Cooperation with Other Governments: United Nations: Czechoslovak Gov't in Exile
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1. FOR MATERIAL RELATIVE TO THIS FILE

SEE: 1. POST WAR PUNISHMENT OF AXIS WAR CRIMES
To: Secretary of State, Washington, U.S. 

January 30, 1945, 11:15 a.m. 

Sir, 

I have just been informed by the Foreign Office that the British Government have just received a telegram from the Czechoslovak Ambassador in London, stating that the Czechoslovak Government have instructed the British Embassy in Prague to protest to the German Government on behalf of the millions of Czech and German Jews who have been forcibly removed to the East and who are suffering untold horrors and deprivations. The Ambassador adds that the Czechoslovak Government are prepared to follow up this protest by further steps if the German Government fail to act upon it. The Czechoslovak Government are also prepared to advise the British Government and the other Allied Governments to take similar action. 

The British Government are prepared to follow up this protest by further steps if the German Government fail to act upon it. The Czechoslovak Government are also prepared to advise the British Government and the other Allied Governments to take similar action. 

Yours sincerely, 

[Signature]

Embassy of Czechoslovakia

[Address]
near the oriental government,

Beijing, September 27, 1942,

s. i.l.

Mr. President:

HERETO is herewith a copy of a letter of the 21st, 1942 from the Mr. Foreign Affairs, inquiring whether the American government could assist in obtaining the release of a Tolstoy in Soviet territory. At the same time to the British government.

This mission has supplied a copy of Mr. Tolstoy's letter by Mr. James X, who is now in London.

respectfully yours,

[Signature]

J.B.:

original = hactograph.

\[ Signature \]

\[ Signature \]

\[ Signature \]
Enclosure no. 1 to telegram no. 18, dated September 27, 1944, Czechoslovakia Series.

To: Consul General

No. 180/cons/44 September 27, 1944

To our correspondent:

I have the honor to inform you of the following matter:

The Czechoslovak authorities have informed the Soviet government that the Czechoslovak authorities have compiled a list of a considerable number of Czechoslovak Jews who are interned in concentration camps, and have named this list to the International Red Cross, offering to exchange for these Czechoslovak Jews correspondingly a number of German civilians who were interned in the same camp and are now held by the Soviet government. It was stated that these exchange agreements are to be completed as soon as possible, and that the list of these agreements is to be completed as soon as possible.

In this connection, the Czechoslovak government is seriously considering the possibility of securing, under conditions similar to the Terezin scheme, the release, under conditions similar to the Terezin scheme, of a certain number of Czechoslovak Jews interned at Terezin, in Czechoslovakia, or in other places, and thus saving at least a small number of lives while there is still time. According to the information which the Czechoslovak government has received, the Soviet authorities have already granted a greater number of entry certificates to Czechoslovak Jews who are interned in Terezin and have close relatives in Terezin. A list of the first names, comprising about 2,000 persons, is already available at the London office of the Jewish Agency.

The settlement of this problem, however, is considerably complicated by the fact that the Soviet government does not hold any detailed information about the conditions under which these Czechoslovak Jews are interned in Terezin or elsewhere. Nevertheless, it considers that this obstacle might perhaps be overcome if one of the Allied governments, on whose territory German civilians are interned, were willing to exchange a definite number of them - up to the present moment about 2,000 persons could be involved.

His Excellency

Consul General of Czechoslovakia

etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc.

London.
be involved - for the Czechoslovak citizens who are
interested.

I therefore venture to ask whether the United
States authorities could see their way clear to consider
an exchange of a certain number of German civilians in-
ternal on territory under their jurisdiction for a
corresponding number of Czechoslovak citizens interned
in Germany or elsewhere, who in this way would be able
to utilize the entry certificates for saluting which
the Austrian authorities are willing to let them have.
Should such a scheme be workable, it would seem rescuing
at least a small number of our citizens from the inhuman
conditions under which they are living.

I shall be extremely grateful if you would kindly
let me know at an early date what steps, if any, are to
be taken in this matter.

I am writing a similar note to Dr. Nicholas asking
him to bring this matter to the attention of the British
Government.

Sincerely yours,

/a.p./ Jan Kessaryk
The Czechoslovak government has received through its representative in a neutral country an extract from the document drawn up regarding the fate of the Jews in the German camp at Birkenau. This document was drawn up at Bratislava by two Slovak Jews who had managed to escape from the camps at Oswieczim and Birkenau in April. It contains an urgent request for the Allies to be informed of the frightful conditions in these camps. The Czechoslovak Government considers it its duty to comply with this request and the following is a literal translation of the extract as received from the neutral country.

The information contained in the document has been further considerably supplemented by reports which a Polish major who escaped from Oswieczim furnished to the underground organisation in Slovakia.

OSWIECIM AND BIRKENAU

The concentration camp at Oswieczim was originally intended for political prisoners, and about 16,000 Germans, Czechoslovaks, Poles and Hungarians were there in "protective detention". Besides this, professional criminals were sent there and asocial elements, homosexuals, stable students, and later Jews from the occupied countries. Over the entrance in the inscription in German "arbeit macht frei".

The Birkenau labour camp, which lies 6 km. from Oswieczim, and the agricultural work of the Harmae camp are both under the control of the governor of the Oswieczim camp. Inside Oswieczim camp are workshops of the German armaments concerns Siemens and Krupp. The huts in the camp are in three rows covering an area of 500 x 500 metres. They are surrounded by a double fence 3 metres high charged with high tension electricity. At every 500 metres is a watch-tower 6 metres high with machine-guns and searchlights. This is the "kleine Sontenette", another line of watch-towers runs in a circle of 5 kilometres and the workshops are between the two rows of watch-towers.

Birkenau camp is formed of three blocks covering an area 1,000 x 500 metres and is also surrounded by two rings of watch-towers. The outer ring is connected with the outer ring of watch-towers of Oswieczim camp and they are only separated by the railway-lines. Birkenau camp is called after the small forest of Birkenau (in Polish Birczewo) near by. The local population used to call this place "Hajazo".

The information contains supplementary reports which a Polish major who escaped from Oswieczim furnished to the underground organisation in Slovakia.
Working conditions at Auschwitz and Oswiecim are unimaginable. Work is carried on either in the camp or in the neighbourhood. Roads are built, reinforced concrete buildings are put up, gravel is quarried, houses in the neighbourhood are knocked down. New buildings are put up in the camps and in the work-shops. Work is also done in the neighbouring coal mines or in the factory for synthetic rubber. Some persons who work in the administration of the camp, any person who does not carry out his work to the satisfaction of the overseer is flogged or beaten to death. The food is 300 grams of bread per head every evening, or 1 litre per head of turnip soup and a little coffee. That is for the Jews. Non-Jews receive rather more.

Anyone who cannot work and has a temperature of at least 38.6 degrees is sent to the "Krankenbau", the hut for the sick. The German doctor divides sick persons into two groups: curable and seriously ill. The seriously ill are disposed of by a phenol injection in the region of the heart. Among non-Jews this is done only to those who are really seriously ill, while among the Jews 50 to 90 per cent of all those ill receive it. 10,000 to 20,000 persons have already been got rid of in this way by injections. Particularly inhuman scenes took place when the sick were killed wholesale during the process of delousing when a typhus epidemic broke out. Near the "Krankenbau" is the "Hygiene Institute" where sterilisation and artificial insemination of the women are carried out and blood transfusions are made. These experiments chiefly Jews are used. Since Lübeck, 1942 enormous transports of Jews have come to Oswiecim and Birkenau. A very small number of them have been sent to the labour camp, while an average of 90 per cent of those who have come have been taken straight from the train and killed. These executions took place at the beginning in the forest of druckwasser by gas suffocation in a special building constructed for the purpose. After the suffocation by gas the dead bodies were burnt. On the end of February, 1943, four new crematoria were built, two large and two small, in the camp of Birkenau itself. The crematorium contains a large hall, a gas chamber and a furnace. People are assembled in the hall which holds 2,000 and given the impression of a swimming-bath, they have to undress and are given a piece of soap and a towel as if they were going to the baths. Then they are crowded into the gas chamber which is hermetically sealed. Several J.3. men in gas-masks then pour into the gas chamber through three openings in the ceiling a preparation of the poison gas magacyclon which is made in Hamburg. At the end of three minutes all the persons are dead. The dead bodies are then taken away in carts to the furnace to be burnt. The furnace has nine chambers, each of them with four openings. Each opening will take three bodies at once. They are completely burnt after 1½ hours. Thus each crematorium can burn 1,500 bodies daily. The crematoria can be recognised from outside by their lofty chimneys.
...In principle only Jews are put to death by gas; this is only done to Aryans in exceptional cases. Aryans are shot with pistols on a special execution ground which lies between blocks 19 and 11 of Oswiecim camp. The first executions took place there in the summer of 1941 and reached their peak a year later when they were carried out by hundreds. Later when this attention a large number of non-Jews who were condemned to death, were taken straight from the train to the execution ground and not entered on the lists of the camp. According to careful calculations during the period from April 1, 1942, to April 1, 1944, from 1 1/4 million Jews were put to death by gas or in some other way, half of them being Polish Jews, others Jews from Holland, Greece, France, Belgium, Germany, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Norway, Lithuania, Austria and Jews of various other nationalities who were brought to Oswiecim from other camps in Poland. About 90 per cent of the victims of the transports arriving in Auschwitz and Oswiecim were taken straight from the train to be put to death and about 10 per cent became inmates of the camps. Each of the new inmates was registered and received a number. In April, 1944, 160,000 persons in all had been registered as inmates of the camp, counting Jews and non-Jews together. Of the whole number who had arrived before there were only 24,000 in the camp at the beginning of April this year, 12,000 of them being non-Jews. (In both the sources that we have quoted this number includes the membership of both camps together.) The remainder had been killed by hard work, illness, especially epidemics of typhus and malaria, ill treatment, and finally "selection", twice a week the camp doctor inclosed persons destined for selection. Those selected were all gassed. In a single block of Auschwitz camp the average number of deaths a week was as much as 2,000, 1,200 of those being natural deaths and 800 "selection." A special book entitled "Judenfahnenrolle" is kept dealing with the "selected." Notice of the deaths of the others is sent to the supreme commander of the camp at Oranienburg. At the beginning of 1943 the "political section" (camp Gestapo) at Oswiecim received 400,000 forms for release. The governor had them all made out in the names of persons who had already been gassed and lodged them in the archives of the camp, among the persons responsible for the execution in both camps we must mention: Irene, governor of the camp, Untersturmführer Schwartauer, director of the camp, the Tyrolean chief of the political department (Logistikführer), Obersturmführer Welisch, Sturmführer Stöß, Sturmführer Hiller, the camp doctor Wirt, the camp doctor assistant. In addition, professional criminals who have killed Jews in the camp: W. Herold, Alexander Kornmann, Albert Ammerle, Paul Hinterlinger, Paul Korsbert, Karl Hohm, Lederer and the political prisoner Alfred Klein and Alois Graber.
The above is the contents of the two documents.
The persons who have managed to secure the transmission of the documents to a neutral country added (a) the following information:

"12,000 Jews are being deported daily from the territories of Carpathian Ruthenia, Transylvania and the district of Košice where there used to be 220,000 Jews. Those deported are sent to Oswiecim, 2,000 going by train via Slovakia daily and 7,000 via Carpathian Ruthenia."

and (b) the following suggestions:

1. The Allied Governments, especially those whose citizens are suffering in both these camps, should jointly address to the Germans and Hungarians a threat of reprisals directed at the Germans in the hands of these governments.

2. The crematoria in both camps, which are recognizable by their high chimneys and watch-towers, should be bombed and so should the main railway-lines connecting Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia with Poland which are also of military importance, especially the bridge at Ujpest.

3. Public warnings to the Germans and Hungarians should be repeated.

4. The Vatican should be requested to pronounce a severe public condemnation.
near the Czechoslovak Government
LONDON, June 24, 1944.

No. 131

SUBJECT: Movement of War Refugees.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sirs:

Referring to the Department's instructions No. 654, of January 26, 8 p.m., regarding the establishment of the War Refugee Board and the general policy in the President's Executive Order of January 28 as to action for the rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution, I have the honor to enclose as of possible interest to the War Refugee Board, a copy of a report of May 13, 1944 from the Czechoslovak Mission in Ankara regarding the difficulties of refugees in obtaining exit permits from Hungary.

The report was made available by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs to this Mission which has fully informed the American Embassy to Great Britain.

Respectfully yours,

Roths B. Schaufeld
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

JEB/ORM
Original and hectograph
Enclosure: 1/ as stated.
With regard to the present stage reached by the evacuation of Jews from Hungary, M. Barlas, the
Istanbul representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, who called on me today (May 13th, 1944)
mentioned to me that the Hungarians and also the Germans are still refusing exit permits from Hungary
even to people who already possess certificates and Turkish transit visas. According to a report of
the Turkish Consul at Budapest, the Gestapo even go so far as to arrest and send to a concentration
camp at the earliest opportunity every Jewish visitor at the Turkish Consulate. This practice
has resulted in an appeal to the Swiss Government that one of the official Swiss representatives at
Budapest should be appointed to act as intermediary between the Jewish envoys and the Turkish Consulate
there. M. Barlas expressed the hope that some remedy will perhaps be found in due course for
these difficulties, but in the meanwhile no evacuation from Hungary as possible.
In reply refer to No. 61

Mr. L. M. Weinstein
War Refugees Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I thought you might be interested in the attached issue of the Czechoslovak Government Press Bulletin of May 9th which brings a summary of a Czechoslovak governmental broadcast on the punishment of war criminals.

I submit

1) that the greatest possible use should be made of this broadcast;

2) that other governments be induced to follow the example laid down by the Czechoslovak Government.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Rubowitski, Head
Rescue Department

ALKref
Enc.
GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES SCHEME OF PUNISHMENT

In the name of the Czechoslovak Government, Minister Němeč read on the London Czechoslovak broadcast, the additional Government declaration on the punishment of war criminals. The broadcast took place on Sunday night, May 7th. The declaration emphasizes that legislative measures to be taken against the Nazi criminals and their assistants and executors, must be valid in retrospect from the date when the enemy attack against the Republic could not be doubted.

Conspiracy against the State, endangering its security, treachery, disclosure of state secrets, military treachery, violence against constitutional representatives, punishable by imprisonment during the Republic, will be included among the crimes punishable by death. All cases of murder, violence, plundering, even if committed in the form of ostensibly legal sentences and executions and confiscations perpetrated in the form of ostensibly legal juridical acts, will be punished more severely. Destruction of life in every case will be punished by death.

Members of the Gestapo, SS men and similar murderous gangs will first answer for the individual crimes committed but the mere fact of belonging to such an organization will be regarded as a crime punished accordingly. Public propagation of Nazism and Fascism will be punished whether it was carried out directly or through the medium of certain Nazi and fascist organizations. Those particularly will be punished who in their activities, defended and praised in the press or public meetings, the foreign government's usurping of power in Czechoslovakia or the individual illegal acts of their organs.

Those who have taken advantage of the stress arising out of national, political or racial persecution in order to enrich themselves at the expense of the state and of individuals, shall not escape punishment. As to collaboration, punishment is excluded in the case of extreme compulsion and none will be punished who have been the unwilling victim of forced collaboration. Popular tribunals will investigate whether accused persons were willing or unwilling servants of the enemy.

If retribution is also to become a purge of public life, it must not rest solely on criminal retribution. Confiscation of property, loss of civil honor and civil rights, may be meted out as subsidiary punishment. But besides proved criminal guilt, there exists the guilt of those who have
not behaved as befits true and brave Czechoslovak citizens at a time of national trial, although obligation was laid on them by their social position to set an example for the rest of the population. Such people will be excluded from all participation in public and economic life by a special order, even though they have only been guilty of failing in their duties due to their responsible position.

Special popular tribunals will consist of three laymen appointed by the Government, selected from among reliable patriots, presided over by a professional, civil or a military judge and assisted by a deputy with legal training. Procedure similar to those of the martial courts will be adopted for culprits who have escaped but have been summoned by public notice or wireless. No appeal will be permitted against conviction but in the case of acquittal, the public prosecutor will be able to call for an examination by ordinary courts after three months.

The Government is appealing to all citizens to prepare for all this. It appeals also to guilty persons to mitigate or make good the harm they have done by joining the fighters against the enemy. Their guilt, of course, can be wiped out only if service is rendered in causing harm to the enemy, and exceeds the harm done to the nation.

FRANK ADMITS CZECH HOSTILITY AGAINST GERMANS AND APOLOGIZES FOR LDICE

The Berlin Radio of April 1, carried a speech made by the Nazi "Minister of State" of Bohemia and Moravia, Karl Hermann Frank. In an interview which was intended as the first of a new series of German propaganda shows directed to North America, Frank admitted that the Czech people's hostility to the Nazis, their unwillingness to work in Germany and their hopes for the reopening of the Czech universities.

Frank was quoted as saying: "Czechs like neither National Socialism nor Communism... Czech workers, engineers, doctors and scientists at first do not like to go to Germany... The Czechs... hope for more grants from Germany, for example, the reopening of the Czech universities. They can study today only at German universities in the Reich..."

"The fact that Beneš was received by President Roosevelt in Washington and from there went to Stalin in Moscow, and in both places was received with guards of honor, dinners and so on, as becomes a statesman of equal footing, caused a
part of the Czech intelligentsia to become rather childishly enthusiastic. And so it happened that the little man Bened became all of a sudden the great son of the nation..."

Further on in the speech, Frank sought to whitewash the Nazi rapes of Lidice. Commenting on reprisals following the assassination of Gestapo Chief Heydrich, Dr. Frank said: "Czechs soon got over the excitement. This development was determined by the fact that the German authorities did not resort to measures against hostages to avenge the murder of this valuable man. They punished severely and according to military law only those who were murderers sent from London and dropped by parachute and who gave active help and assistance as was the case in Lidice."

ADMITS RESISTANCE TO ANTI-SEMITIC MEASURES

"Muencher Neueste Nachrichten" of Munich on March 15th, speaking of recent Slovak anti-Jewish measures adds that the solution to the "Jewish problem" is "obstructed by the attitude of various subordinate offices remaining in Slovakia since the time of the Old Republic."

SLOVAKIAN QUISLINGS ARREST "RUMORMONGERS"

The "Berliner Boersenzeitung" of March 21st states: "For the first time, rumormongers have been arrested in Slovakia, and their names published in the Slovak press."

NAZIS OPEN INDOCTRINATION CENTERS FOR CZECHS

"Berliner Boersenzeitung" of April 24th states: "In Frank's presence, the inspector of Nationalpolitische Erziehungsanstalten (National political indoctrination institutes), Heissmayer, has inaugurated in Kutna Hora a National Politische Erziehungsanstalt Fur Bohmen (Bohemia) which is subdivided into establishments in Kutna Hora and Roudnice."

GERMANS TAKE OVER SLOVAKIA

"Dagens Nyheter" Stockholm, of March 25th states: "The Germans have started defensive action in Slovakia. Big forces were dispatched into the country, and part of them will be sent to the eastern front. Russian parachute troops landed in the Carpathian mountains, and Germans assumed control of the Slovakian railroads fro strategic reasons."

The Slovak Radio of March 25th, quoted an article, in the "Gazette de Lausanne" predicting the imminent Nazi occupation of the puppet Slovak state, instead of its regular
weekly review. The substitution was made after an announcement earlier in the day that the usual political commentary would be given.

The "Gazette de Lausanne," commenting last week on the Slovak State's celebration of the fifth anniversary of her "so-called independence" predicted that the Germans would occupy the country to safeguard vital communications to the eastern front after Nazi authorities had declared that the German minority there "needed protection from a hostile population".

CZECH BOYS AND GIRLS COMPELLED TO BUILD HOMES FOR GERMAN EVACUEES

"Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of Berlin, April 22nd, stated: "In some place in the "Protectorate" a KLV camp (Kinderlandessverschickung - Nazi children's evacuation camp) was built by young Czechs belonging to the youth service which encompasses half a million Czech boys and girls.

"The Prague (Nazi-controlled) paper "A Zet" stated: "The Youth Service has been extended to take up virtually the entire leisure time of youth outside of school and their homes. Leaders to supervise homes for young people, who are obliged to leave their parents for the sake of school or employment, are being trained in three months courses, the first of which will end on March 31st.

"The Kuratorium provides for sports, exercise, recreation camps and meeting places for youth, and also controls the youth homes which are established by private enterprises. It is an achievement of Kuratorium that young Czech boys and girls could be used to help their German comrades through this work."

Note: The so-called Kuratorium for the education of Czech youth is headed by the Czech quisling Education Minister and "popular enlightenment" Emanuel Moravec. Its "official purpose is to educate the Czech youth in Reich thinking." Moravec expected that he would be able to enroll as many as one million Czech youth into this quisling organization. There is a great hostility against this institution among the Czechs, and they ironically refer to this organization as "Kuratorium" which in translation means whore institute.

SLOVAKS GROPE QUISLING DICTATORIAL RULE

The Bratislava German-language Nazi paper "Grenzbote"
(data not available - apparently late March or early April)
quoted an article by the puppet President of the so-called independent State of Slovakia, Josef Tiso, in the HSLS Organizacne Zvesti (Organizational News of the Hlinka Party) admitting the quisling methods which had been applied in order to prevent honest Slovaks from influencing the administration of Slovak municipalities. Only Party members were permitted to vote, but even their votes were not respected by the quislings.

Tiso stated that "numerous people outside the Party (namely the Fascist Hlinka Party) claimed to have the right to vote, although this right belongs only to members of the Hlinka Party."

The quisling "President" also explained that "the election of municipal committees was a political test for the HSLS (Hlinka Party) members and district chairman. In several cases members did not agree with the local group leadership and rejected electoral lists submitted by it. It was, however, ascertained in several cases that the HSLS membership was not sufficiently politically mature so that lists submitted by them could not be approved."

NAZI DOMINATED PRAGUE ECONOMIC INSTITUTE MEETS

The Nazi-controlled Czech Radio on April 26th stated: "The Administrative Committee of the Prague Institute for Economic Research held its annual meeting at which the President of the Institute, Professor Wageman, presided. Among those present at the meeting were the representative of the German Ministry of State and representatives of the "Protectorate" Offices of the National Bank as well as representatives of economic circles and the press. After the agenda, Professor Wageman gave a lecture on the 'prospects of world economy'."

SUB-CARPATHIAN JEWS SENT TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS

The Nazi Balkan news agency "Transkontinent Press" of April 27th, announces that the expulsion of the Jews from the Czechoslovak province of Sub-Carpathia, which has been seized by Hungary, is in full swing.

SLOVAKS DISSATISFIED WITH HUNGARIAN DOMINATION

The German language Nazi paper "Deutsche Zeitung" in Ungarn of April 15th, reported from Košice (in eastern Slovakia seized by Hungary), that "Housemaid Katarin Paliag reviled the Hungarian nation on an open postcard. For this crime she has been sentenced to four months imprisonment, but the Kuria (appellate court) increased her sentence to six months."

(5)
February 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

Anti-Semtic Action in Czechoslovakia. (Material obtained from file in Visa Division, State Department)

On February 2, 1944, Bern wired the Department that Slovak authorities have recently commenced a new program in response to an inspired newspaper campaign attacking the Jewish population. The first measures comprise registration of all Jews, including Christians.

[Signature]