Policy Matters: Food and Clothing Stockpiles in Neutral Countries

000159

FFC-76
(11-42)

CROSS REFERENCE ON · POLICY· MATTERS: · FOOD· AND· CLOTHING
STOCKPILES IN NAUTRAL COUNTRIES

FOR:

Amendment to this License . . . . . ☐

Extension of this License . . . . . ☐

Renewal of this License . . . . . ☐

Correspondence concerning this application . ☐

Other (Specify)

FOR MATERIAL RELATIVE TO THIS FILE

SEE: POLICY MATTERS: THE BLOCKADE

MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARD HALTING PERSECUTION: APPROACHES TO OFFENDING GOVERNMENTS (THE GERMANS)

AUG 16 1944

Dear Mr. Quick:

The British and American blockade authorities have recently authorized the shipment of 300,000 food parcels from this country to the International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland, for distribution by the International Red Cross to unassimilated persons in concentration camps in enemy-occupied Europe. In view of the dire need of the people who will benefit by this program, it is imperative to arrange for the immediate dispatch of as many packages as possible.

The American Red Cross has advised the War Refugee Board that shipping space will be available within the next thirty days for 15,000 3-kilogram packages for this program. As agent of the War Refugee Board, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, has arranged for the purchase of 5,000 food packages from Prince Company, 568 Broadway, New York, and 10,000 packages from Wallace, Burton, and Davis Company, 490-506 Greenwich Street, New York. These 15,000 packages will be delivered to the American Red Cross who, as agent of the War Refugee Board, will ship the packages to the International Red Cross.

The 5,000 packages being purchased from Prince Company will contain ¼ lb. of cheese each and the 10,000 packages being purchased from Wallace, Burton, and Davis Company, will contain 8 oz. of cheese each. It is understood that 100,000 red points will be needed for the aforementioned quantity of cheese. In addition, the 10,000 packages from Wallace, Burton, and Davis Company will contain 10,000 lbs. of sugar, for which it is understood 2,000 sugar coupons are needed. It will be

0 0 0 1 6 1

appreciated if you will arrange at once for the delivery of 100,000 red points and 2,000 sugar coupons to the War Refugee Board for these very important purchases.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Charles Quick, Chief Counsel,
Sugar Rationing Division,
Office of Price Administration,
2126 Federal Office Building I,
Washington, D. C.

FH:jth 8/15/44

000162

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BJR

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

August 3, 1944

2 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 6
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

[redacted]

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON,

6121

Minister Harrison at Bern, in telegram of July 29, supports proposal made by WRB representative (reference penultimate paragraph Department's 6035, July 31) that exceptional permission be granted to distribution of at least part of salvaged Christina cargo to concentration camps by Intercross in form of individual parcels. He emphasizes that decision must be reached in near future since after end of September these goods will not be suitable for consumption.

STETTINIUS
Acting
(EDK)

800.142/7-2944

SWP:EDK:EHJ 8-1-44 WRB S/CR

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

NEW YORK
Herald Tribune
AUG 2 1944

Refugee Food Pact Reached

Allies to Permit Extra Supplies to Neutrals Taking Children

LONDON, Aug. 1 (AP).—Britain and the United States have promised "certain neutral governments" permission to import extra food supplies over blockade quotas if they agree to receive child refugees from enemy-occupied countries, the House of Commons was informed today.

Dingle MacIntosh Foot, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Economic Warfare, said Britain had received through the International Red Cross a promise from Hungarian Regent Admiral Nicholas Horthy to permit Jewish children to leave Hungary if neutrals would accept them.

000164

JUL 25 1944

Dear Mr. Allen:

Reference is made to our meeting of July 20, 1944. You will recall that I advised you that recent discussions between Mr. Dingle M. Foot, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Warfare, and representatives of State, Foreign Economic Administration, and War Refugee Board, resulted in an agreement to permit the shipment from this country of 100,000 standard food parcels per month for a three-month period. These packages will be consigned to the International Committee of the Red Cross for distribution exclusively to unassimilated persons in camps in enemy Europe. Distribution, of course, is contingent upon German acquiescence to certain specific guarantees. This proposal has been presented by the American and British missions in Switzerland to the International Committee and we are momentarily awaiting their answer.

Anticipating an affirmative reply from the International Committee, we are desirous of making the necessary advance arrangements. Because most of the persons who will be the ultimate beneficiaries of this distribution are in dire distress, having had little or nothing in the way of relief since the outbreak of war, we are hopeful that the parcels can be packed and shipped promptly. As you may know, we are not an operating agency and have neither the facilities to undertake such a project nor the desire to duplicate existing facilities. It is my understanding that the American National Red Cross will be willing to undertake this packaging and shipping for the Board. Further, it is my understanding that the American National Red Cross will not interpose any objection to our approaching the Bureau of the Budget with a view to the allocation of $1,125,000 from the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act to cover the cost of packing and shipping these 300,000 food parcels. It will be helpful in our approach to the Bureau of the Budget if you will see fit to confirm these understandings at your earliest possible convenience.

I wish to express my appreciation to you and Mr. Pate for meeting with us the other day and for your helpfulness in the solution of this problem.

Very truly yours,

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

Mr. Richard F. Allen, Chairman
Insular and Foreign Operations
American National Red Cross
Washington, D. C.

O.J.M.
PJMcCormack:ar 7/24/44 JH

000183

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

BAS
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency [redacted]

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.

July 31, 1944

9 p.m. [redacted] (SC-00)

CONTROL COPY

AMEMBASSY,
LONDON.

6003 x

From Department, FEA, and FRB for EWD.

We have been informed by the Legation at Bern of the response made by the International Red Cross Committee to the joint approach made on July 4 by American and British representatives in regard to the possible implementation of the section of the Berle-Foot agreement concerning the distribution of food parcels in concentration camps in enemy Europe (reference Embassy's 5003, June 23, Department's 5013, June 24 and Department's air mail instruction 4254, June 26).

Our information is substantially the same as that conveyed to MEW in Bern's telegram 2865, July 8, copy of which has been received by Department from the British Embassy, Washington. In addition, however, we are informed that Germans will accept for delivery to concentration camps parcels up to a maximum weight of three kilos only whether containing food or clothing. Moreover, parcels must not bear national Red Cross markings although it appears that IRCC can affix its label to otherwise plain parcels.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)
1944 AUG 2 AM 10 47

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

000 169

It is recognized that the IRCC alternative proposal is substantially the same as the plan they have advanced in the past for effecting delivery of parcels to concentration camps. Obviously, this method is far less satisfactory on economic warfare grounds than the one set forth in the Berle-Foot agreement, in that offers considerably less definite assurance that the addressees actually will receive and retain the parcels. IRCC, however, claims to have had very good success in obtaining signed receipts and seems to be satisfied that the addressees actually benefit from the parcels for which they sign receipts.

At this juncture, however, we believe that the economic warfare considerations which heretofore have precluded us from making packages available to IRCC for distribution under their plan should largely be waived, in view of the humanitarian and political considerations involved. The amount of food which might fall into enemy hands could not affect the outcome of the war nor prolong it and the desperate situation of the people held in these camps makes it increasingly necessary that an effort be made to give them some assistance even though we may not have ironclad guarantees of 100 percent receipt by the intended beneficiaries. We propose, therefore, that blockade authorization be granted for the shipment of 300,000 specially prepared three-kilo food parcels

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to the IRCC for distribution on a trial basis by it under their plan communicated in telegram 2865, July 8, from British Legation, Bern, to MEW. Transportation, of course, presents a serious problem but we would hope that such parcels could be sent via the northern route which we are attempting to establish for the shipment of prisoner of war supplies.

WRB representative at Geneva has inquired whether usable food items from Christina cargo could be turned over to IRCC for packaging by latter into three-kilo parcels and forwarding under above-mentioned plan to individual addressees in camps selected by IRCC. If blockade authorities agree in principle to IRCC plan referred to above, we assume that there would be no objection to the utilization of salvaged Christina cargo as proposed by WRB representative. Urgent action required in view of necessity for early consumption these items in order to avoid loss by spoilage.

Please present this matter to the Relief Sub-Committee as soon as possible and endeavor to obtain a favorable reply.

STETTINIUS
Acting
(JHK)

SWREDK:EHJ 7-28-44 S/CR EH

(Approved by Mr. Pehle, WRB, 7/26) and 7/29

S/CR

FEA -Approved
(See letter dated July 29 attached.)

000168

2 - Near Ref. Bd
Mr. Pehle

CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

TO: American Embassy, London

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: July 21, 1944

NUMBER: 5709

[redacted]

War Refugee Board sends this message to Ambassador Winant, London.

Please deliver the following message to Barou and Easterman, 55 New Cavendish Street, London, W.I, from Dr. Kubowitski, World Jewish Congress:

Joint Relief Committee in London has recently approached International Committee of Red Cross with a proposal for shipment through blockade of food parcels for distribution under Red Cross supervision to refugees in internment campo. FEA has felt heretofore that Intercross has not had adequate staff to insure proper distribution in Axis-Europe. It is requested that you follow developments of this project and assist where possible to insure success of this matter.

HULL

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

000169

5709

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Barou and Hasterman, 55 New Cavendish Street, London, W.1, from Dr. Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress:

"Foreign Economic Administration discussing with British supplying relief through blockade. It appears that personnel of Intercross in Axis Europe has been too limited for adequately supervising distribution. Are asked whether can help this respect. Are also requested get from Intercross specific assurances on method supervision in order to insure reaching addressees including statement of number supervising personnel and where and how they would operate."

2:45 p.m.
July 11, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

copy sent to WJC 7/11/44 db

FH:db 7/8/44

000170

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 174-4

July 5, 1944

In reply refer
to: No. 134

cable prepared 7/8
FH/lb

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I would be extremely obliged to you for sending, through the facilities of the State Department, the following cable to Dr. Gerhart Riegner of our Geneva Office.

"To: Dr. Gerhart Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva. From: Dr. Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York.

Foreign Economic Administration discussing with British supplying relief through blockade. It appears that personnel of Inter ~~Red~~ Cross in Axis Europe has been too limited for adequately supervising distribution. Are asked whether can help this respect. Are also requested get from Inter ~~Red~~ Cross specific assurances on method supervision in order to insure reaching addressees including statement of number supervising personnel and where and how they would operate."

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Sincerely yours

A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

00171

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

July 5, 1944

cable prepared 7/8/44
FH/dk

In reply refer
to: No. 133

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I would be extremely obliged to you for sending, through the facilities of the State Department, the following cable to Messrs. Barou and Easterman, secretaries of our British Section.

"To: Barou and Easterman, 55 New Cavendish Street, London ~~W1~~. From: Dr. Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York.

W.1.

Foreign Economic Administration discussing with British supplying relief through blockade. It appears that personnel of Inter ~~Red~~ Cross in Axis Europe has been too limited for adequately supervising distribution. Are asked whether can help this respect. Are also requested get from Inter ~~Red~~ Cross specific assurances on method supervision in order to insure reaching addressees including statement of number supervising personnel and where and how they would operate."

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Sincerely yours

A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

00172

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

File
JH

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

July 6, 1944

In reply refer
to: No. 141

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I call your attention to the attached letter which my assistant, Mr. Kurt Grossman, received from Dr. Neuberger, Chairman of our Yugoslav Committee.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain

Sincerely yours

Leon Kubowitzki

A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef
Enc.

7/19/44
Discussed with Kubowitzki
& Spiegler
pt

000173

We found in the bulletin "Red Cross International Review", No. 291, March 1945, Page 153 the following

"Delegation In Croatia"

During the mission that Dr. Schirmer accomplished in Croatia, the Croatian Gov't manifested its intention to adhere to the Convention of July 27, 1929, relative to the treatment of prisoners of war and adopted equality for civilian internees at the end of that convention. The Croatian Government accepted equality of communication of news to civilian internees, favoring the shipment of packages that are destined to them & authorization of a delegate of the International Committee to exercise his power in Croatia.

During the course (?) of business procedure, the designation of Monsieur Julius Schmidlin as delegate of the International Committee to Zagreb, was received, under date of February 8, by agreement of the Independent State of Croatia.

000174

COPY

YUGOSLAV JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE
affiliated with the
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
381 Fourth Avenue • New York 16, N.Y.

June 26, 1944

Mr. Kurt Grossman
World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York 25, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Referring to our telephone conversation, I wish to inform you of the following in the matter of sending parcels to the inmates of the Concentration Camps in Croatia:

I received a letter from the Yugoslav Delegate of the Red Cross, Minister Dr. Soubbotich, in which he advises me that the assertion of the State Department or American Red Cross that the internees "are neither assimilated to prisoners of war nor are they bona fide civilian internees; even if visits and supervision and control over distribution of supplies were permitted, the regulations and restrictions governing the camp would not permit International Red Cross to make proper adequate visits or to effect equally proper effective supervision and control over distribution of supplies as that accorded prisoners of war or bona fide civilian internees."

He found in the bulletin, "Revue Internationale de la Croix Rouge", No. 291, March 1943, Page 183 the following: "Delegation en Croatia.- A la suite de la mission que le Dr. Schirmer a accomplie en Croatie, le Gouvernement croate a manifeste son intention d'adherer a la Convention du 27 juillet 1929 relative au traitement des prisonniers de guerre et d'adopter a l'egard des internes civils les dispositions de cette convention. Le Gouvernement croate a accepte egalement de communiquer des nouvel les des internes civils, de favoriser l'acheminement des paquets qui leur sont destines et d'autoriser un delegue du Comite international a exercer son activite en Croatie.

"A la suite des demerches precedemment enterprises, la designation de M. Julius SCHMIDLIN comme delegue du Comite international a Zagreb a recu, en date 8 fevrier, l'agrement du Gouvernement de l'Etat independant croate".

Minister Soubbotich informed the Yugoslav Embassy in Washington and in London about these facts.

I hope you can use this information in your conversations with the War Refugee Board.

Expecting your early reply, I am

Sincerely yours
(signed)
Dr. Paul Neuberger

PN:CR
ef

000178

File
JH

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

July 5, 1944

In reply refer
to: No. 132

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I call your attention to the attached copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Leo T. Crowley to Dr. Goldmann?

Mr. Crowley suggests that we should take up with the War Refugee Board the question of the possibility of securing a release of the Red Cross food parcels which are in Switzerland for distribution to Jewish internees in segregation centers.

I would be extremely obliged to you for letting me know your views on this question.

May I observe that according to the June 1, 1944 issue of the "Prisoners of War Bulletin" published by the American National Red Cross, it is Lieutenant Louis S. Means' opinion that over a million Red Cross food packages are held in Geneva "with more arriving all the time" (page 4).

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain

Sincerely yours

Leon Kubowitzki

A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:ef
Enc.

7/19/44
Discussed with Kubowitzki & Spiegler
JH

34

000176

FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

COPY

June 26, 1944

Mr. Nahum Goldmann
World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Goldmann:

Thank you for the memorandum which you left with me on June 6. You may be sure that I have every sympathy with your cause and will do what I can to see that food parcels are made available to the Jews in Axis Europe whom you are attempting to help.

The problem is one first of supply, and second of making sure that the supplies permitted to go through the blockade will in fact reach the persons for whom they are intended.

So far as supplies are concerned, I am informed that there are practically no unobligated stocks of American Red Cross food parcels in Switzerland at the present time, and that such stocks as are now held at Geneva belong principally to the United States War Department and are destined for distribution to American prisoners of war and American civilian internees in German custody. If you wish to ascertain the possibility of securing a release of these food parcels for distribution to persons in concentration camps, I would suggest that you take the matter up with the War Refugee Board.

So far as blockade is concerned, we are presently discussing with the British the matter of supplying relief through the blockade and have reached an agreement which we hope will permit at least experimental shipments under the supervision of the International Red Cross. Such shipments if made would be subject to check after distribution, and the present likelihood is that continued shipments would depend upon satisfactory evidence to the blockade authorities that the initial shipments had been properly distributed.

One great difficulty heretofore has been that the personnel of International Red Cross in Axis Europe has been far too limited to permit adequate supervision of distribution. It may be that the World Jewish Congress can help them in this respect. Your memorandum indicates that food parcels dispatched from Portugal are said to reach their destination in Polish ghettos. If you can get from International Red Cross specific assurances as to how the proposed shipments would be supervised in order to insure their reaching the persons for whom they are intended, including a statement of the number of supervising personnel and where and how they would operate, this would be of great help to me in discussing your proposal with the Anglo-American blockade authorities. It would also be helpful to get from you an estimate of the number of people whom you hope to help this way.

Sincerely yours

(signed)

Leo T. Crowley
Administrator

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
SWP

June 29, 1944

[redacted]

My dear Miss Hodel:

There is enclosed for your records a copy of the Department's instruction no. 4234 dated June 26, 1944 to the American Embassy at London, which was cleared by you before it was forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred D. Kuppinger
Eldred D. Kuppinger
Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

No. 4234 to London,
June 26, 1944.

Miss Florence Hodel,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

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

000178

June 26, 1944

No. X 4234

[redacted]

To the Officer in Charge of the American Mission,

London.

The Secretary of State encloses for the information and guidance of the American members of the Relief Sub-Committee of the Joint Blockade Committee copies of a letter dated June 13, 1944 from Mr. Dingle M. Foot to Mr. Berle and Mr. Berle's reply, together with a copy of a memorandum dated June 12 which sets forth in greater detail the relief measures agreed to in conversations between Mr. Foot and representatives of the Department, the Foreign Economic Administration, and the War Refugee Board.

With reference to sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 1 of the memorandum it is suggested that the Relief Sub-committee request the International Red Cross immediately to approach the German authorities to ascertain whether

(a) The German authorities will, in principle, permit the International Red Cross to distribute food parcels and clothing parcels under the conditions set forth in Mr. Foot's letter in all camps in German-controlled Europe wherein are confined persons not assimilated to the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention,

(b) The German authorities will permit the immediate distribution of food parcels by the International Red Cross under the conditions set forth in Mr. Foot's letter in the following camps:

Belsenbergen	Stara Gradiska
Bergan	Gred Jani-Salis
Birkenau	Sachsenhausen
Sarvar	Oranienburg
Theresienstadt	Buechenwald
Drancy	Dachau
Tost or Dost	Ravensbrueck
Josenorac	Auschwitz

The War Refugee Board has ascertained that the need is particularly acute in the above-named camps and therefore it is hoped that they can be given priority.

(c) The

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

000179

(c) The German authorities would interpose any objection to the distribution of food parcels imprinted in the same manner as those which are distributed to prisoners of war and civilians assimilated to that status under the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention.

It is hoped that the International Red Cross will find it possible to make this approach to the German authorities on a most urgent basis. The Department should be informed by telegraph of the results of this approach.

The American Legation at Stockholm is being informed by the Department of the increased authorization mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 of the memorandum. It is assumed that the British Government is forwarding a similar communication to the British Legation at Stockholm.

Separate instructions will be forwarded to the Embassy in regard to the relief measure mentioned in sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 1 of the memorandum.

Enclosures:

1. From Mr. Dingle M. Foot, June 13, 1944.
2. To Mr. Foot, June 14, 1944.
3. Memorandum of June 12.

000188

CONTROL COPY

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: Amlegation, Bern

DATED: June 28, 1944

NUMBER: 2198

[redacted]

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Re your 1366, March 6, 2031, April 1, 3877, June 17, and our 1845, May 27, and our 2102, June 19. Discussions here between Dingle M. Foot (MEW), Department, WRB and FEA have resulted in agreement to an experimental program of relief to persons in concentration and refugee camps enemy Europe for distribution by Intercross subject to distribution guarantees. Agreement calls for shipments of 100,000 standard food parcels monthly for three months to Intercross for distribution in such camps to be selected after consultation with Intercross. Agreement reads in part, QUOTE Relief foodstuffs may be despatched through blockade to such camps provided following guarantees are observed: (a) The goods are to be packed suitably for individual distribution: (b) Intercross will undertake to distribute such packages personally by their delegates; (c) Delegates will make subsequent visits to ensure that the goods have been used by those for whom they were intended; (d) reports will be required from Intercross after such consignment and as a condition of further shipments; (e) The distribution will be limited to persons confined in camps. UNQUOTE If the foregoing conditions are observed and we are satisfied that the packages have reached the persons for whom they are intended, the two Governments will be prepared, subject to supply and shipping considerations, to extend the system to other internment camps in enemy Europe.

Question of adding clothing to food consignments will be considered after scheme has become operative with reference to effective supervision and control established these camps by Intercross. Intercross will be asked to report on state of clothing needs in camps to which food will be delivered. In anticipation of conducting an experiment in supply of clothing, arrangements will promptly be made here for procuring the equivalent of 25,000 clothing parcels.

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

Via airmail

Via airmail Department has asked the Relief Subcommittee of the Joint Blockade Committee to request Intercross immediately to approach German authorities to ascertain whether (a) the German authorities will, in principle, permit Intercross to distribute food parcels and clothing parcels under the condition set forth above in all camps in German-controlled Europe wherein are confined persons not assimilated to the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention, (b) the German authorities will permit the immediate distribution of food parcels by Intercross under the conditions set forth above in the following camps:

Auschwitz
Buechenwald
Dachau
Ravensbrueck
Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg
Belsenbergen
Bergau
Birkenau
Sarvar
Theresienstadt
Drancy
Tost or Dost
Josenorac
Stara Gradiska
Gred Jani-Salis

You are requested to follow this matter closely upon receipt by Intercross of Joint Blockade Committee proposal. Please report date of receipt by Intercross and any developments during period proposal under Intercross consideration. We are extremely interested any suggestion you may wish to make regarding matter.

HULL

000183

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Re your 1366, March 6, 2031, April 1, 3877, June 17, and our 1845, May 27, and our 2102, June 19. Discussions here between Dingle M. Foot (MEW), Department, WRB and FEA have resulted in agreement to an experimental program of relief to persons in concentration and refugee camps enemy Europe for distribution by Intercross subject to distribution guarantees. Agreement calls for shipments of 100,000 standard food parcels monthly for three months to Intercross for distribution in such camps to be selected after consultation with Intercross. Agreement reads in part, QUOTE Relief foodstuffs may be despatched through blockade to such camps provided following guarantees are observed; (a) The goods are to be packed suitably for individual distribution; (b) Intercross will undertake to distribute such packages personally by their delegates; (c) Delegates will make subsequent visits to ensure that the goods have been used by those for whom they were intended; (d) Reports will be required from Intercross after each consignment and as a condition of further shipments; (e) The distribution will be limited to persons confined in camps. UNQUOTE If the foregoing conditions are observed and we are reasonably satisfied that the packages have reached the persons for whom they were intended, we will be prepared, subject to supply and shipping considerations, to extend the system to other internment camps enemy Europe.

Question of adding clothing to food consignments will be considered after scheme has become operative with reference to effective supervision and control established these camps by Intercross. Intercross will be asked to report on state of clothing needs in camps to which food will be delivered. In anticipation of conducting an experiment in supply of clothing, arrangements will promptly be made here for procuring the equivalent of 25,000 clothing parcels.

Via airmail Department has asked the Relief Subcommittee of the Joint Blockade Committee to request Intercross immediately to approach German authorities to ascertain whether (a) the German authorities will, in principle, permit Intercross to distribute food parcels and clothing parcels under the conditions set forth above in all camps in German-controlled Europe wherein are confined persons not assimilated to the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention, (b) the German authorities will permit the immediate distribution of food parcels by Intercross under the conditions set forth above in the following camps:

Auschwitz
Buechenwald
Dachau
Ravensbrueck
Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg
Belsenbergen
Bergau

000183

Birkenau
Sarvar
Theresienstadt
Drancy
Tost or Dost
Josenorac
Stara Gradiska
Gred Jani-Salis

You are requested to follow this matter closely upon receipt by Intercross of Joint Blockade Committee proposal. Please report date of receipt by Intercross and any developments during period proposal under Intercross consideration. We are extremely interested any suggestion you may wish to make regarding matter. It should be remembered that distribution guarantees as outlined necessarily represent goals to be attained, but in interest broad humanitarian aspects of such a significant undertaking reasonable satisfaction this direction acceptable.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 54 .

****
June 22, 1944
12:20 p.m.

PJM
PJMcCormack:ar
FH
Cleared with Mrs. Pehle

000184

MRS. KLOTZ: June 22, 1944

I would appreciate it if you would have the attached memorandum transmitted to the President pursuant to the Secretary's suggestion. If convenient, you might show it to the Secretary first.

J. W. Pehle

000185

JUN 22 1944

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

For your [redacted] information

I should like to call your attention to some recent developments with respect to sending food to some of the unfortunate victims of Nazi terror now in internment camps in enemy Europe.

We have just worked out in personal conversations with Mr. Dingle M. Foot, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, a program under which the British and American blockade authorities will permit the shipment from the Western Hemisphere of 100,000 standard food parcels (550 tons) a month for three months to be distributed by the International Red Cross to persons in European internment camps. It is understood that this three months' project is only an experiment, and, if successful, it is contemplated that this system of relief will be extended considerably. Since time is of the essence, steps have been taken to get the initial program under way at once.

In addition to the foregoing, the blockade authorities have agreed to permit the distribution by the International Red Cross to persons interned in Southern France of certain foodstuffs still fit for human consumption salvaged from the cargo of the "S. S. Christina," now at Cette, France. The food supplies in question are contained in 315,120 food parcels which were destined originally for distribution to Belgian and French prisoners of war. Negotiations with the French, the Belgians and the International Red Cross have commenced and it is hoped that all arrangements will be completed soon. The War Refugee Board is doing everything it can to expedite this relief measure and has indicated that it will arrange for any financing that may be necessary.

We are very encouraged by these developments and hope they are only a beginning. At this stage, sustaining the lives of these unfortunate people may be quite as important as attempting to rescue them from enemy territory.

[Signed J. W. Pehle

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

FH:lab 6/22/44

000186

JUN 22 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In the event that it has not already come to your attention, I should like to advise you of a significant and very encouraging development with respect to transblockade shipments of food for civilians in internment camps in enemy Europe.

Following recent discussions we had with Dingle M. Foot, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, an agreement has been reached with the British to permit the shipment of 100,000 food parcels (550 tons) a month for three months for distribution by the International Red Cross to persons in internment camps. Assurances will be required from the International Red Cross as to distribution to intended beneficiaries, adequate supervision to insure no benefit to the enemy and reports on the delivery of all consignments.

The British originally proposed that the program be limited to detained persons in what was formerly unoccupied France. However, upon my insistence, it was agreed not to so limit the program and to permit the proposed distribution to any internment camps in Europe selected by the International Red Cross. It is understood that this three months' program is only an experiment, and, if successful, it is contemplated that this system of relief will be extended considerably.

In addition to the foregoing, the blockade authorities have also agreed to permit the distribution of certain foodstuffs which are still suitable for human consumption salvaged from the cargo of the "S.S. Christina" now in Cette, France, to persons in refugee and concentration camps in southern France. These foodstuffs are contained in 315,120 food parcels belonging to the Belgians and French which were originally destined for distribution to Belgian and French prisoners of war. Negotiations with the French, the Belgians and the International Red Cross have commenced, and it is hoped that we can get this project under way at once. We have indicated that the War Refugee Board will arrange for any financing that may be necessary.

000187

I hope that these significant developments are only a beginning and that we may look forward to a broader program designed to sustain the lives of the people we are trying to save.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

Original signed by J. W. Pehle

FH:lab 6/19/44

000188

JUN 2 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I should like to advise you of a significant and very encouraging development with respect to transblockade shipments of food for civilians in internment camps in enemy Europe.

Following recent discussions we had with Dingle M. Foot, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, an agreement has been reached with the British to permit the shipment of 100,000 food parcels (550 tons) a month for three months for distribution by the International Red Cross to persons in internment camps. Assurances will be required from the International Red Cross as to distribution to intended beneficiaries, adequate supervision to insure no benefit to the enemy and reports on the delivery of all consignments.

The British originally proposed that the program be limited to detained persons in what was formerly unoccupied France. However, upon my insistence, it was agreed not to so limit the program and to permit the proposed distribution to any internment camps in Europe selected by the International Red Cross. It is understood that this three months' program is only an experiment, and, if successful, it is contemplated that this system of relief will be extended considerably.

In addition to the foregoing, the blockade authorities have also agreed to permit the distribution of certain foodstuffs which are still suitable for human consumption salvaged from the cargo of the "S.S. Christina" now in Cette, France, to persons in refugee and concentration camps in southern France. These foodstuffs are contained in 315,120 food parcels belonging to the Belgians and French which were originally destined for distribution to Belgian and French prisoners of war. Negotiations with the French, the Belgians and the International Red Cross have commenced, and it is hoped that we can get this project under way at once. We have indicated that the War Refugee Board will arrange for any financing that may be necessary.

000189

I hope that these significant developments are only a beginning and that we may look forward to a broader program designed to sustain the lives of the people we are trying to save.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Original sgd. by J. W. Pehle

FH:lab 6/22/44

JUN 20 1944

Dear Riefler:

Reference is made to Mr. Foot's recent letter to Mr. Berle and to the memorandum agreed to by representatives of this Government and the British Government, concerning certain proposals to bring relief to unassimilated persons detained in camps in enemy Europe. It is noted that the implementation of the three measures specified in Paragraph 1 of the memorandum will be the responsibility of the Relief Sub-Committee of the Blockade Committee, on which you are the United States representative.

The War Refugee Board understands that, in carrying out your duties in this respect, you will bear in mind the determined policy of our Government to save as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe. Since time is of the essence in our attempt to rescue and sustain the lives of these people, the humanitarian considerations should be regarded as paramount. Accordingly, I am convinced that you should look for no more than reasonable satisfaction of any conditions specified in the relief programs which have now been approved, and I am relying on you to push this matter forward with all possible speed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Winfield Riefler,
c/o American Embassy,
London, England.

Original signed by Mr. Pehle

FH:JWP:lab 6/16/44

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: AMEMBASSY, London

DATED: June 19, 1944

NUMBER: 4829

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

See your 4681, June 10.

In principle we are in agreement to the disposition of the cargo of the Christina as proposed in the reference above. Title to packages of food in the cargo, however, is in the French Committee and the Government of Belgium. Algiers is being requested to ascertain whether the Committee is agreeable to the distribution in the camps in the south of France of the part of the cargo which is salvable; whether for this use it would be ready to make a donation of such materials to Intercross; should the Committee not be agreeable to making such donation, whether at a value to be ascertained by Intercross the Committee would be agreeable to the sale of such materials.

Concerning the part of the cargo to which the Belgian Government has title, the Belgian representative in New York for prisoner of war relief, du Parc, has in substantially the same sense wired the Government of Belgium in London. Will you indicate to the proper Belgian officials our desire to make arrangements for the prompt disposition of these materials since even that part which is now fit for human consumption may spoil quickly.

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

000192

The understanding is that du Parc has made the suggestion that the Government of Belgium donate the materials to Intercross with the provision that the Government of Belgium be freed of responsibility regarding costs of salvage. Arrangements will be made by the War Refugee Board for the utilization of materials in French camps and if required for the necessary financing. However, there should be made no commitment along that line. The suggested solution which du Parc has made probably would be agreeable provided that costs of salvage were not in excess of the value of the items which could be used. The Government of Belgium, should that be the case, would be expected to pay the difference between the costs of salvage and the reasonable value as ascertained by Intercross.

HULL

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~~RESTRICTED~~

US URGENT

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON.

FROM DEPARTMENT AND FEA FOR EWD.

We are agreeable in principle to disposition Christina cargo as proposed your 4681, June 10. However, title to food packages in the cargo is in Belgian Government and French Committee. Inquiry is being made of Algiers to determine (a) whether Committee is willing for salvageable portion of cargo owned by it to be distributed in camps in southern France, (b) whether it would be prepared to donate such supplies to Intercross for this use, and (c) if not willing to make a donation, whether Committee would agree to sale of such supplies at a value to be determined by Intercross.

As regards Belgian portion of cargo, du Parc, Belgian representative in New York for prisoner of war relief, has telegraphed Belgian Government in London in substantially the same sense. Please indicate to appropriate Belgian authorities our desire to arrange for immediate disposition of these supplies since even that portion which is now suitable for human consumption may deteriorate rapidly.

000199

It is understood that du Parc has suggested that Belgian Government donate the supplies to Intercross provided Belgian Government freed of responsibility in connection with salvage costs. War Refugee Board may be interested in arranging for use of supplies in French camps and for the necessary financing if that is necessary. No commitment in that regard, however, should be made. Solution suggested by du Parc probably would be agreeable provided salvage costs did not exceed value of useable items. Should that be the case, Belgian Government would be expected to pay difference between reasonable value as determined by Intercross and salvage costs.

HULL

Cleared with FEA (Kiaer).

000193

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

PLAIN

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

June 19, 1944

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

2102 nineteenth

FOR CONSUL, GENEVA.

QUOTE Please take up following matter with Intercross:

The cargo of the S.S. Christina which recently had to be beached near Cette has been salvaged and is now understood to be in the custody of Intercross representative at Cette. While the extent of damage to the cargo is as yet not known by the American authorities, it is presumed to be such that the cargo and particularly the prisoner of war food packages included therein are not in a suitable condition for forwarding to Geneva and for distribution to prisoners of war. The blockade authorities are agreeable to the distribution of the food items in the packages still suitable for human consumption by Intercross in refugee and concentration camps in southern France if Intercross can obtain from the German authorities the following assurances: (1) that Intercross delegates may supervise the distribution of these supplies in the camps and (2) that within a reasonable period, not to exceed a month, following distribution Intercross delegates may visit the camps to verify the correct use of the supplies.

000196

Efforts are now being made to arrange to turn over without cost to Intercross that portion of the food supplies in the cargo which is still fit for human use. It is suggested that Intercross approach the German authorities to determine whether, if the necessary arrangements can be made in other respects, Intercross will be in a position to distribute the supplies.

Please request Intercross to inform American authorities through you whether German authorities will permit distribution to be made under the above-mentioned conditions should it prove possible to turn over such supplies to Intercross for this purpose. UNQUOTE.

HULL
(JHK)

Code Room: 4846

Please repeat to London, with preliminary paragraph as follows:

Legation, Bern, for Consul,

Following has been sent to Geneva, reference your 4681, June 10.

740.00116 European War 1939/10003

SWP:EDK:EHJ 6-15-44 WE BC EH WRB S/CR

Cleared with FEA (Kiaer)

000197

R - Clearwater 6/17/44

PLAIN

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

FOR CONSUL, GENEVA.

QUOTE Please take up following matter with Intercross:

The cargo of the S.S. Christina which recently had to be beached near Cette has been salvaged and is now understood to be in the custody of Intercross representative at Cette. While the extent of damage to the cargo is as yet not known by the American authorities, it is presumed to be such that the cargo and particularly the prisoner of war food packages included therein are not in a suitable condition for forwarding to Geneva and for distribution to prisoners of war. The blockade authorities are agreeable to the distribution of the food items in the packages still suitable for human consumption by Intercross in refugee and concentration camps in southern France if Intercross can obtain from the German authorities the following assurances: (1) that Intercross delegates may supervise the distribution of these supplies in the camps and (2) that within a reasonable period, not to exceed a month, following distribution Intercross delegates may visit the camps to verify the correct use of the supplies.

000198

Efforts are now being made to arrange to turn over without cost to Intercross that portion of the food supplies in the cargo which is still fit for human use. It is suggested that Intercross approach the German authorities to determine whether, if the necessary arrangements can be made in other respects, Intercross will be in a position to distribute the supplies.

Please request Intercross to inform American authorities through you whether German authorities will permit distribution to be made under the above-mentioned conditions should it prove possible to turn over such supplies to Intercross for this purpose. UNQUOTE.

HULL

Code Room:
Please repeat to London, with preliminary paragraph as follows:
Following has been sent to Legation, Bern, for Consul, Geneva, reference your 4681, June 10.

Cleared with FEA (Kiaer)

000198

PA. 'HRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVE

FROM: AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE, Algiers

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: June 19, 1944, 2 p.m.

NUMBER: 1925

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Will you on an urgent basis discuss in person the following subject with Frenay.

Title is held by the French Committee of National Liberation to 315,120 food parcels for prisoners of war. At the time that the Christina was recently beached near Cette these parcels were loaded on that ship. However salvage of these parcels and the remainder of the cargo has been made and at Cette they are now in Intercross custody. Determination as to the amount of damage to the cargo is being undertaken. Nevertheless, since a greater part of the cargo if not all of it is thought to have been under water for an unknown period, the assumption is made that the food parcels are now not fit for human consumption with the possible exception of food which had been sealed in airtight tin containers. The opinion is that the cargo is not in a condition suitable for transmission to Geneva for distribution to war prisoners. However, it is hoped that a portion of the food supplies can be used otherwise. In order to avoid additional deterioration, prompt disposition would appear to be necessary. It is agreed by blockade officials that Intercross may distribute items still suitable for human consumption in concentration and refugee camps in the south of

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

00208

France provided satisfactory assurances can be secured concerning distribution.

Will you promptly determine and advise the Department as to whether (a) the Committee is in accord with the use as mentioned above of salvable supplies to which it has title, (b) it would be ready to make a donation of such supplies to Intercross for this purpose, (c) it would agree to sell such of these supplies as are fit for human consumption at a price to be estimated by Intercross, should it not be agreeable to making such donation.

Should the Committee be willing to sell but not willing to donate these supplies, you have permission in your discretion to state that for the financing necessary for such a sale arrangements will be made by the War Refugee Board. However in this connection you are not in a position to make a definite offer and you are given authorization only to ask as to whether the Committee would be agreeable to selling on the above-mentioned terms.

Like inquiry is being made of the Belgian officials in London concerning that part of the cargo to which title is held by the Government of Belgium.

Of the above the French Delegation in Washington has been advised.

HULL

00020

Cleared with NCP 1/7/44

Charge Department

RESTRICTED

US URGENT

AMREP,

ALGIERS.

Please discuss personally with Frenay on an urgent basis the following matter.

The French Committee of National Liberation has title to 315,120 prisoner of war food parcels which were aboard the Christina when it had to be beached recently near Cette. This and the rest of the cargo has been salvaged and is now in Intercross custody at Cette. Efforts are being made to determine extent of damage to the cargo. However, since most if not all the cargo is believed to have been under water for an undetermined length of time, it is assumed that the contents of the food packages are now unfit for human consumption with the possible exception of food in hermetically sealed tins. The cargo is not believed to be in a suitable condition for forwarding to Geneva for distribution to prisoners of war. It is hoped, however, that a part of the food supplies can be otherwise utilized. Prompt disposition would seem necessary, to avoid further deterioration. Blockade authorities are agreeable to the distribution by Intercross of the items still suitable for human consumption in refugee and concentration camps in southern France if satisfactory assurances regarding distribution can be obtained.

Please

000202

Please ascertain and inform Department urgently whether (a) Committee is agreeable to the aforementioned use of salvageable supplies to which it has title, (b) whether it would be prepared to donate such supplies to Intercross for this use, (c) if not willing to make a donation, whether Committee would agree to the sale of such of these supplies as are fit for human consumption at a value to be determined by Intercross.

If Committee is not willing to make a donation of these supplies but is willing to sell, you may in your discretion state that War Refugee Board will arrange ~~may be interested in arranging~~ for the necessary financing of such a sale. You are, however, not in a position to make a definite offer in this connection and are authorized only to inquire whether Committee would be willing to sell on the terms mentioned above.

Similar inquiry is being made of Belgian authorities in London in respect of that portion of cargo to which Belgian Government has title.

French Delegation, Washington, informed of foregoing.

HULL

Cleared with FEA (Kiaer).

000203

J-War Refugee Bd-Pehle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: June 17, 1944

NUMBER: 3877

[redacted]

McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board

There follows strictly confidential information that has been secured in reply~~ing~~ to the questions in Department's cable dated May 27, No. 1845.

A. Yes; exclusively.

B. Auschwitz, Buechenwald, Dachau, Ravensbrueck and Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg are the principal concentration camps in Germany and German occupied territories to which packages can be sent with satisfactory guarantees of distribution.

ICRC will always be able to supply, for the relief to Jews, the name and location of larger camp, Ghetto or local Jewish Organization undertaking distribution in case of collective shipments of packages. In consultation with WRB representative, ICRC would forward packages only when it can secure the necessary guarantees.

From relatives and friends in Europe, ICRC and other relief organizations are constantly receiving names, addresses and numbers of prisoners, deportees, and political internees, both Jewish and non Jewish, located in a great many smaller camps

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000204

camps and places of detention.

At all times ICRC is prepared to present detailed evidence to representatives of the Allied blockade authorities of proper distribution of such packages.

(1) ICRC is in a position to forward roughly 20,000 individual parcels monthly for political prisoners in concentration camps and prisons. However, if French political deportees are included, this number of packages would have to be approximately ten times larger, as there are over 100,000 French deportees according to mimimum reliable estimates.

As provision should be made for coming difficult months, a reserve of several hundred thousand parcels containing clothing, shoes and food would not be disproportionate. We recommend that there be included a few hundred cases of cigarettes as they are absolutely invaluable in facilitating distribution of parcels in Germany and German occupied territories.

(2) The Resienstadt could alone absorb up to 80,000 parcels monthly at the rate of single parcel per person. It is interesting to note in this respect, that ICRC has received written permission from the Germans for one of their delegates to visit the Resienstadt this month.

Including the needs of Croatia, Poland and Hungary, several hundred thousand parcels more per month would be essential should sending of relief for Jews concentrated in that country become possible and necessary.

This

00028

This proposal is urgent as needs for both Jews and non Jews are increasing each month. Even now European overland transport difficulties may be such as to prevent supplies reaching Switzerland. On the other hand, should such a stockpile be built up in Switzerland, it would be invaluable for saving endangered lives both now and later. It could constitute an advanced UNRRA stock.

Please refer to Legation's message of April 1, No. 2071. The possibilities of purchasing foodstuffs in Europe, let alone clothing, are shrinking rapidly. Any purchases in the Balkans, hitherto the principal remaining source of food suitable for rescue work, now increasing liable to benefit the enemy directly by giving him foreign exchange.

We cannot too ~~strictly~~ strongly emphasize the desirability of general relief action on behalf of all persecuted and endangered groups irrespective of race, creed or nationality. ICRC is willing to undertake such a general program but restricting help mostly to Jews as hitherto the case insofar as the sending of WRB sponsored funds has been concerned, is liable to jeopardize this whole humanitarian effort. If funds are required, ICRC is informed that various Allied Governments in London and the French Committee of Liberation, Algiers, whose nationals are in Nazi hands, are prepared to contribute to this scheme generously.

(With respect to the British position on this subject, it is pointed out that at the present MEW is allowing sending of rescues to unassimilated groups in France in the notorious

internment

internment camp of Vernet, Ariege for instance. British position in general, however, has apparently not been favorable).

This dockile plan is recommended unequivocally by the Bern representative of WRB and he is convinced of the adequacy of distribution controls which ICRC offers and which are superior to those available for assimilated groups, in many cases.

HARRISON

000207

JUN 16 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

Mr. Pehle

I am sure that you will be glad to know that the blockade has at last been broken as to the feeding of civilians in internment camps in enemy Europe. Following recent discussions we had with Dingle M. Foot, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, an agreement has been reached with the British to permit the shipment of 100,000 food parcels a month for three months for distribution by the International Red Cross to persons in internment camps. In addition, and at our suggestion, it has also been agreed that 25,000 clothing parcels will be prepared for later distribution to these same people when certain further information has been obtained from the International Red Cross on the clothing situation in the camps. Of course, assurances will be required by the International Red Cross as to distribution to intended beneficiaries, adequate supervision to insure no benefit to the enemy and reports on the delivery of all consignments. We are, of course, pushing to get the program under way at once, now that the basic blockade policy decision has been made.

The British proposed that the program be limited to detained persons in what was formerly unoccupied France. Since such a limitation is obviously unreasonable, we insisted that the proposed measure not be so limited and that it apply to any internment camps in Europe selected by the International Red Cross. It is understood that this three months' program is only an experiment, and, if successful, it is contemplated that this system of relief will be extended considerably.

These developments are indeed significant and very encouraging, but it is hoped that they are only a beginning.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

FH:lab 6/16/44

000208

June 14, 1944

My dear Mr. Foot:

I am glad to have had the opportunity to discuss with you conditions concerning relief measures in enemy Europe.

Your letter of June 13 sets forth my understanding of the conclusions reached in our conversations.

I take this opportunity to note particularly the statement in the final paragraph of your letter of June 13 that these measures are without prejudice to the other measures for assistance to persons in the occupied countries, which are now under consideration by our two Governments. You are aware of the fact that for a considerable period of time the Government of the United States has taken the position that additional measures of relief could be made available to our friends in the occupied territories, and more particularly to children and pregnant women, through supervised shipment of supplies from outside the blockade area, and that our proposals for rendering such assistance are presently being considered by the British Government. I think it has been made plain during our conversations that we will continue to press for the adoption of such measures, and hope for favorable action thereon.

Sincerely yours,

Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

00020

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 13th 1944

Dear Mr. Berle:

During the past week I have had the opportunity of discussing with Mr. Stettinius and yourself the problem of relief in enemy-occupied Europe. This is to confirm the conclusions that we have reached.

The problem is how to render genuine assistance to our friends in the occupied countries without at the same time appreciably diminishing the effectiveness of the Blockade and thereby, directly or indirectly, assisting the enemy. We have also to bear in mind the needs of the territories concerned after liberation. If the Germans adopt everywhere, as they have already done in Italy, a policy of scorched earth the needs of these areas will be even greater than when they were occupied by the enemy and they will urgently require all the supplies which can be made available. It follows that for supply as well as for Blockade reasons any commitment into which we enter in relation to occupied territory must be of a limited character.

It is not easy to distinguish between degrees of hardship or to divide into precise categories all the victims of Nazi mis-rule. Undoubtedly, however, many of the most necessitous cases are to be found in civilian internment camps. The information available to our two Governments shows that, as a general rule, the inmates of these camps are far worse off than the population outside. The problem of sending relief to these camps has always been a difficult one since, unlike prisoners of war, the persons concerned have no protecting power and there is no system of inspection to ensure that they receive what is sent to them. As a result of our discussions however we are now agreed that an experiment should be made and that relief foodstuffs may be despatched through the Blockade to such camps provided that the following conditions are observed:

(a) The

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Berle, Jr.,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

0 0 0 2 1 0

(a) The goods are to be packed suitably for individual distribution;

(b) The I.R.C. will undertake to distribute such packages personally by their delegates;

(c) The delegates will make subsequent visits to ensure that the goods have been used by those for whom they were intended;

(d) Reports will be required from the I.R.C. after each consignment and as a condition of further shipments;

(e) The distribution will be limited to persons confined in camps.

Since it will not be possible immediately to send relief to all persons in internment camps, it is proposed to begin with certain camps to be selected after consultation with the I.R.C. If these experiments are a success - if, that is to say, the conditions are observed and we are fully satisfied that the food has reached the persons for whom it was intended - our two Governments will be prepared, subject to supply and shipping considerations, to extend the system to other internment camps in enemy Europe.

As regards the ordinary civilian populations of the occupied countries, and particularly the child populations, it has always been the view of our two Governments that relief consignments from inside the Blockade Area (i.e. originating in European neutral countries) were open to fewer objections from an economic warfare point of view than shipments through the Blockade. We are now agreed that the time has come when the volume of these consignments should, if possible, be substantially increased.

In the case of Norway, relief is administered by the Ditleif organization and takes the form of indigenous Swedish foodstuffs provided by donors in Sweden or, in certain cases, paid for by funds from outside Sweden. Under our existing arrangements with the Swedish Government such foodstuffs cannot be exported to enemy or enemy occupied territory without the express permission of our two Governments. In the past few months we have authorized our Missions in Stockholm to grant such permission, without reference back to Washington or London, up to a total

of.

00021

of 250 tons a month. We are now agreed that this authorization shall be increased to 500 tons a month.

The problem in other occupied countries is more difficult since, except in the case of France and Greece, there are no contiguous neutrals. Nevertheless, there has been a regular flow of relief foodstuffs, both in bulk and in the form of parcels, from Portugal to the various occupied countries, and from Switzerland. The Portuguese supplies have been paid for with exchange made available to the Allied Governments in London by our two Governments. The Swiss supplies have been partly so paid for and have partly represented gifts by Swiss nationals. The Swiss consignments have been directed mostly to Belgium, France and Yugoslavia. It is now agreed that we will at once examine how far we can bring about an increase in this flow of relief foodstuffs from Portugal and Switzerland and how far supplies can be made available from Spain.

Our two Governments will forthwith instruct their representative on the Blockade Committee to work out the details of the above proposals and to give effect to these proposals with the utmost possible despatch. It is understood that these measures are without prejudice to the other measures for assistance to persons in enemy occupied countries which are now under consideration by our two Governments.

Yours Sincerely,

/s/ Dingle M. Foot

000212

June 12, 1944

1. The United States Government and His Majesty's Government will take immediate steps to carry out the proposals contained in Mr. Foot's letter to Mr. Berle of 12 June. These include:

(a) The immediate despatch of relief to concentration and refugee camps in enemy Europe subject to the conditions set out in the letter. It is proposed experimentally to begin with certain camps to be selected after consultation with the International Red Cross. If the conditions are observed, the experiment will be extended. Initially, shipments of 100,000 food packages per month for three months, amounting to 550 tons monthly, are contemplated.

(b) An increase in the volume of relief consignments from Sweden to Norway, which may now be authorized by the United States and British Missions in Stockholm without reference back to Washington and London. The present maximum is 250 tons a month. This will be increased to 500 tons.

(c) An immediate examination of the possibility of increased relief consignments to the occupied countries from Switzerland, Portugal and Spain. In particular attention will be given to increasing supplies of milk and dairy products from Switzerland to Belgium and France. This proposal must of course be governed by the availability of Swiss, Portuguese and Spanish currencies, and is therefore subject to the approval of the United States and British Treasuries.

(d) The question of adding clothing to the food consignments under (a) will be considered after the scheme has come into operation with particular reference to the effectiveness of the supervision and control established in these camps by the International Red Cross. The International Red Cross will be asked to report on the state of clothing in camps to which food is being delivered and particularly on the quantities and quality of clothing made available to the internees under present conditions. In anticipation of conducting an experiment in the supply of clothing, arrangements will promptly be made for the procuring of 25,000 standard clothing parcels.

The

c/c Abrahamson, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], McCormack and [illegible]

000213

The implementation of the above measures will be the responsibility of the Relief Sub-Committee of the Blockade Committee, and the two Governments will forthwith give the necessary instructions to their representatives on the Committee.

In the first place supplies will be loaded as and when space is available on ships now carrying prisoner-of-war supplies. If the scheme develops to such an extent as to make extra shipping necessary an attempt will be made to obtain a Swedish ship or ships from the Baltic on the same terms as the Greek relief ships.

2. All practicable steps will be taken to further the schemes already under consideration for the reception in Sweden, Switzerland and Eire of children from enemy-occupied countries. The Swedish Government have already expressed their willingness to receive.

(a) children from Norway, and

(b) Jewish children from any part of German Europe, but are unwilling to make any further approach either to the German Government or to the Quisling Government of Norway. They have suggested that the necessary approaches should be made through the International Red Cross. They have now been asked whether they will themselves take this matter up with the International Red Cross, or whether they would prefer the Allies to do so.

3. The Swiss Government have expressed their willingness to receive up to 50,000 children in the course of a year without assistance from the Allies, and may be willing to receive more if additional imports through the blockade can be made available. They have received assurances on this point. The only difference that has so far arisen in the discussions on this matter is that the British and United States Governments insist that the children to be received in Switzerland shall be selected by a method which will preclude a preference being given to the children of Quisling parents. It is agreed that this matter will now be taken up with the Swiss Minister in Washington, who will be asked whether his Government are now prepared to approach the German Government, or whether they would prefer that in their case also, the necessary approach should be made by the International Red Cross.

4. The

000214

4. The Irish proposal was first raised unofficially with the Ministry of Economic Warfare towards the end of 1943. It was suggested that the Irish Red Cross should receive 500 children, preferably from France, who would remain in Eire until the end of the war. After consultation with the United States Government, the British Government informed the Irish authorities that there was no objection to this proposal, and that all necessary facilities regarding transportation from the Continent to Eire would be given. It is understood that the German Government were approached on this matter over three months ago, but that no answer has yet been received. The British Government will ascertain whether the Irish Government are prepared to renew this offer. (In this case the question of additional supplies through the Blockade is unlikely to arise.)

Nothing will be said in public about these evacuation schemes until the various approaches to the German Government, and if necessary to the Quisling Governments concerned, have taken place. Thereafter a reasonable period, say three weeks, will be allowed for the reply. If no reply has then been received, or if it is unfavourable, the facts will receive the utmost publicity.

5. Thereafter or at the same time an agreed statement will be issued simultaneously in Washington and London setting out the various measures which the two Governments have taken or attempted, to bring relief to persons in enemy-occupied territories. In particular, emphasis will be laid upon the following:

(a) The abortive scheme for the evacuation of Greek children, when preparations were actually made for the reception in India, Kenya and Tanganyika of at least 25,000 necessitous children from Athens and other Greek cities. This fell through because the consent of the Italian Government could not be obtained.

(b) The evacuation schemes mentioned above; i.e. to Sweden, Switzerland and Eire.

(c) The purchase and despatch inside the Blockade Area of foodstuffs from Sweden to Norway, from Switzerland to France and Belgium, from Turkey to Greece, and from Portugal to almost all the occupied territories. It

should

000213

should be emphasized that these consignments have for the most part been paid for by the Allied Governments in London, with funds made available by the British and American Governments.

(d) The fact that ever since 1940, a special quota of foodstuffs has been despatched to Switzerland over and above the normal Swiss quotas, ear-marked for Polish refugees.

(e) The fact that when the Danish Jews escaped to Sweden, the two Governments at once communicated with the Swedish Government offering to allow certain additional imports, which would not otherwise have been permitted to pass through the Blockade.

(f) The fact that medical supplies have never been treated as contraband and have, throughout the war, been permitted to pass through the Blockade.

(g) The recent decision to admit Vitamin D.

000216

FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 12, 1944

Dear John:

In answer to your memorandum of June 5 I have given the matter a push and I understand that Bill Stone will do everything he possibly can. Stone, however, feels that Inter-Cross is too understaffed to do the job well.

Sincerely yours,

Oscar Cox

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

00213

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Copy only

DSH-330
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. ([redacted]-0)

London

Dated June 10, 1944

Rec'd 6:50 a.m., 11th

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 1 9 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

[redacted]

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

4681, June 10, 9 p.m.

FOR DEPARTMENT AND FEA AND RIEFLER.

One. MEW suggests that salvaged cargo of SS CHRISTINA be distributed in internment camps in south of France if it is agreed to permit distribution of relief goods in these camps. (Reference Department's 4505, June 7). In this connection EWD has seen recent exchange of telegrams between British Embassy and MEW indicating that question of supplies for these French camps has been under discussion between Foote and Department. From these telegrams (British Embassy's ARFAR 1148, June 8 and MEWS 1264, June 9) it appears probable that relief shipments to these camps will be permitted if adequate IRC supervision can be assured. (Camps are those referred to in Embassy's A-376 of March 28).

Two. MEW's reason for suggesting that even undamaged goods be diverted to this use, rather than sent on to Geneva

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

00018

Geneva as you suggest, is that even assuming no further deterioration in transportation situation it will take approximately 90 days to clear from Marseilles prisoner of war supplies now in warehouses there.

Three. If proposal to allow relief to these camps is not agreed or if for other reasons this disposition of goods is not considered feasible, MEW wish opportunity to reconsider your proposal before further action is taken.

Four. Embassy would appreciate being informed of decision reached with respect to relief for camps in question.

WINANT

RB
EJH

00212

FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 8, 1944

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

Dear John:

Mr. Crowley has referred to me your letter of June 5 enclosing a draft cable to Ambassador Winant in London, with reference to the project for stockpiling standard food parcels in Swtizerland for eventual distribution by Intercross.

As you know, FEA is in full sympathy with the objectives of your program, and we are anxious to cooperate to the fullest extent compatible with our blockade controls.

With one or two minor revisions we approve your draft cable. We shall be glad to have you clear the cable with the State Department subject to the slight revisions in the attached draft.

Sincerely yours,

William T. Stone

William T. Stone, Director
Special Areas Branch

Enclosure

00028

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON, FROM DEPARTMENT, FEA, AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Because of alarming scarcity food and clothing in neutral markets, Intercross has asked War Refugee Board to create stockpiles food and clothing parcels Geneva and other neutral locations for distribution exclusively to unassimilated groups in camps. In transmitting this request, Minister Harrison strongly recommended creation of stockpiles.

Department, FEA, and Board wish to cooperate to the fullest extent compatible with our blockade program and can arrange promptly for the shipment from the United States, Canada, and South America of a maximum 100,000 standard food parcels monthly containing canned goods, sugar, milk, ovaltine, etc., and 50,000 clothing parcels monthly containing warm apparel and shoes to be stored warehouses Geneva and elsewhere neutral countries. Supplies so shipped would be under control war Refugee Board representatives. War Refugee Board proposes that they be released to Intercross for distribution only when following guarantees are assured: (1) enemy governments will derive no benefits from projects, (2) the supplies will reach intended beneficiaries, and (3) adequate accounting will be rendered.

Please take this problem up urgently with the proper British authorities, and, if they agree, obtain necessary blockade clearance so that shipment can be expedited.

00021

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON, FROM DEPARTMENT, FEA, AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Because of alarming scarcity food and clothing in neutral markets, Intercross has asked War Refugee Board to create stockpiles food and clothing parcels Geneva and other neutral locations for distribution exclusively to unassimilated groups in camps. In transmitting this request, Minister Harrison strongly recommended creation of stockpiles.

Department, FEA, and Board wish to cooperate to the fullest extent compatible with our blockade program and can arrange promptly for the shipment from the United States, Canada, and South America of a maximum 100,000 standard food parcels monthly containing canned goods, sugar, milk, ovaltine, etc., and 50,000 clothing parcels monthly containing warm apparel and shoes to be stored warehouses Geneva and elsewhere neutral countries. Supplies so shipped would be under control War Refugee Board representatives. War Refugee Board proposes that they be released to Intercross for distribution only when following guarantees are assured: (1) enemy governments will derive no benefits from projects, (2) the supplies will reach intended beneficiaries, and (3) adequate accounting will be rendered.

Please take this problem up urgently with the proper British authorities, and, if they agree, obtain necessary blockade clearance so that shipment can be expedited.

****

June 12, 1944
9:1[illegible] A.M.

FH FH:lab 6/10/44 Cleared with Mr. De Bois & Mr. Pehle.

000222

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

June 7, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 1 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

AMEMBASSY,

LONDON.

4505, Seventh

FROM CROWLEY AND STONE, FEA.

A preliminary report received by the American Red Cross states that about 80% of the cargo on the S/S QUOTE CHRISTINA END QUOTE is waterlogged. While any further details are lacking, it can probably be assumed that a considerable part of the cargo can be salvaged. We have particularly in mind 144,000 towels and the tinned foods in 315,120 food parcels which constituted a major part of Amcross' supplies on board the ship. On the other hand, 28 million cigarettes shipped by Amcross may be totally damaged.

The American Red Cross requests approval of the following disposition of the above cargo: (1) that all goods which can be saved and transported without spoilage en route be shipped to Intercross at Geneva, subject to decision later as to ultimate use, and (2) that damaged goods which are unfit for further transport be turned over to the Mixed Relief Commission of Intercross for relief in France, such distribution to be carried out in cooperation with the French Red Cross or other suitable relief organizations.

00023

[illegible] Seventh, to London.

We recommend approval of the above plan provided the representative of Intercross at Cette can organize the salvage of the above goods and the segregation of damaged and undamaged goods in an effective manner and under proper safeguards, in cooperation with the Underwriters' local representative. Please present to Relief Sub-Committee for immediate action as it is urgent to instruct Intercross without delay.

STETTINIUS
ACTING
RLH

DCR:RLH:ATM

WTStone
DA-813-HSKiser
Liaison
6-2-44
cc: Gordon
Stumberg

000224

JUN 5 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Oscar Cox

FROM: J. W. Pehle

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter which I have just sent to Mr. Crowley. I would greatly appreciate any push you could give to this extremely urgent matter.

Initialed J.W.P.

Enclosure.

FH:lab 6/5/44

000223

JUN 5 1944

Dear Mr. Crowley:

It now appears clear that the food situation is desperate for those civilians who are detained in camps by the enemy and who are not permitted to receive standard food parcels. These unassimilated groups are in imminent danger of death by reason of enemy action and the War Refugee Board feels strongly that steps should be taken at once to sustain their lives.

In view of the critical condition of these people and because of the scarcity of foodstuffs in neutral markets, it has been proposed on several occasions that foodstuffs and clothing in package form be shipped from the United States, Canada and South America to the International Red Cross for distribution to these unassimilated groups. These proposals have heretofore been rejected because it has been felt that adequate assurances could not be had that the relief would go to the intended beneficiaries and not the enemy.

However, on December 9, 1943, (See Attachment A) the International Committee of the Red Cross wrote as follows to the Intergovernmental Committee in London:

> "We wish to notify you that on several occasions, we could have undertaken relief action under satisfactory conditions, had the necessary means been put at our disposal at the right time. To insure that our action brings effective assistance to the largest possible number of beneficiaries, we must be able to send relief as soon as an opportunity arises."

Then on February 29, 1944, (See Attachment B) the International Red Cross wrote the American Minister at Bern, presenting certain proposals for the consideration of the War Refugee Board. After mentioning the increasing difficulty in procuring supplies in neutral countries to aid these needy victims of enemy oppression (a situation which was confirmed in a cable dated April 13, 1944, from Lisbon to the War Refugee Board set forth in Attachment C), the International Red Cross stated:

> "We wonder if the War Refugee Board would consider shipping from overseas relief in kind which we propose to

00026

stock in Geneva and upon which we would draw according as supplies were required."

As to assurances concerning delivery of the supplies, the Red Cross added:

"Judging that the blockade authorities are not opposed on principle to this category for peculiarly afflicted war-victims receiving assistance, but that they are concerned chiefly with preventing the detaining country from deriving any benefit from the foodstuffs, the International Committee have endeavored to discover some means of guaranteeing the safe distribution of relief in these camps. At the same time, they have sought to provide the blockade authorities with guarantees which would be equivalent (if not superior) to the means of control which are provided for under the Conventions of Geneva, the latter being unfortunately inapplicable in the present instance.

"These guarantees are the following: thanks to certain small sums which have been received in Switzerland, we have been able to send some parcels to the principal concentration camps in Germany and even to certain camps and prisons in the occupied countries, asking that acknowledgments be returned to us personally by the beneficiaries. In certain camps (Oranienburg and Ravensbruck), our delegates have been able to ascertain on the spot that the parcels were actually delivered, and that there was no reason to fear they had been misappropriated. We are thus able at present to send parcels to Norwegian (also to the students from Oslo), Dutch, Polish, Belgian, Greek, Czech and other deportees in Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg, Ravensbruck, and in certain other camps, but for lack of funds and parcels, we are not in a position to develop this relief action on the scale which would be necessary. * * *"

The details of the International Red Cross proposal were cabled to the Board under date of March 6 by Minister Harrison. (See Attachment D) On April 1, 1944, Harrison again cabled the War Refugee Board, calling attention to the urgent requirements of the unassimilated groups in Europe and strongly recommending acceptance of the stockpile proposal made by the International Red Cross. (See Attachment E)

After careful consideration of these and other representations, the Board has cabled to Minister Harrison at Bern, indicating the Board's interest in the International Red Cross stockpile proposal and asking for specific assurances that the stocks will only benefit unassimilated groups. In addition, the Board has asked for the names of the camps

00027

where feeding programs can be undertaken with the usual distribution guarantees and for more specific information concerning the number of parcels which could be shipped monthly under existing International Red Cross facilities. (See Attachment F)

The War Refugee Board now urgently recommends, ~~subject to the receipt of adequate assurances from the International Red Cross,~~ the immediate creation of stockpiles of foodstuffs and warm clothing in parcel form to be warehoused in neutral locations for ultimate distribution by the International Red Cross to unassimilated groups. Specifically, the Board proposes that there will be packaged and shipped via International Red Cross facilities from the United States, Canada and South America a maximum of 100,000 standard food parcels per month and 50,000 clothing parcels per month for warehousing in neutral locations. These supplies will be under the control of the War Refugee Board's representatives and will be drawn upon by the International Red Cross only when, as, and if the usual guarantees on distribution are present, i.e.: (1) enemy governments will derive no benefits from the projects; (2) the supplies will reach intended beneficiaries, and (3) adequate accounting will be rendered.

It is our feeling that if any action is to be taken to save the lives of these detained persons, it must be done now. To this end we would appreciate your prompt clearance of the attached proposed cable to Ambassador Winant, London.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Original sgd. by Mr. Pehle
Copy to: McCormack
" " : Oscar Cox

Honorable Leo T. Crowley,
Administrator,
Foreign Economics Administration,
Washington, D. C.

Attachments.

FH [illegible] cleared with H. S. Hosses
McCormack:FH:lab 6/1/44

000228

Report on Conference with Censorship
June 2, 1944

Present: Mr. Byron Price
Commander Freeman
Captain Creech
Mr. Pehle
Mr. Abrahamson

Mr. Price stated that, at this critical time, Censorship was examining all of its procedures with a view toward assuring the maximum of security in communication, particularly indirect communications with enemy or enemy-occupied territory. In the course of this examination, Censorship found itself particularly troubled by certain messages that are being sent by voluntary agencies through private cable facilities. It had been Censorship's hope that WRB might be willing to clear such messages, but Mr. Pehle's letter of May 27 convinced Mr. Price that this would be impracticable. Mr. Price further remarked that, although he realized the importance of the work that WRB was doing under the Executive Order, he wanted to make absolutely sure that WRB appreciated the security aspects of the problem.

Mr. Pehle, in reply to these points, stated that he understood perfectly the importance of security at a time like this. He said that he had always felt that security considerations applied not only to "indirect communications with enemy or enemy-occupied territory", but equally to communications with neutral countries. WRB, he added, had absolutely no interest in violating security regulations and it intended to carry out the mandate of its Executive Order within security restrictions. But these restrictions, he is convinced, are the responsibility of Censorship.

He pointed out that the WRB had taken the position that it was not particularly interested in saving individual refugees by name but it was interested in saving as many people in as short a time as possible. Accordingly, WRB's interest was negligible or non-existent in many of the private messages that were being sent through private facilities.

After considerable discussion of details and examples, it was agreed that WRB would designate a liaison person who would be available to Censorship to examine such private messages and indicate whether the Board had any particular interest in them. This person would also furnish available background to given situations as they arise. It was understood that the ultimate responsibility would remain with Censorship.

00029

There followed a discussion of the messages being sent through WRB facilities through State Department. Mr. Pehle pointed out that WRB is definitely interested in transmitting messages from and to certain private agencies, since most of our operations are carried out through these private agencies. In general, it was agreed that present procedures would continue in this field. Mr. Pehle said it was his understanding, which he is getting confirmed in writing, that all incoming WRB messages destined for private organizations were being submitted to Censorship prior to their receipt by WRB. He also requested that all messages addressed to WRB for private agencies continue to come to WRB even though it might be necessary for Censorship to forbid the delivery of some of these. Censorship agreed to do this.

Censorship suggested that the State Department should develop another cipher for the WRB messages which seem to require secret cipher. The repeated use of the same secret cipher on a large scale, it was pointed out, might prove compromising to State in that it might more easily be deciphered by the enemy. It was also suggested that WRB might discuss with State the possibility of WRB designating on each message whether it felt the message should be ciphered or sent in clear. Mr. Pehle said that this would be discussed with Mr. George Warren of State.

aa

000230

ATTACHMENT A

EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS' LETTER OF DECEMBER 9, 1943, TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE:

* * *

"On the other hand, we wish to notify you that on several occasions, we could have undertaken relief action under satisfactory conditions, had the necessary means been put at our disposal at the right time. To quote a concrete case, we would have been able, a few months ago, to get assistance to the Jews in Poland, since the control which the German Red Cross was able to exercise contained all desirable guarantees."

* * *

"It follows from our experience that it is unfortunately impossible to establish in detail a long-term plan for action, since it would probably remain a dead letter because of the frequency with which changes occur and sudden and unforeseen decisions are taken."

* * *

"To insure that our action brings effective assistance to the largest possible number of beneficiaries, we must be able to send relief as soon as an opportunity arises and without waiting for months the arrival of the necessary sums."

* * *

"In this connection, we should like to draw your attention to the fact that only those amounts are of practical value to us the use of which is not limited to neutral countries, since the opportunities for purchase in the latter countries are fairly restricted."

* * *

"In the first place, it would be necessary to find shoes, which are lacking in Rumania for these Jews in need."

* * *

"The same thing can be said of about 600 Jews who, as distinct from the position in Rumania, are partly detained in three camps in this country — Jasenovac, Stara Gradiska, Gredjani-Salas. Our delegate in Zagreb could be in a position to insure control of the action which the Joint Relief Commission would be glad to undertake if sufficient means would be placed at its disposal. Croatian authorities would certainly permit the dispatch and the distribution of gifts."

* * *

"The competent authorities have permitted the sending and distribution of individual packages and of stimulants. Unfortunately these products cannot be found in Switzerland without the greatest difficulty, and we have asked the Federal Authorities to permit us to send some foodstuffs which could be bought more easily. This activity of the Joint Commission could certainly be pursued on a larger scale, if more considerable amounts would be remitted to us." * * *

000232

ATTACHMENT B

EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS' LETTER OF FEBRUARY 29 TO THE AMERICAN MINISTER AT BERN:

* * *

"In order, however, to limit as far as possible the purchases which would be made in Hungary and Rumania, we wonder if the War Refugee Board would consider shipping from overseas relief in kind which we propose to stock in Geneva, and upon which we would draw according as supplies were required. This method would have the advantage of enabling us to seize as they occur certain opportunities of despatching relief supplies, without having to send out fresh appeals on each occasion. The stock which would thus be built up in Switzerland could remain under the control of the War Refugee Board which, through their representative at the American Legation in Bern, would authorise us to draw upon these reserves to the extent of the amounts proposed in the schemes and projects which would be submitted by us.

"The articles which are most urgently required are:

a) warm clothing and underwear."o * *

"b) boots

"It would meet one of the most urgent needs if, as the War Refugee Board proposes to do, we had several thousand parcels available, containing each an assortment of clothing, underwear and possibly a pair of strong boots (parcels made up separately according as they are intended for men, women or children (not infants)).

"The same system of warehousing could usefully be applied for food parcels, perhaps several tens of thousands of these of a maximum weight of 2 kg. 1/2. The distribution of relief to Theresienstadt is most easily carried out in the form of standard parcels. These should contain only articles which will keep some time (canned goods, sugar, condensed milk, ovaltine, etc.). These parcels could be sent also to the camps in Upper Silesia (if this is found to be possible), Croatia, the Netherlands and France. If, on the other hand, the War Refugee Board, do not see their way to entertaining our proposal that clothing and food parcels be sent to us from overseas, we should be compelled to make them up ourselves, which would unavoidably entail the purchasing of certain foodstuffs in Hungary and Rumania, and this would mean transfer of Swiss francs to Axis countries."

000233

* * *

"Judging that the blockade authorities are not opposed on principle to this category of peculiarly afflicted war-victims receiving assistance, but that they are concerned chiefly with preventing the detaining country from deriving any benefit from the foodstuffs, the International Committee have endeavoured to discover some means of guaranteeing the safe distribution of relief in these camps. At the same time, they have sought to provide the blockade authorities with guarantees which would be equivalent (if not superior) to the means of control which are provided for under the Conventions of Geneva, the latter being unfortunately inapplicable in the present instance.

"These guarantees are the following: thanks to certain small sums which have been received in Switzerland, we have been able to send some parcels to the principal concentration camps in Germany and even to certain camps and prisons in the occupied countries, asking that acknowledgments be returned to us personally by the beneficiaries. In certain camps (Oranienburg and Ravensbruck), our delegates have been able to ascertain on the spot that the parcels were actually delivered, and that there was no reason to fear they had been misappropriated. We are thus able at present to send parcels to Norwegian (also to the students from Oslo), Dutch, Polish, Belgian, Greek, Czech and other deportees in Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg, Ravensbruck, and in certain other camps, but for lack of funds and parcels, we are not in a position to develop this relief action on the scale which would be necessary * * *"

000234

ATTACHMENT C

EWE-513

PLAIN
Lisbon
Dated April 13, 1944
Rec'd 6:20 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1095, thirteenth.

FOLLOWING FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM LISBON JDC.

"Reply cable number 988 dated April 7, 1944. Am informed only foodstuffs available Portugal in bulk for feeding programs International Red Cross sardines, dried fish, dried fruits and almonds for which British navicert required. Quantities of coffee, cocoa and tea also available but Portuguese authorities don't permit export. Other important products such as fats, meat extracts, condensed and powdered milk unavailable. No substantial quantities any foodstuffs available Spain. Believe in most desirable form stocks of food in Switzerland for distribution labor camps, other concentration points occupied Europe. In this connection, Switzerland offers better facilities than Portugal because of better warehouse facilities and distribution possibilities. Also certain foods which most urgently required cannot be stored Portugal because intense humidity, therefore, would urgently recommend original suggestion foodstocks be established Switzerland for distribution under auspices International Red Cross. If agreement in principle forthcoming believe can work out with International Red Cross all necessary arrangements utilization space their ships." Signed Joseph Schwartz.

NORWEB

EJH

000235

ATTACHMENT D

C
O
P
Y

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: March 6, 1944

NUMBER: 1366

[redacted]

Reference is made herein to the Department's 279, January 27; and 437, February 9; and the Legation's cable of March 4, no. 1334.

In addition to detailing the proposed expenditures of funds donated by the joint groups, the International Committee Red Cross letter dated February 29, includes following information requested by WRB in the Department's telegrams under reference: (a) - general possibilities and proposals for relief of Jewish refugees and other persecuted groups; (b) - proposals for relief for prisoners from occupied countries in German concentration camps; (c) - plan for relief of children of war victims in Serbia and Slovenia.

1. It is stated by the Intercross that they are almost certain relief consignments would reach their destinations to Rumania, the Rosienstadt and Judische Unterstutzung Stelle, Cracow; about consignments to Westerbork, Holland and camps in France and upper Silesia they are uncertain, but the Intercross proposes certain proportion of sums put at its disposal be devoted to test shipments through

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

000236

channels hitherto untried.

2. It is stated by the Intercross that it will endeavor to keep to the lowest possible minimum any purchases made in Hungary or Rumania and will try to procure goods as much as possible in neutral countries. Inquiry is made by the Intercross whether it can count on additional funds on condition that they be expended exclusively in neutral countries within limited available possibilities.

3. In order to avoid expenditures in enemy territory the Intercross proposes (Intercross apprehensive of dangers of enemy abuse entailed by expenditures of foreign exchange in enemy territory) that stocks of relief materials be shipped from overseas for deposit in Geneva which could be drawn upon as opportunities arise for despatch to relief centers. Opportunities for relief are often of short duration and cannot be anticipated with certain types without necessity of fresh appeals on each occasion and a reserve depot would permit immediate action. It is suggested by the Intercross that the depot be under control of War Refugee Board representatives. Warm clothing, underwear, and men's large size boots are the articles most urgently required in Transnistria. Suggests several thousand parcels each containing assortment of clothing,

underwear

underwear, pair of strong boots parcels to be made up separately for men, women and children (not infants). It is suggested by the Intercross that the depot contain several tons of thousands relief food parcels of overseas origin not weighing over 2 1/2 kilos and containing non-perishable articles including canned goods, sugar, condensed milk, Ovaltine, etc. The Intercross is prepared to transport against reimbursement via Red Cross ships sailing from the United States and Canada to Lisbon and Marseilles, if the question of tonnage presents difficulties.

4. It is stated by the Intercross that cooperation among the various Jewish relief groups seems impossible and observes not in interest of aim in view that it be revealed to one Jewish relief organization what the other organizations are doing. That relief plans be kept strictly secret is urgently requested.

5. Stressing the importance of the relief program to include oppressed groups "irrespective of race or religion", the Intercross expresses gratification that this principle was willingly agreed to by the War Refugee Board. It is believed by the Intercross that a broad relief program assisting various groups is less likely to arouse enemy opposition than one which is confined exclusively to the assistance of Jewish refugees only.

Intercross

0 0 0 2 3 8

Intercross proposes as beginning relief Allied nationals in German concentration camps and children in Yugoslavia (see B and C below).

B-1. The Intercross proposes, in accordance with A-5 above, that if funds are made available immediately tension relief to Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles, Greeks, Czechs and other Allied Nationals enduring privation in concentration camps and prisons in Germany under severe secret police control (Intercross through informal channels has obtained names of nearly all Norwegians, Dutch and large numbers of Poles detained in German concentration camps and prisons and urgently requests this fact be kept strictly secret) Intercross states organized relief has up to present been prevented by the British blockade authorities, who insisted as condition that Germans recognise these prisoners as prisoners of war and subject to convention of Geneva.

According to a statement of Intercross it has made successful test shipments of individual relief parcels to these prisoners which were personally acknowledged by the recipients and in several camps Intercross delegates were able to verify on the spot that shipments reached the person intended to receive them. The Intercross is prepared to submit evidence of success of these

operations and proposes as start food parcels be made available immediately to men and women in camps and prisons in Germany for 1,450 Norwegians, 1000 Dutch men and women and 1000 Polish. Risks of benefiting the enemy are far less than if free exchange expended in enemy territory for relief in Transnistria.

1. Two groups of children in Yugoslavia present a particularly alarming situation, according to statement of Intercross. 80,000 children evacuated from Croatia to Belgrade and other Serbian towns are a particularly critical problem as they are undernourished, in need of clothing and health conditions are pitiful. The same applies to where conditions which were already bad during the Italian occupation have now become increasingly serious since last summer and 100,000 children are suffering from malnutrition as a result of complete lack of fortifying foods such as milk, sugar, ovaltine and chocolate.

2. It has been suggested by the Intercross that in order to alleviate this situation the War Refugee Board assign 220,000 francs, of which 200,000 for food and 20,000 for medical relief to be divided equally between children in Slovenia and Serbia. For the purchase of Slovakian sugar and Hungarian alimentary pastes about 45,000 francs would be used and balance of 200,000 francs

less 17,000 for administration, transportation, et cetera for purchase of Swiss foodproducts. To prepare Swiss pharmaceutical products and surgical dressings would use about 20,000 francs. It is proposed by the Intercross that these relief goods be shipped to Intercross delegate at Belgrade for distribution in cooperation with the Serbian Red Cross.

If desired the Legation can telegraph further details regarding the above proposals. Copy of letter is being sent by IRC through its own facilities and we will also endeavor to forward a copy.

HARRISON

00024 1

ATTACHMENT E

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 1, 1944
NUMBER: 2031

[redacted]

A letter from the Intercross Committee of the Red Cross dated March 27 is summarized as follows (please refer to my number 1850 dated March 25, 1944):

1. The activities of Intercross on behalf of war victims in that part of Europe will be affected by events in Hungary and the possible occupation of Hungary and Slovakia. Certain adjustments are necessary in the joint 100,000 dollar relief program since the last possibilities of obtaining relief foodstuffs within Europe apparently are dwindling.

2. If the plans of the War Refugee Board to rescue certain particularly stricken groups of refugees are not to be too late, rapid action is necessary. The necessity of accepting the suggestion to send it (Intercross) parcels of underwear and food is urged by Intercross - please refer to paragraph three of my number 1344 dated March 6). These parcels would be stored in Geneva and only after concurrence of a representative of the War Refugee Board to whom full information and control vouchers could be supplied, would they be despatched.

3. The necessity of aid to children in certain parts of Europe and to prisoners in concentration camps is emphasized by Intercross - please see paragraphs B1 and C1 in my number 1344.

4. Acceptance of Intercross proposals is strongly recommended by the Legation.

HARRISON

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

000242

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON, FROM DEPARTMENT, FEA AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

In view of alarming scarcity food and clothing in neutral markets, Intercross asks War Refugee Board to create stockpiles food and clothing parcels Geneva and other neutral locations for distribution exclusively to unassimilated groups in camps. In transmitting this request, Minister Harrison strongly recommended creation of stockpiles.

Department, FEA, and Board specifically and urgently request prompt MEW approval for the shipment from the United States, Canada, and South America a maximum 100,000 standard food parcels monthly containing canned goods, sugar, milk, ovaltine, etc., and 50,000 clothing parcels monthly containing warm apparel and shoes to be stored warehouses Geneva and elsewhere neutral countries. Supplies so shipped to be under control War Refugee Board representatives and released to Intercross for distribution only when following guarantees are present: (1) enemy governments will derive no benefits from projects, (2) the supplies will reach intended beneficiaries, and (3) adequate accounting will be rendered.

00293

ATTACHMENT F

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: May 27, 1944

NUMBER: 1845

[redacted]

FOR MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND

In view disappointingly negative response contained your 2147, May 17, and further in view of desperate situation prevailing internment camps generally, Board is interested stockpile proposal your 1366, March 6 and 2031, April 1, and Intercross letter to you February 29.

In this direction, Board would appreciate information along following:

1. Assurances such stocks would benefit unassimilated groups exclusively.
2. Names of camps where such programs could be undertaken with usual distribution guarantees.
3. The number of standard food parcels and clothing parcels that Intercross estimates could be shipped monthly existing Intercross facilities.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 38 .

NULL

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

000244

WRB File

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

1 Copy only

DATED: May 27, 1944

NUMBER: 1845

[redacted] CONTROL COPY

FOR MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND.

In view disappointingly negative response contained your 3147, May 17, and further in view of desperate situation prevailing internment camps generally, Board is interested stockpile proposal your 1366, March 6 and 2031, April 1, and Intercross letter to you February 29.

In this direction, Board would appreciate information along following:

1. Assurances such stocks would benefit unassimilated groups exclusively.
2. Names of camps where such programs could be undertaken with usual distribution guarantees.
3. The number of standard food parcels and clothing parcels that Intercross estimates could be shipped monthly existing Intercross facilities.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 28.

NULL

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

00243

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

In view disappointingly negative response contained your 3147, May 17, and further in view of desperate situation prevailing internment camps generally, Board is interested stockpile proposal your 1366, March 6 and 2031, April 1, and Intercross letter to you February 29.

In this direction, Board would appreciate information along following:

1. Assurances such stocks would benefit unassimilated groups exclusively.

2. Names of camps where such programs could be undertaken with usual distribution guarantees.

3. The number of standard food parcels and clothing parcels that Intercross estimates could be shipped monthly existing Intercross facilities.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 28.

****

May 25, 1944
11:20 a.m.

AA:FH:PJMcO/jp 5/23/44

000246

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Mr. Alex Easterman, 55 New Cavendish Street, London, England:

QUOTE Urge you to take up matter of food for interned and segregated Jews with Shelbourne and Dingley Foot. Remind you of Law's assurance to you and Goldmann that there is no objection to using Red Cross food parcel stocks in Switzerland for such internees. World Jewish Congress Leon Kubowitski UNQUOTE

****

May 8, 1944
2:10 p.m.

Ba. LSL.

BAksin:jp 5/2/44

00024

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .·. CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

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

NEW ADDRESS:
1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 23, N. Y.
CI. 6-1900

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-9o

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

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

Delete 1st Sentence Taken to A.L.K. 5-3-44

April 28, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I refer to our several communications and interventions in the question of the attitude of the blockade authorities regarding the dispatch of Red Cross food parcels to Jews in internment and concentration camps.

I would be extremely obliged to you for letting me know whether your representations to the blockade authorities on this matter have achieved any progress as yet.

We have requested our representatives in London to take up this matter with the blockade Ministry. In answer, they cabled that we should discuss the question with Sir Herbert Emerson. I understand that since the latest reorganization this question is no longer within Sir Herbert's province. May I consequently ask you to have the following message forwarded to Mr. Easterman through the State Department:

"Mr. Alex Easterman, 55 New Cavendish Street, London, England

(Sir Herbert and his committee now concentrating on refugees who left occupied countries) Urge you (consequently) to take up matter of food for interned and segregated Jews with Shelbourne and Dingley Foot. Remind you of Law's assurance to you and Goldmann that there is no objection to using Red Cross food parcel stocks in Switzerland for such internees.

Leon Kubowitzki, World Jewish Congress."

Please let me know whether this cable has been forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

Free Ship

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 24, 1944

TO

FROM Mr. McCormack

It seems to us that we are now confronted with:

a) food scarcity as opposed to dollar scarcity in neutral and occupied countries.

b) unavailability of supplies in enemy countries because of recent military developments.

c) F.E.A.'s opposition to our request for assimilation of Jews and others, until our request is submitted to the Joint Committee of the Anglo-American Blockade.

d) unless some steps are taken to ship supplies from this country, as the situation now presents itself, any form of relief is only a palliative.

There is set forth below citations from various cables and letters which emphasize the necessity of building up stock piles upon which ICRC may draw for mass feeding in enemy and enemy occupied countries.

In their letter of 12/9/43 to IGC, Intercross, in reference to this general lack of supplies, wrote:

a) "..... we wish to notify you that on several occasions, we could have undertaken relief action under satisfactory conditions, had the necessary means been put at our disposal at the right time."

b) "..... we must be able to send relief as soon as an opportunity arises."

c) "..... we wish to draw your attention to the fact that only those amounts are of practical value to us, the use of which is not limited to neutral countries, since the opportunities for purchase in the latter countries are fairly restricted."

00249

Cable 1366 of 3/6/44 from Bern to State - from Harrison.

> "In order to avoid expenditures in enemy territory Intercross proposes that stocks of relief materials be shipped from overseas for deposit in Geneva which could be drawn upon as opportunities arise. Intercross is prepared to transport against reimbursement via Red Cross ships sailing from U. S. and Canada."

Cable 2031, 4/1/44, from Bern to State - from Harrison.

> "The necessity of accepting the suggestion to send to it (ICRC) parcels of underwear and food is urged by Intercross. Acceptance of Intercross proposals is strongly recommended by the Legation."

Cable 1095, 4/13/44, Lisbon to State - signed Schwartz.

> "..... only foodstuffs available Portugal in bulk for feeding programs ..... sardines, dried fish, dried fruits and almonds."

In addition cables from Bern and Lisbon indicate that the procurement of supplies in the sattelites is no longer possible, for the present, at least, because of recent German occupation. Likewise, Zollinger, ICRC Delegate, indicated to us quite recently that foodstuffs obtained in Europe represented nothing more than a "palliative".

It would seem that from the foregoing the three points raised in your memorandum stand out in bold relief. There is remaining in the Emergency Relief Appropriation, heretofore expended by American Red Cross, about $10,000,000. I understand that at this writing there is no disposition on the part of American Red Cross to ask for additional funds and further that approximately one-half of the amount remaining will soon be allocated for the purchase of textiles and cotton goods to be used by Chapters for clothing production and ultimate distribution in liberated areas.

P. J. M.

April 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

J.W.P. and L.S.L. discussed the blockade problem in so far as it affects food packages to detained civilians with Assistant Secretary of State Berle on April 22. Mr. Berle stated that the blockade authorities had recently turned the Department down on a program of food for certain areas that the Department was interested in. He said that he thought it might be unwise to go back to the blockade people on detained civilians. He said, however, that he would give the matter consideration.

122

00025

CONTROL COPY

EWE-513

PLAIN

Lisbon

Dated April 13, 1944

Rec'd. 6:20 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1095, thirteenth.

FOLLOWING FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM LISBON JDC.

"Reply cable number 988 dated April 7, 1944. Am informed only foodstuffs available Portugal in bulk for feeding programs International Red Cross sardines, dried fish, dried fruits and almonds for which British navicert required. Quantities of coffee, cocoa and tea also available but Portuguese authorities don't permit export. Other important products such as fats, meat extracts, condensed and powdered milk unavailable. No substantial quantities any foodstuffs available Spain. Believe in most desirable form stocks of food in Switzerland for distribution labor camps, other concentration points occupied Europe. In this connection, Switzerland offers better facilities than Portugal because of better warehouse facilities and distribution possibilities. Also certain

foods

00252

#2-1095, thirteenth, from Lisbon

foods which most urgently required cannot be stored Portugal because intense humidity, therefore, would urgently recommend original suggestion foodstocks be established Switzerland for distribution under auspices International Red Cross. If agreement in principle forthcoming believe can work out with International Red Cross all necessary arrangements utilization space their ships". Signed Joseph Schwartz.

NORWEB

EJH

RECEIVED
OCT 2 PM 4 PM '43
WASHINGTON, D.C.

000253

War Refugee Bd
Mr Pehle

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Lisbon

DATED: April 7, 1944

NUMBER: 988

CONTROL COPY

File

[redacted]

From War Refugee Board to Norweb.

Reference your 932 of March 28, 1944.

Please deliver following message to Joseph Schwartz, representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Lisbon, from War Refugee Board:

"(1) Can you send us immediately estimates of amount of foodstuffs in Spain and Portugal available for International Red Cross feeding programs. (2) Advise Board your personal views concerning building food stocks in Portugal as well as in Switzerland."

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

000254

April 3, 1944

12:15 p.m.

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: J. W. Pehle

It will be appreciated if you will have the attached cable despatched to Dr. Joseph Schwartz in Lisbon as soon as possible.

Attachment.

JWP:lab 4/1/44

00256

CABLE TO LISBON

From War Refugee Board to Norweb

Reference your 932 of March 28, 1944.

Please deliver following message to Joseph Schwartz, representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Lisbon, from War Refugee Board:

" (1) Can you send us immediately estimates of amount of foodstuffs in Spain and Portugal available for International Red Cross feeding programs. (2) Advise Board your personal views concerning building food stocks in Portugal as well as in Switzerland"

JH

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date April 1, 1944

TO Miss Hodel

FROM Mr. Abrahamson

In anticipation of the meeting planned to discuss the entire problem of mass feeding, I am sending you some of the ideas that Mr. McCormack and I have discussed with you. These are purely preliminary. I hope that you will have a chance to consider them before the meeting.

It seems to us that we ought to start planning for the actual shipment of supplies to Europe to provide stockpiles from which packages may be sent to the places where they are needed. You will recall that Schwartz's recent cable indicates that he feels that food is now not available in Hungary because of the military situation and that we should consider carefully the prospects of shipping food to Switzerland from South America and the United States. We, in turn, are asking him to send us the facts on the available food supply in Spain and Portugal and are also requesting his judgment as the possibility of stockpiles in Lisbon as well as in Switzerland.

There are several distinct advantages to developing a broad plan along the lines suggested by Schwartz and discussed by us.

1. The basic truth about the food situation in Europe is that there is a scarcity of food rather than a scarcity of dollars. Insofar as we remit funds we redistribute a short supply rather than add to the total supply available. The shipment of food from this country would obviously be helpful.

2. The shipment of food (rather than the transfer of funds) would also make it possible for us to use some of the funds available to the President for the purchase in this country of food for war victims and for its shipment abroad.

3. This would in turn relieve the drain on JDC funds as well as those of other private agencies and make the funds thus freed available for transportation and for other purposes.

00257

There are, of course, a number of thorny problems that arise, including our negotiations with the blockade authorities and the development of packaging centers overseas. These do not seem insurmountable if the general policy is approved.

Meanwhile, of course, we should go ahead on the particular projects that have been suggested by International Red Cross and private agencies. In this last connection, Mr. McCormack is now going to see whether the Yugoslavian Relief people are interested in financing one of these specific proposals, and is also following other leads.

cc: Mr. McCormack

000258

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 1, 1944
NUMBER: 2031

X [redacted]

A letter from the Intercross Committee of the Red Cross dated March 27 is summarized as follows (please refer to my number 1850 dated March 25, 1944):

1. The activities of Intercross on behalf of war victims in that part of Europe will be affected by events in Hungary and the possible occupation of Hungary and Slovakia. Certain adjustments are necessary in the joint 100,000 dollar relief program since the last possibilities of obtaining relief foodstuffs within Europe apparently are dwindling.

2. If the plans of the War Refugee Board to rescue certain particularly stricken groups of refugees are not to be too late, rapid action is necessary. The necessity of accept ing the suggestion to send it (Intercross) parcels of underwear and food is urged by Intercross - please refer to paragraph three of my number 1366 dated March 8). These parcels would be stored in Geneva and only after concurrence of a representative of the War Refugee Board to whom full information and control vouchers could be supplied, would they be despatched.

3. The necessity of aid to children in certain parts of Europe and to prisoners in concentration camps is emphasized by Intercross - please see paragraphs D1 and C1 in my number 1366.

4. Acceptance of Intercross proposals is strongly recommended by the Legation.

HARRISON

DCR:MPL
4/3/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files

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

00025

MAR 31 1944

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Dr. Schwarts was received from the American Legation, Lisbon, under date of March 28, 1944:

"Because of recent developments in Hungary, International Red Cross is not able to make purchases of food for other occupied countries there. So it is proposed that, by obtaining supplies from South America and the United States, we build stocks in Switzerland for this purpose. Transportation facilities would be furnished by the International Red Cross and all goods thus brought to Switzerland would be distributed by them to places where there is most urgent need. Because of critical situation especially in labor camps, it is urged that you consider this matter fully and advise as soon as possible."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt,
Secretary,
American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

FH:lab 3/31/44

000268

War Refugee Bd
Mr Pehle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: March 28, 1944

NUMBER: 932
x

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

The substance of the cable sent to the War Refugee Board and Moses Leavitt of Joint Distribution Committee by Joseph Schwartz, follows:

"Because of recent developments in Hungary, International Red Cross is not able to make purchases of food for other occupied countries there. So it is proposed that, by obtaining supplies from South America and the United States, we build stocks in Switzerland for this purpose. Transportation facilities would be furnished by the International Red Cross and all goods thus brought to Switzerland would be distributed by them to places where there is most urgent need. Because of critical situation especially in labor camps, it is urged that you consider this matter fully and advise as soon as possible."

NORWEB

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

00026

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE March 13, 1944

TO : Mr. Friedman

FROM : Paul J. McCormack

Replacing my earlier memorandum of this date on the building up of a W.R.B. stock-pile of packages in Geneva for distribution to detained, but unassimilated, civilians in enemy or enemy occupied countries, for clarity there is cited that portion of point No. 3 of the American Legation's cable No. 1366, dated March 6th, which prompted this and my previous memorandum:

> "3. In order to avoid expenditures in enemy territory Intercross proposes that stocks of relief materials be shipped from overseas for deposit in Geneva, which could be drawn upon as opportunities arise for despatch to relief centers.....Intercross suggests that depot under control of WRB representatives".....contain "warm clothing, underwear, and men's large size boots" ....."Suggest several thousand parcels each containing assortment of clothing.....depot to contain several tens of thousands relief food parcels of overseas origin to be transported against reimbursement via Red Cross ships sailing from the United States and Canada to Lisbon and Marseilles."

It has been suggested that the Prisoners of War Unit of American Red Cross might be interested in helping the Board realize all or any part of the foregoing, if the Board is interested. The POW Unit operates four packing centers in the U.S., which in addition to packaging supplies for American military personnel (funds made available from Army and Navy) and for American civternees who are assimilated (funds made available to Red Cross from Emergency Relief Appropriation Act) [redacted] packs food supplies for many of the United Nations' detained military and civilian personnel.

It is conceivable that an expansion in package production to meet the terms outlined in point No. 3, is possible, the funds of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act being utilized. It is likewise conceivable that no approach to Blockade would be absolutely necessary to realize this objective.

00262

Appreciating that we must and should continue to think and act in terms of actual release and rescue, it will become necessary, at one time or another, to actually engage in a program of some form of feeding to insure the availability of people to release and rescue.

I will undertake to explore this idea further with the people in ARC Prisoners of War Unit, if you think there is merit in this proposal.

000263

COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN

TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DATED: MARCH 6, 1944

NUMBER: 1366

[redacted]

Reference is made herein to the Department's 279, January 27; and 437, Be February 9; and the Legation's cable of March 4, no. 1334.

In addition to detailing the proposed expenditures of funds donated by the joint groups, the International Committee Red Cross letter dated February 29, includes following information requested by WRB in the Department's telegrams under reference: (a) - general possibilities and proposals for relief of Jewish refugees and other persecuted groups; (b) - proposals for relief for prisoners from occupied countries in German concentration camps; (c) - plan for relief of children of war victims in Serbia and Slovenia.

1. IT IS STATED BY THE INTERCROSS that they are almost certain relief consignments would reach their destinations to Rumania, Theresienstadt and Judische Unterstutzung Stelle, Cracow; about consignments to Westerbork, Holland and camps in France and upper Silesia they are uncertain, but the Intercross proposes certain proportion of sums put at its disposal be devoted to test shipments through channels hitherto untried.

2. It is stated by the Intercross that it will endeavor to keep to the lowest possible minimum any purchases made in Hungary or Rumania and will try to procure goods as much as possible in neutral countries. Inquiry is made by the Intercross whether it can count on additional funds on condition that they be expended exclusively in neutral countries with limited available possibilities.

3. In order to avoid expenditures in enemy territory the Intercross proposes (Intercross apprehensive of dangers of enemy abuse entailed by expenditures of foreign exchange in enemy territory) that stocks of relief materials be shipped from overseas for deposit in Geneva which could be drawn upon as opportunities arise for despatch to relief centers. Opportunities for relief are are often of short duration and cannot be anticipated with certain types without necessity of fresh appeals on each occasion and a reserve depot would permitimmediate action. It is suggested by the Intercross that the depot be under control of War Refugee Board representatives. Warm clothing, unerwear, and men's large size boots are the articles most urgently required in Transnistria. Suggests several thousand parcels each containing assortment of clothing, underwear, pair of strong boots parcels to be made up separately for men, women and children (not infants). It is suggested by the Intercross that the depot contain several tens of thousands relief food parcels of overseas origin not weighing

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

00026

COPY

over 2 1/2 kilos and containing non-perishable articles including canned goods, sugar, condensed milk, ovaltine, etc. The Intercross is prepared to transport against reimbursement via Red Cross ships sailing from the United States and Canada to Lisbon and Marseilles, if the question of tonnage presents difficulties.

4. It is stated by the Intercross that cooperation among the various Jewish relief groups seems impossible and observes not in interest of aim in view view that it be revealed to one Jewish relief organization what the other organizations are doing. That relief plans be kept strictly secret is urgently requested.

5. Stressing the importance of the relief program to include oppressed groups "irrespective of race or religion", the Intercross expressed gratification that this principle was willingly agreed to by the War Refugee Board. It is believed by the Intercross that a broad relief program assisting various groups is less likely to arouse enemy opposition than one which is confined exclusively to the assistance of Jewish refugees only. Intercross proposes as beginning relief Allied nationals in German concentration camps and children in Yugoslavia (see C and C below).

B-1. The Intercross proposes, in accordance with A-5 above, that if funds are made available immediately tansion relief to Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles, Greeks, Czechs and other Allied Nationals enduring privation in concentration camps and prisons in Germany under severe secret police control (Intercross through informal channels has obtained names of nearly all Norwegians, Dutch and large numbers of Poles detained in German concentration camps and prisons and urgently requests this fact be kept strictly secret) Intercross states organized relief has up to present been prevented by the British blockade authorities, who insisted as condition that Germans recognize these prisoners as prisoners of war and subject to convention of Geneva.

According to a statement of Intercross it has made successful test shipments of individual relief parcels to these prisoners which were personally acknowled ged by the recipients and in several camps Intercross delegates were able to verify on the spot that shipments reached the person intended to receive them. The Interpeross is prepared to submit evidence of success of these operations and proposes as start food parcels be made available immediately to men and women in camps and prisons in Germany for 1,450 Norwegians, 1000 Dutch men and women and 1000 Polish. Risks of benefiting the enemy are far less than if free exxhange expended in enemy territory for relief in Transnistria,

1. Two groups of children in Yugoslavia present a particularly alarming situation , according to statement of Intercross. 80,000 children evacuated from Croatia to Belgrade and other Serbian towns are a particularly critical problem as they are undernourished, in need of clothing and health conditions are pitiful. The same applies to where conditions which were already bad durinh the Italian occupation have now become increasingly serious since last summer and 100,000 children are suffering from malnutrition as a result of complete lack of fortifying foods such as milk, sugar, ovaltine and chocolate.

2. It has been suggested by the Intercross that in order to alleviate this situation the War Refugee Board assign 220,000 francs, of which 200,000 for food and 20,000 for medical relief to be divided equally between children in Slovenia and Serbia. For the purchase of Slovakian sugar and Hungarian alimentary pastes about 45,000 francs would be used and balance of 200,000 francs less 17,000 for administration, transportation, et cetera for purchase of Swiss food products.

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C O P Y

To prepare Swiss pharmaceutical products and surgical dressings would use about 20,000 francs. It is proposed by the Intercross that these relief goods be shipped to Intercross delegate at Belgrade for distribution in cooperation with the Serbian Red Cross.

If desired the Legation can telegraph further details regarding the above proposals. Copy of letter is being sent by IRC through its own facilities and we will also endeavor to forward a copy.

HARRISON

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