

Cooperation with Other Governments: United Nations; Norway Govt in Exile

2- amon Ref-Ad.
Mr. Rihle

for info.

Jiles

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

10/3

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 5, 1944
NUMBER: 2480

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The following message has been repeated to London as my July 5 telegram No. 656.

It is reported that the Stockholm refugee office of the Norwegian Legation, the so-called Samb and Skontoret, has resigned in a body.

The official representative in Stockholm of the Norwegian home front and head of refugee office, Judge Harald Gram, is said to have submitted a letter to Norwegian Minister Bull presenting his resignation from post of chief of Samb and Skontoret on June 30. The fact that there was bad blood between Gram and Bull had been known to this Legation for some months. At one time last winter Gram had in fact submitted his resignation to Bull but the Minister had dissuaded him from carrying it through. It was when Bull accused Gram of inciting home front opinion against him as a person ^{of Nazi} leanings that the present trouble came to a head. July 31 is the date when Gram's resignation is to become effective. Resignations have also been tendered by his entire staff which is in sympathy with its chief. The ability of Minister Bull to recruit persons qualified to continue the work of the refugee

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

office seems problematical.

It is an unfortunate time for an imbroglio of this sort since Samb and Skonteret enjoyed the confidence of the home front and its contacts in Norway were exceptionally good. In addition this office was source at [of ?] black market Norwegian crowns for financing activities of home front. Whether or not under Minister Bull the Norwegian Legation will be able to dissuade Gram and his followers from their intention of resigning or to resuscitate refugee office remains to be seen. These threats of resignation from Gram should be taken with a grain of salt as he is an old politician and particularly so since he is a genuine patriot and would not wish to sabotage his own colleagues of the home front.

JOHNSON

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REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUL 7 1942

near the Norwegian Government,

LONDON, March 3, 1944.

7/10
copy sent
Adm
Sub

No. 76.

Subject: Present position of
Norwegian victims of
Nazi persecution.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to the Department's instruction No. 634, January 28, 8 p.m. regarding the establishment of the War Refugee Board and the general policy in the President's Executive Order of January 22 for action for the rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution, and referring also to our telegram No. 30 of March 1 reporting generally on conversations with officials of the Governments to which this Embassy is accredited, I have the honor to report below the substance of a conversation with Dr. Alf Sewerlin, who is in charge of refugee matters in the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Social Welfare and who acted as Norwegian representative on the Technical Advisory Committee on Displaced Persons of the Interallied Committee on Post War Requirements.

While Dr. Sewerlin indicated that the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order had the fullest sympathy of the Norwegian authorities, and that these would naturally cooperate with the War Refugee Board in any way that might be possible, he said that fortunately the problems arising in connection with the escape of Nazi victims from Norway were less difficult than in the case of most other enemy-occupied areas. By reason of the long frontier with Sweden, which it is not possible for the German military machine to control adequately, persons desiring to escape from Norway experience no special difficulty once they succeed in reaching this frontier. The real difficulty, Dr. Sewerlin stated, is in moving about in Norway itself. There is in fact a more or less steady stream of refugees

cc: Chauncey, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Pehle, Files.

passing into Sweden, though the number goes up from time to time whenever there is some new form of Nazi persecution. The number of Norwegian refugees now in Sweden is considered to be something less than 24,000.

The Jewish population in Norway was very small, and practically all of these, about 870 in number, were deported to Poland by the Nazis. The Norwegian Government has no information about their fate, and Dr. Sewerlin thinks it doubtful that many of them are still alive. As regards any survivors, assurances have been given by the Norwegian Government that their return to Norway will be facilitated in the same way as will be done for other Norwegian citizens.

Dr. Sewerlin stated that there are no special obstacles apart from the measures adopted by the Nazi regime itself, which interfere with the rescue and relief of Nazi victims in Norway. The attitude of the Swedish Government and of the Swedish people generally is not as cooperative as could possibly be desired. No such qualification of this statement, as would have been necessary, say, two years ago, needs to be made. Refugees now experience no more difficulty so far as official regulations are concerned in crossing the Swedish frontier than they do in entering the only other areas to which Norwegians attempt to escape, namely the United Kingdom mainland and the islands of the Faroes, Shetlands and Iceland, where all along officials and people have afforded all possible help.

The Norwegian Government itself, according to Dr. Sewerlin, is giving all possible assistance to Norwegian victims of the Nazis. As a general policy all refugees can depend on the Norwegian Government for support after their escape pending the time when they can find means of supporting themselves. Also plans have already been worked out so that when the Germans are expelled from Norwegian territory the refugees in Sweden and elsewhere can be taken back to Norway in an orderly way and provided with means, where necessary, of re-establishing themselves. In this connection medical and other control measures have been worked out.

When refugees first get out of Norway into Sweden arrangements are made for them to go immediately into camps. These camps are under the control of officials designated by the Norwegian Government. Necessary funds, it is stated, are supplied by the Norwegian Legation in Stockholm. Every cooperation is received from the Swedish authorities. At

the present time most of the Norwegian refugees in Sweden have employment, but whenever employment ceases, these refugees are supported by the Norwegian Government until or unless they find new employment. Dr. Sewerlin states there are also perhaps 2,000 refugees who were students in Norway and are now continuing their studies in Sweden with the support of the Norwegian Government. So far as concerns their safety or freedom from persecution, Dr. Sewerlin considers there is nothing more which needs to be done for the Norwegians in Sweden.

From a material view point, there is also little more that could be done, under existing conditions of supply shortages; and there is no complaint on this score. From a morale view point, it is regarded as unfortunate that so many active young people find themselves unable to participate more actively in the war effort. If anything more could be done to enable the egress from Sweden of these young people from 17 to 25 years of age, it would be very important.

While exact figures are not available as to the number who have escaped from Norway to the United Kingdom or to Iceland, the Faroes and the Shetlands, the figure is estimated at something less than 2,000. These are not, however, considered as refugees in the ordinary sense of the word, since they are nearly all young men of military age who are fit to go at once into the Norwegian Merchant Navy or into the Norwegian military forces. In any case there has been no need to treat them as refugees. There are very few refugees to be found in any other European country, except Sweden.

There are now between 6,000 and 8,000 Norwegians, Dr. Sewerlin states, who are detained in Germany or occupied territory. Of these 2,000 are prisoners of war and are being treated as such, and it can be expected that they will be returned to Norway under the same conditions as other war prisoners under the terms of the Geneva Convention. The remainder, apart from the 870 Jews deported to Poland, are civil or political prisoners sentenced by courts martial, nearly all of whom are kept in concentration camps or in regular prisons. Dr. Sewerlin expressed the hope that they would be returned to Norway through the machinery which is to be set up by United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

To the Department in
original and hectograph.

JS:DAS

Respectfully yours,

Rudolf E. Schoenfeld
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

I was Ref. R. - Lille

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMLEGATION, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 5, 1944
NUMBER: 2964

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File *W. S. S. 2*

See my 2480, July 5, midnight (658 to London)

This message has been repeated to London as my No. 837, August 5, 9 p.m.

At last it appears that the imbroglio of the Samba Ndskontoret or the Norwegian Legation's Refugee office has been resolved. A reorganization of the Sambandskontoret has been effected under the leadership of Dr. Malm who came on a medical mission to Stockholm four months ago and who although relatively unknown as a Norwegian national figure, appears to be an individual of confidence and ability. Next to Dr. Malm in Sambandskontoret is a man by the name of Mr. Norum whose associates will be Messrs. Dahl and Dieseth, two members of old Sambandskontoret. Mr. Storlie, a new man who is borrowed from the so-called Rettskontoret or the legal office of the Norwegian Legation and possibly one or two more men make up the personnel of the Sambandskontoret as reconstituted. The former head of Sambandskontoret, Mr. Gram, is out of that organization as he has at last been taken up on the threat he has so many times made to resign. Nevertheless, he remains as the financial director of the Norwegian Legation whose main duty appears to be the financing of the home front through purchase of black market Norwegian crowns in Sweden.

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There have been dropped from the Norwegian Legation two former Sambandskontoret members, Messers Skougen and Feydt together with a former part time worker in Sambandskontoret and the mistress of Feydt, Mrs. Keiru. On the authority of Major Bauman, the present Stockholm representative of Milorg, these individuals will be subject to legal prosecution after the war for their recent subversive activities if they return to Norway. The report is now being spread by the three disgruntled employees that it is their intention to work in behalf of Norway for a foreign power and against the current Government of Norway. It is expected that they will offer their services either to the Soviet Legation, the British or the United States.

8-8-44

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