exert every effort to aid the unfortunate children.

It was clear to us however that, regardless of the value of such aid on the part of the Free French, the children remained in extreme danger. We

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therefore determined to apply our own methods of rescue and I need not mention that this was particularly dangerous at that time. The situation could not be compared with that of Switzerland where there was only the border control to pass. France and Spain were separated not only by the Pyrenees but by a prohibited military zone stretching the whole length of the frontier and from 12 to 25 miles in depth, which could not be entered without special German military permission.

As a result we had to engage and coordinate the activities of two sets of agents. We contacted professional smugglers and came to terms with them concerning bringing children over the Pyrenees into Spain. At the same time we had Spanish and French women hired to bring the children through the forbidden military zone to the French frontier to a rendezvous with the smugglers. After we had worked out the routes, we contacted the Zionist Resistance Movement in France through its representative in Spain and they began to collect children from various places and bring them to Toulouse in order to turn them over to the above mentioned women.

At the end of March, we rescued our first six children. We had to hide them in Spain since we had not obtained permission from the Spanish to bring in smuggled children.

Simultaneously we began our campaign to get such permission. We went to Mr. Norweb, the American Ambassador in Portugal, who gave our request earnest attention. Showing great sympathy and understanding for the situation in general and particularly for the plight of our children, Mr. Norweb decided to intercede on their behalf. Our appeal to the British Embassy was equally successful, and the two Embassies took joint measures before the Portuguese government. That government acceded to our request and gave its permission for bringing into Portugal 300 smuggled children, as well as accepting our suggestion to settle those children in Paço d'Arco, a beach resort six miles from Lisbon. The Spanish government also, upon the intercession of the French and Spanish Red Cross, agreed to admit up to 500 smuggled children.

At the beginning of May, we were in a position to bring into Portugal the first twelve children under this permit and we placed them in the children's home that the Congress had set up for eighty children in the above mentioned resort of Paço d'Arco.

The interests of truth demand that it be recorded that it was the Congress and the Congress alone which began the organization of rescue from France to Spain and Portugal for both adults and children and which itself rescued the very first children in this way. Such underground activities were, of course, highly dangerous to the individuals who undertook them, and no one in Spain or Portugal with the exception of our workers wanted to have anything to do with such "illegal," but in our eyes consecrated projects. It was only after we had obtained permission for bringing in such children that the personal danger to us no longer existed. Only then and no earlier, when the first children had been rescued and the necessary permission obtained, did a certain well-known American Jewish relief organization also enter into this rescue work and, using the ways and means created by the Congress, succeed in rescuing a number of children. I shall not at this point relate all the complications and hindrances to the rescue work resulting from the accession of this relief organization--which for a few very valuable weeks even completely stopped the whole project. In part, the story is known.

In addition to the twelve children whom we brought to Paço d'Arco in Portugal, we also brought about thirty children to Spain. Subsequently, when the Germans were forced by the allied advance to leave the Spanish border, a group of cholutzim crossed over from France to Spain together with about thirty children. Altogether about ninety children were brought into Spain and Portugal almost all of whom were sent to Palestine, as the World Jewish Congress and the Jewish Resistance Movement in France had hoped. This whole rescue project was terminated by the rapid liberation of France.

With regard to the three thousand Jewish children in France who were registered by the Germans, the Congress, thanks to the intercession of the Cardinal Patriarch, to whom we appealed, obtained a promise from the Portuguese government to admit them to Portugal. The right of asylum for these three thousand children was promised to the Congress in an official letter from the Office of the President of the Portuguese Republic, dated July 15, 1944. Upon the basis of this promise of a neutral country, the War Refugee Board planned to get the International Red Cross to intercede with the Germans for the release of the registered children. But this project too came to an end as a result of the allied advance in France.

700265

It may be said here that in our rescue activity we have had the constant aid of the War Refugee Board and the British Embassy in Portugal. We also had official promises of assistance from the de Gaulle government and from the Polish, Belgian, and Netherlands governments, who issued corresponding instructions to their legations in Lisbon. We had the great satisfaction, at the end of May, of receiving a cable from the War Refugee Board in Washington in recognition of our work.

* * *

This is the brief summary of the work the Congress did in Portugal and Spain despite all obstacles. I could have mentioned a number of other projects, such as supplying information on Jewish questions as well as reports received from occupied countries to the legations and embassies in Lisbon; or our counter-anti-Semitic work; or how, at the special request of the Chief Rabbi in London, Dr. Hertz, we obtained two hundred Portuguese immigration visas for rabbis and their families who were to be sent to Mauritius; or how we brought about through Lisbon certain relief for our brethren in Rumania before that country changed to the allied side; and many other instances of our activity--but that would expand the report beyond reasonable limits.

The activities I have briefly sketched brought us into constant contact with a variety of official organs and agencies and will thus prove useful in the future work of the World Jewish Congress.

It is well known that Lisbon, in the course of the war, became a center where important diplomats used to meet, or where various leading personalities stayed for a time, if they were fortunate enough to be rescued from the occupied countries. Moreover, during the war, the governments in exile and their representatives in view of their own situation, were more accessible than usual. We were thus in a position to establish friendly contacts with a number of personalities many of whom will occupy important positions after the war. For example, a certain Mr. X, who escaped from France, is now a minister in de Gaulle's Cabinet and has already been able to make certain phases of our work much simpler. There is also a Mr. Y, who will probably be very important in Rumania in the future, and another friend of ours who will no doubt play a significant role in liberated Poland. There are high-ranking American diplomats who had close contact with the Congress during their stay in Portugal, as well as persons of similar rank in the British Embassy who are our friends. All these contacts should be maintained and fostered in our future work.

* * *

With regard to Spain and Portugal themselves, it is apparent that these countries are rapidly losing their significance for our activities. Neither the refugee problem nor the Jewish problem generally will be of particular importance there in the future. We must therefore, I believe, begin to liquidate our present activities in Portugal and Spain, and transfer our attention to the various liberated countries.

100266

DEC 12 1944

Dear Rabbi Kubowitzki:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of December 5, 1944, enclosing "A Survey on the Rescue Activities of the World Jewish Congress 1940-1944", and the resolutions adopted by the War Emergency Conference on rescue matters,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

EDT
RBHutchison:inp 12/11/44 Jey

100267

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
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TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

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37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

December 5, 1944

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

In reply refer
to no. 235

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

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

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to attach herewith:

- 1) A Survey on the Rescue Activities of the World Jewish Congress 1940-1944, which I submitted as a confidential document to the War Emergency Conference which took place in Atlantic City from November 26th through November 30th;
- 2) The resolutions adopted by the War Emergency Conference on rescue matters.

May I add that the Commission on Rescue of the Conference decided to abstain at this time from any appraisal of the attitude of the United Nations with regard to the rescue of the Jewish people of Europe. Appreciation of the activities of the War Refugee Board and its leadership has been expressed in paragraphs 25 and 26 of the Survey.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kubowitzki
A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

100268

REPORT OF THE RESCUE COMMISSION

November 30, 1944

The Commission recommends the adoption of the following resolutions:

1) The War Emergency Conference extends its gratitude to the Holy See and to the Governments of Sweden, Switzerland, and Spain for the protection they offered under difficult conditions to the persecuted Jews in Hungary. It is confident that this protection will be continued and its scope enlarged in accordance with the contingency of the situation.

2) The Conference appeals to the Governments of those liberated countries whose Jewish citizens are being held by the Reich as forced laborers in Germany as well as in the countries under her domination, that they demand through all appropriate channels that these Jewish forced laborers be accorded the same treatment as their non-Jewish citizens who are under conditions of forced labor. The Conference further appeals to the International Committee of the Red Cross to undertake similar steps with regard to the Jewish forced laborers who originate from territories still dominated by Germany.

The Conference also appeals to these Governments as well as to the International Committee of the Red Cross that all opportunities for the repatriation of these Jewish forced laborers who are in constant danger of extermination, be energetically investigated and utilized at the earliest possibility.

3) The Conference appeals to the International Committee of the Red Cross

a) that it issue an official statement to the effect that the Jews deprived of their freedom of movement in Germany and German-dominated areas--especially in ghettos, internment, labor, and concentration camps-- be considered as civilian internees under the terms of the Tokyo Project and the 1929 Geneva Convention entitling them to the protection and care of the Red Cross;

b) that it endeavor to obtain for them guarantees, identical with those provided by the Tokyo Project and the Geneva Convention, namely, conditions of shelter, food, and medical care compatible with human dignity;

c) that it insist on its right to have all civilian internment, concentration, and labor camps visited by its representatives at regular intervals.

4) The Conference regrets that deplorably little has been done to have Axis civilians under the power of the United Nations exchanged for Jews in ghettos, internment, concentration, and labor camps. It appeals to the Democracies that an all-out effort be made to utilize all existing possibilities in this respect in order to save these persecuted people from imminent danger of death.

5) The Conference is appreciative of the relaxation of the food blockade which has been brought about with regard to the unassimilated civilian internees in German-held camps, and is confident that a broad program will be initiated forthwith by the United Nations to supply with food, clothing, and medicine, indispensable for their survival, all Jews remaining in German-dominated regions who are deprived of freedom of movement.

100269

DEC 15 1944

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of December 13, 1944, transmitting to the Board the text of a cable recently received from Jerusalem.

For your information, the matter referred to in the cable was called to the attention of the State Department some time ago.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Kurt R. Grossman,
Assistant, Rescue Department,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.

*FH Cleared
with Friedman*

FH:hd 12/15/44

000270

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
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Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

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

December 13th, 1944

In reply refer to No. 389

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I draw your attention to a cable we received from Jerusalem, reading as follows:

"INFORMATION RECEIVED POINTS TO EXISTENCE
POSSIBILITIES SAVE NOW REMAINING EUROPEAN
JEWIS STOP GERMAN ANXIOUS FATE VOLKSDEUTSCHE
LEFT BEHIND LIBERATED TERRITORIES PREPARED
EXCHANGE THEM AGAINST JEWIS STOP ROUMANIAN
AUTHORITIES ACCORDINGLY DEALING EXCHANGE
TRANSYLVANIAN JEWIS IN GERMAN LABOURCAMP
STOP SUGGEST CLARIFY RESPONSIBLE QUARTERS
POSSIBILITIES EXCHANGE JEWIS ALLOVER EUROPE
STOP ESSENTIAL ISSUE WARNING THREATENING
REPRISALS AGAINST VOLKSDEUTSCHE IF
SLAUGHTER JEWIS DOES NOT CEASE STOP THIS IS
LAST CHANCE"

In addition to this cable, you must certainly have read that the Belgian Government considers similar steps if the deported Jews and non-Jews from Belgium are not treated in accordance with the Prisoner of War Convention of 1929.

I would be most grateful to learn your reaction to the above-quoted cable.

Very sincerely yours,

Kurt R. Grossman
Kurt R. Grossman, Assistant
Rescue Department

KRG:tl

The matter was
called to order of
the same time

000272

CROSS REFERENCE ON WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS.....

FOR:

- Amendment to this License
- Extension of this License
- Renewal of this License
- Correspondence concerning this application .

Other (Specify)

1. FOR BOOK ENTITLED " A SURVEY ON THE RESCUE ACTIVITIES OF
THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS 1940-1944 "

SEE: 1. EXHIBIT FILE FOR BOOK

DEC 18 1944

Dear Dr. Goldmann:

Enclosed herewith are several confidential reports from Dr. Gerhard Reigner, which were received for you through the United States Legation in Bern.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

EBT RBH RBHutchison:inp 12/15/44 JH -

*7th enclosure added
in file*

000274



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AIR MAIL

Bern, December 5, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am taking the liberty of forwarding to the Board for transmission to the World Jewish Congress four series of documents sent by Dr. Gerhart Riegner, the representative of the Congress in Switzerland.

Series I consists of several reports of a general nature composed by members of the Jewish Community at Budapest dealing with the situation of the Jews in Hungary as it has developed during the past few months. These reports were originally written for and submitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Budapest. I have also received copies of all of them. They are interesting as background material but contain nothing strikingly new.

Series II is made up of a number of wires addressed to the W.J.C. from various Balkan Jewish groups or their spokesmen "à propos" of the recently held World Jewish Congress War Emergency Conference.

Series III consists of a message from the leaders of the Swiss Jewish Community addressed to the Conference referred to above.

Series IV is an additional list of internees in Theresienstadt intended for Dr. Tartakower and Mr. Finkelstein of the World Jewish Congress.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to
the American Minister

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

Enclosures: 4 series of documents
for the W.J.C.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000275

JAN 8 1945

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Reference is made to your letter of January 5, 1945, in which you quote from a cable received from Iochak Gruenbaun, Jerusalem.

Your letter has been referred to the Department of State for consideration and appropriate action.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Kurt R. Grossman,
Rescue Department,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.

FHhd 1/8/45 JH - Cleared with Pehle

000276

JAN 8 1945

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: Mr. Pehle

There is referred to you herewith for consideration and appropriate action a copy of a letter which we received under date of January 5, 1945, from the World Jewish Congress.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

Attachment.

Cleared with Pehle
1/8/45

000277

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Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

January 5th, 1944

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

Ref. No. 299

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Dr. Nahum Goldmann received from Icchak Gruenbaun, Jerusalem, the following cable:

"View recent slaughter Jews labour camps near Krakow also vicinity Kielce and view Shalasis threat annihilate remnants Hungarian Jews still in his grip we propose apply governments that military commands issue strongest warning against slaughter remnants Jews Poland Hungary and all over Europe similarly proclamation of Eisenhower - regarding foreign workers in Germany stop Danger imminent."

In view of the above-quoted cable, I would be anxious to hear whether the War Refugee Board will negotiate with the proper military authorities to follow the important suggestion of our friend Icchak Gruenbaum.

Very sincerely yours,

Kurt R. Grossman
Kurt R. Grossman
Rescue Department

KRG:tl

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WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
1834 Broadway
New York 23, N. Y.

January 5th, 1945

Ref. No. 299

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

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Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Kurt R. Grossman

Kurt R. Grossman
Rescue Department

KRO:tl

SPECIAL DELIVERY

000279

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New York.
"JEWISH COMMENT"

January 8, 1945

Dear Friend:

Owing to the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress which took place in Atlantic City, November 26 to 30, there has been a break of many weeks in the issues of Jewish Comment. We send you now an index of the issues of 1944 for your convenience.

We enclose first, a questionnaire similar to ^{20/3}the one which was filled in by many of the recipients of Jewish Comment last year. We would appreciate it very much and it would prove helpful to us in the necessary reorganization which Jewish Comment may have to undergo if you would indicate by filling out this questionnaire to what extent you have found this publication useful. We enclose a self addressed envelope which you may use in making your reply.

At the same time we call your attention to the attached list of publications by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, some of which may prove of interest to you in your special field. A blank is provided for your convenience in ordering any of the books that are important to you. Such orders should be sent in the same envelope as the questionnaire.

Sincerely yours,

Ben Halpern
Ben Halpern
Editor

BH/rs
Encs.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Have you used the material of Jewish Comment? Yes ___ No ___
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3. Do you wish to continue receiving it? _____

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Jewish Comment

CLASSIFIED INDEX OF ITEMS

Volume II, Nos. 1 - 23, 1944

I. THE PRESENT SITUATION

	<i>Issue No.</i>
1. <i>The Extermination Campaign</i>	
A Station in the Calvary of Israel.....	1
Hiding with the Underground	2
Italy since Invasion	2
The Danish Case—A Summary	3
Final Crisis in Slovakia	4
About Transnistria	5
"The Purge of Split"	5
The Search for Refugees in Rome	5
Danish Jews in Terezin	6
Vatican Appeals for Humanity	7
Aryanization in Rumania	7
The Situation in Poland	9
Economic Displacement	9
Jews in French Underground	11
In Occupied Belgium	13
Hungary Plans Jewish Extermination	17
2. <i>Protests against Atrocities</i>	
The Danish Case: A Summary	3
Vatican Appeals for Humanity	7
Courage in Occupied Europe	12
Rumania on Trial	20
3. <i>Anti-Semitic Attitudes and Legislation</i>	
Vatican Appeals for Humanity	7
Aryanization in Rumania	7
Economic Displacement	9
Jews in the Polish Army	13
Hungary since the Occupation	14
Forced Labor in France	17
Rumania on Trial	20
Restoration of Jewish Rights	23

000282

	<i>Issue No.</i>
4. German Propaganda	
An Ominous Statement	4
About Transnistria	5
The Nazi Line for America	13
American Prisoners-of-War	13
5. Corruption in Axis Europe	
The Internees in Transnistria	2
Collaborationist Jitters	6
Footnote on Rumania	14
6. German Morale	
Totalitarian Science	3
Character of the German Soul	8
Fostering German Culture	8
7. Morale Conditions in the Rest of Europe	
The Internees in Transnistria	2
Hiding with the Underground	2
Italy since Invasion	2
Rumania Tries Appeasement	6
The Collaborationist Jitters	6
In Occupied Belgium	13
Allied Warnings Take Effect	13
Problems of Displaced Jews	16
8. The Allies and the Jews	
Raider Wingate	12
American Prisoners-of-War	13
Jews in the Polish Army	13
Problems of Liberation	18
Rumania on Trial	20
The Rumanian Armistice	22
Restoration of Jewish Rights	23
9. The Invasion of Europe	
Towards Zero Hour	1
Italy since Invasion	2
Citation for Liberators	5
Problems of Liberation	18
10. Neutrals	
Pan-American Solidarity	1
II. PROPOSALS FOR RESCUE, ATTEMPTED RESCUE	
1. Resistance	
How Algiers Was Taken	1
Hiding with the Underground	2
The Danish Case—A Summary	3
The Collaborationist Jitters	6
Jews in French Underground	11
Courage in Occupied Europe	12
Hungary since the Occupation	14

	<i>Issue No.</i>
2. Warnings of Retribution and Other Deterrents	
The Internees in Transnistria	2
The Collaborationist Jitters	6
The New Situation	10
Pres. Roosevelt's Statement, March 24, 1944	11
Rescue and Retribution	11
The Critical Last Minutes	12
Allied Warnings Take Effect	13
"Free German" Committees	15
Punishment of War Criminals	19
Rumania on Trial	20
3. Rescue and Relief	
The Internees in Transnistria	2
Rescue Funds Provided	2
The War Refugee Board	2
The War Refugee Board	3
Reports & Documents—Exec. Order 9417	3
The Danish Case: A Summary	3
America Speaks	4
WRB Director Appointed	5
Signs of the Times	6
A Welcome Accession	8
The New Situation	10
Charity in Hungary	10
Exemptions in Rumania	10
President Roosevelt's Statement, March 24, 1944	11
Rescue and Retribution	11
The Critical Last Minutes	12
Free Ports for Refugees	17
Rescue by Exchange	17

III. POST-WAR QUESTIONS

1. Restoration of Rights	
Restoration of Jewish Rights	23
2. Relief and Rehabilitation	
Rebuilding in Russia	2
Italy since Invasion	2
The Palestine Resolution	8
A Welcome Accession	8
Message of Warning	13
"Free German" Committees	15
Problems of Displaced Jews	16
Problems of Liberation	18
The Second UNRRA Council Session	21
3. Punishment of War Criminals	
Punishment of War Criminals	19

000283

Jewish Comment

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume II, Nos. 1-23, 1944

No. 1—January 21, 1944

- Page 1—Towards Zero Hour
2—Pan-American Solidarity
3—How Algiers Was Taken
8—A Station in the Calvary of Israel

No. 2—January 28, 1944

- Page 1—The Internees in Transnistria
2—Rescue Funds Provided
2—Rebuilding in Russia
3—Reports and Documents—The War Refugee Board
4—Hiding with the Underground
6—Italy since Invasion

No. 3—February 4, 1944

- Page 1—The War Refugee Board
3—Reports and Documents—Executive Order No. 9417—January 23, 1944
4—The Danish Case: A Summary
7—Totalitarian Science

No. 4—February 11, 1944

- Page 1—America Speaks
2—An Ominous Statement
4—Final Crisis in Slovakia

No. 5—February 18, 1944

- Page 1—WRB Director Appointed
1—Reports and Documents—About Transnistria
2—"The Purge of Split"
3—The Search for Refugees in Rome
3—Citations for Liberators

100284

No. 6—February 25, 1944

- Page 1—Signs of the Times
2—Reports and Documents—Rumania Tries Appeasement
4—The Collaborationist Jitters
7—Danish Jews in Terezin

No. 7—March 3, 1944

- Page 1—Vatican Appeals for Humanity
3—Aryanization in Rumania

No. 8—March 10, 1944

- Page 1—The Palestine Resolution
4—A Welcome Accession
5—Reports and Documents
7—Fostering German Culture

No. 9—March 17th, 1944

- Page 1—The Situation in Poland
2—Reports and Documents—Economic Displacement.

No. 10—March 24, 1944

- Page 1—The New Situation
2—Reports and Documents—Charity in Hungary
3—Exemptions in Rumania

No. 11—April 7, 1944

- Page 1—Rescue and Retribution
6—Reports and Documents—President Roosevelt's Statement—March 24, 1944
7—Jews in French Underground

No. 12—April 14, 1944

- Page 1—The Critical Last Minute
2—Raider Wingate
3—Courage in Occupied Europe

No. 13—April 28, 1944

- Page 1—Jews in the Polish Army
2—Message of Warning
3—American Prisoners of War
4—Reports & Documents—Allied Warnings Take Effect
5—In Occupied Belgium
6—The Nazi Line for America

No. 14—May 5, 1944

- Page 1—Hungary since the Occupation
4—Footnote on Rumania

No. 15—May 12, 1944

- Page 1—"Free German" Committees

No. 16—May 26, 1944

- Page 1—Problems of Displaced Jews

No. 17—May 26, 1944

- Page 1—Free Ports for Refugees
2—Rescue by Exchange
3—Reports and Documents—Hungary Plans, Jewish Extermination
4—Forced Labor in France

No. 18—June 23, 1944

- Page 1—Problems of Liberation

No. 19—July 28, 1944

- Page 1—Punishment of War Criminals

No. 20—September 1, 1944

- Page 1—Rumania on Trial

No. 21—September 15, 1944

- Page 1—The Second UNRRA Council

No. 22—September 22, 1944

- Page 1—The Rumanian Armistice

No. 23—October 21, 1944

- Page 1—Restoration of Jewish Rights

000285

Selected List
of
Publications

INSTITUTE OF JEWISH AFFAIRS
1834 BROADWAY - NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

1943

000286

1. STARVATION OVER EUROPE (Made in Germany) \$1.50

A fully documented account of the German rationing system in Europe. By a technique of discriminatory feeding the Germans utilized the whole resources of Europe in order to see that the Reich was well fed at the expense even of the main agricultural and producing areas. The rationing system provided for the deliberate starvation of Jews and was utilized as a weapon for the various political purposes of the Nazis, such as obtaining forced laborers.

RAYMOND MURPHY, Author of a State Department publication on National Socialism:

"The first I have seen of a properly correlated and documented study of the planned starvation in Europe under the Nazi regime. I think this pocket size edition will serve a very useful purpose."

2. WERE THE MINORITIES TREATIES A FAILURE? by Jacob Robinson, Oscar Karbach, Max Laserson, Nehemiah Robinson, Mark Vichniak \$2.00

A discussion of the texts and procedure for enforcement of the minorities treaties, as well as of the attitudes towards these agreements of the various international bodies, the governments, and the minorities themselves.

QUINCY WRIGHT (Chicago University):

"This careful historical survey will be of great value in considering the problem of minority and human rights after this war."

DR. JOSEPH S. ROUCEK (Hofstra College):

"The best work of its kind."

3. HITLER'S TEN-YEAR WAR ON THE JEWS \$1.50

A complete and detailed account, country by country, of the legal and material condition of the Jews in Axis Europe ever since the beginning of Hitler's ten years' war.

HERALD TRIBUNE, Editorial:

"Through 300 pages of carefully authenticated, factual reporting on each of the European nations brought under Hitler's heel are overtones of nightmare scarcely realizable to any who call themselves civilized, thrice devastating to those whose racial accustomedness to persecution cannot be sufficiently merciful armor against this present history of deportation, vindictive persecution and massacre of their people."

FROM WAR TO PEACE:

4. RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
by Zorach Warhaftig (No. 1)

Paper Bound	Cloth Bound
\$1.00	\$1.50

A detailed discussion of the problems of relief and rehabilitation of the Jewish people in Europe. An examination of the statutes of UNRRA from this point of view, with recommendations, certain of which have already been adopted by the Second Council Session of UNRRA in Montreal. Other questions raised in this pamphlet still remain unsolved and are becoming increasingly urgent.

THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST

"This study on the Jewish aspects of relief and rehabilitation. . . represents the first comprehensive attempt to analyze the work and the set up of the UNRRA and its relation to Jewish needs. . . it is an excellent analysis and an exhaustive treatment of the subject."

5. INDEMNIFICATION AND REPARATIONS
by Nehemiah Robinson (No. 2)

Paper Bound	Cloth Bound
\$2.00	\$2.50

An investigation into the extent of Jewish property losses in Axis Europe and of the sources from which they might be made good. Concrete recommendations for an international agency to deal with the settlement of claims and the financing of reconstruction and resettlement on behalf of various categories of individual Jews and the Jewish people as a whole.

AUFBAU

"Any indemnification which may be granted for the unexampled disfranchisement of the Jews, requires both an economic and a legal groundwork. The present work offers an excellent and unusually interesting foundation for this purpose." — Martin Domke, noted student and international lawyer."

6. THE JEWISH CATASTROPHE
by Jacob Lestchinsky (Yiddish) (No. 3)

Paper Bound	Cloth Bound
\$1.00	\$1.50

a program and a questionnaire for a fact-finding investigation of the nature, scope, and social, economic, and political effects of the Jewish catastrophe. An English version is being prepared.

100287



7. THE JEWISH REFUGEE by Arieh Tartakower and Kurt R. Grossmann \$5.00
 A complete and up-to-date survey of one of the crucial problems of today, containing an historical and statistical summary of the facts as well as recommendations for the solution of the problem.
 R. M. W. KEMPNER
"It is excellent and will certainly become the standard book in this particular field."

8. RACIAL STATE by Gerhard Jacoby \$3.00
 A study of the methods of ethnic segregation, assimilation, and depopulation practiced by the Germans in their so-called Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia. This volume examines the effects of Nazi racist doctrines in the only country where it was possible to put it fully into effect, for Jews and non-Jews alike.
 JOSEF HANC, author of *Tornado Across Eastern Europe*, Professor at Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy.
"Gerhard Jacoby's book RACIAL STATE is to my knowledge the most complete and accurate document illustrating the corrupt Nazi system designed to bring about the utter degradation of human beings under a disguise of so-called legality."

Institute of Jewish Affairs
 1834 Broadway
 New York 23, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:

Kindly send me the books checked below. I enclose payments.
 Kindly bill me.

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|--|-------------|
| 1. STARVATION OVER EUROPE | Copies..... |
| 2. WERE THE MINORITIES TREATIES A FAILURE? | " |
| 3. HITLER'S TEN-YEAR WAR ON THE JEWS | " |
| 4. RELIEF AND REHABILITATION | " |
| 5. INDEMNIFICATION AND REPARATIONS | " |
| 6. THE JEWISH CATASTROPHE | " |
| 7. THE JEWISH REFUGEE | " |
| 8. RACIAL STATE | " |
| Total | |

Name

Address

.....

.....

000288

Handwritten notes in the top left corner, possibly "New York Times" and "Jan 12 1945".

HEMISPHERIC BAN ON BIAS IS URGED

World Jewish Congress Hears Plea for Restrictions by Union of Nations

Regulations limiting membership in the Pan American Union to nations that guarantee their inhabitants absolute equality before the law and freedom from any sort of discrimination were urged yesterday by Señor Pedro C. Beltran, Peruvian Ambassador to the United States.

Señor Beltran, a member of the board of governors of the Union, made the recommendation at a luncheon at the Savoy Plaza Hotel attended by British, American and Peruvian delegates to the World Jewish Congress. In a prepared statement, he had suggested that articles against discrimination be made a part of the constitution of the proposed world security organization.

Asked whether he thought the same rules should apply to the Pan American Union, the diplomat replied:

"Without question. That regulation should be written into the constitution of the Pan American Union. Evidently it wasn't thought of or considered necessary before but it certainly is now."

Declines Comment on Argentina

Señor Beltran was asked if such a prohibition of discrimination would bar Argentina from participation in the inter-American organization, but he waved the question aside by replying that it was useless "to dot every 'i' and cross every 't'."

"What is really important is to get the general principle into the constitution; details can be taken care of as they arise," he commented.

As for the world organization, Señor Beltran said it should guarantee the integrity of all countries, "however small and weak," and should be based upon "the cooperation of equal sovereign nations having as their common faith the respect of human rights throughout the world."

"For no nation should be admitted to any kind of world security organization unless it is ready to guarantee to its inhabitants absolute equality before the law and equal opportunity to all without any sort of discrimination," he declared.

Objective of Jews Cited

Dealing with the anti-Semitism of the Nazis, Señor Beltran said the Jewish people are now not fighting for their own protection alone but "for the survival of the civilization that we know, of the freedom we cherish and of the achievements of the human race in generations of progress and advancement."

S. Sidney Silverman, member of the House of Commons and chairman of the British section of the World Jewish Congress, endorsed

Señor Beltran's anti-discrimination proposal "not only because it should be so but because no world organization could long endure without it."

Other guests were Vasquez Aylon, secretary of the Peruvian Embassy in Washington; Joseph Varela, Peruvian Consul-General in New York; Francisco Pardo de Zela, Minister in charge of the New York consulate; Luis Alzamora, head of the consulate's information bureau; Dr. Isaac Weeselman of Lima, chairman of the Peruvian section of the World Jewish Congress, and Dr. Maurice L. Perizweil, head of the political department of the congress.

000289

JAN 18 1945

Dear Mr. Mann:

Enclosed herewith are several documents concerning negotiations Dr. Riegner had with the International Red Cross. I am sending you this material at the request of the World Jewish Congress in New York.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. James H. Mann,
Special Representative of the
War Refugee Board,
c/o United States Embassy,
London, England.

Enclosures.

EBP RBH
RBHutchison:inp 1/17/45

000290

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

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

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson
BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

In reply refer to
No. 302

January 10, 1945

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

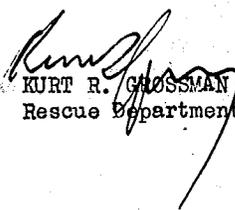
Dear Mr. Pehle:

With reference to our letter #301 which we sent you yesterday, may I ask you to include the attached information with the material we asked you to send to Mr. James Mann, as requested by Dr. Kurbowitzki.

Thank you for giving this matter your kind attention,

Sincerely yours,

KRG:bm
Enc.


KURT R. GROSSMAN
Rescue Department

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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37 Quai Wilson

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JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

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

In reply refer to
No. 301

January 9, 1945

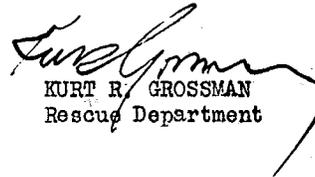
Hon. John W. Pehle, Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Dr. Kubowitzki cabled us from London today asking that we send him, through your facilities, the attached documentation concerning negotiations our representative, Dr. Gerhard Riegner, had with the International Red Cross. Dr. Kubowitzki promised this material to Mr. James Mann, your representative in London.

Thank you for giving this matter your attention.

Sincerely yours,


KURT R. GROSSMAN
Rescue Department

KRG:bm
Enc.

*No attachments when
Received in files*

JAN 20 1945

Dear Dr. Wise and Dr. Goldmann:

Receipt is acknowledged of your telegram of January 19, 1945.

I wish to assure you that the Board is giving serious consideration to the suggestions set forth in your telegram and will endeavor to carry out any of these suggestions which may prove feasible and consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Stephen S. Wise and
Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.

JW - *Per Mr. Pehle's*
instructions -
FH:hd 1/20/45

000293

Draft - 1/19/45

Dr. Stephen S. Wise
World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York 23, New York

Dear Dr. Wise:

I have received your
~~This will acknowledge receipt of the telegram, dated January 19,~~
~~1945, over your and Dr. Goldmann's signatures.~~

~~In reply,~~ I wish to assure you that the Board is giving serious consideration to the suggestions formulated in your telegram and will endeavor to carry out any of these suggestions which may prove feasible and consistent with the successful prosecution of the war. More particularly, the question of facilitating the protection of an additional number of Jews in German-held territories by suitable protective documents is under active study; the inclusion of various categories of Jews in German-held territory in exchange operations ^{appears to be} making progress; and constant efforts are being made by the Board to augment the flow of ^{books} parcels to ^{German} Jews in concentration and internment camps.

~~You will appreciate the fact that the above information should be kept confidential~~ ^{it should be} ~~in the interest of a successful continuation of these operations.~~ ^{the} ~~This fact is confidential and must be regarded as~~ ^{confidential}

Your suggestion that a renewed warning against anti-Jewish persecutions be issued by the United Nations is being transmitted by the Board to the White House.]

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

1000294

WJ8 NL PD

NEWYORK NY JAN 18 1945

1945 JAN 19 AM 8 34

JOHN W PEHLE

WAR REFUGEE BOARD TREASURY DEPARTMENT

PUSUANT TO YESTERDAYS CONVERSATION BETWEEN YOU AND DOCTOR TARTAKOWER
DOCTOR HELLMAN AND MR REISS AS DELEGATES OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
AND REPRESENTATIVE EUROPEAN JEWERY WE APPEAL TO YOU TAKE IN EARNEST
CONSIDERATION THE DEMANDS PRESENTED BY THEM:

FIRST THAT ALLIED GOVERNMENTS RENEW WARNINGS TO GERMAN AUTHORITIES
AND NEUTRAL GOVERNMENTS BE URGED TO SUPPORT THIS WITH INTERVENTIONS,
SECOND: THAT JEWS IN EUROPE BE FURNISHED WITH PROTECTIVE DOCUMENTS,
THIRD: THAT EXCHANGE OF JEWISH POPULATION BE ARRANGED,
FOURTH: THAT SPECIAL OFFICERS BE ATTACHED TO THE LIBERATION ARMIES
TO CARE FOR JEWISH POPULATION,
FIFTH: THAT TRANSMISSION OF PARCELS TO JEWS IN CONCENTRATION AND
INTERNMENT CAMPS BE FACILITATED. WOULD HIGHLY APPRECIATE YOUR
ASSISTANCE

STEPHEN S WISE AND NAHUM GOLDMANN.

835 AM JAN 19 1945.

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JAN 26 1945

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Reference is made to your letters of January 23, 1945, requesting that a message be sent to Brutus Coste, Charge d'Affairs, Rumanian Legation, Lisbon, and to Boris Athanasow, Charge d'Affairs, Bulgarian Legation, Lisbon.

Your letters have been referred to the Department of State for consideration and appropriate action.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Kurt R. Grossman,
Rescue Department,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.

FH:hd 1/26/45

JW —

000296

JAN 25 1945

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: Mr. Pehle

I send you herewith for consideration and appropriate action two letters which the Board received under date of January 23, 1945, from the World Jewish Congress.

The World Jewish Congress has been advised of this reference.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

Attachments.

FH:hd 1/26/45

JCA

000297

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
1834 Broadway
New York

January 23, 1945

In reply refer to
#309

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We would be most grateful if you would be good
enough to send the following cable for us:

"TO: Brutus Coste
Charge d'Affairs
Legation Rumanian
Lisbon, Portugal

From: Isaac Weissman
World Jewish Congress
New York

My personal conversations with you and cables
exchanged especially those sent on behalf your
government and its declarations regarding restoration
Jewish rights and property given wide publicity here
furnishing great satisfaction our people and all
lovers democracy and justice stop However recent rumors
and newspaper reports reaching United States decry your
government's neglect Rumanian Jewry which suffering
starvation and dire need stop Knowing your humanitarian
approach this problem we urgently appeal you draw at-
tention your government this formidable situation and
extend every possible help prevent extermination remnants
Rumanian Jewry by starvation and need stop Would be
grateful your cabled reply"

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Kurt Grossman

Kurt R. Grossman
Rescue Department

KRG:tl

000298

C
O
P
Y.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

January 23rd, 1945

In reply refer to
310

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We would be most grateful if you would be good
enough to send the following cable for us:

To: Boris Athanasov
Charge d'Affaires/
Legation Bulgarian
Lisbon, Portugal

From: Isaac Weissman
World Jewish Congress
New York

My personal conversations with you and cables
exchanged especially those sent on behalf your
government and its declarations regarding restoration
Jewish rights and property given wide publicity here
furnishing great satisfaction our people and all lovers
democracy and justice stop However recent rumors and
newspaper reports reaching United States decry your
government's neglect Bulgarian Jewry which suffering
starvation and dire need stop Knowing your humanitarian
approach this problem we urgently appeal you draw at-
tention your government this formidable situation and
extend every possible help prevent extermination remnants
Bulgarian Jewry by starvation and need stop Would be
grateful your cabled reply"

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Kurt R. Grossman
Kurt R. Grossman
Rescue Department

000299

*Widow's
children*

Files

Copy of cable received from London

RECENT NEWS REPORT EXTERMINATION OUR REMNANTS
STARTED. HAVE APPEALED TO GOVERNMENTS LIBERATED COUNTRIES
ENERGETIC INTERVENTION THEIR PROTECTING POWER HOLY SEE
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASKING GUARANTEES GENEVA CONVENTION
TOKIO PROJECT. CABLING MAX HUBER ASKING SEND SPECIAL
MISSION MAKING REPRESENTATION HIGHEST GERMAN, GERMAN
AUTHORITIES.

/s/ Eva Reading ✓

Leon Kubowitzki ✓

*1/26/45 via T. ... telephoned
... the message ...
was received to-day ...
that the ... take appropriate
action will refer to the ...
JW*

Admission ...

000300

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

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

In reply refer to:
No: 311

January 26, 1945

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I would like to inform you that we sent the
attached cable to Marshal Josef Stalin in order to bring
help to the Jews concentrated in the Eastern part of Europe.

I know that you will do everything on your
part to assist our endeavors.

Thank you for giving this matter your atten-
tion.

Sincerely yours,


KURT E. GROSSMAN
Rescue Department

KRG:bm
Enc.

January 22, 1945

NLT
Marshal Josef Stalin
Kremlin
Moscow (USSR)

We are rejoicing with all other peoples of United Nations
brilliant victories brave Russian soldiers executing against
Nazi hordes stop Russian armies conquering many thousands
hamlets villages cities have or will pass through territories
in which fellow Jews are still or were being held by Germans
stop Perilous situation these Jews known to world through
Maidanek facts and others stop Our anxiety about destiny
diminished remnants European Jewry surely understandable stop
May we respectfully ask you instruct all commanders in field
of operations use any means psychological or military warfare
trying rescue remnants European Jewry stop We as spokesmen
world Jewry greatly interested to learn how many Jews have been
rescued stop We would be most grateful receive such reports
through proper channels

Dr Stephen Wise
Dr. Nahum Goldmann

KRG:tl

000302

1
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

2/2/45
Processed
Miss Hodel
M. Sh...
J.H.
CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

In reply refer
to: No. 315

January 30, 1945

Brig. General William O'Dwyer, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Miss Hodel

Dear General:

With reference to the telephone conversation our Mr. Grossman had with Miss Hodel, I would like to inform you that the Office Committee of the World Jewish Congress has decided to ask our Lisbon representative, Mr. Isaac Weissman who is at present in this country, to go to Switzerland as quickly as possible.

You will agree with me that the rapidly changing situation in Europe requires the presence of functionaries who are familiar with the situation and we feel that Mr. Weissman is most suited for this job.

May I therefore ask you to be of assistance to us by enabling him to obtain the necessary air priorities to travel to Switzerland via Lisbon, Portugal. We shall be most happy to supply you with any additional information you may need to execute this request.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. George L. Warren of the Department of State.

Thanking you for giving this matter your kind consideration and attention, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

M. Nahum Goldman
DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN, Chairman
Executive Committee

KRG:bm