

Cooperation with Other Governments: United Nations: General Instructions to U.S. Missions

000677

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAR 1 1944
COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM SENT
AND RECEIVED

*was Polignac Bu
me Peltier*

*File
JH*

HEL

February 29, 1944

7:30 p.m.

CIRCULAR AIRGRAM TO BE SENT TO ALL AMERICAN MISSIONS

EXCEPT

LONDON, CIUDAD TRUJILLO, SAN SALVADOR,

PORT-AU-PRINCE, TEGUCIGALPA, LA PAZ, and BUENOS AIRES.

The following airgram is sent at the request of the President's War Refugee Board:

Refer to Department's cable of January 25 concerning the President's Executive Order establishing the War Refugee Board and declaring the policy of this Government.

In discussing this matter with the Foreign Office of the government to which you are accredited, you are requested to make it clear that the establishment of the War Refugee Board represents this Government's determination effectively to carry out without delay the policy to take all possible measures for the speedy rescue and relief of the refugees of Europe.

Although this Government on its part intends to take all possible action with all possible speed, we feel certain that this effort will not be unilateral and we wish to make it clear that it continues to be the policy of this Government to encourage and participate in effective cooperative efforts with other governments.

As the President has stated, the Board of course will cooperate fully with all interested international organizations.

You are requested to make clear to the government to which you are accredited the position of this Government and our desire for its cooperative action. You should explore with the appropriate officials of the Foreign Office the possibility of implementing such cooperation through the issuance by their Government of a declaration

of policy

000678

-2-, Circular airgram, February 29, 7:30 p.m.

of policy similar to that made by the President and the issuance by the Foreign Office of instructions to its representatives in other countries comparable to the instructions contained in the Department's telegram of January 25.

Please keep us informed on this matter.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

WEA:GLW:KG EUR EH SWP U

000679

FEB 11 1944

TO: Under Secretary Stettinius
FROM: J. W. Pehle

You will recall that in announcing the setting up of the War Refugee Board, the President stated that he expected to obtain the cooperation of all members of the United Nations in carrying out the task of the Board. While cables have been sent to our representatives abroad asking them to explain our new program to the governments to which they are accredited, it would appear to be advisable to send further cables along the lines of the one we recently sent to Winant to our representatives with the other United Nations.

I attach a proposed cable and, if you agree, I would appreciate having it despatched at once.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

Attachment.

JWP
JWP
2/8/44

100680

DRAFT OF CABLE TO OUR REPRESENTATIVES ACCREDITED
TO ALL THE UNITED NATIONS, EXCEPT GREAT BRITAIN

The following telegram is sent at the request of the President's War Refugee Board:

Refer to Department's cable of January 25 concerning the President's Executive Order establishing the War Refugee Board and declaring the policy of this Government.

In discussing this matter with the Foreign Office of the government to which you are accredited, you are requested to make it clear that the establishment of the War Refugee Board represents this Government's determination to effectively carry out without delay the policy to take all possible measures for the speedy rescue and relief of the refugees of Europe.

Although this Government on its part intends to take all possible action with all possible speed, we hope that this effort will not be unilateral and we wish to make it clear that it continues to be the policy of this Government to encourage and participate in effective co-operative efforts with other governments.

As the President has stated, the Board of course will cooperate fully with all interested international organizations.

You are requested to make clear to the government to which you are accredited the position of this Government and our desire for its co-operative action. You should explore with the appropriate officials of the Foreign Office the possibility of implementing such cooperation

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JAN 25 1951
BY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 25 1951
BY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

through the issuance by their Government of a declaration of policy similar to that made by the President and the issuance by the Foreign Office of instructions to its representatives in other countries comparable to the instructions contained in the Department's telegram of January 25.

Please keep us informed on this matter.

110682

C
O

COPY:DCR:AGH

TREASURY (FFC)
(Mr. Pehle)

Y

TELEGRAM SENT

EGC

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

February 11, 1944

9 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

MADRID

385

Reference Department's 207 concerning War Refugee
Board. Please forward report requested in such cable
to Department earliest possible date.

STETTINIUS
Acting

U:HW:W

7 1 0 6 8 3

C
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Y

TELEGRAM SENT

February 11, 1944

LC
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Governmental
agency. (BR)

7 p.m.

AMERICAN LEGATION,

BERN

459

Reference Department's 251 concerning War Refugee
Board. Please forward report requested in such cable
to Department earliest possible date.

STETTINIUS
Acting

U:HW:W

70068

C
O
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Y

TELEGRAM SENT

MMT
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (BR)

February 11, 1944

8 p.m.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,

ANKARA.

118

Reference Department's 68 concerning War Refugee
Board. Please forward report requested in such
cable to Department earliest possible date.

STETTINIUS
Acting

U:HW:W

TELEGRAM SENT

EGC-
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
agency. (BR)

February 11, 1944

10 p.m.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

STOCKHOLM

229

Reference Department's 131 concerning War Refugee
Board. Please forward report requested in such cable
to Department earliest possible date.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

U:HW:W

C
O
P
Y

TELEGRAM SENT

MMT

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

February 11, 1944

8 p.m.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,

ANKARA.

118

Reference Department's 68 concerning War Refugee Board. Please forward report requested in such cable to Department earliest possible date.

SIETINIUS
Acting

U:HW:W

FEB 11 1944

TO: Mr. Rayner
FROM: J. W. Pehle

Over two weeks have gone by since the cables of January 25, 1944, went out to our Missions requesting immediate reports concerning the actual situation in the countries where the Missions are located and asking for the recommendations of the Missions. As far as I know, no replies have been received to date to these cables. In view of our special concern with respect to the situation in the five neutrals, I would appreciate having the attached cables dispatched at once to our Missions in Madrid, Lisbon, Stockholm, Bern and Ankara.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

(Sent by Special Messenger)

CC - Messrs. Pehle, Luxford, DuBois, Lesser, Friedman, Miss Hodel.

*Cables
Cleared with
JWP*

7/11/44 2/10/44

10068

CABLE TO HAYRID

Reference our No. 207, January 25, 1944, relative to new War Refugee Board. Please advise Department at once why the report requested in such cable has not been received to date.

000588

CABLE TO LISBON

Reference our No. 200, January 25, 1944, relative to new War Refugee Board. Please advise Department at once why the report requested in such cable has not been received to date.

700689

CABLE TO STOCKHOLM

Reference our No. 131, January 25, 1944, relative to new War Refugee Board. Please advise Department at once why the report requested in such cable has not been received to date.

7 0 0 6 9 0

CABLE TO BERN

Reference our No. 251, January 25, 1944, relative to new War Refugee Board. Please advise Department at once why the report requested in such cable has not been received to date.

700691

CABLE TO ANKARA

Reference our No, 66, January 25, 1944, relative to new War Refugee Board. Please advise Department at once why the report requested in such cable has not been received to date.

000692

for info / C

CABLE TO OUR MISSIONS IN PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND
AND TURKEY, TO BE REPEATED TO ALL OTHER DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR
MISSIONS FOR THEIR INFORMATION.

The President has instructed the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. In an executive order issued today the President declared QUOTE it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war UNQUOTE. The order establishes special governmental machinery for executing this policy. It creates a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. The Board is charged with direct responsibility to the President in seeing that the announced policy is carried out. The President indicated that while he would look directly to the Board for the execution of this policy, the Board would cooperate with the Intergovernmental Committee, UNRRA, and other interested international organizations. The President stated that he expected the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other governments in carrying out this difficult but important task. He stated that the existing facilities of the State, Treasury and War Departments would be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible. He stressed that it was urgent that action be taken to forestall the plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

You should do everything possible to effectuate this policy of this Government, bearing in mind that time is of the essence. You should cooperate closely with private organizations who are active in this field, aiding them in the development of programs and the effectuation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of victims of enemy oppression and the establishment of havens of refuge and the resettlement of such victims. The communication facilities of this Government should be made freely available to these private agencies in connection with the carrying out of this policy and you should give them every assistance in obtaining and verifying information.

You are requested to render an immediate report concerning the actual situation as it exists today in the country to which you are accredited. This report should include a full statement as to what is being done to rescue the Jews and other persecuted minorities from Hitler, including particularly (a) the extent to which these war refugees are permitted to enter the country to which you are accredited (b) the extent to which such country actually encourages and cooperates in their entry and (c) the extent to which such refugees are not able to enter such country because of the failure of such country to cooperate in their entry. This report should cover actual cases which have come to your attention involving refugees being turned back at the border and the reasons why such refugees were turned back. You should also report periodically on cases of this character which come to your attention in the future.

You should include in your report your recommendations as to what you feel this Government can do to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, including particularly what can be done to make the government of the country to which you are accredited cooperate more fully in carrying out this policy. Your report should cover any special obstacles which you feel are interfering with the rescue and relief of these victims and your recommendations as to what can be done to remove these obstacles.

You are requested to approach the government to which you are accredited at once and to make clear to such government the policy of this Government. You should ascertain from such government the extent to which such government is prepared to cooperate.

The Department is determined to do everything in its power to carry out this Government's policy as declared by the President and you are instructed to act accordingly.

This cable is being repeated to all other diplomatic and consular missions throughout the world.

January 20, 1944

Mr. DuBois

J. W. Pehle

I would appreciate it if you would have prepared a draft of instructions to the persons to be designated as special attaches.

I suggest the instructions include the following points, among others:

- (1) Indication that the text of the new Executive Order and press release together with circular instructions have been sent to the mission in question and copies thereof should be obtained by the attache.
- (2) An indication that this work should at least constitute the attache's principal task.
- (3) An outline of the assignment of the attache on the following lines:
 - (a) To work with and assist private agencies who are operating in this field whether the agency be American, foreign or intergovernmental.
 - (b) To develop and assist in the development of programs to accomplish the policy of the Order, including both open and clandestine operations.
 - (c) To report constantly on progress and obstacles and to forward suggestions.
- (4) Indication that we will remit funds for operating expenses and authority in the attache to employ personnel locally to the extent needed, including both American and non-American citizens.
- (5) Authority from the Secretary of the Treasury under the Trading With the Enemy Act in the attache to authorize private agencies who are bound by our Trading With the Enemy Act to communicate with enemy territory to carry out the purposes of the Order.

(initialed) JWP

JWP

DRAFT (1)
1/19/41 - 9:30 a.m.

DRAFT OF CABLE TO OUR MISSIONS IN SPAIN, PORTUGAL, SWITZERLAND
AND TURKEY.

The President has ^{instructed} requested the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. In an executive order issued today the President declared QUOTE it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war UNQUOTE. The order establishes special governmental machinery for executing this policy. ~~It~~ It creates a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. The Board is charged with direct responsibility to the President in seeing that the announced policy is carried out. The President indicated that while he would look directly to the Board for the execution of this policy, the Board would cooperate with the Intergovernmental Committee, UNRRA, and other interested international organizations. The President stated that he expected the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other governments in carrying out this difficult but important task. He stated that the existing facilities of the State, Treasury and War Departments would be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible. He stressed that it was urgent that action be taken to forestall the plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

You are ^{instructed} requested to do everything possible to effectuate this policy of this Government, bearing in mind that time is of the essence. You should cooperate closely with private organizations who are active in this field, aiding them in the development of programs and the effectuation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of victims of enemy oppression and the establishment of havens of refuge and the resettlement of such victims. The communication facilities of this Government should be made freely available to these private agencies and you should give them every assistance in obtaining and verifying information.

You are requested to render an immediate report concerning the actual situation as it exists today in the country to which you are accredited. This report should include a full statement as to what is being done to rescue the Jews and other persecuted minorities from Hitler, including particularly (a) the extent to which these war refugees are permitted to enter the country to which you are accredited (b) the extent to which such country actually encourages and cooperates in their entry and (c) the extent to which such refugees are not able to enter such country because of the failure of such country to cooperate in their entry.

You should include in your report your recommendations as to what you feel this Government can do to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, including particularly what can be done to make the government of the country to which you are accredited cooperate more fully in carrying out this policy.

- 3 -

You are requested to approach the government to which you are accredited at once and to make clear to such government the policy of this Government. You should ascertain from such government the extent to which such government is prepared to cooperate, including the extent to which such government is prepared to use its influence on the Axis occupied countries to cooperate in this endeavor.

JED:ocr

January 28, 1944

TO: Mr. Berle
FROM: Mr. Pehle

It would be appreciated if you would have the full text of the President's Executive Order of January 22, creating the War Refugee Board, and the press release issued by the White House in connection therewith, transmitted by cable or airgram to all diplomatic and consular officers.

(signed) J. W. Pehle

Recd 5:45

1/28/44

TO: Mr. Berle
FROM: Mr. Pehle

It would be appreciated if you would have the attached messages from Secretary Morgenthau to representatives of the Treasury Department in London, Stockholm, Ankara, Lisbon, Cairo, and Algiers dispatched as soon as possible.

(s) J. W. Pehle

JED

JEDuBois:ecr
1/28/44

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634

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON, FOR CASSADAY
FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

FOR WINANT FOR CASSADAY FROM SECRETARY MORGENTHAU.

State Department's 634 of January 25 describes the action which the President has taken for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. It discusses the functions of the newly created War Refugee Board composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, and requests our diplomatic and consular officers to do everything possible to carry out the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order. Please familiarize yourself thoroughly with this cable and the text of the Executive Order, and with all aspects of this matter.

As representative of the Treasury, you are requested to do everything possible to assist Ambassador Winant in this important task. The Treasury Department is determined to do everything in its power to aid the President's War Refugee Board in its efforts to rescue and bring relief to victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

You should keep me informed through Ambassador Winant of any ways by which the existing facilities and powers of the Treasury Department may be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible.

JED-JEDuBois:scr *Classified with White*
1/28/44 *JED*

7 200

CABLE TO MINISTER NORWEB, LISBON, FOR WOOD
FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

FOR NORWEB FOR WOOD FROM SECRETARY MORGENTHAU.

State Department's 200 of January 25 describes the action which the President has taken for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. It discusses the functions of the newly created War Refugee Board composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, and requests our diplomatic and consular officers to do everything possible to carry out the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order. Please familiarize yourself thoroughly with this cable and the text of the Executive Order, and with all aspects of this matter.

As representative of the Treasury, you are requested to do everything possible to assist Minister Norweb in this important task. The Treasury Department is determined to do everything in its power to aid the President's War Refugee Board in its efforts to rescue and bring relief to victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

You should keep me informed through Minister Norweb of any ways by which the existing facilities and powers of the Treasury Department may be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible.

JEDuBois:ecr

1/28/44

ged *closed with*
white ged

131

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON, STOCKHOLM, FOR OLSON
FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

FOR JOHNSON FOR OLSON FROM SECRETARY MORGENTHAU.

State Department's 131 of January 25 describes the action which the President has taken for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. It discusses the functions of the newly created War Refugee Board composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, and requests our diplomatic and consular officers to do everything possible to carry out the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order. Please familiarize yourself thoroughly with this cable and the text of the Executive Order, and with all aspects of this matter.

As representative of the Treasury, you are requested to do everything possible to assist Minister Johnson in this important task. The Treasury Department is determined to do everything in its power to aid the President's War Refugee Board in its efforts to rescue and bring relief to victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

You should keep me informed through Minister Johnson of any ways by which the existing facilities and powers of the Treasury Department may be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible.

JED
JEDuBois:ecr
1/28/44
Classed with White
JED

68

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT, ANKARA, FOR GUNTER
FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

FOR STEINHARDT FOR GUNTER FROM SECRETARY MORSETHAU.

State Department's 68 of January 25 describes the action which the President has taken for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. It discusses the functions of the newly created War Refugee Board composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, and requests our diplomatic and consular officers to do everything possible to carry out the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order. Please familiarize yourself thoroughly with this cable and the text of the Executive Order, and with all aspects of this matter.

As representative of the Treasury, you are requested to do everything possible to assist Ambassador Steinhardt in this important task. The Treasury Department is determined to do everything in its power to aid the President's War Refugee Board in its efforts to rescue and bring relief to victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

You should keep me informed through Ambassador Steinhardt of any ways by which the existing facilities and powers of the Treasury Department may be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible.

JED:Bois:cor

JED/BB/AA cleared with White
JED

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

FOR WILSON FOR HOFFMAN FROM SECRETARY MORGENTHAU.

State Department's airgram of January 26 describes the action which the President has taken for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. It discusses the functions of the newly created War Refugee Board composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, and requests our diplomatic and consular officers to do everything possible to carry out the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order. Please familiarize yourself thoroughly with this airgram and the text of the Executive Order, and with all aspects of this matter.

As representative of the Treasury, you are requested to do everything possible to assist Ambassador Wilson in this important task. The Treasury Department is determined to do everything in its power to aid the President's War Refugee Board in its efforts to rescue and bring relief to victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

You should keep me informed through Ambassador Wilson of any ways by which the existing facilities and powers of the Treasury Department may be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible.

JED JEDuBois:ocr *Class with white*
1/28/44 *JED*

CABLE TO MINISTER KIRK, CAIRO, FOR MIKESELL
FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

FOR KIRK FOR MIKESELL FROM SECRETARY MORGENTHAU.

State Department's airgram of January 26 describes the action which the President has taken for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. It discusses the functions of the newly created War Refugee Board composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, and requests our diplomatic and consular officers to do everything possible to carry out the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order. Please familiarize yourself thoroughly with this airgram and the text of the Executive Order, and with all aspects of this matter.

As representative of the Treasury, you are requested to do everything possible to assist Minister Kirk in this important task. The Treasury Department is determined to do everything in its power to aid the President's War Refugee Board in its efforts to rescue and bring relief to victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

You should keep me informed through Minister Kirk of any ways by which the existing facilities and powers of the Treasury Department may be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible.

JED JEDuBois:ecr
1/28/44

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white. JED*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

January 28, 1944

State's cables containing instructions to the Missions re War Refugee Board were dated January 25, 1944, and numbered as follows:

London	- 634
Lisbon	- 200
Madrid	- 207
Stockholm	- 131
Bern	- 251
Ankara	- 68

The instructions were sent by airgram to all other Missions under date of January 26, 1944.

CC - Messrs. Pehle, Luxford, DuBois, E. M. Bernstein, Lesser, Friedman

Miss Hodel

January 26, 1944

DISCUSSION OF CABLE TO MISSIONS RE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

During the discussions of the proposed cable among Mr. Charles P. Taft and Mr. Travers of the State Department and Mr. DuBois of Treasury, the State Department representatives made the following comments, among others:

Mr. Travers:

1. Stated that he hoped that he was going to have nothing further to do with refugee matters since they had been a terrible headache.

2. Stated that the British and Canadians apparently are upset by the establishment of the War Refugee Board and that it was quite possible that the Intergovernmental Committee would break up. He stated he understood that Mr. Myron Taylor had already resigned from such Committee. He further indicated that the Canadians had said that they would abandon the Intergovernmental Committee but upon questioning corrected himself to say that the Canadians had implied this.

3. Repeatedly referred to allegedly harebrained schemes for refugee rescue and relief which had been presented by the private organizations in the field.

4. Stated that he could not see why the question of communication facilities was any business of the Treasury Department.

5. Stated that it was not possible for the State Department to give diplomatic status to the special attaches provided for in the Executive Order since such persons would not be accredited to any government.

Mr. Taft:

1. Stated that we have to be a little careful about our dealings with the various Jewish organizations which

- 2 -

experience has shown fight among themselves and also frequently present impractical plans.

2. That the cable in question, according to consensus in the State Department, is one of the strongest that has ever been sent out and that the missions certainly will be shocked into action. It was also stated that some of the old people around the Department were somewhat troubled by such a cable. It was mentioned that the cable had been discussed with Mr. Dunn and Mr. Hackworth.

Joe Friedman

Official File Copy

January 26, 1944

MEMORANDUM RE CABLE TO MISSIONS RE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

On Tuesday, January 25, 1944, at 4:00 p.m. Mr. DuBois and Mr. Friedman went to the office of Mr. Charles P. Taft in the State Department to examine the final draft of the cable to the various diplomatic missions prepared by the State Department upon the basis of the draft originally presented by the Treasury.

Mr. Travers of the State Department was in Mr. Taft's outer office and when the typing of the final draft cable was completed Mr. DuBois discussed the document with Mr. Travers. Before and during the reading of the document Mr. Travers made the following comments to Mr. DuBois:

(1) That he hoped that he was going to have nothing further to do with refugee matters since they had been a terrible headache.

(2) That the British and Canadians apparently were upset by the establishment of the War Refugee Board and that it was quite possible that the Intergovernmental Committee would break up. He stated that he understood that Mr. Myron Taylor had already resigned from such committee. He further indicated that the Canadians had said that they would abandon the Intergovernmental Committee but upon questioning corrected himself to say that the Canadians had implied this.

(3) Mr. Travers repeatedly referred to allegedly hare-brained schemes for refugee rescue and relief which have been presented by the private organizations in the field.

After reading the cable Mr. DuBois raised the following objections to it:

(1) One or two sentences had been inserted requesting the missions to report with respect to necessary private financial assistance and with respect to the organizations through

which the work could be done. Mr. DuBois indicated that in his opinion it was not appropriate to discuss this matter in the first cable but that it should appropriately be left for subsequent discussion after the Board had met.

(2) The part of the cable relating to the use of the communication facilities by private organizations had been substantially changed in the sense that the missions were to transmit messages only if they were thought to be in harmony with coordinated and integrated programs effective to carry out the policy of the President's executive order. Mr. Travers indicated that one of the principal things they were trying to avoid was the possibility that time would be wasted in sending messages containing perfectly silly and futile suggestions and also that they wished to centralize the matter in Washington preventing the sending of messages to London and other places. Mr. DuBois indicated his view that this well might interfere with the Board's effort to get all possible information and stated that it was his opinion that the Board itself was the agency to determine the feasibility of various plans upon the basis of all information available. Mr. DuBois agreed that it was desirable for all such messages to be centralized in Washington. The alternative suggested by Mr. DuBois was that communication facilities should be made available for all appropriate messages in connection with the carrying out of the policy set forth in the executive order and the cable.

At one point in the discussion Mr. Travers stated that he could not see why the question of communications was any business of the Treasury Department, to which Mr. DuBois replied that the Treasury had been asked by Mr. Stettinius to read the cable and make such comments as it saw fit. Mr. Travers indicated that the language used was language approved by Mr. Stettinius and that he could not change it.

(3) Mr. DuBois inquired of Mr. Travers why there had been deleted from the cable "the Department is determined to do everything in its power to carry out this Government's policy", etc., substituting an instruction to the missions to do everything possible to effect the policy. Mr. Travers stated that this change was made in order to put the cable

in the usual State Department language and that in his opinion the State Department's form was even stronger than the other.

Prior to reading the cable, Mr. Travers had mentioned the fact that the order provides for the appointment of special attaches to diplomatic status who would travel around the various countries. He indicated that it was not possible for the State Department to give that diplomatic status to persons who were not accredited to any government. In this connection he mentioned that Mr. Ira Hirschmann had recently requested and been refused a diplomatic passport. Mr. DuBois pointed out that he did not believe that this was necessarily so since he, Mr. DuBois, had a diplomatic passport during his stay in North Africa although he was not accredited to any government and although there existed no government to which he could be accredited.

The above mentioned matters relating to the cable were then discussed with Mr. Charles P. Taft. In the course of the conversation Mr. Taft stated among other things:

(1) That we had to be a little careful about our dealings with the various Jewish organizations which as experience has shown fight among themselves and also frequently present impractical plans.

(2) That the cable, according to consensus in the State Department, is one of the strongest that has ever been sent out and that the missions certainly will be shocked into action. It was also stated that some of the old people around the Department were somewhat troubled by such a cable. It was mentioned that the cable had been discussed with Mr. Dunn and Mr. Hackworth (at one point Mr. Travers interjected that the Department itself would never have sent this kind of cable). Mr. Taft agreed to make the changes suggested by Mr. DuBois, i.e., deletion of material relating to financial questions and modification of the paragraph relating to communications.

At the end of the conversation Mr. Travers and Mr. Taft discussed the question of whether or not the cable should be sent in code. Mr. Travers raised the question of whether it was intended to make this document public and indicated that

if there was this possibility that he would prefer that the message be sent in code. Mr. DuBois indicated that so far as he knew there had been no intention up to the moment of making the cable public and indicated his view that the form of sending the cable was a matter for the State Department.

Mr. Taft was unable to get in touch with Mr. Pehle to discuss the changes in the cable and Mr. DuBois indicated that he would take responsibility for approving the cable in the form agreed upon by Mr. Taft.

J. B. Friedman

TELEGRAM SENT

RESTRICTED

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency. (RR)

January 25, 1944

Midnight

AMEMBASSY
LONDON.

634

The President has instructed the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War to make action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. In an executive order issued January 22 the President declared QUOTE it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war UNQUOTE. The order establishes special governmental machinery for executing this policy. It creates a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. The Board is charged with direct responsibility to the President in seeing that the announced policy is carried out. The President indicated that while he would look directly to the Board for the execution of this policy, the Board would cooperate with the Intergovernmental Committee, UNRRA, and other interested international organizations. The President stated that he expected the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other governments in carrying out this difficult but important task. He stated that the existing facilities of the State, Treasury and War Departments would be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible. He stressed that it was urgent that action be taken to forestall the plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

You should do everything possible to effectuate this policy of this Government, bearing in mind that time is of the essence. You should cooperate closely with all public and established private agencies who are active in your area in this field, aiding them in the development of coordinated programs and in the effectuation of integrated measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of victims of enemy oppression, etc.

The communication facilities should be made freely available to these private agencies for all appropriate messages for carrying out the policy of this Government herein stated, keeping the War Refugee Board advised through the Department. You should give them every assistance in obtaining and verifying information.

You are requested to render an immediate report concerning the actual situation as it exists today in the country to which you are accredited. This report should include a full statement as to what is being done to rescue the Jews and other persecuted minorities from Hitler, including particularly (a) the extent to which these war refugees are permitted to enter the country to which you are accredited (b) the extent to which such country actually encourages and cooperates in their entry and (c) the extent to which such refugees are not able to enter such country because of the failure of such country to cooperate in their entry. This

report should cover actual cases which have come to your attention involving refugees being turned back at the border and the reasons why such refugees were turned back. You should also report periodically on cases of this character which come to your attention in the future.

You should include in your report your recommendations as to what you feel this Government can do to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, including particularly what can be done to make the government of the country to which you are accredited cooperate more fully in carrying out this policy. Your report should cover any special obstacles which you feel are interfering with the rescue and relief of these victims and your recommendations as to what can be done to remove these obstacles.

You are requested to approach the Government to which you are accredited, explain the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order referred to above, and ascertain from such Government the extent to which it is prepared to cooperate.

Diplomatic and consular officers are instructed to do everything possible to carry out the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order. This cablegram has been transmitted by telegram or airgram to all diplomatic and consular offices.

Repeat to consular offices under your jurisdiction.

NULL
(23)

CODE ROOM - Repeat to Missions at Lisbon as 200, Madrid as 207, Stockholm as 131, Bern as 251, and Ankara as 68.

840.48 Refugees.

FD:HKT:HS 1/25/44 WEA A-B

ehicopy
2-1-44

Distributed to: Secretary (Mr. E.M. Bernstein); Mr. D.W. Bell (Mr. Dietrich); Mr. Paul; Mr. White (Mr. E.M. Bernstein-Orig.); Mr. Luxford; Mr. Fehle; Mr. E.M. Bernstein; Mr. Glasser; Mr. Taylor; Mr. Hess.

From Miss E. Hynes - En. 225

RECEIVED
AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL
NEW YORK
FEB 2 1944

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U.S. CONSUL GENERAL
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