

Cooperation with Other Governments: United Nations; French North Africa

000820

FFC-76
(11-42)

CROSS REFERENCE ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS:
UNITED NATIONS: (FRENCH NORTH AFRICA)

FOR:

- Amendment to this License
- Extension of this License
- Renewal of this License
- Correspondence concerning this application .
- Other (Specify)

1 MATERIAL RE LISTS OF IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO GO TO FRENCH NORTH AFRICA, ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SENT TO MEXICO CITY, THROUGH U.S. STATE DEP'T CHANNELS AND ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT

2 FOR DETAILED ACCOUNT OF EVACUATIONS NOW IN PROCESS OF REFUGEES FROM SPAIN TO CAMP LYAUTY NEAR FEDRALA

SEE: 1 PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES : PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT

IN OTHER COUNTRIES
(MEXICO)

2 PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL)

(EVACUATIONS FROM SPAIN TO LYAUTY)

10082

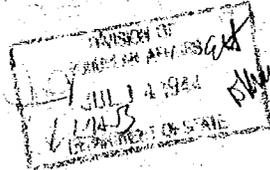
UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

(REVISED)
NO. 568

AIRMAIL

June 27, 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



No. 568

Subject: Accomodation and Maintenance of Refugees
in French North Africa.

*397 R B
397 War Refugee Board (Head)
Mr. C. W. Bundy*

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.



840.48 REFUGEES/6-27-44

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit, as of possible
1/ interest to the Department a copy of a letter
addressed to General Bethouart, Chief of Staff of
National Defense of the French Committee of National
Liberation, by Lt. General Gammell, Chief of Staff,
AFHQ, with regard to the accomodation and maintenance
of refugees in French North Africa.

Respectfully yours,

Robert D. Murphy
Robert D. Murphy
American Ambassador.

Enclosure:
1. Copy of letter
described above.

File No. 711.5

CO:jeo

Original copy to Department.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By H. E. Parks Date **SEP 19 1972**

Handwritten notes and signatures in bottom right corner.

ENCLOSURE No. 1 TO DESPATCH No. 568 FROM ROBERT MURPHY ON THE
SUBJECT ACCOMODATION AND MAINTENANCE OF REFUGEES IN FRENCH
NORTH AFRICA.

12 Jun 1944

General Bothouart
Chief of Staff of National Defense

My dear General Bothouart:

I wish to draw to your attention a problem which, in the opinion of the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater, is becoming one of great importance in the Mediterranean Theater.

Consequent upon operations now in progress, particularly in the Balkans, large numbers of innocent civilians are being rendered homeless by German acts of terror and oppression. Also, due to the normal dislocation of war, numbers of refugees, principally women and children, are necessarily endeavoring to escape from the zones of operations.

Our forces in the Adriatic have for some time been assisting in the evacuation of refugees from Yugoslavia. The Allied authorities in Italy have made provision to receive and process these refugees and to maintain a substantial number of them. A large number have been evacuated to the Middle East where Allied authorities are maintaining camps to care for these unfortunates until they can be repatriated. The facilities in both these localities are now or will shortly be extended to their capacity.

The Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater, is, therefore, preparing to use certain of the installations and facilities which are no longer required for military purposes in North Africa to house and care for these refugees until repatriation. The immediate proposal is to complete arrangements for the accommodation of approximately 10,000 Yugoslav refugees in a camp situated near Philippeville. The camp will be operated by the Allied military authorities until United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration or other qualified agencies assume the responsibility. The supply, maintenance and administration of the camp will, of course, be the responsibility of those authorities or agencies and no expenditure or other commitment in respect to the camp or its administration will fall upon the French authorities, either now or at any later period.

I am asked by the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater, to inform you of these proposed arrangements and to express his confident hope that, in view of the urgency and the humanitarian aspect of the problem, they will meet with the approval of the French military authorities.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. H. GAMMELL
Lieutenant General
Chief of Staff

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TRINGHAM CABLE

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMEMB, Algiers
DATE: June 11, 1944
SUBJECT: 1579

FOR INFORMATION PRESIDENT WASHINGTON AND AMEMB, ALGERIA, FROM THE
ATTACHMENT AND THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Section I

Reference is made to Cable No. 1423 of June 8, 1944, and President's

This action of the President in setting aside the historic army camp, Fort Oulic as an Emergency Refugee Shelter, announced at the President's press conference on June 9, is regarded by the War Refugee Board as a great step forward in the efforts of this Government to rescue victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death and to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance.

The significance of this step can only be properly appreciated against the background of the numerous vigorous measures taken by the President and the War Refugee Board since January in an intensive effort to rescue intended victims of Hitler's brutality. The further action now taken by the President in bringing refugees more than 4,000 miles to this country to a place of safety should again clearly demonstrate to the world that our efforts to save refugees constitute a real and most important Government policy.

With today's announcement we should be in a stronger position to urge Allied and neutral countries to expand their existing refugee facilities. This Government is confident that an intensified joint effort of all Allied and neutral countries can save many additional human lives.

To the extent that the President's move becomes known in the occupied countries, it should have an important psychological effect in convincing the Nazis and their minions throughout Europe that this country means business when it says that the fate of persecuted peoples is one of our deep concerns.

There is already evidence that the efforts of this Government in the refugee field have brought new hope to the oppressed peoples of Europe. The President's action today should serve as a further concrete manifestation to all oppressed

peoples of

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

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

peoples of the sincerity and effectiveness of this Government's humanitarian policy.

Section II

The President also indicated at his press conference that existing refugee facilities in the Mediterranean area are being increased and that an effort is being made to find new havens of refuge for these people in that area. Please refer to the Department's Cable No. 1669 of May 27 and No. 1761 of June 3

In connection with your efforts to increase refugee facilities in the Mediterranean area, which the President has stressed should be intensified, your attention is directed to the following:

- A. With respect to establishing havens of refuge in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, the following cable dated June 7 was received from Ambassador Winant in London:

"Reference is made herewith to Department's cables of March 25, No. 2292, and of April 22, No. 3243, for the War Refugee Board.

"We have just received a letter from the Foreign Office saying that the British Government agree to the setting up of a refugee camp in Tripolitania.

"The letter from the Foreign Office goes on to suggest that it will be necessary to consider what practical measures will be required for the working out of this scheme on the basis of joint maintenance, et cetera, to be shared between the American and British Governments.

"It has been stated orally by Randall, head of the Refugee Department of the Foreign Office, that he is of the opinion that this camp in Tripolitania will be able to accommodate between 1,000 and 1,500 people. The securing of adequate medical and administrative personnel will be the greatest difficulty and we invite the suggestions of the War Refugee Board with respect to this question. It was further confidentially stated by Randall that the political problems involved in setting up a camp in Cyrenaica are so acute that the Foreign Office had reluctantly come to the conclusion that to establish a camp there is absolutely

impossible."

3.
"if possible."

- B. With respect to moving Jewish refugees from Southern Italy to Palestine, the following cable dated June 7 was received from Ambassador Winant in London:

"The considerations set forth in Department's cable dated June 3, No. 4413, concerning removal of refugees from Southern Italy, have been discussed in detail by the Embassy with the Foreign Office. The head of the refugee department of the Foreign Office, Randall, was very sympathetic and remarked that there would be no fundamental objection on the part of the British Government to facilitating the entrance of Jews now in Southern Italy to Palestine, suggested in Department's cable. It was pointed out by him, however, that the facilities in Palestine for the reception of such refugees were not unlimited and that it had been the British Government's policy to facilitate the entry primarily of those refugees who were in immediate danger of their lives, such as those in Hungary now. It was stated by him that within the past month nearly a thousand Jewish refugees have entered Palestine via Turkey, having escaped from areas in which their lives were endangered seriously. It was also pointed out by Randall that the UNRRA camps in the Middle East were able to take 25,000 refugees in addition to those who had arrived before May 1, and he was hopeful that these camps might play a part in relieving pressure on Southern Italy. As pointed out in Embassy's cable No. 4556, the British have now agreed to the opening of a camp in Tripolitania which should accommodate about 1500 people.

"We left a paraphrase of pertinent sections of Department's cable with Randall and he promised that he would give serious and immediate consideration to the matter."

- C. With respect to taking refugees to Cyprus (our 7661 June 3), we have been informed that the company village of the Cyprus Mines Corporation at Mavrovuni which has been occupied by the British Army for three years is now vacant. This village can accommodate about 1,500 families. In addition a number of staff houses are reported to be available.

Section III

With the above in mind, you are requested to take the following action as expeditiously as possible:

- A. Bring to the attention of the French Committee the action taken by the President and the President's desire that refugee facilities in the Mediterranean area be increased, emphasizing the significance of this program in the refugee field. You should make clear to the French committee that this Government is determined to find havens of refuge for all oppressed peoples who can escape from German controlled territory. You should explore carefully with the French Committee all possible means by which it can further aid in the rescue and relief of victims of enemy oppression.
- B. To the extent possible, consistent with the military situation, every effort should be made to give publicity to the President's action and its significance, particularly in the neutral countries and enemy territory.
- C. Please keep the Department and the War Refugee Board fully informed concerning the action which you are taking in arranging for the departure of the 1,000 refugees in southern Italy and of the steps which you are taking to increase the refugee facilities in the Mediterranean area.

For Kirk's attention the foregoing is repeated to Naples.

THIS IS WRB ALGIERS CABLE NO. 22.

HULL

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Lyford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Smith, S. Audish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.

RCC-62

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

Algiers

Dated April 14, 1944

Rec'd 7:05 a.m., 15th.

Secretary of State

Washington

1244, April 14, 6 p.m., (SECTION ONE)

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM ACKERMAN

War Refugee representative No. 13.

Survey of dissemination of President's statement reference War Refugee Board No. 1 dated March 25. Press carried statement in various forms for one week. Local persons of prominence made statements. While this included no French officials, Bonnet, Commissaire of Information, assisted in press dissemination. United Nations radio Algiers repeated statement or excerpts for about one week in four languages. No report received yet from OWI in Italy. Two batches of clippings and statements already sent by mail.

CHAPIN

BB

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

MFG-217

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

Algiers

Dated April 15, 1944

Rec'd 5:11 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1244, April 15, 6 p.m., (SECTION TWO).

A third batch will leave today. In addition Algiers radio relays OWI broadcasts from London and New York which probably included this material. No record available of amount of use of statement therein.

Section Two. Since April 1 Algiers radio has used statement twice in connection with news broadcasts. Directive of local OWI office for week April 10 states that it should be used in connection with stories on resistance and atrocities. It is questionable whether this directive will result in much further use of statement.

Section three. As you want story kept alive, suggest you ask OWI to include statement in broadcasts which are to be relayed by local station. It will help if OWI, Washington, gives further instructions on subject to its Algiers representatives.

(END OF MESSAGE).

CHAPIN

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

NJK-795

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

Algiers

Dated March 28, 1944

Rec'd 10:04 p.m.

Secretary of State.

Washington

1018, March 28, 9 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM ACKERMANN.

War Refugee representative No. 5.

Prior to receipt of your cable No. 893 War Refugee Board No. 1, local representatives of OWI already had issued press release and made broadcasts. Press release sent via radio to OWI offices in Naples, Bari, Tunis, Palermo, Sardinia and forward points. Story appeared on front page of all four Algiers papers on March 26 in Stars and Stripes on March 26 and in editorial of one Algiers paper on March 27. United Nations radio at Algiers broadcast story in French, German, Italian and English on March 24 and 25. Have conferred with OWI and following is future program.

- (1) Feature parts of President's message will be repeated several times this week on United Nations' radio in four languages.
- (2) Radio France will be asked to cooperate.
- (3) Prominent French officials have been asked for statements by OWI on a news basis and in addition will be approached indirectly with a view to eliciting some favorable comments.
- (4) Further press releases will be issued.
- (5) Preparation and dissemination of being discussed. Clippings being forwarded by air mail. Further material will be sent as soon as available.

CHAPIN.

EDA

Miss Chauncey (For the Secy), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Smith, Sargoy, Standish, Stewart, White, Pehle, Files

OFFICE OF
THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Algiers March 14, 1944.

No. 169

Subject: War refugees

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

With reference to my despatch no. 155 of March 8, 1944, and to the Department's airgram of January 26, 7 p.m., 1944, I have the honor to report that I called again on Mr. Massigli to discuss the possibility that the French Government would be willing to issue instructions to its officials to implement cooperation on behalf of the French Committee of National Liberation with other governments for the rescue and relief of refugees from Europe.

I also took up with him the suggestion that the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs might feel disposed to issue a declaration of policy similar to that made by the President. A copy of the aide-memoire which I left on this occasion is enclosed for the Department's information.

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Aksin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Luxford, Mr. Mann, Mrs. Mannon, Mr. Marks, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Pollack, Mr. Reins, Mr. Sargoy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Weinstein, Mr. H. D. White, Files

Mr. Massigli promised that the Committee would give full consideration to the matters in question.

Respectfully yours,

Selden Chapin
Counselor of Embassy, In Charge

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Enclosures:

1. Aide-Memoire dated March 13, 1944.

Original to the Department

Enclosure no. 1 to despatch 169 of March 14, 1944, from the Office of the Representative of the United States of America, Algiers.

AIDE-MEMOIRE

Reference is made to the Aide Memoire which Mr. Chapin left with His Excellency the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs on February 5, 1944, on the subject of instructions issued by the President of the United States to the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War to take action for the rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution, and of the creation of a United States War Refugee Board charged with the responsibility for carrying out the announced policy.

The Office of the Representative of the United States of America has been instructed to explain to the appropriate French authorities that the establishment of the War Refugee Board represents the United States 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 the United States Government for its part intends to take all possible action with all possible speed, it feels certain that this effort will not be unilateral and it wishes to make it clear that it continues to be its policy to encourage and participate in effective cooperative efforts with other governments. As the President has stated, the Board will, of course, cooperate fully with all interested international organizations.

Mr. Chapin has been instructed to assure the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs of his Government's hope for cooperative action on the part of the French Committee of National Liberation and to explore with the appropriate French officials the possibility of implementing such cooperation through the issuance by the Committee of a declaration of policy similar to that

made by the President. In that connection it is hoped that the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs may feel disposed to issue instructions to its representatives abroad similar to those issued by the United States Government to its representatives, as described in the final paragraph of Mr. Chapin's Aide Memoire of February 5.

March 13, 1944.

February 22, 1944.

NORTH AFRICA

Information obtained from the files of the Refugee Unit of the State Department.

On April 2, 1943, a wire was received from the Madrid Embassy stating that since French North Africa is not represented in Lisbon, we must arrange the evacuation of French refugees.

On April 3, Madrid wired that plans to evacuate French refugees from Spain by way of Portugal have been delayed by failure of the British and Portuguese to agree on the port of embarkation.

On May 15, the State Department wired the London Embassy that there are three classes of refugees to be transported from Spain to North Africa: French seeking to join the War Effort in North Africa, stateless refugees, and 1500 declared Canadians formerly of other nationalities on route to England to join the armed forces. It is important not to seek priority for any single group, but to keep them all moving. Several vessels apparently have been used up to April 30, and if they can be kept in operation, the State Department feels that the entire group of refugees could be moved in 60 or 90 days.

On May 23, Algiers reports that the French, British, and American groups are in accord on the refugee problem, and the British naval command is seeking to insure regular service from Portugal. The French prefer to get French refugees, but have agreed to take allied nationals in small groups temporarily. Arrangement for large numbers are being held pending the decision concerning the establishment of a center.

Algiers feels that in addition to the 6,000 or 7,000 refugees in Spain, known to the State Department, there are at least 15,000 more. Perhaps many more than that. The Chiefs of Staff must be consulted to get shipping for that number.

On January 19, 1944, the State Department inquired of the Madrid Embassy whether French refugees are being prevented from crossing Spain to join the fighting forces in North Africa.

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CO P Y

OFFICE OF
THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Algiers, February 22, 1944.

NO. 122

Subject: Refugee situation in North Africa

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, regarding creation of a War Refugee Board. There is enclosed a memorandum of February 19, 1944, prepared by Captain Paul E. Warburg, U.S., attached to this Mission, summarizing the refugee situation in North Africa and which it is hoped covers in a general way the points raised in the Department's airgram under reference.

Upon receipt of the airgram in question, I called on the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and explained to him the special interest of the American Government in the refugee problem and particularly for action in the immediate rescue of Jews in France. A copy of the aide-memoire which I left on that occasion is also enclosed.

Mr. Massigli stated that the French Committee was only too glad to associate itself with any work of this high humanitarian nature and would cooperate to the extent that this might be possible. At the same time he pointed out that one of the chief preoccupations of the Committee was in fact the problem of refugees from France and the general displacement of French nationals. He added that as I knew this problem would be a dominant one in French post-war re-adjustments and he made reference particularly to the difficulty of absorbing the return of French prisoners, detainees and workers from Axis countries. Finally, he said that while France wished to cooperate wholeheartedly in the problem of international refugees, the French Committee was naturally constrained with its limited means and facilities available to give first attention to French nationals of any race, creed or color.

In ...

In the course of a subsequent interview which I had with Mr. Massigli, we discussed the problem of Jewish refugees now in Metropolitan France and with his concurrence the representative of the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has been referred to the Commissariat for Refugees and Prisoners to examine the possibility of using facilities of the French underground, in so far as they may be available, to bring out a number of these Jewish refugees from Metropolitan France.

Respectfully yours,

Walden Chapin
Counselor of Embassy, in Charge

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum dated Feb. 19, 1944,
re refugee situation in North Africa.
2. *Ido* memoire dated Feb. 5, 1944

SG/ew

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Original and hectograph to the Department

From Office of the Representative of the United States,
Algiers.

AIDE MEMOIRE

The President of the United States has recently 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 January 22, the President declared:

"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."

The order establishes special governmental machinery for executing this policy. It created 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. We 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. We 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.

The Office of the Representative of the United States of America in common with other representatives of the Government of the United States stationed abroad has been instructed to do everything possible to effectuate the above outlined policy. It has also been instructed to approach the appropriate authorities of the French Committee of National Liberation to explain the policy expressed in the President's executive order above referred to and in requesting the cooperation of the French Committee of National Liberation to ascertain to what extent it is prepared to assist in this high humanitarian program.

Algiers, February 5, 1944.

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 122
dated February 22, 1944 from Algiers

February 19, 1944

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MEMORANDUM

For the purposes of discussing the refugee problem in North Africa one must begin as far back as the early part of 1939 when large numbers of Spanish Republicans came across the border from Spanish Morocco to get away from France's troops. A good number also came by ship to the Department of Oran and into Morocco and Tunisia. Figures on these can only be estimated, but from subsequent developments it is believed that there were some three or four thousand Spanish Republicans in Morocco; perhaps more than that number around Oran; about 1,500 or 2,000 around Algiers; and about a thousand (mostly Spanish naval personnel) reached Tunisia. Besides these it is estimated that about 5,000 joined the French Foreign Legion early in 1939. It is expected that these may be released from the Legion at the end of their five year period of enlistment during the first half of 1944 and so will be added to the Spanish refugee community in North Africa, unless they re-engage in the Legion, immigrate to Mexico, go back to Spain or some other disposition is made of them. A good number of Spaniards also went across the Pyrenees into France about the end of the Civil War and subsequently managed, individually or in small groups, to get to North Africa after the fall of France. At the time of writing, by far the greatest part of these Spanish refugees have been incorporated, temporarily at least, in one way or another into the economy of North Africa, either working for French industry or for the allied armies. In the latter case they may be used either as civilians or as members of the British Pioneer Corps. For the miscellaneous refugees who need charitable assistance, there have been established in principal centers, i. e., Algiers, Casablanca, Oran and Tunis, amicales, or mutual aid societies under the auspices of the Joint Commission for Political Prisoners and Refugees in French North Africa, which have been receiving funds from the United States under Treasury Licenses to help needy Spanish refugees.

There is also a group of stateless refugees, most of them former enemy nationality, the greatest part of whom are Jewish. It is estimated that there are perhaps 5,000 persons in this group in all of North Africa. Some of these people had served in the French army during the war and had been interned following the fall of France. They were later transferred to internment camps in North Africa and were subsequently released after the Allied landings, largely through the activities of the above-mentioned Joint Commission. Since that time most of these people have secured employment with the American or British armies, and approximately 900 of them are enlisted in the British Pioneer Corps. Early in 1944 a group of about 125 of these persons were sent to Palestine through the efforts of the Joint Distribution Committee.

The small number of persons in this stateless group who are unemployable are being maintained through funds made available by the American Joint Distribution Committee. Included in this group are former Poles, Czechs, Rumanians, Hungarians, Germans, Yugoslavs and Greeks. The majority are in Morocco and Algeria with a small additional group in Tunisia.

There

There is in North Africa another group of refugees, most of them Jewish, who came from Libya and were expelled by the Italians in 1940 by virtue of the fact that they were French subjects. Of the 2,500 persons in this group, approximately 2,000 have been living in Tunisia under the most primitive conditions, the rest being scattered throughout the back country in Algeria. Recently it was arranged with the French authorities and the British to transport approximately 1,000 of these persons from Tunisia back to their homes in Tripoli. It is expected that this transfer will be effected within the next few weeks. It is hoped, too, that the balance of this group will be returned to their homes in the near future. These Libyans have been assisted during their stay in Tunisia by the secours National and the American Joint Distribution Committee.

The United States Army has made available a campsite near Casablanca to be administered by UNRRA, this camp to house and care for 2,500 refugees. An agreement had been reached with the French authorities to allow 2,500 stateless peoples now in Spain to enter Morocco and to be housed temporarily in these quarters. We find that comparatively few of this 2,500 will avail themselves of this opportunity (the latest information we have is between 600 and 800 are prepared to come to the camp). The reason for this much smaller number is that (1) the refugees now in Spain have either heard of, or have had had experiences with the French, and are fearful of their future in North Africa, even though the camp is to be run by the United Nations' personnel; (2) inasmuch as change of situation which is being offered does not seem to be sufficiently different from that to which they have been subjected and because no assurance can be given them as to their ultimate destination or fate they seem to prefer to remain where they are. However, our Madrid Embassy and Mr. David Blickenstaff, the representative of American relief organizations in Spain, can doubtless provide more specific information on the present attitude of the refugees in Spain.

The above group totals about 3,000 persons of which probably more than 95% are Jewish. Because of the geographic location of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, only infrequent calls upon this office for assistance have been made to bring displaced persons out of Europe.

By and large the French Committee of National Liberation has neither encouraged nor discouraged the entrance of displaced persons but rather has put the whole question on an individual case basis subject to the real decision being made by American, British and French military security offices, working in cooperation.

With regard to refugees being turned back at borders, this is not currently likely to happen inasmuch as the decision as to whether or not a given individual is going to be permitted to enter is usually made in Algiers and transmitted to the point where the visa is, or is not, issued. Mr. Blickenstaff, representative of the American relief organizations in Madrid, may better be in a position to indicate cases where permission to enter North Africa has been refused.

It is believed that in order to encourage the French Committee to allow people or displaced persons to enter North Africa more freely, a plan must be established by which we can tell the displaced persons, as well as the French Committee, what their ultimate destination is: i.e., how long displaced persons will be allowed to remain in French territory after the cessation of hostilities. Will they be allowed to return to their native lands? Will they be allowed to immigrate to the United States or some other country of their choice? It is understood that the ultimate

destination.

destination of many of these refugees, and particularly the stateless, will be the responsibility of the Intergovernmental Commission for Refugees of which Sir Herbert Emerson in London is Chairman. It should be mentioned at this time that Mr. Patrick Murphy Malin, Vice-director of the above committee is in this theater making a survey of the conditions of the refugees in this part of the world. At the moment it is not known what the I.G.C. has been able to develop in the way of places for these refugees ultimately to settle.

Inasmuch as the Mexican Government has offered to accept immigrants from the Spanish Refugee Community in North Africa, it is felt that the French authorities would be more willing to receive additional refugees in French North Africa if this Spanish refugee emigration project is expedited and carried through as soon as possible. Lists of those who have expressed a desire to go have been sent to Mexico City through our own State Department channels and are now being considered by the Mexican Government. If similar arrangements for certain refugees can be arranged with other countries, the attitude of the French Committee of National Liberation would probably be correspondingly more receptive to additional refugees.

The French administration, whenever asked, has expressed a desire to cooperate in all matters pertaining to rescue and relief, but because of the limited supplies and because of the internal strife which always exists in a country that has been drained by the Axis Armistice Commission, they find themselves today in a reluctant frame of mind insofar as additional persons to feed, house and clothe are concerned. Very little can be done to change this state of mind until sufficient clothing, foodstuffs, etc. are either sent into the country or the economic life of the country has been restored.

It should be pointed out that one of the great difficulties that the Department is faced with is the question of the French administration's policy on internment of refugees. There have been several cases brought to the attention of the Department where refugees had been previously interned, by the French under Axis pressure, and had been liberated, and who now are either re-interned or threatened with re-internment, even though demonstrably anti-Axis. The reasons given by the French authorities, when these cases have been discussed with them, have either been that the individual dossier contains some often nebulous charges which we are unable to verify, or simply that the individuals in question were once enemy nationals.

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HEADQUARTERS ATLANTIC BASE SECTION
CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC WELFARE AND RELIEF
APO 759

February 18, 1944

TO: E.R. Fryer, Chief of Mission, APO 534
FROM: Eric W. Johnson, Refugee Section
SUBJECT: Let. to American Consul General, Casablanca
ATTENTION: Refugee Section

I hereby send you copy of a letter I have written
to H. Earle Russell, American Consul General at Casablanca,
which letter, I think, may be of interest to you.

/s/

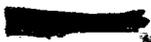
Eric W. Johnson

Encl. copy of let. as above

*Copy to Mr. A. Schmitt
file*

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Fee for analysis...
NATION OF...
CHIEF...
OFFICE...



Casablanca, Morocco
February 18, 1944

H. Earle Russell, Esquire
American Consul General
American Consulate
Casablanca, Morocco

Dear Mr. Russell:

Thank you for transmitting to me the copy of the State Department's airgram referring to the War Refugee Board. As you have requested, I shall comment on certain sections of it. You will naturally understand that I should prefer that the source of these remarks remain anonymous.

Extent to which war refugees are permitted to enter North Africa.

Refugees are permitted to enter North Africa only as follows:

- 1) French refugees, "evades de France", have been admitted from Spain through the efforts of the French Red Cross and the Committee of National Liberation under an arrangement with the Spanish Government. During recent months about 25,000 of these have entered North Africa and over 95% of them have been French. More than 20,000 of these are now in the French armies.
- 2) With these French refugees came a certain number of foreigners, mostly stateless people (ex-Germans, ex-Poles, ex-Austrians, etc.) largely Jewish. These people have come here pretending to be French and declaring their true nationality only upon arrival. Often they have been badly treated, especially by certain sections of the Military Security, which have forced them into the French Foreign Legion or have kept them in prison for days and sometimes weeks under very bad conditions. However, with the exception of those who submit to signing an engagement with the Legion, almost all of them finally find a solution for their problem.

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3) Certain refugees may be permitted to enter North Africa under special arrangements. The only example of this that I know of will be the Refugee Reception Center at Camp Marshal Lyautey, where those stateless refugees who are now in Spain, who wish to do so, may come to North Africa under rather restricted conditions to live in a camp run by the British and American authorities. From 500 to 800 of these are expected to arrive here in about a month.

Otherwise, refugees are not now permitted to enter North Africa. The Anglo-American-French authorities have established a general rule that no entries into North Africa are to be permitted except in the furtherance of the war effort.

There is a strict control of the Spanish Moroccan border, over which Spanish Republican refugees, as well as enemy agents, sometime try to cross. Persons entering illegally, if discovered, are put into work camps.

What the United States Government can do to effectuate the rescue and relief of victims of enemy oppression.

Coming to North Africa does not represent a truly adequate solution to the problem of war refugees. Many Jews and other anti-fascist refugees have a real dread of past suffering in France, especially during the Vichy period, when thousands of such refugees were in concentration camps. Such fears are often realized in North Africa, where persecution of Jews and anti-fascists is still all too frequent.

In addition, North Africa is difficult for refugees because there is a very serious lack of clothing, housing, medical care, food, and all of the basic necessities of life. This means that refugees who enter North Africa with only the clothes they wear have extreme difficulties in maintaining life here. Their problem is much more difficult than that of established families, especially when one considers that they have often passed through months of concentration camp and are in a weakened condition.

It is therefore my impression that representations to the Government of North Africa about the rescue of war refugees will not result in a basic solution. However, certain improvements might be realized such as:

- a) More cordial reception of refugees, especially stateless Jews of German and Austrian origin.

