Representatives, Representation and Special Attachés: Appointments
TO Mr. Pehle

FROM Miss Hodel

Clarence Pickett advised me as follows concerning David Blickenstaff and Howell McClelland:

David Blickenstaff - about 31 or 32 years of age, born in India of missionary parents. He is a member of the Church of the Brethren which has headquarters in Elgin, Illinois. He has a Masters Degree from the University of Chicago and speaks Spanish and several Hindi languages. He has been with the American Friends Service Committee since 1937 when he was sent to Spain to work on some of the problems arising out of the Spanish Revolution. In 1939 he returned to the United States for graduate work at the University of Chicago. About a year ago he was returned to Spain by the Friends for his present work among the stateless refugees. He is a quiet but very direct person, aggressive and imaginative. He appears to be well accepted by Spanish officials and is highly regarded by Ambassador Hayes. His wife is the daughter of a former French consul officer in Uruguay. She is a very capable person and has been working with him until a short time ago when, because of an attack of tuberculosis, she was obliged to go away for her health.

The Friends would have no objection to his accepting an appointment from the War Refugee Board if such appointment met with the approval of both the Board and Ambassador Hayes. The Friends feel confident that they could get extra personnel into Spain to carry on the present work which Mr. Blickenstaff is handling among the refugees.

Howell McClelland - a very capable, aggressive person in his early thirties. He is married to a very able woman and has one child. He has worked with great success for the Friends in Rome, France and Geneva. He has almost completed his work for a Doctors Degree on a scholarship to work at the University of Geneva. Because of the pressure of work due to the refugee situation in Switzerland, he has been forced to discontinue his studies for the time being. He appears to have established exceedingly good relations with other relief organizations operating in Switzerland and with the Swiss government authorities.

The American Friends would have no objection to his being appointed a representative of the War Refugee Board, though they feel such an appointment would be a great loss to them.
1. FOR FURTHER DETAILS WITH RESPECT TO ACKERMAN'S ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SEE: 1. COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS: UNITED NATIONS (FRENCH NORTH AFRICA)
COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS: UNITED NATIONS (YUGOSLAVIA)
COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS: OTHER COUNTRIES (ITALY)
PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO
AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL) (EVACUATIONS FROM SPAIN TO EXILITE)
PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER EVACUATION
PROJECTS (EVACUATION OF REFUGEES FROM ISLAND OF RAB)
PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER EVACUATION
PROJECTS (EVACUATIONS TO ITALY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA)
PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: TEMPORARY HAVENS
(IN THE UNITED STATES)
From War Refugee Board and Department to Ackermann, Chapin, Murphy, Algiers.

Please refer your No. 1529 of May 11.

Cable regarding appointment of Lawler to which reference is made was not intended to change Ackermann’s status as Board’s Special Representative for the Mediterranean Area. Ackermann is expected to continue work in connection with Yugoslav and Italian problems as well as all others arising in the area. Proposal to appoint Lawler if implementation of Ackermann’s recommendation that Board have a full time representative in Italy.

Board is considering possibility of sending representative to Cairo to operate under Ackermann’s general supervision.

Board believes that overall coordination in Algiers of Board’s activities in Mediterranean Area is desirable.

In view of the fact that Ackermann’s activities extend beyond North African territories, he should be regarded as attached to Murphy as well as to the Embassy in Algiers, with Murphy’s approval.

THIS IS WEB CABLE TO ALGIERS NO. 12.

Hull
Cable to Murphy, Chapin and Ackermann, Algiers from War Refugee Board and Department

Please refer your No. 1589 of May 11.

Cable regarding appointment of Lavler to which reference is made was not (repeat not) intended to change Ackermann's status as Board's Special Representative for the Mediterranean Area. Ackermann is expected to continue work in connection with Yugoslav and Italian problems as well as all others arising in the area. Proposal to appoint Lavler is implementation of Ackermann's recommendation that Board have a full time representative in Italy.

Board is considering possibility of sending representative to Cairo to operate under Ackermann's general supervision.

Board believes that overall coordination in Algiers of Board's activities in Mediterranean Area is desirable.

In view of the fact that Ackermann's activities extend beyond North African territories, he should, with Murphy's approval, be regarded as attached to Murphy as well as to the Embassy in Algiers.

This is War Cable to Algiers No. 12

April 17, 1944

11:00 a.m.

Subject - 3/15/44
I have been asked by Mr. Leonard Ackerman, the representative of the War Refugee Board in Algiers, to transmit the following:

From Ackerman, for the War Refugee Board No. 19, from Murphy.

I was appointed special representative of the Board for French North Africa in Department's message dated February 27, No. 412, and it directed me to be responsible to Chapin. Such designation was amended in Department's cable of April 15, No. 1086, and it constituted me representative for the Mediterranean area. Since latter included such territory outside of the jurisdiction of Chapin, Murphy has raised the question whether I am attached to him for work outside French North Africa or whether it was intended that I should have independent status. I have seen the message of May 8, 1944 regarding the appointment of Lawler in Italy. I should like to know if this intended change in my appointment or will I continue as now. I believe that the latter is preferable as Yugoslavia and Italian questions arise both in Italy and here.

Chapin

Department

9/15/44
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Algiers
DATED: April 12, 1944
NUMBER: 1086

This is WNB cable to Algiers no. 3.

Please refer to your 1035 and 1036 of March 29, 1944.

The Board concurs in your decision to send James J. Saxon to Italy to investigate the refugee situation. While there it is suggested that he make a thorough analysis of the pertinent aspects of the situation in so far as they affect the refugee problem in Italy itself, the problem created by reason of the Balkan situation, and other ramifications of the refugee problem, as for example the Corsican situation. We have read with great interest your various communications on this subject and feel that the matters concerning these areas which were discussed by you should be thoroughly investigated and reported upon. Upon the completion of Saxon's mission to Italy it is suggested that a detailed report be forwarded to this office by the most expeditious means possible. At the time of receiving such report we will make whatever further arrangements are necessary.

Refer also to our no. 726 dated March 16, to Madrid, requested to Algiers for your information, and the reply of Ambassador Hayes Sherwood, numbered 974 of March 20, 1944, in which the Ambassador questioned the desirability of a full time WNB representative in Spain. It is our understanding that this reply was requested to Algiers and if you have not already seen it it is requested that it be made available to you. In the light of the Ambassador's reply, the designation of Saxon as WNB Representative in Spain is being held in abeyance for the time being, affording him ample opportunity to complete his mission in Italy.
Your designation as War Refugee Board Representative for French Africa is hereby amended to constitute you the Special representative of the War Refugee Board for the Mediterranean Area. The purpose of this amendment is to enable you to deal with refugee problems affecting North Africa and to carry out there any immediate action in connection with Crete, Corfu, Rhodes, Constantinople and similar areas. Pending definite action with respect to the design of a Special Representative, you are also designated as this latter representative to assist you in these matters, particularly as they relate to the mission described above.

Hull

Miss Chenoweth (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Ede, Glazer, Guston, Kadal, Langhain, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannin, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Pfeile, Pollak, Price, Sargoy, Smith, Steendahl, Stewart, Weinstein, H. B. White, Files.
My dear Mr. Saxon:

I hereby sub-delegate to you the powers and duties set forth below, granted to me by the War Refugee Board on 27 February, 1944, in accordance with the Executive Order of the President of the United States, dated 22 February, 1944.

(a) You are charged with the duty and responsibility of carrying out the Board's policies and progress.

(b) You shall work with and give all possible assistance to public and private agencies operating in this field, regardless of whether such organizations are American, Foreign, or International.

(c) You shall develop and assist in the development of programs and implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance, and relief of refugees.

(d) You shall forward to the Board recommendations and frequent reports of progress of work and difficulties encountered.

Insofar as the Trading with the Enemy Act is concerned, the Secretary of the Treasury has delegated to me the power to authorize other persons subject to said Act to communicate with enemy territory. In accordance with such delegation of power you are hereby authorized to communicate with enemy territory in carrying out the provisions of the Order.

You should call to the attention of other persons concerned the following portions of a cable sent at the direction of the Secretary of War to Generals Eisenhower, Devers, Stillwell, and MacArthur, under date of 2 March, 1944:

"The Executive Order calls upon the War Department and other departments and agencies of the Government to supply or obtain for the Board such information and to extend to the Board such assistance and facilities as the Board may require in carrying out the provisions of the Order."
In compliance with the Executive Order, it is requested that you cooperate with the representatives of the War Refugee Board to the extent that such cooperation is not inconsistent with the successful prosecution of the war and does not interfere with military operations.

Very truly yours,

Leonard E. Ackermann,
Special Representative,
War Refugee Board

Mr. James J. Saxon,
c/o Representative of the United States of America, Algiers, Algeria
Secretary of State,
Washington,
658, twenty-ninth.


Reference is made to telegram numbers 610 and 613.

Heiss and Ackermann are in agreement therewith. Ackermann
making arrangements to confer with UNRRA representatives
and other relief organizations in this area. Would
appreciate further information as to relation of
Ackermann's functions with other organizations particularly
Inter-Governmental Committee.

CHAPIN
Reference is made to telegram No. 320 of January 29, your No. 422 of February 10, and Department's cable of January 26. State Department's cable of today's date designates Leonard E. Ackermann, United States Treasury representative in French Africa as Special Representative of the War Refugee Board. This designation has my full approval. It is understood that Ackermann may continue his duties as United States Treasury representative in French North Africa in so far as they will not interfere with his work as representative of the Board.

As Senior Treasury Representative you will of course cooperate fully with Ackermann in the important task which has been assigned to him.

S. EVERTS
(Acting)
(C.L.)
Acting
ADDRS:
616, Twenty-sixth

Please refer to Department's airgram of January 26 in regard to the establishment of the "Ar Refugees Board."

The Acting Director of the Board, John L. Pehle, and the Treasury Department have worked out an arrangement whereby Leonard L. Ackermann, United States Treasury representative in French Africa, has been designated as Special Representative of the Board. It is understood that he will continue with his duties as United States Treasury representative in so far as they do not interfere with his work as Special Representative of the Board.

You should advise Ackermann that as representative of the "Ar Refugees Board -

(a) he is charged with the duty and responsibility of carrying out the Board's policies and progress in French North Africa;

(b) he is responsible to you and should discuss his activities and problems with you regularly and fully;

(c) you should provide him with the necessary communication facilities in carrying on his official duties;

(d) he shall extend all possible assistance to you in carrying out the instructions contained in the Department reference communications;

(e) he shall work with and give all possible assistance to public

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-31-73
By R. H. Parks Date 1-3 1972
to public and private agencies operating in French Africa in this field regardless of whether such organizations are American, foreign, or international;

(f) he shall develop and assist in the development of programs and implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees;

(g) he shall forward to the Board recommendations and frequent reports of progress of work and difficulties encountered;

(h) as far as the Trading with the enemy Act is concerned, the Secretary of the Treasury has vested in the War Refugee Board and its representatives in the field full authority to communicate with enemy territory to carry out the purposes of the Order. The Secretary of the Treasury has also delegated to the War Refugee Board and its representatives the power to authorize any public or private agencies, who may be subject to the provisions of our Trading with the enemy Act, to communicate with enemy territory for the purpose of carrying out the Order. Ackermann is authorized to act accordingly.

Further instructions will follow from time to time.

Meanwhile it is suggested that Ackermann immediately contact the UNRRA representative in the North African area with a view toward familiarizing himself thoroughly with the program under which it is contemplated that certain refugees in Spain will be transported to Camp Marshal Lyautey near Casablanca.
3-2-12, February 23, to Algiers

Cost of telegram despatched in Lemberg's behalf
should be charged through your account for reimbursement
by the Refugee Board.

[Signature]

[Date]

[Refugee Board]
TO: Mr. Stettinius  
FROM: Mr. Pohle  

Attention: Mr. Warren

Attached hereto are proposed cables to Ambassador Wilson in Algiers and to Mr. Michael L. Hoffman, Senior United States Treasury Representative in Algiers, designating Mr. Leonard K. Ackerman, United States Treasury Representative in French Africa, as Special Representative of the War Refugee Board. You will note that this designation has been made with the approval of the Treasury Department.

You will note that we are not requesting at this time that Mr. Ackerman be accorded diplomatic status as Special Attaché. For the present he will retain his status as United States Treasury Representative under assignment to the War Refugee Board. It is planned he will continue with his duties as Treasury Representative in so far as they do not interfere with his work for the Board.

(Signed) J.W. Pohle

Enclosures:
CABLE

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WILSON, ALGIERS, FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT

Please refer to Department's airgram of January 26 in regard to the establishment of the War Refugee Board.

The Acting Director of the Board, John W. Fogle, and the Treasury Department have worked out an arrangement whereby Leonard E. Ackermann, United States Treasury representative in French Africa, has been designated as Special Representative of the Board. It is understood that he will continue with his duties as United States Treasury representative in so far as they do not interfere with his work as Special Representative of the Board.

You should advise Ackermann that as representative of the War Refugee Board—

(a) he is charged with the duty and responsibility of carrying out the Board's policies and progress in French North Africa;

(b) he is responsible to you and should discuss his activities and problems with you regularly and fully;

(c) you should provide him with the necessary communication facilities in carrying on his official duties;

(d) he shall extend all possible assistance to you in carrying out the instructions contained in the Department's reference communications;

(e) he shall work with and give all possible assistance to public and private agencies operating in French Africa in this field regardless of whether such organizations are American, foreign, or international;

(f) he shall develop and assist in the development of progress and implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees;

(g) he shall forward to the Board recommendations and frequent reports of progress of work and difficulties encountered;

(h) in so far as the Trading with the enemy Act is concerned, the Secretary of the Treasury has vested in the War Refugee Board and its representatives in the field full authority to communicate with enemy territory to carry out the purposes of the Order. The Secretary of
the Treasury has also delegated to the War Refugee Board and its representatives the power to authorize any public or private agency, who may be subject to the provisions of our Trading with the enemy Act, to communicate with enemy territory for the purpose of carrying out the Order. Afternoon is authorized to act accordingly.

Further instructions will follow from time to time. Meanwhile it is suggested that Sokaram immediately contact the UNRRA representative in the North African area with a view toward familiarizing himself thoroughly with the progress under which it is contemplated that certain refugees in Spain will be transported to Camp Marshal Lysutey near Casablanca.
CABLE
OFFICIAL FILE COPY

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WILSON, ALGIERS, FOR HOFFMAN FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

FOR WILSON FOR HOFFMAN FROM SECRETARY MORGENTHAU.

Reference is made to Telegram No. 380 of January 29, your No. 432 of February 10, and Department’s Airgram of January 26. State Department’s cable of [date in number, etc. of cable to Ambassador Wilson, Algiers, designating Ackermann] designates Leonard E. Ackermann, United States Treasury representative in French Africa as Special Representative of the War Refugee Board. This designation has my full approval. It is understood that Ackermann may continue his duties as United States Treasury representative in French North Africa in so far as they will not interfere with his work as representative of the Board.

As Senior Treasury Representative you will of course cooperate fully with Ackermann in the important task which has been assigned to him.
May 17, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehle:

Confirming your recent conversation with Mr. Hayden Raynor of the Under Secretary's office, I am returning a copy of the Board's proposed cable of April 27, 1944, to Ambassador MacVeagh and Minister Kirk in Cairo, nominating Mr. Charles R. Joy as the Board's representative in that area, on the understanding that the War Refugee Board is to give further consideration to the selection of a suitable person for this post.

Sincerely yours,

George L. Warren
Adviser on Refugees and Displaced Persons

Enclosure:
Proposed cable to Cairo
April 27, 1944.

Mr. John W. Pehle, Director,
War Refugee Board,
Room 6571,
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR NAVRAGH AND MINISTER KINN, CAIRO, FROM STATE DEPARTMENT

Please refer to Department's circular airmail of January 26 in regard to the establishment of the War Refuge Board.

The Executive Director of the Board, John W. Fehlo, has informed the Department that in conformity with the President's Order of January 26, the Board proposes to appoint Mr. Charles H. Joy, Acting Executive Director of the Unitarian Service Committee, as the Special Representative of the Board with the designation by the Department as Special Attache to both the Embassy and the Legation on war refugee matters. The Presidential order provides that the State Department shall appoint such Special Attaches on the recommendation of the Board, that they shall have diplomatic status and that their duties and responsibilities shall be defined by the Board in consultation with the State Department.

The Unitarian Service Committee has indicated that it has no objection to Mr. Joy's accepting this appointment.

If, after considering the matter, this appointment meets with the approval of both the Ambassador and the Minister, please advise us accordingly by telegram in order that his designation may be made effective at once. It is assumed that there will be no objection on the part of the Egyptian, Greek and Yugoslav Governments to this designation, although in their discretion the Ambassador may approach informally the Greek and Yugoslav authorities and the Minister the Egyptian authorities if this is considered necessary or advisable.

If Joy is appointed we propose to advise him that:

(a) He is charged with the duty and responsibility of carrying out the Board's policies and programs in Egypt.

(b) He is responsible to the Ambassador insofar as the Board's activities involve relations with the Greek and Yugoslav Governments and to the Minister insofar as the Board's activities involve relations with the Egyptian Government.

(c) He should discuss his activities and problems regularly and fully with the Ambassador and Minister.

(d) The Legation will provide him with the necessary communication facilities in carrying on his official duties.

(e) He should extend all possible assistance to both the Ambassador and Minister in carrying out instructions contained in the airmail referred to above.

(f) He should work with and give all possible assistance to public and private agencies operating in Egypt in this field regardless of whether such organizations are American, foreign or international.
(g) He should develop and assist in the development of programs and implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees.

(h) He should forward to the Board recommendations and frequent reports on progress of work and difficulties encountered.

(i) Transfer as the Banking with the enemy Act is concerned the Secretary of the Treasury has vested in the War Refugees Board and its representatives in the field full authority to communicate with enemy territory to carry out the purposes of the Order. The Secretary of the Treasury has also delegated to the War Refugees Board and its representatives the power to authorize any public or private agencies who may be subject to the provisions of the Banking with the enemy Act to communicate with enemy territory for the purpose of carrying out the Order. Jay is authorized to act accordingly upon confirmation of his designation by the Ambassador and Minister.

After receipt of confirmation of Jay's designation further detailed instructions will follow from time to time.
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR MACVYHAN AND MINISTER KLINK, CAIRO, FROM STATE DEPARTMENT

Please refer to Department's circular airmail of January 26 in regard to the establishment of the War Refugee Board.

The Executive Director of the Board, Mr. John V. Peake, has informed the Department that in conformity with the President's Order of January 26, the Board proposes to appoint Mr. Charles A. Joy, Acting Executive Director of the United States Service Committee, as the Special Representative of the Board with the designation by the Department as Special Attaché to both the Embassy and the Legation on war refugee matters. The Presidential order provides that the State Department shall appoint such Special Attachés on the recommendation of the Board, that they shall have diplomatic status and that their duties and responsibilities shall be defined by the Board in consultation with the State Department.

The United Service Committee has indicated that it has no objection to Mr. Joy's accepting this appointment.

If, after considering the matter, this appointment meets with the approval of both the Ambassador and the Minister, please advise us accordingly by telegram in order that his designation may be made effective at once. It is assumed that there will be no objection on the part of the Egyptian, Greek and Yugoslav Governments to this designation, although in their discretion the Ambassador may approach informally the Greek and Yugoslav authorities and the Minister the Egyptian authorities if this is considered necessary or advisable.

If Joy is appointed we propose to advise him that:

(a) He is charged with the duty and responsibility of carrying out the Board's policies and programs in Egypt.

(b) He is responsible to the ambassador and the Minister to the ambassador's activities involve relations with the Greek and Yugoslav Governments and to the Minister's activities as the Board's activities involve relations with the Egyptian Government.

(c) He should discuss his activities and problems regularly and fully with the Ambassador and Minister.

(d) The Legation will provide him with the necessary communication facilities in carrying on his official duties.

(e) He should extend all possible assistance to both the Ambassador and Minister in carrying out instructions contained in the airmail referred to above.

(f) He should work with and give all possible assistance to public and private agencies operating in Egypt in this field regardless of whether such organisations are American, foreign or international.
(g) He should develop and assist in the development of programs and implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees.

(h) He should forward to the Board recommendations and frequent reports on progress of work and difficulties encountered.

(i) Insofar as the trading with the enemy Act is concerned the Secretary of the Treasury has vested in the War Refugee Board and its representatives in the field full authority to communicate with enemy territory to carry out the purposes of the Order. The Secretary of the Treasury has also delegated to the War Refugee Board and its representatives the power to authorize any public or private agencies who may be subject to the provisions of our trading with the enemy Act to communicate with enemy territory for the purpose of carrying out the Order. Joy is authorized to act accordingly upon confirmation of his designation by the Ambassador and Minister.

After receipt of confirmation of Joy's designation further detailed instructions will follow from time to time.

************
April 27, 1944
11:00 A.M.
TELEGRAFE SENT
ALGERIA

SIR, Twenty-sixth

Please refer to Department's airgram of January 26 in
regard to the establishment of the War Refugee Board.

The Acting Director of the Board, John V. Pehle, and
the Treasury Department have worked out an arrangement
whereby Leonard K. Ackerman, United States Treasury rep-resentative in French Africa, has been designated as Special
Representative of the Board. It is understood that he will
continue with his duties as United States Treasury repre-
sentative in so far as they do not interfere with his work
as Special Representative of the Board.

You should advise Ackerman that as representative of
the War Refugee Board -

(a) he is charged with the duty and responsibility of
carrying out the Board's policies and progress in
French North Africa;

(b) he is responsible to you and should discuss his
activities and problems with you regularly and fully;

(c) you should provide him with the necessary commu-nication facilities in carrying on his official duties;

(d) he shall extend all possible assistance to you in
carrying out the instructions contained in the Depart-ment's reference communications;

(e) he shall work with and give all possible assistance
to public

cc: Miss Chauncey, Mr. Paul, Cashion, H.D. White, Pehle, Luxford,
Dubois (2), W.I. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Miss Nobel,
Pollak, Mr. Abrahamson, Miss Laughlin,
to public and private agencies operating in French
Africa in that field regardless of whether such
organizations are American foreign, or inter-
national;

(f) he shall develop and assist in the development
of programs and implementation of measures for the
recovery, transportation, maintenance and relief of
refugees;

(g) he shall forward to the Board recommendations
and frequent reports of progress of work and diffi-
culties encountered;

(h) in so far as the trading with the enemy Act is
concerned, the Secretary of the Treasury has vested
in the War Refugee Board and its representatives in
the field full authority to communicate with enemy
territory to carry out the purposes of the Order.
The Secretary of the Treasury has also delegated to
the War Refugee Board and its representatives the
teritory for the purpose of carrying out the Order.
Ackermann is authorized to act accordingly.
Further instructions will follow from time to time.

Meanwhile it is suggested that Ackermann immediately con-
tact the UNRRA representative in the North African area
with a view toward familiarizing himself thoroughly with
the program under which it is contemplated that certain
refugees in Spain will be transported to Camp Marshal
Lyons near Casablanca.
Cost of telegram despatched in Ackerman's behalf should be charged through your account for reimbursement by War Refugee Board.

SPETTINO

(Acting)

(GLN)

8/25/44
DOROTHY K. BROWN
Lawrence Lesser
Goodhart, Arthur L.
James E. Mann
Dear Jim:

As we near the termination of the War Refugee Board, I want to express to you my personal appreciation for the outstanding part you played in the Board's great undertaking.

Your able representation of the Board in London and your handling of difficult negotiations with the British government and relations with interested private agencies are evidence of your unusual ability and your personal devotion to a great cause. I wish especially to commend you for the splendid job you did for us in the negotiations in Paris for fuel and tires so essential for the success of our feeding program.

It was my great fortune when I came to the Board to find that men such as you with extraordinary ability, courage and sincerity were already serving the Board. In no small measure is the success of the Board's activities due to the loyalty and efforts of its outstanding staff.

I wish you all possible success in your new and challenging assignment and I hope some day that I shall be able to thank you in person for the fine work you did for us.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer
William O'Dwyer

Mr. James E. Mann,
Treasury Representative,
United States Legation,
Bern, Switzerland.

F:ve 6/22/45
ALH-1367
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Secretary of State
Washington

4423, April 2, 2 p.m.
FOR O'UNVER FROM MANN

Instructions have been received from Treasury designating me United States representative in Bern, Switzerland. I plan to leave on this assignment shortly. I assume that you will want me to assist McClelland on WRB matters insofar as possible. Please advise urgently and instruct whether WRB confidential funds should be remitted back to Washington or transferred to Switzerland.

WINANT

BB
Dear Mr. Mann:

In connection with your appointment as Special Representative of War Refugees Board in England, I wish to advise you that in this capacity you are charged with the duty and responsibility of carrying out the Board's policies and programs in England. You are responsible to the Ambassador and should discuss your activities and problems with him regularly and fully, and, in carrying out the Board's programs, you shall extend all possible assistance to the Ambassador. It is understood that the Embassy will provide you with the necessary communications facilities in carrying on your official duties.

You shall also work with and give all possible assistance to public and private agencies in this field regardless of whether such organisations are American, foreign or international. You shall develop and assist in the development of programs and implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees, and you shall forward to the Board recommendations and frequent reports on progress of work and difficulties encountered.

Insofar as the Trading with the enemy Act is concerned, the Secretary of the Treasury has vested in the War Refugees Board and its representatives in the field full authority to communicate with enemy territory to carry out the purposes of the Order. The Secretary of the Treasury has also delegated to the War Refugees Board and its representatives the power to authorise any public or private agencies, who may be subject to the provisions of our Trading with the enemy Act, to communicate with enemy territory for the purpose of carrying out the Order. You are authorised to act accordingly.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Responsive Director

Mr. James H. Mann,
O/o United States Embassy,

Original signed

Filed 10/11/44
MS-699

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

London

Dated October 16, 1944

Rec'd 3:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

8776, October 16, 2 p.m.

FOR DEPARTMENT AND PERSHING WAR REP.

Re: your 8341 of October 10. Delighted to have been appointed as special representative and with the arrangement that Goddard be available for special consultation and advice.

WILKIN:

DU

CONTROL COPY

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-11-72
By: R. H. Peltz Date: SEP 13 1972
CONTROL COPY

LONDON

October 10, 1944

The cable below for Winant from Department and War Refuges Board in LEB B.

Reference cable's message forwarded as Department's no. 6800 of August 25, 1944. After discussion with Arthur Goodhart, cable and Goodhart agree that best arrangement will be for Goodhart to be available for special consultation and advice on an informal basis, and not be designated as War Refuge Board representative.

Accordingly, the Board proposes to appoint Mr. James H. Mann as Special Representative of the Board in England with the designation by the Department as Special Attaché to the Embassy on war refugee matters. The President's Order of January 22, 1944, provides that the State Department shall appoint such Special Attachés on the recommendation of the Board, that they shall have diplomatic status, and that their duties and responsibilities shall be defined by the Board in consultation with the State Department.

If the appointment meets with your approval, you should advise Mr. Mann that he is so designated and that he is to have diplomatic status. It is assumed that there will be no objection on the part of the British Government to this designation, although you may in your discretion approach the British authorities informally if you consider it necessary or advisable to do so.
- 3rd Hill, October 10, midnight, to London.

Please confirm action by telegram.

Please request Mann to contact Goodhart as soon as he returns to England and to consult freely with Goodhart on War Refugees Board problems as they arise.

Hull
(CO4)
CABLE TO LONDON, FROM DEPARTMENT AND FEBRE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference Peble's message forwarded as Department's No. 6809 of
August 25, 1944. After discussion with Arthur Goodhart, Peble and Goodhart
agree that best arrangement will be for Goodhart to be available for special
consultation and advice on an informal basis, and not be designated as War
Refugee Board representative.

Accordingly, the Board proposes to appoint Mr. James H. Mann as Special
Representative of the Board in England with the designation by the Department
as Special Attache to the Embassy on war refugee matters. The President's
Order of January 22, 1944, provides that the State Department shall appoint
such Special Attaches on the recommendation of the Board, that they shall
have diplomatic status, and that their duties and responsibilities shall be
defined by the Board in consultation with the State Department.

If the appointment meets with your approval, you should advise Mr. Mann
that he is so designated and that he is to have diplomatic status. It is
assumed that there will be no objection on the part of the British Government
to this designation, although you may in your discretion approach the British
authorities informally if you consider it necessary or advisable to do so.
Please confirm action by telegram.

Please request Mann to contact Goodhart as soon as he returns to England
and to consult freely with Goodhart on War Refugee Board problems as they
arise.

THIS IS FEB's CABLE TO LONDON NO. 8

10:25 a.m.
October 4, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, Dulots, Friedman, Hodel,
Laughlin, Lesser, Hannon, McCormack, Files

D64

Finshed 10/3/44
TO:

Mr. Levent
Mr. Friedman
Mr. Stewart
Mr. Modell

Send copy to Warren.

JWP

O. W. Fails

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGE BOARD
Dear Mr. Pehle:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 30, 1944, which was handed to me by Mr. James H. Mann, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.

Mr. Mann has already thrown himself energetically into the refugee work here and I am sure that his assignment to London will produce valuable results. You may rest assured that the Embassy will provide him with every possible facility to this end.

Sincerely,

J. W. Pehle, Esq.,
Executive Director, War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.
To: Mr. Warren

From: Mr. Pehle

For your information and files, I send you herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from Ambassador Winant under date of September 13, 1944.

Attachment.
Embassy is authorized to make following payments to
Mr. James H. Mann, Special Representative of the War Refugee
Board at London, on a reimbursable basis in accordance with
Section V-45 as authorized by WMB's letter of August 28, 1944:

1. Subsistence of $7.00 per diem effective as of the
date he leaves this country. ($6.00 per diem
while traveling in this country.)

2. Travel expenses exclusive of subsistence.

3. Salaries of local staff.

4. Miscellaneous expenses for office supplies and
equipment.

It is estimated that the expenditures for the last
three items combined will not be more than $6,000 per annum.

It will not be necessary for any salary payments to be
made to Mr. Mann.

Notice of Mr. Mann's assignment to London was given in
Department's 8809, August 28, 1944.

HULL

FAIE: 8/30/44
You are informed that Mann is departing for London today for a temporary sojourn to inquire into problems regarding refugee matters.

Forgoing has reference to Department's cable of August 25, 1944, No. 6809.

HULL

Paraphrase: DOR:VAG:MLM 9/5/44
August 30, 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

The bearer of this letter is Mr. James H. Mann who, until now has served as Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugees Board. He like most of us has worked with the Board because he has a sincere interest in doing everything possible to save the lives of the innocent people who are in danger of death as a result of Nazi policies. He has my complete confidence and I am sure that you will find him of assistance.

I take this opportunity again to express to you my appreciation for your real interest in the problems with which the Board has been confronted and your efforts in carrying out its program.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

The Honorable John O. Winant
Ambassador of the United States of America
London, England

JWPM 8/30/44
WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

30 August 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have your letter of August 25, 1944, in which you request the War Department to issue an AR identification card to Mr. James E. Mann, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, who is leaving shortly for London.

Under the provisions of Article 91 of the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention certain "individuals who follow armed forces without directly belonging thereto," are entitled to receive the benefits of the Convention, if furnished with appropriate identification by the armed forces which they accompany. War Department Circular No. 262, a copy of which I am inclosing for your information, defines the categories of civilians who are entitled to receive identification cards from the Adjutant General of the Army of the United States.

I do not believe that we can certify that Mr. Mann either accompanies or serves with the Army. The tendency has been to limit carefully those who receive this identification in order to maintain our traditional policy of strict compliance with the Geneva Convention. While we are anxious to do all that the Army can to assist your work this has an international aspect that is not entirely within our control. I hope it will be possible for Mr. Mann to perform his functions without this particular type of identification.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN J. McCLOY
Assistant Secretary of War
August 28, 1944

My dear Mr. Shaw:

Pursuant to my letter of March 20 and your reply of March 28 (reference Pa), the War Refugee Board requests that arrangements be made by the Department of State for the payment on a reimbursable basis of the per diem and administrative expenses of Mr. James H. Mann who has been designated Special Representative at London, England. Mr. Mann's appointment has been cleared with the Department of State and he will leave immediately for London.

The following administrative expenditures should be handled under the arrangements indicated in our exchange of correspondence:

1. **Salary.** It will not be necessary for any salary payments to be made to Mr. Mann.

2. **Subsistence.** $7.00 per diem effective as of the date he leaves this country ($6.00 per diem while traveling in this country.)

3. **Travel expenses exclusive of subsistence.**

4. **Salaries of local staff.**

5. **Miscellaneous expenses for office supplies and equipment.**

It is estimated that the expenditures for the last three items combined will not be more than $6,000 on an annual basis.

Your cooperation in arranging for Mr. Mann's administrative needs will be very much appreciated. Any questions that may arise in this connection should be referred to Mr. David White, Administrative Officer, Treasury extension 5666.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

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

8/28/44
August 26, 1944

Dear Mr. McGillivary,

Mr. James H. Hanr, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, is leaving within the next few days for London, England where he will serve in the capacity of Special Representative of the War Refugee Board. Mr. Hanr's duties in England will probably require him to go into Switzerland and thus travel across France. Permission for such travel, of course, will be obtained from the Supreme Commander.

The Board desires that Mr. Hanr be given every facility to aid him in carrying out his duties as the Board's representative in London and in such travel as he may be required to undertake. Accordingly, I would appreciate it very much if he could be issued an American Identification card by the War Department. For the information of the officers of the War Department charged with issuing such identification cards, I am enclosing a copy of the President's Executive Order creating the Board.

Since in all probability Mr. Hanr will be leaving within the next few days I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. In the event that it should be necessary for members of your Department to communicate with Mr. Hanr he may be reached in the London Embassy of the United States of America, telephone number, Executive 6400, Extension 2064.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Pohl
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McGillivary,
Assistant Secretary of War,
Department of War,
Washington, D.C.

[Signature]
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: August 25, 1944
NUMBER: 6809

FROM JOHN W. PHILLY TO AMBASSADOR WINTANT, LONDON.

Josiah E. Dubois has just returned and reported to me in detail concerning his trip to England. I wish to extend to you the Board's deepest appreciation for your efforts in furtherance of the Board's program.

Dubois is strongly of the opinion that the Board should have a full time representative in London. Accordingly it is expected that James H. Mann, an Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board will be leaving within the next few days for London to confer with you, members of your staff; and the Intergovernmental Committee. I am informed that Mr. Goodhart will arrive in Washington within the next few days at which time I shall talk with him and then communicate further with you concerning Mann's status.

HULL
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 4, 1944
NUMBER: 5276

Mr. Pehle sends following message for attention of War Refugee Board.

Reference is made herewith to Department's June 30 cable no. 5171.

I made an appointment to meet Arthur Goodhart this afternoon as soon as I received your cable, and was informed by him that he would be interested in considering acceptance of an appointment to be a London representative of WRB. Upon arrival here, Lesser could make the arrangements.

Although Goodhart could not give his full time to the War Refugee Board, in my judgement he could give a sufficient amount to warrant his being appointed. The problem interests him deeply, and he has a complete knowledge of British Government workings and he has a large acquaintance among its ablest personnel. In addition he has followed the UNRRA organization's work as it affects the Intergovernmental Committee and refugees. On many occasions he has been very helpful to the Embassy and is liked and trusted by our staff. At the time we got the

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Loter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks, Date SEP 13 1972

British
British Parliament to pass the Visiting Forces Act, he was particularly helpful.

The delay in taking action on this matter is regretted by me, but it was my understanding that clearance was to come from you before any steps were taken.

YIRJANT
Personal to the Ambassador from Pehle:

Referring to our conversation in Washington, I would appreciate knowing whether you have had an opportunity to discuss with Arthur Goodhart the possibility of his undertaking to represent the Board in London.
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT AT LONDON

Personal to the Ambassador from Peble:

Referring to our conversation in Washington,
I would appreciate knowing whether you have had an opportunity to discuss with Arthur Goodhart the possibility of his undertaking to represent the Board in London.

4:20 p.m.
June 29, 1944

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

[Signature]
L. S. Lesserman 6/29/44

delved
My dear Mr. Shaw:

Pursuant to my letter of March 20 and your reply of March 26 (reference PA), the War Refugee Board requests that arrangements be made by the Department of State for the payment on a reimbursable basis of the per diem and administrative expenses of Mr. James H. Mann who has been designated Special Representative at Madrid, Spain. Mr. Mann's appointment has been cleared with the Department of State and he will leave immediately for Madrid.

The following administrative expenditures should be handled under the arrangements indicated in our exchange of correspondence:

1. Salary. It will not be necessary for any salary payments to be made to Mr. Mann.

2. Subsistence. $8,000 per diem effective as of the date he leaves this country ($6.00 per diem while traveling in this country.)

3. Travel expenses exclusive of subsistence.

4. Salaries of local staff.

5. Miscellaneous expenses for office supplies and equipment.

It is estimated that the expenditures for the last three items combined will not be more than $6,000 on an annual basis.

Your cooperation in arranging for Mr. Mann's administrative needs will be very much appreciated. Any questions that may arise in this connection should be referred to Mr. David White, Administrative Officer, Treasury extension 5566.

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

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

Dwight D. Eisenhower 8/21/44
August 17, 1944

My dear Mr. Shaw:

The War Refugees Board has been advised by the Department of State that upon the recommendation of the Board the Department of State has appointed Mr. James H. Mann, Special Attaché with diplomatic status, to handle refugee matters in the Embassy of the United States in Madrid. The Board considers it important that Mr. Mann proceed to his post in Madrid as soon as possible.

In view of the nature of Mr. Mann's work it is, of course, necessary that he have a diplomatic passport. He has just returned from a mission to Spain and Portugal on behalf of the War Refugees Board to which he traveled on a diplomatic passport. Such passport is now on file at the Department of State. The Board would be grateful if action could be taken at the earliest possible date to obtain the necessary visa for Spain and the countries on route.

It is the understanding of the Board that the next clipper for Lisbon is leaving sometime around the 23rd of this month. If it is thought that Mr. Mann should, if possible, proceed to Lisbon on that clipper since there apparently will not be another going directly to Lisbon until around the middle of September. If for some reason it is impossible to secure the necessary visas in that length of time it is felt that arrangements should be made to obtain passage to Spain for Mr. Mann either by way of England or Africa. Accordingly, it would be appreciated if the Department of State would make the necessary travel arrangements to permit Mr. Mann to leave for Spain on the next clipper, or if such is not possible to go to England or Africa by either commercial or army transport at the earliest possible date and from there to Lisbon and Madrid by commercial airlines.

In view of the fact that Mr. Mann is going to Spain for an indefinite stay, it is requested that if possible, he be given the necessary priority for twenty pounds excess baggage.

Yours very truly,

J. W. Fahl
Executive Director

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

[Signature]
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The bearer of this letter is Mr. James H. Mann, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board. Mr. Mann is traveling on official business for the War Refugee Board, and has in his possession certain documents relative to various projects in which the Board is interested. He is authorized to have possession of such documents and to carry them with him at all times whether he is traveling within or outside of the United States.

Any courtesies extended to Mr. Mann which will in any way facilitate his travel will be greatly appreciated by the War Refugee Board.

J. W. Peble
Executive Director

JHann14h/3p 5/26/44
My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am very much interested in your suggestion that we might be able to obtain the services of Arthur L. Goodhart as Special Attache to you and as the Board's representative in London. I have checked into this matter and am very anxious to have Mr. Goodhart accept this appointment. I would appreciate it very much if you would sound Mr. Goodhart out as soon as possible after your return and let me know by cable whether such an arrangement can be made.

As I mentioned to you, we contemplate sending initially to London one of my assistants, Mr. Lawrence Lesser. Mr. Lesser would not stay in London indefinitely, but would be very helpful bringing Mr. Goodhart up to date and in dealing with certain phases of our work there.

I am attaching a memo to you as we discussed. Thank you very much for your interest in our work.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

Hon. John G. Winant;
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

MAY 25, 1944
For Ambassador Winant

MEMORANDUM

Pursuant to your suggestion, there follows a brief summary of certain refugee problems in connection with which the whole-hearted cooperation of the British Government would be extremely helpful:

1. Temporary Havens of Refuge

The basic difficulty which the Board has faced from the outset and which has not yet been overcome, is the simple fact that the United Nations have not been prepared to supply even temporary havens of refuge for substantial numbers of the persecuted peoples of Europe, particularly the Jews. This fact is still actually interfering, to a great extent, with our efforts to bring these people out of enemy territory. At present the only important havens of refuge are a small camp in North Africa and some 20,000 Palestine entry permits which are still available under the terms of the White Paper. These limited facilities do not furnish a basis either for effectively appealing to the Germans and their satellites to release refugees or for successfully requesting the neutrals to encourage the entry into their territory of greater numbers of refugees.

One of the Board’s principal efforts at the moment is to find other possible temporary havens of refuge. There is presently being considered the possibility of admitting refugees to the United States for the duration of the war and establishing war refugee centers where such refugees could remain until they can be returned to their homelands.

The British Government could contribute materially to the solution of this problem

(a) Cyrenaica and Tripolitania

One of the specific recommendations made at the Bermuda Conference was that the British Government consider the question of admitting refugees to Cyrenaica. By the time of the Board’s establishment early this year, no definitive action had been taken on this proposal.

Accordingly, nearly two months ago the Board asked you to make a formal proposal to the British Government for the establishment of temporary refugee centers in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania to which refugees could be brought for the duration of the war. Under this proposal the United States Government offered to share expenses, etc., with the British Government.

Although you promptly presented the Board’s proposal to the British Government, a definitive reply has not been received and there is every indication that the British may let the matter drag on for some time.
The importance of establishing refugee centers in Syria and Crete cannot be overestimated, and if such a proposal is carried out promptly it may make possible the saving of additional lives. For example, it might be possible to induce the Turkish Government to encourage the entry of larger numbers of people if they knew that all refugees entering Turkey would be taken elsewhere. The red tape involved in doling out Palestine certificates and the limited number of certificates now available under the terms of the White Paper undoubtedly affect the willingness of the Turkish Government to encourage the entry of refugees from the Balkans. The existence of such refugee camps in Syria might also enable us to have the Spanish Government encourage the entry of more refugees to that country. In the circumstances, the Spanish Government believes that it will be burdened with all refugees who may enter except a small number who can be taken to the camp in French Morocco. Similarly, it would be possible to encourage the entry of more refugees into Italy if congestion of refugee facilities there could be avoided by moving refugees on to Syria.

(b) The Palestine Issue

The War Refugees Board has not taken and has no intention of taking a position supporting the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. My sole interest in Palestine lies simply in the question of the extent to which Jewish refugees can be brought to Palestine, even if only on a temporary basis.

In view of the continuing agitation concerning the White Paper, the British might well find it desirable to announce that any Jews escaping from Hitler may be brought to Palestine on a temporary basis. It could be made clear that the Jews so brought in would be placed in camps in Palestine where they would remain until the termination of the war, at which time they would be returned to their homelands. By taking such a step the British would not only be able to meet most of the criticism which is being leveled against them on the Palestine question, but of more importance, would make a major contribution toward the success of our joint efforts to prevent the extermination of the Jewish people of Europe.

There is no question that the British attitude on Palestine is greatly impeding the effort to rescue Jews from Hitler. For example, the unexplained failure to rescue several thousand Jews from southern Italy to Palestine may be due to a reluctance to fill up the White Paper quota. If these refugees were removed from Italy others could be taken care of there. Moreover, as previously indicated, as long as the number who may enter Palestine is so limited, the neutrals, for example, Turkey, are extremely reluctant to encourage the entry of Jewish refugees who may be left on their hands for unlimited periods of time. There are some indications that the remaining Palestine entry permits are being doled out in such a slow and complicated manner that they are not only difficult to obtain, but also that many refugees inside of enemy territory are unsure of the fact that they can still be obtained. If the British were to permit the entry into Palestine on a temporary war time basis of substantial numbers of refugees, not only could Turkey and other neutrals be induced to encourage the entry of more refugees, but, once this move penetrated
into enemy territory, there would be insufficient for many more to escape.

2. TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED PROBLEMS

(a) TURKEY

One of the great obstacles to the rescue of refugees from the areas adjacent to the Black Sea has been the lack of available land and sea transport. At present, through the efforts of the American Ambassador in Ankara and the War Refugee Board's representative, the Turkish Government has been permitting several small Bulgarian boats to bring refugees from Romania to Turkey and has permitted the transit of these refugees through Turkey, by rail, to Palestine. These voyages are illegal in the sense that the refugees enter without any papers and the ships sail here and forth without any safe conduct from the belligerents. The permission for this traffic has been obtained from the Turks only after difficult negotiations.

It is very important that other ships be obtained for this purpose. The Board succeeded in obtaining from the Turks the charter of a small Turkish passenger vessel to proceed from Romania to Palestine. The charter of this vessel was obtained only after long negotiations and upon the acceptance by the Board of many unreasonable conditions imposed by the Turks. Unfortunately, the vessel has not been able to proceed because no safe conduct has not been obtained.

Under present circumstances it is essential to obtain small boats which can operate without safe conduct as the above-mentioned Bulgarian boats are doing.

By virtue of its relations with Turkey and in view of the influence in shipping circles, the British Government might, if it were so disposed, assist in obtaining in the Black Sea area additional small boats to evacuate refugees in this "illegal" manner. The possibilities are that there are in this area small boats which could be used for this purpose if the proper negotiations can be made. It is obviously not a question of making diplomatic representations but rather of making full use of shipping information and influence which the British must have.

(b) YUGOSLAVIA - BALKANS

One of the few potential escape routes which remain from Hungary and the Balkans is through Yugoslavia. There is good reason to believe that the cooperation of the Yugoslav Foreign Service can be obtained in effectuating the escape of Jewish and other refugees from Hungary and the Balkans into and through Yugoslavia if the Yugoslavs can be given certain assistance which apparently they have not received up to now. It is extremely important that full advantage be taken of this possibility, particularly in view of the
tragic situation of the Jews in Hungary since the recent German occupation of that country.

Among the things that are necessary to enlist the cooperation of the Partisans in this effort are:

1. The use of certain small boats now available on the Adriatic coast of Italy. These are necessary in order to bring refugees from the Yugoslav mainland to Italy.

2. Food and medical supplies to enable the Partisans to care for the refugees who enter their territory.

3. Some financial assistance.

It is understood that the Partisans themselves own a number of small schooners which are tied up in Italy because they need certain small repairs. Other small boats apparently are located there which could be turned over to the Partisans for this purpose. It would seem that the necessities of food and medical supplies could also be met readily. The War Refugee Board has already indicated its willingness to give financial assistance but this is of the utmost importance in the circumstances.

Since the British apparently occupy a dominant position in this situation, it would be extremely helpful if they could be induced to cooperate in giving to the Partisan forces, on a humanitarian basis, the assistance they need in order to be able to rescue refugees. The importance of doing everything possible along this line without delay should be emphasized since the British seem to hold the key to the situation.

With respect to the desperate situation of Jews in Hungary, it should also be suggested to the British that they use every means at their command to influence people in Hungary to protect the Jews. The War Refugee Board, through the Vatican, through neutral countries, and through the Radio facilities of OWI has been endeavoring to achieve this result. Unfortunately there is no indication that our efforts have had any success. In view of the extreme urgency of the situation it is important that the British Government do everything in its power along these and other lines.

3. Remittances of Funds to and Communications with Enemy Territory

The Board, since its establishment, has consistently taken the position that, at this stage of the war, the saving of human lives is more important than the possibility that relatively small amounts of free foreign exchange may fall into enemy hands. Accordingly, the Board has, in a number of cases, authorized financing and communication transactions by private organizations in an effort to rescue people from enemy territory. The Board intends to continue this policy.
The British Government has, from the outset, expressed objection to this policy of the Board and, as far as is known, does not permit similar restrictions. Our experience has shown that money is, in many cases, the only means by which refugees can escape or otherwise save their lives, and we are convinced that every effort should be made to see that adequate funds are available for this purpose. Accordingly, it would be a most important step if the British were to adopt a policy similar to ours and to encourage and encourage the sending of funds to neutral countries for refugee rescue operations.

Needless to remark, British co-operation is indispensable to the Board's program. We, of course, intend actively to continue our efforts to carry out the President's policy but it would be much easier if the British would actively and effectively support our efforts.

[Initials] J. H. N

300328
TO:       WWMEMX Under Secretary Stettinius

FROM: J. W. Fehl

It has become increasingly evident since the Board's organisation that it is essential to the Board's operations that it have a representative in London. We are of the opinion that the repetition of delays heretofore met in securing (or knowing that we would not secure) British cooperation in shipping, blockade, fiscal and other matters can be avoided only if a representative of the Board fully familiar with its policies, objectives, and operations is on hand personally to press the Board's views. Furthermore, such information necessary to the Board's operations is available only to private and quasi-official organisations and governments-in-exile that make their headquarters in London. Often there are long delays in securing such information in Washington, with consequent delays in the execution of operations which, it would seem, can be obviated only by the presence in London of a representative of the Board who can be in constant contact with the persons concerned. Recent conversations in Philadelphia with delegates of the International Labor Organisation conference made this point only too clear. Under all the circumstances, the urgency with which the effectiveness of the Board's operations requires that the Board have a representative in London as soon as practicable cannot be over-emphasised.

As you know, Ambassador Einaudi has already expressed himself as being "very glad to have a special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the Embassy" and has agreed to accept Mrs. Dorothy K. Brown as an assistant to such special representative. Mrs. Brown, however, cannot leave for London for several months for purely personal reasons.

Accordingly, we propose to send Lawrence S. Lesser, Assistant Executive Director, to London as promptly as possible as the Board's special representative with diplomatic status. Mr. Lesser is applying for his passport and I would appreciate your assistance in securing the necessary clearances, including the issuance to Mr. Lesser of a diplomatic passport and a British visa.  

(Signed) J. W. Fehl

LCLA0434-5/19/44
Secretary of State
Washington

3207, Nineteenth.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM THE AMBASSADOR:

Thank you for your message no. 3109 of April 19.

I will be very glad to have a special representative of
the war Refugee Board attached to the Embassy. I will
also be glad to have Dorothy K. Brown appointed as an
assistant to the special representative.

WILLIAM

RB
AMBASSADOR,

LONDON,

S129, Eighteenth

FOR VICE-CHAIR FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Refer to Department's telegram 634 of January 26 regarding

War Refugee Board.

The Board feels that it would be desirable to appoint a Special
Representative in London to operate there on its behalf. The Special
Representative so appointed will be designated by the Department as
Special Attache to the Embassy.

In general the Special Representative would be charged with
the responsibility and duty of carrying out the policies and pro-
gram of the Board in Great Britain. He will be responsible to you
and will be instructed to discuss his activities and problems regularly and fully with you. Among other things, he will be expected
to develop and assist in the development of programs and implementa-
tion of measures for the rescue, maintenance, relief and transportation of refugees and to forward recommendations and frequent reports
on progress of work and difficulties encountered.

At the present time no selection has been made for the posi-
tion of Special Representative. However, the Board would like to
send to London Dorothy K. Brown (Mrs. La Rue Brown) as an assistant
to the Special Representative who will be designated later. It is

understood
understood that Mrs. Brown is known to you. Please advise the Department promptly as to your views with respect to this matter.

HULL
(v.o.)

4/18/44
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WIXANT, LONDON

You are referred to the Department’s telegram of January 25 No. 334 regarding the establishment of the War Refugee Board.

The Board feels that it would be desirable to appoint a Special Representative in London to operate there on its behalf. The Special Representative so appointed will be designated by the Department as Special Attaché to the Embassy.

In general the Special Representative would be charged with the responsibility and duty of carrying out the policies and program of the Board in Great Britain. He will be responsible to you and will be instructed to regularly and fully discuss his activities and problems with you. Among other things, he will be expected to develop and assist in the development of programs and implementation of measures for the rescue, maintenance, relief and transportation of refugees and to forward recommendations and frequent reports on progress of work and difficulties encountered.

At the present time no selection has been made for the position of Special Representative. However, the Board would like to send to London Dorothy E. Brown (Mrs. J. E. Brown) as an assistant to the Special Representative who will be designated later. It is understood that Mrs. Brown is known to you. Please advise the Department promptly as to your views with respect to this matter.

***************

Appendix: Miss Channos (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Dubois, Friedmann, Holli, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Pebble, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.
April 6, 1944

Mr. Poble
Mr. Friedman

Re: War Refugee Board Representation in London

I would like to bring up again the idea previously mentioned and
amplified by Lessor of having a War Refugee Board staff in London. I still
think this is of greatest importance to the Board's activities. I believe
that the recent letter to you from Eleanor Rathbone, to which I have
prepared a reply, indicates one possibility which would be open to us, i.e.,
constant contact and cooperation with the substantial body of British
Government and private opinion which is anxious for effective measures to
be taken to rescue refugees.

I suggest that you talk with Arthur Booker to see if any way could be
worked out for him to go to London as head of our group there.

As another possibility for a subordinate position, I suggest the name of
Vian Fry. Fry was recently in to talk to Lessor and myself on this matter
and is anxious to go to London for this purpose. I think he could be
extremely helpful with the labor groups, etc., and do not think that he would
create the difficulties which would obviously exist if he were sent to Spain
or some other such place. I talked very frankly with Fry on this aspect of
the problem. He recognizes that he could not be sent to a place like Spain.
With reference to the question of obtaining State Department approval, Fry
informed me that last year the OEH wanted to send him to London and indicated
him that the matter had been discussed with the State Department, which was
willing to let him go. Fry, however, at the time was sick of working in the
field without having full backing from the home office and did not take the
job. He is now convinced that the War Refugee Board really means business
and thinks he could be of help to us in London.
MEMORANDUM

Re: Necessity of War Refugee Board Representation in London

1. It seems extremely important that the Board send to London as soon as possible a full time representative and one or more assistants. Not only is it desirable to have someone on the spot who can attempt to secure fuller cooperation from the British Government and deal with the Inter-governmental Committee, but certain negotiations and projects for actually evacuating people from occupied areas can best be worked out in London through the governments in exile and other similar groups. Moreover, when the invasion occurs it will be indispensable to have someone in London who can at first hand see how the Board’s operations will be affected and suggest to us action to be taken.

2. A person especially well qualified for the important position of Board representative in London is Lt. Commander Arthur Becker, now Assistant General Counsel of the War Shipping Administration. Becker, you will recall, is the man who has been extremely helpful to us in meeting shipping problems. Not in his experience limited to shipping. He was formerly an assistant to Mr. Perkins and did important work for Perkins and Wallace. He has had not only considerable experience in various government agencies in Washington, but has had valuable field experience in the Mediterranean area as the representative of the War Shipping Board. He has had considerable dealings with the British and with representatives of other foreign governments. He strikes me as a well rounded, adaptable man with initiative and courage who would be able effectively to cope with the many important duties of the Board in the London office.

3. I have discussed the matter with Becker who is anxious to take the post despite the fact that it would involve a reduction in salary for him. He is extremely interested in the problems with which the Board is dealing and is anxious for that reason to take the job in London.

4. Becker feels that an arrangement can probably be worked out with the Navy under which he would be assigned as an Assistant Naval Attaché or Special Naval Attaché in London in charge of war refugee matters. Like our other representatives, he would have diplomatic status and would be responsible to the Ambassador. It would seem that Becker’s assignment could best be arranged by calling Under Secretary Forrestal or Secretary Knox, indicating the importance of the Board’s having representation in London and of our desire to use Becker, who has special qualifications, for this purpose. If a favorable reaction is obtained from the Navy, Becker feels that Admiral Land would, upon our suggestion, agree to the transfer and assist in working out the details.

5. One fact which it may or may not be possible to mention to the Navy is that the prestige of the Board’s representative and therefore the facility with which he could act in London, would probably be greatly increased.
if he were raised from the rank of Lt. Commander to Commander. It is understood that Becker's service would soon entitle him to this rank anyway. It seems to me that Becker's status as a Naval officer will give him additional facilities for traveling, etc., which will be of great assistance in doing our work.
The objects of the War Refugees Board are stated in the Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt on 22 January 1944, which stated in part as follows:

"It is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

There is hereby established in the Executive Office of the President a War Refugee Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board). The Board shall consist of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War. The Board may request the heads of other agencies or departments to participate in its deliberations whenever matters specially affecting such agencies or departments are under consideration.

The Board shall be charged with the responsibility for seeing that the policy of the Government, as stated in the Preamble, is carried out. The functions of the Board shall include without limitation the development of plans and programs and the inauguration of effective measures for (A) the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of victims of enemy oppression, and (B) the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims. To this end the Board, through appropriate channels, shall take the necessary steps to enlist the cooperation of foreign governments and obtain their participation in the execution of such plans and programs.

The Board shall be directly responsible to the President in carrying out the policy of the Government, as stated in the Preamble, and the Board shall report to him at frequent intervals concerning the steps taken for the rescue and relief of war refugees and shall make such recommendations as the Board may deem appropriate for further action to overcome any difficulties encountered in the rescue and relief of war refugees.

The Theatre in constantly engaged in a study of refugee conditions both in the theatre and in adjacent areas still in enemy hands. As the result of such study recommendations are made to the Board or to other authorities for measures to carry out the duties imposed upon the Board by the Executive Order.

Within the past few months the Special Representative has worked among other matters, in connection with the establishment of the refugee center at Poole, Morocco, and in the selection and movement of refugees to the United States. At present some of the specific matters on which work is being done are the following:
(1) The maintenance of contact with intelligence agencies to collect information on the refugee situation in Hungary and Rumania. Information so collected is forwarded to the Board and to Representatives of the Board in Turkey for use in connection with operations in that area.

(2) The maintenance of contact with appropriate army authorities and others for the purpose of securing information on the refugee situation in German-occupied Italy. Recommendations as to action to be taken based upon such information are made from time to time.

(3) The maintenance of similar contacts and the making of similar recommendations with respect to Yugoslavia.

(4) The making of recommendations to the Board for action along psychological or propaganda lines.

(5) Co-operation with the resistance to military, intergovernmental and private agencies in the carrying out of their programs.

Since the directive given to the Board relates to the "Rescue of victims of enemy oppression" it is believed that the work of the Board will end with the cessation of hostilities.

(6) and (D). The Board has no regular budget for its operations and expenditures are made only for specific projects.

(8) The only person employed by the Board in the theatre is the Special Representative.

No regular periodic reports are furnished to the Board by the Special Representative. The majority of the reports submitted are in the form of cables making specific recommendations for action or reporting on current conditions.


1. Early in September 1943 the British Red Cross and the American Red Cross were invited by A.F.H.C. to assist the A.M.C. in the Italian Theatre of War. A Conference was held at Palermo in this connection when it was agreed that the British Red Cross should supply personnel to be attached to the Allied Military Government for general welfare work in connection with the Italian, Italian Refugees and Displaced Persons.

Until just recently the American Red Cross and the British Red Cross ran a combined operation, but reporting from past experience it was felt that better work could be accomplished if the Americans took over all work in the Regions and operations connected with the 5th Army, and on the other hand the British Red Cross would become responsible for work on the Sub-Army Front, the Italian Refugee Branch, and the Internes and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission.
This concerns the Italian Theatre of War only and it must be borne in mind that this is entirely a short time policy connected with the Army and the Allied Military Government to whom all personnel are attached.

2. As regards the proposed activities of the British Red Cross in Greece and the Balkans a quantity of personnel are now waiting in Egypt and are working and will work under the direction of U.N.R.R.A. when the time arrives to enter Greece.

In Italy the present operations are constituted as follows:

a. In the 6th Army Area British Red Cross Workers, both men and women are attached on a Corps basis to assist the Allied Military Government Officers in dealing with an emergency situation after battle.

b. In the I.R.C. Red Cross Workers are stationed in each Camp and assist the Camp Commandant in general welfare work.

c. In all Camps run by the Interned and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission again there are Welfare Workers to assist in the organization of the Camps and general welfare. The British Red Cross are also entirely staffing, with trained Nurses, three Hôpitaux for Yugoslavs in the face of Italy. With reference to the above it is understood that the same kind of work is likely to continue in the back Areas until U.N.R.R.A. takes over. By the above the number of personnel to be employed in the future will be for the Interned and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission.

PERSONNEL

ITALY. The total number of personnel employed in the Italian Theatre totals fifty one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare Workers</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stokers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport driver</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>51</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the above a further draft are being equipped in England and will come out when shipping is available - up to it is hoped a further to all of 36.

MIDDLE EAST. The following personnel are now in the Middle East waiting orders:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drivers</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispensers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stokers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreters</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Welfare Officers       | 12     | **(Total 65)**

CONFIDENTIAL
Activities of Civilian War Relief, American Red Cross, in the Mediterranean-Theater of Operations

The object of the Civilian War Relief section of the American Red Cross is to:

1. Assist the Allied Military Government, the Allied Control Commission, and the Civil Affairs section of GHQ in restoring as quickly as possible all the functions of civil government which enable the people of a war area to care for themselves, thus keeping civilians from becoming a burden upon the military and a handicap to the winning of the war.

This assistance often takes the form of distribution of clothing to the needy, the delivery of food and medicine, the establishment of emergency dressing stations for wounded and sick civilians, protection of civilian hospitals, control of the movement of refugees and displaced persons, establishment of camps for their care, organizing conditions to deal with problems of health and welfare, making surveys which show exact conditions among the civilian population and thus provide a scientific basis for relief and rehabilitation measures, and in general giving every assistance possible to the restoration of all facilities which improve the public welfare.

Both a military and a humanitarian purpose is served by Civilian War Relief, which undertakes (1) to relieve the immediate war-time emergency, and (2) to set up the framework of civilian organizations which themselves can carry on long-range projects when the immediate emergency has passed.

b. Civilian War Relief, American Red Cross, presently operates with ACM of the Fifth Army, with regional ACM/ACC commands in all the activated regions of Italy, and its personnel are at all times available to responsible military authority for assistance in the handling of displaced persons and refugees problems, and in all projects dealing with civilian health and welfare.

Subject to military exigencies and the orders of appropriate military authority, the plans for the next six months contemplate a continuation of the same program of assistance.

c. During the last fiscal year clothing of a value of approximately six million dollars was distributed in liberated areas of Italy, Sardinia and Sicily. A great majority of these garments were made by volunteer Red Cross workers in the Red Cross chapters of the United States. There also was a substantial expenditure of money contributed by the people of the United States for the maintenance of personnel in the Mediterranean theater.

d. Expenditures for the current fiscal year call for continuance of clothing distribution in equal or greater amounts than the previous year and for further maintenance of personnel during the period of the emergency.

e. American personnel serving in this theater number sixty-seven (67), with six more enroute. These divide into the following categories:

1. Administrative
2. Office staff and supply
3. Field personnel, including supervisors in the field.

*Field personnel includes experts in relief, welfare, disaster, health, child welfare, community organization and administration.
Activities of the American Joint Distribution Committee of Italy

The American Joint Distribution Committee was established in 1914 to bring assistance to persons of the Jewish faith outside the continental United States who may be in jeopardy or who may be in need, and for whom no other source of aid is available.

In Italy, the program was initiated in 1934, to give temporary assistance to Jews who had been driven out of Germany by Nazi persecution, and to aid them to emigrate. The Dallacon, Paris, known as the Dallacon, was organized under the Union of Italian Jewish Communities to deal with this growing problem, but by 1938 the Italians of Jewish faith could no longer meet the entire costs and requested subventioning by the AJDC. Such subventions as were necessary were supplied by the AJDC each month without interruption as long as permitted. After that date, the Dallacon was financed by means of borrowings authorized by the AJDC.

A similar and much more extensive program has been operating in France financed in the same way by the AJDC. By means of this program, thousands of Jewish women and children have been saved from deportation or death. The work in France has been directed particularly to the relief of children through the paying for their hiding and maintenance in monasteries, other institutions and with private families. The AJDC is also carrying on similar programs of relief and rescue through local committees and by the device of AJDC authorized borrowings in the occupied countries of Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Belgium, and in many occupied Italy. Programs of assistance to Jewish displaced persons are operating through local committees of the AJDC in the neutral countries Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal and Turkey, as well as in most of the countries of South and Central America.

In Italy, during the next six months, it will be necessary to continue the program in those areas in which it is presently operating, and to extend it to newly liberated communities as soon as that is possible. This program will include relief for non-Italian refugees and for some Italian refugees for whom no other source of assistance is available. In addition, it is intended that some effort and some funds will be devoted to aiding the Jewish communities to reestablish their cultural, philanthropic and religious institutions, which had been suppressed during the application of racial laws.

Until all of Italy has been liberated, there is no way of knowing exactly how much was expended by the Italian committees of AJDC in that country during 1943. It can be estimated that approximately one million lire a month was required locally against the guarantee of AJDC that repayment would be made after the war. This guarantee was transmitted to the Dallacon committees through the good offices of the United States and British ministers to the Vatican, with the full knowledge and approval of their respective governments. In this way the program of relief did not have to be interrupted because of inability to transmit funds during the war and the subsequent Nazi occupation.

The estimated monthly needs in Italy for the AJDC program during the second half of 1944, on the basis of current expenditures, may be estimated to be as follows:

For assistance to 1500 non-Italian refugees, most of them stateless

1,000,000

For assistance to 1000 Italian refugees

1,000,000

For supplementary aid in reconstituting Jewish community activities, including religious, cultural, medical, child care and relief institutions

500,000
For supplemental assistance in camps for
approximately 500 refugees
300,000
For medical care for refugees
150,000
For vocational rehabilitation for 300
refugees
250,000
For non-personnel administrative costs for
local committees, including rent, light
equipment, transportation, postage, etc.
100,000
For administrative personnel for local
committees

Total
300,000

4,830,000

This estimate is for only that portion of Italy already
liberated. Although it is virtually impossible to esti-
mate the needs which will have to be met after liberation
of that section of Italy still occupied by the enemy, it
conservatively may be estimated that an additional amount
equal to the estimates above will be required. It is
hoped that the need for some of these expenditures by the
American Joint Distribution Committee no longer will be
necessary should UNRRA enter the field in Italy, and should
other governmental resources be developed. Any improve-
ment in the economic situation in Italy also will result
in a reduction in relief requirements subventioned by the
AJDC.

The American Joint Distribution Committee staff
at present in this theatre are two administrative personnel,
Mr. Max P. Farkas for the south of Italy, and Mr. Arthur D.
Greenough for Rome and north. It should be noted, however,
that the local Italian committees subventioned by the AJDC
employ some clerical and administrative personnel, both
Italian nationals and non-Italian refugees.

Activities of Organizations and Agencies
for Relief and Rehabilitation - Mediterranean Theatre of Operations.

The Friends' Ambulance Unit is a wartime voluntary pacifist organisa-
tion which operated during the Great War 1914-18 in France and Belgium
and was reconstituted at the beginning of the present war, to provide
opportunities for service at home and overseas for some 800 men and women,
sharing quicker views on peace at home and abroad.

The Unit is responsible to a Council which is independent of the
Society of Friends, though it works in close consultation with the official
committee of the Society.

Its members are available for work in the Unit in accordance with
the terms of exemption granted by the Tribunals set up under the National
Service Act 1939, and the Unit seeks to find openings for work in the
relief of suffering where suffering is most obvious and acute. The average
age of its members is 26.

For this work extensive training is provided for its members at home,
including an initial training camp of six weeks; medical training for a
minimum of three months in short-staffed hospitals in England and Scotland;
cooking and catering - a nine months course - driving and mechanics;
Gedglangage

in this... 4.

Current operations in the Mediterranean theatre include:-

1. Work with the H.M.S. in providing staff for blood transfusion units. This work is under the direction of the H.M.S., A.P.R.C. 19 men.

2. Work with the Fighting French Forces in staffing the Hadfield Scares Mobile Hospital. This Unit has recently moved to Southern France.

3. Providing the administration and European staff of the Scares Mobile Clinics - a group of village medical clinics in Syria and Lebanon. 19 men.

4. Stores officers seconded to the British Red Cross Society and operating in Italy, Egypt and Palestine. 6 men.


6. Relief work in the Balkans, under the direction of A.E.I. and U.N.R.R.A. in conjunction with other voluntary societies through the agency of the Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad, in London, and the Council of Voluntary Societies in Cire, Mobile Hygiene and First Aid Units, Relief Units, Mobile Laboratory Units, stores drivers and officers are being mobilized for Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece, and a H.M.S. has been allotted under indirect arrangements with A.I.S. (1) for work in the Dodecanese Islands 75 men 10 men.

7. Administrative staff in Naples and Cairo 10 men.

Total 193

Work contemplated during the next six months consists of maintaining these present commitments by reinforcements of personnel from England, and by adding to the numbers of relief personnel working in Italy by at least twelve men, for whom a request has recently been sent to England.

In addition, arrangements have been made to provide a party of twenty-five medical personnel from England to staff a Yugoslav military hospital under the direction of the H.M.S., A.R.C.

The Friends Ambulance Unit is not a fund-dispensing organisation. Its object is to provide personnel and to seek those possible for their maintenance by those for whom they work. Members are unpaid, receiving only their board, lodging and small allowances to cover the necessities of life.

Total number of personnel employed in the Theatre:

(i) Administrative 11
(ii) Field Workers 182
(iii) Division of personnel employed in Italian and Balkan Relief and according to skills. These are approximate only and in a number of cases overlap.

DECLASSIFIED

By B.N. Peakes Date 5/9/37
(a) Medical:
- Doctors: 2
- Lab technicians: 7
- Dispensers: 10

(b) Nursing:
- SRNs: 2
- Assistant Women Nurses: 4
- Male Nursing Orderlies: 11
- Male Nursing Ordnance: 17
- Female Nursing Ordnance: 5

(c) Welfare:
- 14
- 9

(d) Storekeepers and Quartermasters:
- 17
- 1

(e) Transport, Mechanics
- (all PAU members are drivers)
- 5

(f) Caterers and cooks
- 5
- 3
- Interpreters
- 22
- Hygienic and sanitation technicians

Total: 85, 16

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept Letter, 1972
By H. H. Parks Date

SEP 13 1972

CONFIDENTIAL

000346
ARGOLAD
Colonia
220
The following is for information from Pehle, War Refugee Board and Treasury. WHB 52.

You are instructed to return to Washington at once for urgent consultation with Board and Treasury. Please advise concerning any delays encountered in arranging for immediate transportation.

CONTROL COPY

RULL

For security reasons the text of this message must be kept secret.

LBS: READING
10/6/44

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED
CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL, CASERTA, FOR ACKERMANN FROM PEEL, WAR REFUGE BOARD, AND TREASURY

You are instructed to return to Washington at once for urgent consultation with Board and Treasury. Please advise concerning any delays encountered in arranging for immediate transportation.

9:30 a.m.
October 6, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Secy) Abrahamson, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Model, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormick, Files
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
UNITED STATES WAR REFUGEE BOARD
C/O U. S. POLITICAL ADVISER
AFHQ
APO 512

18 SEPTEMBER 1944

SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, U. S. WAR
REFUGEE BOARD -- MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS.

TO: G-8 SECTION, AFHQ.

THERE IS SET FORTH BELOW A STATEMENT OF THE
ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD IN THIS THEATRE IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR
MEMORANDUM DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 1944.

(a) THE OBJECTS OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD ARE STATED
IN THE EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ON 22
JANUARY 1944 WHICH STATED IN PART AS FOLLOWS:

"IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ALL
MEASURES WITHIN ITS POWER TO RESCUE THE VICTIMS OF
ENEMY OPPRESSION WHO ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER OF DEATH
AND OTHERWISE TO AFFORD SUCH VICTIMS ALL POSSIBLE
RELIEF CONSISTENT WITH THE SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION
OF THE WAR.

*******

"THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED IN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE PRESIDENT A WAR REFUGEE BOARD (HEREAFTER
REFERRED TO AS THE BOARD). THE BOARD SHALL CONSIST
OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE SECRETARY OF THE
TREASURY AND THE SECRETARY OF WAR. THE BOARD MAY
REQUEST THE HEADS OF OTHER AGENCIES OR DEPARTMENTS
TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS DELIBERATIONS WHENEVER MATTERS
SPECIALY AFFECTING SUCH AGENCIES OR DEPARTMENTS ARE
UNDER CONSIDERATION.

"THE BOARD SHALL BE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR SEEING THAT THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT, AS
STATED IN THE PREAMBLE, IS CARRIED OUT. THE FUNCTIONS
OF THE BOARD SHALL INCLUDE WITHOUT LIMITATION THE
DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMS AND THE INauguration
OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR (a) THE RESCUE, TRANSPORTATION,
MAINTENANCE AND RELIEF OF VICTIMS OF ENEMY OPPRESSION;
AND (b) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HAVENS OF TEMPORARY REFUGE
FOR SUCH VICTIMS. TO THIS END THE BOARD, THROUGH,

[Signature]
APPROPRIATE CHANNELS, SHALL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENLIST THE COOPERATION OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND OBTAIN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE EXECUTION OF SUCH PLANS AND PROGRAMS.

**********

"The Board shall be directly responsible to the President in carrying out the policy of the Government, as stated in the preamble, and the Board shall report to him at frequent intervals concerning the steps taken for the rescue and relief of war refugees and shall make such recommendations as the Board may deem appropriate for further action to overcome any difficulties encountered in the rescue and relief of war refugees."

(b) Current operations. The Special Representative in the theatre is constantly engaged in a study of refugee conditions both in the theatre and in adjacent areas still in enemy hands. As the result of such study recommendations are made to the Board or to other authorities for measures to carry out the duties imposed upon the Board by the Executive Order.

Within the past few months the Special Representative has worked among other matters, in connection with the establishment of the refugee center at Fedhala, Morocco, and in the selection and movement of refugees to the United States. At present some of the specific matters on which work is being done are the following:

(1) The maintenance of contact with intelligence agencies to collect information on the refugee situation in Hungary and Romania. Information so collected is forwarded to the Board and to representatives of the Board in Turkey for use in connection with operations in that area.

(2) The maintenance of contact with appropriate army authorities and others for the purpose of securing information on the refugee situation in German-occupied Italy. Recommendations as to action to be taken based upon such information are made from time to time.

(3) The maintenance of similar contacts and the making of similar recommendations with respect to Yugoslavia.
(4) The making of recommendations to the Board for action along psychological or propaganda lines.

(5) Co-operation with the assistance to military, intergovernmental and private agencies in the carrying out of their programs.

Since the directive given to the Board relates to the "rescue of victims of enemy oppression" it is believed that the work of the Board will end with the cessation of hostilities.

(c) and (d). The Board has no regular budget for its operations and expenditures are made only for specific projects.

(e) The only person employed by the Board in the theatre is the Special Representative.

No regular periodic reports are furnished to the Board by the Special Representative. The majority of the reports submitted are in the form of cables making specific recommendations for action or reporting on current conditions.

Leonard E. Ackermann
Special Representative.
Dear Mr. Despax,

This is to advise you that pursuant to authority conferred upon me by the War Refugee Board, I have designated you to assist me in the work of said Board in the Mediterranean area. As assistant special representative:

a) You are charged with the duty and responsibility of carrying out the Board's policies and progress in the Mediterranean area.

b) You will work with and give all possible assistance to public and private agencies operating in the Mediterranean area in this field, regardless of whether such organizations are American, foreign, or international.

c) You will develop, and assist in the development, of programs and the implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees.

d) You will forward to me for transmission to the Board recommendations and frequent reports of progress of work and difficulties encountered.

Insofar as the Trading with the Enemy Act is concerned, the Secretary of the Treasury has vested in the War Refugee Board and its representatives in the field full authority to communicate with enemy territory to carry out the purposes of the order. You are authorized to act accordingly.

Very truly yours,

Leonard E. Ackerman
Special Representative
Mediterranean Area

Mr. Michel E. Despax
Parco Hotel
Naples, Italy.
UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

July 26, 1944.

Dear Mr. Ackerman:

Confirming our today's conversation I take pleasure in informing you that M. Michel Despax, a French national whom we discussed, has been well known to me since 1941. At that time he was residing in French North Africa, having completed a period of service as an officer in the French Foreign Legion. M. Despax cooperated effectively through 1941 and subsequently with American officials in French North Africa. He possesses an excellent knowledge of European and Mediterranean affairs, has excellent language qualifications, and I have every reason to believe that he, while a French national, is friendly and loyal to the United States. I perceive no objection whatever to your approval of him as a member of your organization.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Murphy
United States Political Adviser

Mr. Leonard E. Ackerman
American Representative,
War Refugee Board,
Naples.