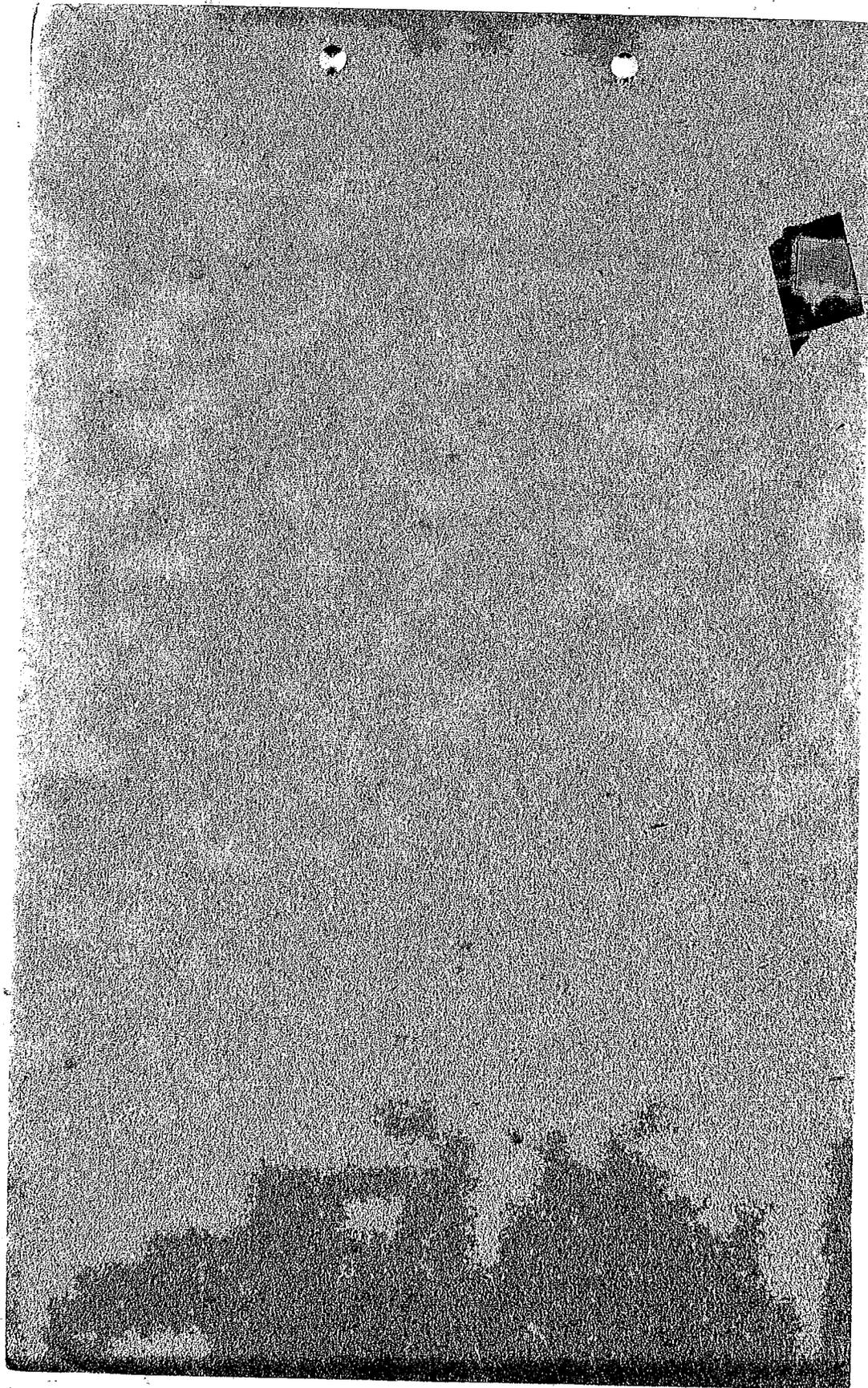


Cooperation with Other Governments: United Nations: Russia

0025

1. GENERAL
2. Newspaper Clippings

7 0 0 2 5



10025

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

copy
FROM: American Embassy, Moscow via Army
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 6, 1945
NUMBER: 342
X

The following message for the War Refugee Board and for the Department is transmitted.

In connection therewith please see Department's telegram of January 22, No. 134.

There have appeared in the press of Russia since capture of the city by Soviet troops two items with regard to the Oswiecim concentration camp. A former inmate of this camp from Veronezh Oblast is quoted in an official communique for January 31 to the effect that the number of prisoners varied between 15 and 30 thousand at this camp. Women and men who were incapable of work and invalids were killed by gas and in special furnaces their bodies were burned. Those prisoners who were fit for labor were forced to work in mines and the Germans killed those who grew weak from hunger, heavy labor, and beatings. Over a period of four years many thousands of people were tortured and killed by the Germans in the camp.

A special article by a front correspondent in Oswiecim published in PRAVDA for February 2 describes in considerable detail the arrangements and organization for the mass murder of prisoners at this camp. The size of the camp particularly impressed the correspondent. It is reported that local inhabitants relate that in 1941, 1942, and the early part of 1943 five to eight trains loaded to capacity arrived at the camp each day from the occupied areas of Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and France. Special crews ran the trains into the camp and no train was ever seen to return with passengers on board. Following disclosure of the secrets of the Majdanek concentration camp near Lublin during the past year the Germans are reported to have dismantled many of their installations at Oswiecim and to have made an effort to efface the traces of their crimes at this camp. In conclusion the correspondent states that he has seen thousands of tortured inmates of the camp who were saved by the Red army's rapid advance. They are described by him as being people whose age it is impossible to guess and as being exhausted to the point where they swayed like shadows in the wind. There is no indication as to what proportion of these survivors were Jews, in this article.

Regarding the inquiry made by the War Refugee Board concerning the number of Jews surviving in Lodz, an American

DECLASSIFIED
Exec Dep. Lett. 11-78

SEE 1-3-10

correspondent retaining

- 2 -

correspondent returning yesterday from a visit there states that he was informed that there were only 829 Jews surviving from a population of 250,000 before the war. About 150 Germans remained behind in Lodz, he stated in addition.

KENNAN

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

2 War Ref. Bd. (Oshley)

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Files

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: January 26, 1945
NUMBER: 238
X

CONTROL COPY

I have reminded the Foreign Office, in conformity with the desires express in message of January 22 from the Department, No. 134, that these concentration camps exist and that it is possible that they may contain victims of Nazi persecution still. The interest of the War Refugee Board in the welfare of these people and in such measures as can be taken for their protection has been expressed by me. No information with regard to the civilian populations of the areas covered by the recent advances of the Soviets has as yet been released by the Soviet Government and the fact that this question is looked upon as a military secret for the time being is obvious. Furthermore, the Soviet Foreign Office has not been willing in any case to divulge information of this kind to my knowledge. It is doubtful whether the Soviet military authorities discriminate at all between Jews and other people in such records as they may make of the civilians which their advance has liberated. In addition, when we inquired last September about the Jews in Lodz, the Foreign Office made reply that it was not able to furnish us any information on that matter and referred us to the Polish National Committee of SS

Liberation

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

liberation; a similar attitude will be taken in the present instance, I have no doubt.

The Embassy has made every effort to secure information on the fate of the Jews in Russian controlled territories, as the Department will notice from the message dated December 9 from the Embassy, No. 4730 and the one dated December 30, No. 5059. We will not fail, as soon as the Polish authorities have had an opportunity to establish their administration in the territories recently liberated and to find out what has transpired there, to exploit every possibility for securing information with regard to those territories which is similar to that secured from Russian controlled territories.

TORNNAN

Lew
DC/L:LCW:AN
1-29-45

Coop. with
Russia

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

Copy

FROM: The Secretary of State, Washington
TO: The American Embassy, Moscow
DATED: January 22, 1945
NUMBER: 134



URGENT

From the Department and War Refugee Board.

It is feared that, in line with the record of their past cruelties, Germans will massacre Jewish and other survivors in camps Auschwitz (Swalcin) and Birkenau near Katowitz and other camps in that area prior to retreat. Please suggest to Soviet authorities the urgency of addressing suitable warnings by radio and pamphlets to Germans in those localities. In view of nearness of Soviet forces it is felt that such warnings by them would be helpful and effective. Please also raise with Soviet authorities the feasibility of their taking direct measures for the protection of camp inmates.

As indication whether Germans continue their policy of exterminating remaining Jews previous to retreat, WRB is anxious to hear whether 60,000 to 80,000 Jews reported in Lodz a few months ago were found alive. Please inquire and report to Department and W.R.B.

STETTINIUS

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

*2 War Ref Bd
(Pahle)*

REPRODUCIBLE OF TELETYPE RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow via Army
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: December 30, 1944
NUMBER: 5059
X

CONTROL COPY

With regard to the fate of Jewish refugees in eastern Europe the information which follows is submitted which has been secured from a reliable non-Soviet source who is in touch with the Polish Jewish community in the Soviet Union, and this information will supplement that which was given in my message dated December 9 No. 4730. It may be the desire of the Department to make some of this information available to the War Refugee Board or all of it.

I have broken down this information by the countries concerned for purposes of convenience, namely, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Soviet Union.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Almost no Jews were found at the time of liberation of Ruthenia. Subsequently a few Jews returned to that area from Hungary and Rumania but they constitute only 5 to 8 percent of the Jewish population which was there formerly. There are only 130 in Berehovo, and there are even less in Sevljusi. The Jews of military age who had declared themselves previously to be of Jewish or of Ruthenian nationality were mobilized into the Czech units in the USSR at first in

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

which the dominant element is now said to be the Ruthenians. This practice was stopped later and the Soviet military authorities began to draft such of these Jews as declared themselves to be Ruthenians directly into the Red Army in spite of the protest of the Czechoslovak Civil Affairs Delegation. Request has been made of the American Joint Distribution representatives in Tehran to send supplies for the Jews in this area and they have agreed to do this. The situation is still not exactly clear in Slovakia. It is estimated that before the German occupation there were in that area 120,000 Jews. Lists of about 75,000 who are known to have been killed by the Germans are in possession of the Czech Government. At the present time only about 20,000 are believed to remain in that area, and many of these people have become Partisans; they have formed their own bands of Partisans since they were not accepted into the Slovak Partisan Army. After liberation practically none of them desire to remain in Slovakia.

POLAND. The number of Jews remaining in liberated Poland is placed at only 3,000 by this source. Having lost confidence in themselves and in all established authority and not being willing to make any direct assertion of their rights even the most elementary these people are reported to be in a pitiful moral state. They are encountering a very considerable amount of anti-Semitism although they are finding employment without

without difficulty. Physical violence against them has been seen in the streets of Lublin; not even the Moscow representatives of the Lublin Committee deny this. Their needs are for clothing and medicine rather than for food as is the case with the remainder of the population in that area. Particularly distressing is the plight of the orphan children. There have recently been established three orphanages and it is hoped that these children can be removed to Palestine eventually.

SOVIET UNION. The number of Polish Jews in Russia is placed at 250,000 by this source. Eighty percent of these have Russian passports it is estimated, and of the remaining 50,000 many of them are listed by the Soviet authorities as being without citizenship of any kind. About 70 percent of the total number are young people between the ages of 18 and 35; in part this fact is explained by the greater willingness of the younger elements to submit in 1939 and 1940 to evacuation by the Soviet authorities, also by the fact that mortality has been much higher among the very young and the very old due to hardships to which all of them have been subjected since they arrived in the Soviet Union, where hardships have been great. These people are permitted still to consider themselves to be Polish Jews as distinguished from Russian Jews and to have relations with the Committee of Polish Jews in Moscow in spite of the fact that four-fifths of them have Soviet passports. The Committee of Polish Jews in Moscow is affiliated with

affiliated with the Central Jewish Committee in Lublin and
Commerstein who is also a member of the Polish Committee of
Liberation in Lublin heads this Committee of Polish Jews in
Moscow also. This Committee of Polish Jews in Moscow functions
under the close supervision of Polish Communist authorities
and of authorities of the Soviet. Entirely inadequate is its
office space in Moscow which consists of one or two rooms in
the headquarters of the Union of Polish Patriots. This
Committee is almost entirely lacking in materials or funds with
which to aid the people in whom it is interested and even its
lack of office materials, stationery, et cetera severely
handicaps its work.

The above Committee should not be confused with the
Polish section of the Committee of anti-Fascist Jews in Moscow,
which is not in any sense representative of the Polish Jews
in the Soviet Union but rather is a political propaganda
committee which is designed to further the Soviet information
program among Jewish circles abroad, in the United States
especially. An American Jew named Epstein is understood to be
at the head of it.

The Polish Jews in the Soviet Union have found little
and no organizational contact
cultural contact/with regular Soviet citizens of Jewish origin,
in general. These Soviet citizens of Jewish origin are not
interested in general in the preservation of Jewish traditions
or culture as such whereas the Polish Jews who have just
arrived still

arrived still long for the cultivation of Jewish tradition which they have known in the past and for the Jewish community life. The fact that there are as many as 50 Polish Jewish actors and actresses in Moscow who are not able to practice their profession here and who are living in great physical distress is an example of this situation. They consider the local Jewish theater to be preoccupied with Soviet nationalist propaganda and devoted to the disruption of Jewish cultural values rather than to their preservation and so it is not possible for them to work with the local Jewish theater.

Still obscure remain the prospects for the return of Polish Jews to Poland. The Soviet authorities in general have not shown themselves to be willing to let these people leave although recently exceptions seem to have been made in the Lvov area in favor of Jews who wish to move to the territory over which the Lublin Committee exercises authority. There is a widespread desire among the Polish Jews in the Soviet Union in general to get to Polish territory which has been liberated not because they look forward with hope to the establishment of permanent residence there but due to the fact that they think that when they are once there they might contrive later to emigrate from that territory to Palestine and to the United States whereas they have little hope of being able to emigrate from the Soviet Union directly.

HARRIMAN

LCW
DC/L:LCW:BAEM
1/4/45

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RMG-1916

PLAIN

Moscow

Dated November 30, 1944

Rec'd 10:02 a.m.

*War Ref
Bd (m)
Peh*

Secretary of State,
Washington.

4567, Thirtieth.

Press for November 29 published following

American items:

1. Fifteen inch coverage in New York despatch of War Refugee Board release describing German atrocities in Polish concentration camps. Details are given.
2. Report of exchange of letters between President and Hull including mention of President's reported hope that despite resignation Hull might preside at first session of planned organization of United Nations.
3. London despatch reporting arrival in Chungking of President's personal representative Joseph Mansfield.
4. Announcement of Hurley's appointment as Ambassador to China.
5. ISVESTIYA despatch reporting President's appeal to American people to support campaign against tuberculosis.

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DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING
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AND RECORDS

EK-610

PLAIN
Moscow

Dated November 15, 1944
Rec'd 11:20 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
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1944 NOV 20 AM 9 30

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

Secretary of State,
Washington.

4410, Eighteenth.

Political press for November 15 contains following
items of interest:

One. Question of security and Polish western
frontiers.

Justification for the new "security frontiers"
advanced by the Polish Committee of National Liberation
which would reduce the length of the Polish German
frontier, the "only insecure frontier" from 2033
kilometers to 400 kilometers. The frontiers with
Czechoslovakia and the USSR "will be entirely safe
thanks to Poland's alliance with those countries".
It is therefore obvious how groundless Huisman's argu-
ments are that Poland would break down under the weight
of military expenditures to defend its frontiers.
Furthermore unless East Prussia, Danzig, West Pomorze
and Silesia are incorporated into Poland they will
always serve

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*War Ref Bd
[Signature]*

-2-#4410, Eighteenth, from Moscow.

always serve as a hotbed for German imperialist designs to annex Poland.

Two. League of Poles of Western Regions formed.

The first meeting of the newly formed league was held in Lublin early in November. Its aim is to fight for the recovery of the historically Polish lands in the Nissa, Warthe, Oder and Silesian districts which the Germans have held for centuries.

Three. New Polish Army regulations.

New regulations have recently been published in liberated Poland replacing the 1932 regulations which were anti-democratic and Fascist.

Paragraph 103 of the new regulations reads "anyone who publicly attacks the state system of new Poland, who insults or ridicules it, who praises Fascism and Hitlerism, forms or calls for the formation of Fascist organizations shall be punished with imprisonment or death". The article maintains that this paragraph shows that the young Polish democracy, while unreservedly recognizing the principles of freedom of conscience and opinion, takes a determined stand against reactionary Fascist enemies of society.

Paragraph 102 states that "anyone who publicly incites to national, racial or religious hatred, who with such

-3-#4410, Eighteenth, from Moscow.

with such aims in view, publishes disseminates or conceals literature, photographs and the like shall be punished with imprisonment". The article states that this paragraph distinguishes the new regulations from the anti-semitic methods of the Polish reactionaries who cultivated national and racial oppression.

Four. Economic life in the liberated regions.

The main problem at present is to keep industry supplied with fuel. A partial solution is provided by the trade agreement with the Soviet Union on the strength of which Russia will supply coal for Polish industry. Furthermore a number of factories in the Drohobich-Borislav district will be provided for the present with natural gas by the Soviet Union.

The Bialystok textile industry has been almost completely destroyed and only a few mills are now in production. Some tanneries have been restored and a large shoe factory is in operation in Lublin. Six sugar refineries, seven vegetable oil factories, three vegetable processing plants, a macaroni factory and numerous flour mills are in operation.

Five. Polish Jews set up a central committee.

Jewish provincial committees have been formed in the liberated territories of Poland and have elected a central

-4-#4410, Eighteenth, from Moscow.

central committee. Its aim is to fight the Germans, establish a democratic Poland, rehabilitate its national economy and work for the revival of Jewish culture and arts. It had decided to launch a relief campaign for the Jewish population in Poland in cooperation with Jewish organizations abroad. It will maintain close contact with the organizing Committee of Polish Jews in the Soviet Union. Dr. Sommerstein has been elected chairman of the Central Committee.

KENNAN

JMS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM CONTROL COPY

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

KEM-446
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement.

Ankara

Dated August 7, 1944

Rec'd 9:35 p.m.

*War Ref Bd
(Mr. Pehle)*

Secretary of State,
Washington.

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

1944 AUG 8 PM 4 26

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF

1439, August 7, 2 p.m.

FOR PEHLE: WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN, ANKARA, NO. 120

In a conference today with Milhailov, First Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Ankara, I expressed the hope that his Government would make special efforts to distinguish between the victims of fascism and the Fascists themselves when the Red Army enters enemy territory. Milhailov assured me on behalf of the Soviet Government that all citizens in enemy territory would be treated alike as this was a fundamental principle of the Soviet regime and that the victims and those who were incarcerated would be treated with special solicitude.

KELLEY

WSB

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

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS

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F. H. Hodel

DMH-330

~~RESTRICTED~~

PLAIN
Moscow

War Ref Bd

Dated June 27, 1944

Rec'd 5:20 p.m.

1 copy only

Secretary of State

Washington

2299, 27th

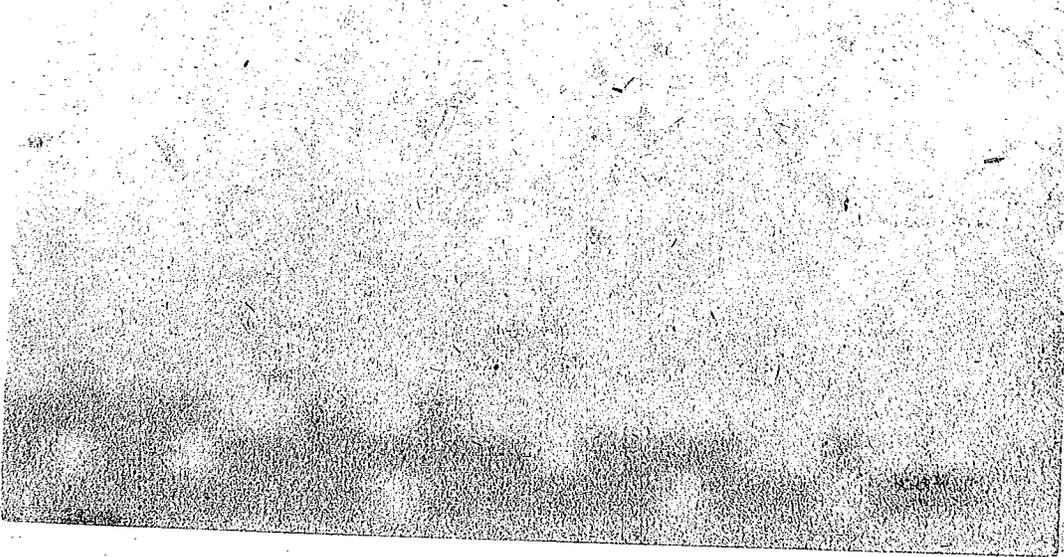
Department's circular June 15.

Moscow press published today the President's special message to Congress of June 12 concerning the efforts of the United States Government to rescue Jews and other victims of German oppression.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 28 1944
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

HARRISAN

MRM



3- War Ref Board Rules

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 19, 1944
NUMBER: 2180

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON
JUN 21 11 AM '44
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Today the question of the relief and rescue of victims of enemy persecution was discussed by me with Vyshinski, and I informed him of the additional information contained in the Department's circular telegram dated June 16, No. 1491. I asked him whether there was any concrete action that the Soviet Government could take in this respect and I explained that American public opinion was very much concerned over the appalling reports which had been received concerning the persecution of Jews in Europe. It was stated by Vyshinski that the same reports had come to the attention of the Soviet Government and that active study was being given to the matter by it.

HARRIMAN

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

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Kille*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 19, 1944
NUMBER: 2179
X

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
74

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made herewith to Embassy's message dated June 14, No. 2142.

It is stated in a note dated June 18 from Vyshinski relating to proposals of the War Refugee Board that at the present time the Soviet Government is studying the proposals set forth in the Embassy's letter dated June 14, and that the decisions which the Soviet Government takes will be promptly communicated to the Embassy.

HARRIMAN

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

0027

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FE

EMBASSY,

MOSCOW.

1491 FIFTEENTH War Refugee Board
The following cable which has been sent to the chiefs
of Missions in Turkey, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain and
Portugal is repeated to you for your information:

QUOTE On June 9 the President announced to the press
that the army camp Fort Ontario Oswego New York has been
set aside as an emergency refugee shelter to house one
thousand refugees who are being brought to this country
immediately from Italy outside the regular immigration pro-
cedure. Refugees will remain in the camp for the duration
of the war. The text of the cable despatched to Ambassador
Robert Murphy in Algiers on June 8 was released to the press
by the President and appeared in the radio bulletin of
June 9. The War Refugee Board is charged by the President
with overall responsibility for this project. The army has
been directed to take the necessary security precautions to
insure that the refugees remain in the camp during the war.
The War Relocation Authority is to be responsible for the
actual administration of the camp. The Board regards the
action taken by the President as a great step forward in
the efforts of this Government to rescue refugees in
imminent danger of death and to afford all possible relief
and

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUN 16 1944

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

PLAIN

June 15, 1944

*4 - War Ref Bd
(M...
Doble)*

Control in Russia

-2-#1491, June 15, 1944, to Moscow.

and assistance to such victims. This step can only be properly appraised against the background of the many vigorous measures taken by the President and the Board in the intensive effort to rescue the victims of Hitler's extermination policies. The action taken by the President in bringing refugees from Italy to a place of safety in this country should again demonstrate clearly to the world that it is an important policy of this Government to rescue as many refugees as possible. Following this announcement this Government should be in a stronger position to urge Allied and neutral countries to expand their efforts on behalf of refugees. It is the confident hope of this Government that through the joint efforts of Allied and neutral countries many additional lives can be saved. Hopefully, the President's action will become known in the occupied areas and should have an important psychological effect in convincing the Nazis and their subordinates throughout Europe that this Government is serious in its deep concern for the fate of persecuted peoples. Evidence is already at hand that the efforts of this Government in the refugee field have brought new hope to the persecuted people in the occupied areas and the President's action should serve as a further manifestation of the effectiveness and

-3-#1491, June 15, 1944, to Moscow.

and security of the humanitarian policy of this Government.

The President has also directed, in addition to the action indicated above, that a survey be made immediately of the possibility of enlarging existent refugee facilities in the ~~Mediterranean~~ Mediterranean area and finding new havens of refuge in that area for these people. Movements to increase the quota of the refugee camps in the Middle East from 25,000 to 40,000 are being made. The opening of a camp in Tripolitania which would accommodate about 1500 persons has been agreed to by the British Government. We are canvassing the possibility of taking refugees to Cyprus together with possibility that some southern Italy refugees may be cared for in Sicily, pursuant to the President's suggestion. We are also exploring other possibilities. The above represents an effort of this Government, in cooperation with the British Government, to find places of refuge in which shelter may be found by all persons escaping from Italy.

You are requested, keeping the above in mind, to act as expeditiously as possible in the following manner. The foregoing should be brought to the attention of the government to which you are accredited, the significance of the action in the refugee field being emphasized. The determination

-4-#1491, June 15, 1944 to Moscow.

determination of this Government to find havens of refuge for all persecuted peoples who can escape from German-controlled areas should be made clear to the government to which you are accredited. Please explore carefully therefore with such government all possible means by which further aid in the rescue and relief of victims of enemy persecution can be given by it. Consistent with the military situation every effort should be made to give publicity in the neutral countries and in enemy territories to the President's action and its significance.

The results of the action which you take pursuant to this telegram should be reported immediately UNQUOTE.

Please bring the action taken by the President to the attention of the Soviet Government. This cable should also be borne in mind in any discussions with the Soviet authorities concerning possible means by which further aid in the rescue and relief of victims of enemy oppression can be extended by that Government.

HULL
(GFW)

WRB:MMV:KG
6/13/44

RE

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 14, 1944
NUMBER: ~~FILE~~ 2142

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of June 10, No. 1470, concerning proposals of the War Refugee Board.

A letter has been addressed to Vyshinski by the Embassy dated May 14, communicating the text of the statement of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and renewing its requests that the Soviet Government associate itself with the declaration of the President on March 24. Also the letter requests that Soviet radio stations broadcast appropriate messages to Germany and German satellite countries and that leaflets supplement the Soviet radio messages.

HARRISMAN

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

officer, Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Model, Laughlin, Lesser, Lufford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Felle, Files.

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2. War Ref Bk

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 9, 1944
NUMBER: 2050

Mr. Seale

1 copy only

CONTROL COPY

Referring to Department's message Number 1283 of May 24, 11 a.m., the Embassy has requested information as to the present status of the question of departure of Jewish Rabbis from the Soviet Union from the Foreign Office. This subject has also been taken up with the Australian Legation (which is handling Polish interests), which Legation had formerly advised the Embassy that it had been informed by the Foreign Office recently that Polish citizens could not be issued Soviet exit visas on the basis of requests made to the Foreign Office, by the Legation, but that the individuals concerned would have to file separate applications with the nearest office of the Bureau for Visas and Registration for their exit visas. It was noted, however, that exceptional "cases" could be brought to the attention of the Foreign Office at any time by the Legation. The Legation since that time has been unsuccessful in making arrangements for the departure from the Soviet Union of Polish citizens and the possibility of doing so appears unlikely. All persons covered by the

evacuation

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

1027

evacuation lists sent to the Foreign Office have been informed that in order to obtain exit visas, they must file individual applications.

HARRIMAN

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APR 11 1952

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ms Pille*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT
TO: American Embassy, Moscow
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 24, 1944
NUMBER: 1283
x

CONTROL COPY

Following refers to Embassy's Jan. 19 telegram
No. 192.

In the United States and Canada, representatives
of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and affiliated organi-
zations have requested again to be informed of latest
developments regarding their request that the departure
of group of rabbinical students and Rabbis from Soviet
Union be given consideration.

It would be appreciated if you would telegraph
whether any new developments have occurred and what
the prospects are for all or any part of this group
to leave USSR, if any.

HULL

25 3 PM 25 MAY 1944

WASHINGTON D.C.
MAY BELOOEE BOARD
RECEIVED

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

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Bd

FMH-475 .

PLAIN

CONTROL COPY

Moscow

Dated April 19, 1944

Rec'd 10:15 a.m., 20th

File

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1367, nineteenth

PRAVDA for April 17 and RED STAR for April 18

publish a Tass despatch from Cairo stating that during Lehman's visit there an appeal from the National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia to the Council of UNRRA for immediate aid for Yugoslavia and the admission of the National Committee to membership in UNRRA was submitted to him.

The item continues that Lehman promised to place these questions before the next meeting of the UNRRA council in June.

HARRIMAN

WSB

1028

*War Refugee Act
M. L. K. E.*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Ambassador, Moscow
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 17, 1944
NUMBER: 1326

Copy only

CONTROL COPY

I have received from the Foreign Office a memorandum which replies to my memorandum of March 21st concerning the creation of the War Refugee Board (please see my number 1020 dated 6 p.m., March 24 and number 1083 dated 1 p.m. March 28) which says in substance that the Russian Government's policy has been, and still is, to aid the victims of persecution by Hitlerite Germany in every way possible. As the Embassy knows already the Government of the U.S.S.R. in keeping with this principle has agreed to the passage of three Bulgarian vessels and one Turkish ship from Rumanian and Bulgarian ports to Turkey for the purpose of evacuating refugees.

RECEIVED
STATE DEPT.
APR 18 1944

It is my plan to discuss with the Foreign Office at the first favorable opportunity the possibility of further Russian cooperation in the implementation of our policy.

HARRIMAN

DGR:MPL
4/18/44

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

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CONTROL COPY SENT

*War Refugee Bd
JW Peble*

JN

PLAIN

April 17, 1944

File

EMBASSY,

MOSCOW.
937-DEPARTMENT FOR
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

With reference to the statement made by the President, (Department's 699, March 24) the British Government, in a reaffirmation of its attitude toward the Nazi war crimes and atrocities, directed that the BBC report the President's statement fully in all languages. Subsequently, on March 30, Mr. Eden, in the House of Commons, reiterated the position of the British Government with regard to these crimes.

You are requested to approach the appropriate authorities of the Soviet Union and ascertain whether, in view of the positive action taken by the British Government, the Soviet Government would take similar action and issue a statement expressing its attitude concerning the crimes and atrocities of the Nazis. It is felt by the Department that such action on the part of the Soviet Government would have a most profound and important effect upon the leaders and peoples of Rumania and Hungary.

Please report the result of your discussions concerning this matter.

WRB:GLV:KG
4/17/44

EE

HULL
(GLV)

LE

A-B

1028

RCC-70

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

Ankara

Dated April 11, 1944

Rec'd 11:10 a.m., 12th.

Secretary of State

Washington

644, April 11, 11 p.m.

FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Ankara's 33.

The Russian Ambassador informed me yesterday the Russian Government is granting safe conduct for the SS TARI.

STEINHARDT

JT

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

War Refugee Bd
(Mr. Peck)
1 copy only

BE-718

PLAIN

Moscow

Dated April 10, 1944

Rec'd 11:15 a.m., 11th

CONTROL COPY

7/13

Secretary of State

Washington

1237, Tenth

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

The Soviet Press for April 10 carried a Tass

report from New York concerning a campaign being conducted by the committee on aid to the Soviet Union to collect in the United States three million parcels of household goods for the Soviet Union.

HARRIMAN

WSB

AMERICAN
REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED

APR 14 1944

1028

*war Refugee Bd
Jm Pills
1 copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Ambassador, Moscow
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: ~~XXXX~~ March 28, 1944
NUMBER: 1033
x

CONTROL COPY

Last night I spoke to Vyshinski regarding the President's statement of March 24 concerning the persecution of civilians and requested the cooperation of the Russian Government in the psychological program to which Department's number 699 dated March 24 referred. With reference to the above mentioned statement of the President, Mr. Vyshinski was familiar with it and stated that the views of the Russian Government were well known and that they were giving sympathetic consideration to the general subject which had been previously presented to him by me as I have already reported.

This message is being repeated to Ankara, Turkey.

HARRIMAN

DOR:MPL
3/31/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 18 1972**

TELEGRAM SENT

FMH

War Refugee Bd (mt. Diehle)

PLAIN

AMEMBASSY,

CONTROL COPY

March 24, 1944

MOSCOW.

699, twenty-fourth
* FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please refer to our circular airgram of January 26, 1944, with reference to the institution of the War Refugee Board and to our No. 554 of March 11, 1944 setting forth the aims of the Board. In this cable we stressed the importance of bringing home to the people in German controlled Europe the seriousness with which the United Nations view this matter.

There is quoted below the text of a statement issued by the President on March 24, 1944.

QUOTE: (TEXT OF THE MESSAGE IS ATTACHED HERETO)

UNQUOTE.

A copy of this statement was communicated to the Soviet Ambassador here, for transmission to his Government, prior to its issuance by the President.

It would be appreciated if in addition you would make this statement available to the appropriate officials of the Russian Government, indicating to them the significance of this step as a means of following up the objectives which the War Refugee Board is trying to accomplish.

-2- #699, twenty-fourth to Moscow.

accomplish. At the same time you should emphasize to the Russian authorities the extreme importance which this Government attaches to the program outlined in our No. 554 with specific reference to the value of a psychological program designed to change the actions and attitude of our enemy, and particularly his satellites, functionaries and subordinates.

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:AMM

EE

S/CR

3/24/44

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN, MOSCOW

Please refer to our circular airgram of January 26, 1944, with reference to the institution of the War Refugee Board and to our No. 554 of March 11, 1944 setting forth the aims of the Board. In this cable we stressed the importance of bringing home to the people in German controlled Europe the seriousness with which the United Nations view this matter.

There is quoted below the text of a statement issued by the President on March 24, 1944.

(Here take in annexed statement)

It would be appreciated if you would make this statement available to the appropriate officials of the Russian Government, indicating to them the significance of this step as a means of following up the objectives which the War Refugee Board is trying to accomplish. At the same time you should emphasize to the Russian authorities the extreme importance which this Government attaches to the program outlined in our No. 554 with specific reference to the value of a psychological program designed to change the actions and attitude of our enemy, and particularly his satellites, functionaries and subordinates.

*Transmitted by mime
3/24/44*

JED

copy

*was Refugee Bd
M. R. Allen*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

copy only

FROM: AMEMBASSY, MOSCOW
TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
DATED: MARCH 24, 1944
NUMBER: 1020

CONTROL COPY



On March 21 a memorandum setting forth United States Government's policy as contained in the first paragraph of the Department's circular dated January 26, 7 p.m., was handed to Vyshinski by me. Attention was called in the memorandum to the cooperation solicited of the Soviet Government in requesting an assurance of safe conduct for the TARI (see my telegram of March 26, 1944, no. 935) and it went on to say that in the future similar specific problems will doubtless arise, in the solution of which the assistance of the Soviet Union will be sought. The memorandum closed with a reference to the effect that the great work which the Soviet Government has done in saving the lives of many refugees is well known to the United States Refugee Board and it would appreciate the Soviet Government's cooperation in its work.

Also I orally stated that I wish to explore the manner in which the US and Soviet Governments might work together on this question after the memorandum had been studied by him. Reference was made by me to the parallel action which both nations had taken and could take in trying to impress on Germany and satellite countries that they would be held accountable for the inhuman actions against the Jews and other similar groups.

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

It was stated by me that such pressure on satellite countries of refugees might aid in the evacuation from Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.

I stated that with the Red Armies' advance the Black Sea area offered promising possibilities for accomplishing the rescue of refugees and in this respect I referred to my recent request for expeditious consideration of the TARI case.

I stated in conclusion that the President was extremely interested in the matter and that public sentiment in the United States was supporting my Government in doing everything possible for these unfortunate people. I added that a great deal of good effect would result in both the Soviet Union and the United States by working together in this manner, especially if this collaboration were publicly known.

Vyshinski seemed to be sympathetic to my approach. It was stated by him that he would like to study the memorandum and then discuss the question with me further.

It will be noted by the Department that I did not touch specifically upon several of the points raised in the Department's telegrams of March 11, 1944, no. 554 and 555 concerning (a) a position taken by the Soviet with respect to temporary refuge on Soviet soil for refugees transported from Balkan countries ^{across} the Black Sea and (b) an indication of the willingness of the Soviets to accept after the war refugees admitted temporarily into Switzerland and other countries during the war. It was felt by me that these questions can be dealt with more appropriately after a general agreement in principle

principle is reached for cooperative action and perhaps on the basis of such specific problems as may arise, in the handling of which we would desire the Soviet Government's cooperation.

HARRI MAN

MAR 23 1941

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENE

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Moscow
DATED: March 21, 1944
NUMBER: 648

[REDACTED]

Following is substance of message from WAR REFUGEE BOARD

We are informed by International Red Cross that the Bulgarian boats, "Maritza", "Milka", and "Bellacitta", are immediately available to transport Jewish refugees from Mangalia to Istanbul. The Red Cross has requested safe conducts. If possible you should obtain Soviet safe conducts. Advise War Refugee Board, also Ambassador Steinhardt and Red Cross at Geneva.

HULL

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Alzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lessor, Luxford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Pollak, Rains, Bergoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, H. D. White, Pehle, Files.

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

PARAPHRASE OF TELETYPE RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 20, 1944
REF: 955



The following is a personal message for the Ambassador.
Last night I spoke to Gulev and left with him a
memorandum requesting prompt action on the matter of visa
concerning the Russian ship "KOR" as described in your report.

Urgent consideration

The above message has been sent to Moscow.

WAVE

cc: Henry, Conn, Deane, Gendlin, Hill, Katschen, Kohn, Linsch, Pugh,
Friedman, Gatten, Lacey, Sawyer, Tamm, Tamm, Tamm, Tamm,
Standish, Ruggins, F. V. White, Piles

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

File

DATE March 18, 1944

TO : Mr. Lesser

FROM : Mr. Akzin

Re: DATA ON U.S.S.R. AND THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

(Main source: Eugene M. Kulischer. The Displacement of
Population in Europe. Montreal /I.L.O./ 1943)

Without extended research and on the basis of readily available information only, the position with respect to displaced persons of all categories in the Soviet Union appears to be as follows:

1. About 12,000,000 people, according to conservative estimates, were evacuated or have fled in 1941 and 1942 from the war zone into the interior regions of U.S.S.R. This total is composed of the following principal groups:

Evacuated from Besarabia and Bukovina	1941	about 100,000
Evacuated from Eastern Poland,	1941	1,200,000 to 1,500,000
Evacuated from Baltic countries.	1941	about 200,000
Evacuated from old Russian territory	1941	over 9,000,000
Evacuated from old Russian territory (North Caucasus--1,500,000; Don Basin and East Ukraine 5000,000- 1,000,000)	1942	2,000,000 to 2,500,000

2. These figures are approximations only. Errors in any or all of them may easily amount to as much as 15 per cent on either side. Some Russian estimates mention a total of 20,000,000 evacuees.

3. Since the areas from which evacuation has taken place in 1942 are now well behind the fighting zone, it may be assumed that a large part of the evacuees originating there have been repatriated. How large a part is involved, remains uncertain.

4. Some of the areas occupied by Germany in 1941 have also been freed recently. To what extent repatriation has taken place in these areas is not known.

5. Most of the evacuations have been from urban areas. The people who fled or were evacuated were principally public officials and employees, industrial workers, and Jews.

6. Most of these evacuees, whether their evacuation has been ordered by the government or whether they fled spontaneously, were people considered by the government of U.S.S.R. to be Soviet citizens. With the exceptions noted below, they can be presumed to have been quite anxious to escape enemy occupation and can therefore be considered bona fide refugees.

7. The exception consisted of a certain number of evacuees from the Baltic States and from Eastern Poland who were ordered deported shortly before or during the German invasion in 1941. These deportees belonged to groups favored by the pre-1939 regimes, and many of them would have preferred presumably to stay behind.

The number of these deportees cannot be estimated with any certainty. In the case of evacuees from the Baltic countries, about half of the total number of 200,000 evacuees may have consisted of such deportees.

8. In addition to the evacuees of 1941 and 1942, between 300,000 and 400,000 persons were deported from Poland and the Baltic countries in 1939 and 1940, because they were thought to be inimical to the Soviet regime. A few thousands of them were from the Baltic countries, the rest from Poland. In the case of the Poles, many of them, given an opportunity for option, have refused to exchange Polish for Soviet citizenship.

9. Included in the totals for the evacuees of 1941-42 and those of 1939-1940 is an unknown but large part of the stream of about 300,000 refugees who fled from Western Poland into Eastern Poland and who subsequently fled or were deported into the interior of the Soviet Union. It seems that a large part of this group retained Polish citizenship.

10. Not included in the above figures are the 181,000 members of the Polish army made prisoners of war by U.S.S.R. in 1939. After release from internment, many of them left the country to join the armed forces of the Polish Government-in-exile; others are active in the Polish military formations on the Eastern front under the auspices of the "Union of Polish patriots". Altogether, 393,000 Poles (both military and civilians) were interned in the Union previous to the fall of 1941. At that time, 348,000 Poles were released, and 45,000 remained in internment camps.

11. Finally, a special displaced group is composed of about 400,000 inhabitants of the former Volga German Republic who were removed for reasons of security to various regions in the Asiatic part of the Soviet Union.

12. The movement of displaced persons out of U.S.S.R. was relatively small. The largest group of those who left the Union was composed of over 100,000 Polish citizens who left by arrangement with the Polish government-in-exile, mostly via Iran. In addition, some thousands of people with different passports, in possession of visas for foreign countries, were able to leave the Soviet Union. Of these, a relatively large part found their way to Palestine or to the United States.

13. It follows from the above that of the ten or more millions of displaced persons now in U.S.S.R., the overwhelming majority is composed of people treated as Soviet citizens and of bona fide refugees. Some are considered aliens and some (both among the Soviet citizens and aliens) are deportees or internees.

14. There is no definite information as to the geographical distribution of displaced persons in the Soviet Union. On the whole, they seem to have been evacuated or deported to the areas east and north of the Volga. An estimate of the distribution of 1,200,000 evacuees and deportees from Poland, reported by Kulisher (*ibid*, p.59) contains the following figures:

<u>Transferred to:</u>	<u>No. of persons</u>
Archangelsk, Vologda, Kotlas	150,000
Molotovsk	50,000
Saratov, Buzuluk, Tchkalovsk	100,000
Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk	50,000
Kazakhstan (Semipalatinsk)	350,000
Omsk, Tomsk, Barnaul	100,000
Krasnoyarsk, Kainsk	50,000
Yakutsk, Aldana	30,000
Uzbekistan (Tashkent)	250,000
Southern regions	50,000
Extreme north	20,000

15. There seems to have been a tendency to send different evacuated elements to different areas. Thus, politically suspect deportees and evaguees from Poland and the Baltic countries seem to have been sent mainly to Siberia and to Northern European Russia. Jewish refugees are largely concentrated in the Republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, in Middle Asia.

16. It is uncertain to what extent the present distribution of displaced persons in U.S.S.R. foreshadows their permanent settlement in their present areas. To the extent to which this may be the case, it would result in considerable changes on the ethnical map of Eastern Europe and Asia.

More particularly, the concentration of several hundred thousand Jews in Middle Asia (according to some estimates, there are almost a million Jews in this area) may play an important part in post-war plans of Jewish resettlement.

17. The fact that the overwhelming majority of displaced persons in U.S.S.R. are citizens of that country marks an essential difference from the situation prevailing in many other countries, where a sizeable proportion or even a majority of refugees and deportees are stateless or alien. This fact must be given due consideration in evaluating the extent to which national and international agencies and private organizations outside of the Soviet Union could or should include these persons within the scope of their activities.

18. More particularly, it will be noted that the Soviet Union (except for the portion still under enemy control) falls within the category of United Nations territory which, it is understood, is outside the immediate concern of the War Refugee Board.

In so far as new regions--within or without the boundaries of U.S.S.R.-- will be occupied by Soviet troops in the course of military operations or under armistice arrangements, these regions, and the displaced populations there present, will be in the same position as regards the War Refugee Board.

19. In the circumstances, the sphere of possible cooperation of U.S.S.R. with the War Refugee Board, as at present constituted, is limited in the main to the following:

- (a) agreeing to admit immediately refugees from nearby enemy-held or neutral territory in Europe and the Near East;
- (b) agreeing to permit relief operations from Soviet territory to nearby enemy-held or neutral territory in Europe and the Near East;
- (c) agreeing to accord safe conduct for purposes of relief and evacuation in appropriate nearby zones (e.g. Black Sea routes between Bulgaria and Turkey, Rumania and Turkey; Baltic route between German held territory and Sweden);
- (d) facilitating relief and evacuation operations to and from Japanese-held territory;
- (e) diplomatic support in Sweden, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Japan for efforts designed to accelerate relief and evacuation activities;
- (f) guaranteeing a certain number of entry-permits to become effective after the war, based on the likelihood of the

presence among the refugees of persons entitled to Soviet citizenship--such guarantee facilitating the temporary admission of additional refugees in various neutral and other countries.

20. From a realistic point of view, little if anything can be expected from the Soviet Union as regards 19(a) and (b) as long as these activities would have to be exercised across the fighting lines. Should a large area, e.g. the Black Sea littoral, be freed entirely from German troops, it might be possible to request such cooperation from U.S.S.R.

As regards the remaining points, there is no reason why Soviet cooperation should not be requested, provided due consideration is given to the refugee burden already carried by the Soviet Union and to the political and other relevant circumstances.

March 18, 1944

Mr. Lesser

Mr. Anzin

Re: DATA ON U.S.S.R. AND THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

(Main source: Eugene S. Kulischer, The Displacement of Population in Europe, Montreal (U.L.C., 1943)

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8. In addition to the evacuees of 1941 and 1942, between 100,000 and 400,000 persons were deported from Poland and the Baltic countries in 1939 and 1940, because they were thought to be inimical to the Soviet regime. A few thousands of them were from the Baltic countries, the rest from Poland. In the case of the Poles, many of them, given an opportunity for option, have refused to exchange Polish for Soviet citizenship.

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11. Finally, a special displaced group is composed of about 400,000 inhabitants of the former Volga German Republic who were removed for reasons of security to various regions in the Asiatic part of the Soviet Union.

12. The movement of displaced persons out of U.S.S.R. was relatively small. The largest group of those who left the Union was composed of over 100,000 Polish citizens who left by arrangement with the Polish government-in-exile, mostly via Iran. In addition, some thousands of people with different passports, in possession of visas for foreign countries, were able to leave the Soviet Union. Of these, a relatively large part found their way to Palestine or to the United States.

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Kazakhstan (Semipalatinsk)	350,000
Omsk, Tomsk, Barnaul	100,000
Krasnoyarsk, Kainak	50,000
Yakutsk, Aldana	50,000
Uzbekistan (Tashkent)	250,000
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15. There seems to have been a tendency to send different evacuated elements to different areas. Thus, politically suspect deportees and evacuees from Poland and the Baltic countries seem to have been sent mainly to Siberia and to Northern European Russia. Jewish refugees are largely concentrated in the Republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, in Middle Asia.

16. It is uncertain to what extent the present distribution of displaced persons in U.S.S.R. fore shadows their permanent settlement in their present areas. To the extent to which this may be the case, it would result in considerable changes on the ethnical map of Eastern Europe and Asia.

More particularly, the concentration of several hundred thousand Jews in Middle Asia (according to some estimates, there are almost a million Jews in this area) may play an important part in post-war plans of Jewish resettlement.

17. The fact that the overwhelming majority of displaced persons in U.S.S.R. are citizens of that country marks an essential difference from the situation prevailing in many other countries, where a sizeable proportion or even a majority of refugees and deportees are stateless or alien. This fact must be given due consideration in evaluating the extent to which national and international agencies and private organizations outside of the Soviet Union could or should include these persons within the scope of their activities.

18. More particularly, it will be noted that the Soviet Union (except for the portion still under enemy control) falls within the category of United Nations territory which, it is understood, is outside the immediate concern of the War Refugee Board.

In so far as new regions--within or without the boundaries of U.S.S.R.-- will be occupied by Soviet troops in the course of military operations or under armistice arrangements, these regions, and the displaced populations there present will be in the same position as regards the War Refugee Board.

19. In the circumstances, the sphere of possible cooperation of U.S.S.R. with the War Refugee Board, as at present constituted, is limited in the main to the following:

- (a) agreeing to admit immediately refugees from nearby enemy-held or neutral territory in Europe and the Near East;
- (b) agreeing to permit relief operations from Soviet territory to nearby enemy-held or neutral territory in Europe and the Near East;
- (c) agreeing to accord safe conduct for purposes of relief and evacuation in appropriate nearby zones (e.g. Black Sea routes between Bulgaria and Turkey, Rumania and Turkey; Baltic routes between German held territory and Sweden);
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- (e) diplomatic support in Sweden, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Japan for efforts designed to accelerate relief and evacuation activities;
- (f) guaranteeing a certain number of entry-permits to become effective after the war, based on the likelihood of the

presence among the refugees of persons entitled to Soviet citizenship--such guarantee facilitating the temporary admission of additional refugees in various neutral and other countries.

20. From a realistic point of view, little if anything can be expected from the Soviet Union as regards 19(a) and (b) as long as these activities would have to be exercised across the fighting lines. Should a large area, e.g. the Black Sea littoral, be freed entirely from German troops, it might be possible to request such cooperation from U.S.S.R.

As regards the remaining points, there is no reason why Soviet cooperation should not be requested, provided due consideration is given to the refugee burden already carried by the Soviet Union and to the political and other relevant circumstances.

Aksinch 3/18/44

MAR 15 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

For perusal at your
convenience.

The details of the incident which Secretary Stimson referred to and which I mentioned to you are indicated below.

For some time prior to 1911 the condition of Jews in Russia had aroused opinion in this country to an angry pitch. The situation was not alleviated by the fact that Russia placed the same disabilities on foreign Jews, including American citizens, as it did on native Jews.

The matter of Russia's treatment of Jews, native or foreign, was repeatedly called by different presidents in public communications to the attention of Congress. President Cleveland took up the matter at some length in his message to Congress of December 2, 1895 and previously Presidents Arthur and Harrison had dealt with Russian maltreatment of the Jews in similar communications. When the horrible Kichineff massacre of Jews occurred in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt, knowing that the Russian authorities would not receive American protests, resorted to the device of embedding the petition to the Czar in a cabled official inquiry whether Russia would receive it, in order to give wide publicity to the same, but Russia even refused proffered American pecuniary aid to the sufferers. President Roosevelt went further, and wrote a personal letter to the Czar, which he handed to Count Witte in September, 1903, when the latter was chief envoy of Russia at the Portsmouth Peace Conference at the close of the Russo-Japanese War.

If Russia's treatment of native Jews was an internal matter, its treatment of American Jews was not, since competent authorities viewed such action as being in violation of the Treaty of 1823 between the United States and Russia. For a number of years after ratification of this treaty, Russia raised no question as to the right of admission into Russia of Jewish holders of American passports, under the treaty; but about 1879 she began her course of refusing the right of residence to American Jews, and she persisted in this course from that time on, with occasional exceptions of specially favored individuals. Our secretaries of state uniformly sought to induce her to desist from this discriminatory attitude, and protested against her course as constituting a violation of our treaty.

Commencing around 1908, the American Jewish Committee, then led by Jacob H. Schiff, Louis Marshall and Mayer Sulzberger, bent its efforts to secure the abrogation of the Treaty of 1862. As Mr. Schiff wrote Adolph S. Ochs it was felt that: "The moment Russia is compelled to live up to its treaties, and admit the foreign Jews into its dominion upon a basis of equality with other citizens of foreign countries, the Russian Government will not be able to maintain its pale of settlement against its own Jews." A campaign of publicity was agreed upon, and Mr. Marshall delivered a powerful address on "Russia and the American Passport" before the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in New York on January 19, 1911.

Mr. Marshall's address at once attracted the widest attention, and was printed and reprinted, and commented on favorably by the daily and weekly press of the country. Numerous bills for the abrogation of the violated Russian treaty were promptly introduced in Congress, among others by Senator Culbertson and Congressman Goldfogle and Herbert Parsons. A conference was also held at the White House with President Taft, on February 15, 1911, which was attended by prominent Jews whom he had invited to meet him, namely Louis Marshall, Jacob H. Schiff, Adolf Krohn, Simon Wolf, Philip Stern, Jacob Farth, J. Walter Freiberg and Bernhard Bettman, in the course of which the President announced that he had concluded not to give notice to terminate the treaty, because he felt that its abrogation would not be helpful to the cause of the Jews, but would, on the other hand, injure American commercial interests, and might lead to further anti-Jewish reprisals. He stated that, if he believed that the condition of the Jews would be helped by termination, he would give the notice in question. The conference expressed to him their deep disappointment, and Mr. Schiff at once stated that they would put the case before the American people directly. He authorized Mr. Marshall to draw upon him in the sum of \$25,000 to promote a campaign of public education, and he subsequently embodied his views in a letter to the President. The very day following the interview with the President, the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs held a hearing on the abrogation question, at which Herbert Parsons, Louis Marshall and Congressman Harrison, Goldfogle and Sulzberger advocated abrogation.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs tentatively decided to report the abrogation resolution favorably, but

concluded first to confer with Secretary of State Knox, and his opposition prevented action at this Congress. Meantime, state legislatures passed resolutions in favor of abrogation, including Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, Wisconsin and California. Before the next session of Congress began, monster mass meetings in favor of abrogation were held all over the United States. At a meeting held in Carnegie Hall, New York City, notable addresses were delivered by Wm. G. McAdoo, Andrew D. White, Senator O'German, William E. Hearst, Bishop Greer, Gov. Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey, Champ Clark, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Jacob G. Schurman of Cornell and others. On October 22, 1911, Judge Sulzberger showed the impossibility of arbitrating the controversy, when a delegation conferred with Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania, who favored a vigorous course. Soon thereafter, on November 16, a delegation which included Judge Mack, Julius Rosenwald, Harry Cutler, and Isaac N. Ullman conferred with President Taft, as did also Adolf Kraus and Simon Wolf on December 6, and on November 25 the American Federation of Labor at its annual meeting adopted resolutions in favor of abrogation.

As soon as Congress reassembled in December, numerous resolutions in favor of abrogation were introduced, notably by Wm. Sulzer, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, later elected Governor of New York, who arranged for a hearing before his committee on December 11, 1911. As before, Louis Marshall was the dominating figure at this hearing. Among those advocating abrogation was the Federation of Churches of New York City and vicinity, representing over seven hundred Christian churches. The result was that the committee the very next day unanimously reported the resolution of Congressman Sulzer favorably.

The House of Representatives immediately proceeded to consider this resolution and the same was at once adopted by a vote of 301 to 1, the only dissenting vote being cast by Congressman Maitby, solely on the ground that he did not think the resolution would lead to remedying the evil involved. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations next held a hearing on the measure on December 15, 1911, at which Louis Marshall, Mayer Sulzberger and Oscar S. Straus appeared. Senator Lodge thereupon notified President Taft that an abrogation measure would pass the Senate, probably unanimously. As the President thought that the form of the resolution was

calculated to give unnecessary offense to Russia, he caused United States Ambassador Guild at St. Petersburg to give notice of termination, to be effective on the first of January, 1913, and requested the Senate to confirm his action. Accordingly the Senate Committee by Senator Lodge reported a substitute resolution on December 18, 1911, reciting the treaty, together with the presentation by the President of notification of intended termination to Russia on December 17, 1911, and approved and ratified his action.

This substitute resolution was debated at considerable length in the Senate, and passed without a dissenting vote, the House concurred, and President Taft approved on December 21, 1911.

The foregoing is based upon the paper prepared by Dr. Max J. Kohler which forms an Appendix to Lussatti, God In Freedom (New York, The MacMillan Company, 1930).

(Signed) J.W. Fehle

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

The details of the incident which Secretary Stimson related to me and which I mentioned to you are as follows:

For some time prior to 1911 the condition of Jews in Russia had aroused opinion in this country to an angry pitch. The situation was not alleviated by the fact that Russia placed the same disabilities on foreign Jews, including American citizens as it did on native Jews.

The matter of Russia's treatment of Jews, native or foreign, was repeatedly called by different presidents in public communications to the attention of Congress. President Cleveland took up the matter at some length in his message to Congress of December 2, 1895 and previously Presidents Arthur and Harrison had dealt with Russian maltreatment of the Jews in similar communications. When the horrible Kishineff massacre of Jews occurred in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt, knowing that the Russian authorities would not receive American protests, resorted to the device of embodying the petition to the Czar in a cabled official inquiry whether Russia would receive it, in order to give wide publicity to the same, but Russia even refused proffered American pecuniary aid to the sufferers. President Roosevelt went further, and wrote a personal letter to the Czar, which he handed to Count Witte in September, 1905, when the latter was chief envoy of Russia at the Portsmouth Peace Conference at the close of the Russo-Japanese War.

If Russia's treatment of native Jews was an internal matter, its treatment of American Jews was not, since competent authorities viewed such action as being in violation of the Treaty of 1832 between the United States and Russia. For a number of years after ratification of this treaty, Russia raised no question as to the right of admission into Russia of Jewish holders of American passports, under the treaty; but about 1879 she began her course of refusing the right of residence to American Jews, and she persisted in this course from that time on, with occasional exceptions of specially favored individuals. Our secretaries of state uniformly sought to induce her to desist from this discriminatory attitude, and protested against her course as constituting a violation of our treaty, particularly Evarts, Hay, Blaine, Frelinghuysen, Bayard, Graham, Wharton, Adee, Olney, Sherman, Root and Knox. The same is true of our diplomatic representatives in Russia during this whole period, including Hoffman, Hunt, John W. Foster, Alphonso Taft, Lothrop, Charles Emory Smith, Andrew D. White, Breckinridge, Tower, McCormick, von Meyer, Rockhill and Guild.

COMMENCING AROUND 1908, THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, THEN led by Jacob H. Schiff, Louis Marshall and Meyer Sulzberger, bent its efforts to secure the abrogation of the Treaty of 1832. As Mr. Schiff wrote Adolph S. Cohn it was felt that: "The moment Russia is compelled to live up to its treaties, and admit the foreign Jews into its dominion upon a basis of equality with other citizens of foreign countries, the Russian Government will not be able to maintain its pale of settlement against its own Jews." A campaign of publicity was agreed upon, and Mr. Marshall delivered a powerful address on "Russia and the American Passport" before the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in New York on January 19, 1911.

Mr. Marshall's address at once attracted the widest attention, and was printed and reprinted, and commented on favorably by the daily and weekly press of the country. Numerous bills for the abrogation of the violated Russian treaty were promptly introduced in Congress, among others by Senator Culberson and Congressmen Goldfogle and Herbert Parsons. A conference was also held at the White House with President Taft, on February 15, 1911, which was attended by prominent Jews whom he had invited to meet him, namely, Louis Marshall, Jacob H. Schiff, Adolf Kraus, Simon Wolf, Philip Stein, Jacob Furth, J. Walter Freiberg and Bernhard Bettman, in the course of which the President announced that he had concluded not to give notice to terminate the treaty, because he felt that its abrogation would not be helpful to the cause of the Jews, but would, on the other hand, injure American commercial interests, and might lead to further anti-Jewish reprisals. He stated that, if he believed that the condition of the Jews would be helped by termination, he would give the notice in question. The conference expressed to him their deep disappointment, and Mr. Schiff at once stated that "they would put the case before the American people directly. He authorized Mr. Marshall to draw upon him in the sum of \$25,000 to promote a campaign of public education," and he subsequently embodied his views in a letter to the President. The very day following the interview with the President, the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs held a hearing on the abrogation resolutions, at which Herbert Parsons, Louis Marshall and Congressmen Harrison, Goldfogle and Graham advocated abrogation.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs tentatively decided to report the abrogation resolution favorably, but concluded first to confer with Secretary of State Knox, and his opposition prevented action at this Congress. Meantime, state legislatures passed resolutions in favor of abrogation, including Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, Wisconsin and California. Before the next session of Congress began, monster mass meetings in favor of abrogation were held all over the United States. At a meeting held in Carnegie Hall, New York City, notable addresses were delivered by Wm. O. Haldon, Andrew D. White, Senator O'Grady, William B. Hearst, Bishop Greer, Gov. Woodrow Wilson

of New Jersey, Champ Clark, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Jacob C. Schurman of Cornell and others, and it may be doubted if so many illuminating, high-planned, and vigorous addresses in favor of religious liberty were ever delivered on any other single occasion. On October 22, 1911, Judge Sulzberger showed the impossibility of arbitrating the controversy, when a delegation conferred with Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania, who favored a vigorous course. Soon thereafter, on November 16, a delegation which included Judge Mack, Julius Rosenwald, Harry Cutler, and Isaac M. Ullman conferred with President Taft, as did also Adolf Kraus and Simon Wolf on December 6, and on November 25 the American Federation of Labor at its annual meeting adopted resolutions in favor of abrogation.

As soon as Congress reassembled in December, numerous resolutions in favor of abrogation were introduced, notably by Wm. Sulzer, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, later elected Governor of New York, who arranged for a hearing before his committee on December 11, 1911. As before, Louis Marshall was the dominating figure at this hearing, and his argument was an able expansion of the address hereinbefore mentioned. Among many other able addresses were those by Judge Sulzberger, Rev. Donald G. McLeod, Jacob H. Schiff and Oscar S. Straus; and the Carnegie Hall addresses, the diplomatic correspondence referred to, and other papers were made part of the 336 page printed record, including an able brief on methods of terminating treaties by Dr. Herbert Friedenwald, who labored indefatigably as secretary of the American Jewish Committee. Among others advocating abrogation was the Federation of Churches of New York City and vicinity, representing over seven hundred Christian churches. The result was that the committee the very next day unanimously reported the resolution of Congressman Sulzer favorably in an able report, which included a convincing brief prepared by Dr. Arthur K. Kuhn.

The House of Representatives immediately proceeded to consider this resolution and the same was at once adopted by a vote of 301 to 1, the only dissenting vote being cast by Congressman Maltby, solely on the ground that he did not think the resolution would lead to remedying the evil involved. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations next held a hearing on the measure on December 13, 1911, at which Louis Marshall, Mayer Sulzberger and Oscar S. Straus made able arguments. Senator Lodge thereupon notified President Taft that an abrogation measure would pass the Senate, probably unanimously, and as the President thought that the form of the resolution was calculated to give unnecessary offense to Russia, he caused United States Ambassador Guild at St. Petersburg to give notice of termination, to be effective on the first of January, 1913, and requested the Senate to confirm his action. Accordingly the Senate Committee by Senator Lodge reported a substitute resolution on December 16, 1911, rescinding the treaty, together with the presentation by the President of notification of intended termination to Russia on December 17, 1911, and approved and ratified his action.

-4-

This substitute resolution was debated at considerable length in the Senate, and passed without a dissenting vote, the House concurred, and President Taft approved on December 21, 1911.

The foregoing is based upon the paper prepared by Dr. Max J. Kohler which forms an Appendix to Lussatti, God In Freedom (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1930).

LSL:ess:als 3/11/44

000311

*was P. Luger Bk
Mr. Lilla
Copy*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMEMBASSY, Moscow
DATED: March 11, 1944, 7 p.m.
NUMBER: 555
x

CONTROL COPY

War Refugee Board sends the following for the Ambassador's attention.

The following message immediately follows the Department's previous cable on the subject dated March 11.

In addition to the proposed plan designed to effect a change in the attitude as well as the actions of our enemies, the Board is convinced that there is an opportunity for actually moving many of these refugees out of enemy controlled areas. The Board believes that in the localities close to Turkey and the Black Sea there exists one of the most promising opportunities for actually accomplishing the rescue of such people. It is known that there are considerable numbers of refugees in Rumania, Bulgaria and ^{Transjestría} Turkey. It seems possible that arrangements can be made with the Turkish Government to receive refugees from these ^{localities} locations. Furthermore it appears possible that the Rumanian Government will grant to a substantial number of these persons permission to leave Rumania. The need for immediate means of transportation is imperative.

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

000312

The Board is trying to arrange for a small Turkish vessel to proceed to Constanza in order to evacuate about 1,000 children from Constanza to Turkey. The Board's representative in Turkey has reported that if we would offer a guarantee to the Turkish Government that the ship would be replaced if it were lost there might be a possibility of chartering the S.S. Vatan, a small Turkish ship. Our Government promptly offered such a guarantee. It is hoped the Russian Government may be of some assistance in our negotiations with the Government of Turkey. Also the possibility of using Swedish ships for this purpose is the subject of negotiations between this Government and the Government of Sweden. During the discussions with the Soviet Government you are requested to keep in mind that this problem of transportation seems to be the key to evacuation in the Black Sea area.

One of the functions of the Board is the finding of places of temporary havens of refuge to which persons now in enemy dominated European countries may be moved. The cooperation of the Governments of Spain and Turkey depends upon our ability to move refugees coming into those countries to other places as quickly as possible. Preparations have been made to move refugees now in Spain to a camp which has been established in North Africa
in order

in order to facilitate the entry of additional refugees into Spain.

Refugees are entering Palestine by the way of Turkey. The Government of Turkey has been requested to relax its border and other controls and in other ways increase the flow of refugees from occupied territories through Turkey. The Board is offering to finance the establishment of reception camps to accommodate refugees entering Turkey and the Board would arrange for their transportation to other places as quickly as possible.

It seems to the Board that it would be necessary to find at least temporary places of refuge in a number of places if the evacuation of a substantial number of refugees can be effected as^{is} planned. It appears from negotiations with the Swiss Government that Switzerland will now accept refugee children if a guarantee can be given that they will be removed after the war. We are making every effort to provide Switzerland with assurances which will meet her requirements.

It would greatly increase the possibility of evacuating large numbers of refugees if the Soviet Government were prepared immediately to take refugees, Jews and non-Jews, who manage to reach neutral countries from enemy controlled territories and who could be given at least a temporary refuge in the Soviet Union after
being

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being transported across the Black Sea from the Balkan countries. If the Soviet Government would give assurances that she would take refugees from those countries after the end of the war, Switzerland and other countries might possibly give more favorable consideration to taking refugees now. You should make every attempt in your negotiations with the Soviets to obtain their complete cooperation if it seems that they would be willing to accept such refugees even on a temporary basis.

From the foregoing, particularly taking into consideration the time and physical factor to be contended with, you can understand that a number of the obstacles which we are encountering could be solved with the Soviet Government's aid. If you will give personal and prompt attention to this matter it will be greatly appreciated.

The foregoing message has been repeated to Ankara for Ambassador Steinhardt.

HULL

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CONTROL COPY

J- as Refugee Bd

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMEMBASSY, Moscow
DATED: March 11, 1944, 7 p.m.
NUMBER: 554
x

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The War Refugee Board sends the following for the Ambassador's attention.

The functions of the War Refugee Board, composed of the Secretaries of War and Treasury, were described in our circular Airgram dated February 26. The President has established this Board to take action for immediate rescue and relief of the Jewish people of Europe and other victims of persecution by the enemy. The Board is actively engaged in carrying out this Government's policy as announced by the President and in this tremendous task it is seeking the cooperation of all members of the United Nations.

The Board is fully aware of the great work done to date by the Soviet Government in saving the lives of untold numbers of refugees, including Jews, from Hitler, who were rescued from the jaws of the German army in the midst of battle. The Board is convinced at the same time that if it could secure the Soviet Government's cooperation in some of the projects on which this Government is working, it would greatly increase the chances of saving many people from death. We are not suggesting that pressure be put on the Soviets to do more than they are now doing, in view of the Soviet Government's outstanding record in this whole matter. However, it is felt by us that the Soviet Government may be prepared to cooperate in some of the programs which we have under consideration if it can be convinced of the fact that we are sincerely determined to do what we can to prevent the murder of the Jews and other persecuted peoples by Hitler.

In connection with these programs, the Soviet Government might be of assistance in many ways. At the suggestion of Ambassador Steinhardt, Ira Hirschmann, the representative of the War Refugee Board in Turkey, has already discussed with Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov in

Turkey

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

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Turkey two specific problems. The Soviet Ambassador was advised of our intention to exert pressure on Bulgaria and other satellite countries and was requested to take parallel action. Furthermore, he was informed of our attempts to get the Government of Turkey to give permission for the use of a vessel for evacuating refugees, and was asked to support our request. Vinogradov pointed out that on both of these matters he could not act formally except through Moscow, although he agreed to speak to the Bulgarian Minister informally. He suggested that you should request his Government's assistance on these two problems and he agreed to do likewise.

It is felt by us that it is very important that you immediately discuss this whole matter with the Soviet Government. The policy of this Government should be made clear and the problems with which we are faced should be frankly discussed by you.

We are furnishing for your information and use in connection with your discussions with the Soviet Government the following information regarding some of the things we are working on and some of the obstacles encountered by us:

The War Refugee Board is convinced that it is extremely important immediately to undertake an organized and concentrated effort to make clear, by all appropriate means, to all Axis satellites, that their assistance in any form to Hitler's program to exterminate the Jews and other similar groups is viewed by the Allied Governments in a most serious light and all such action is regarded by the Allied Governments as criminal participation in organized murder. In order not only to give the satellites a clear view of this country's attitude in the matter but also of the opportunities which exist for aiding in the execution of our policy, the Board believes it necessary to make clear to the satellites by all possible means its intention to do everything in its power to rescue such unfortunates who are in danger of death. It is very strongly felt by the Board that a campaign of this kind must be made through all possible channels and must be constantly repeated at every available opportunity. It is felt by the Board that parallel action on the part of other Allied Governments would do a great deal to assure the success of this work. At the present time it is important that pressure be brought to bear, especially on Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, because there are many

refugees

refugees in those areas in imminent danger of death who can be evacuated to Turkey and other places if those governments give permission.

The Board feels that, in addition to bringing pressure to bear through various channels on the governments of the satellite countries, all available means for effecting the widest dissemination of our attitude, not only to the governments themselves, *but* to the largest possible number of people of the satellite countries, should be used in this campaign. The Office of War Information is cooperating with the War Refugee Board in this connection in bringing home to the people of Germany and the satellite countries the fact that this matter is considered by us to be of paramount importance and that it is our intention vigorously to follow all possible means of accomplishing our objective.

The foregoing message had been repeated to Ankara as the Department's no. 354 for Ambassador Steinhardt's attention, with the request that it be transmitted to Hirschmann.

MAR 24 1945

HULL

000318

2 - War Refugee Bd

CLASSIFIED SECRET

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

March 11, 1944

EMBASSY,
MOSCOW.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
REFUGEE RELIEF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Our circular airtel of January 28 described the functions of the War Refugee Board, composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. This Board has been established by the President to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jewish people of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.

The Board is actively engaged in carrying out the policy of this Government as announced by the President, and is seeking the cooperation of all members of the United Nations in this tremendous task.

The Board is fully conscious of the great work which the Soviet Government has done to date in saving the lives of untold numbers of refugees, including Jews, from Hitler who were rescued in the midst of battle from the jaws of the German army. At the same time the Board is convinced that if it could secure the cooperation of the Soviet Government in some of the projects on which this Government is working, the chances of saving many people from death would be greatly increased. In view of the outstanding record of the Soviet Government in this whole matter we are not suggesting that pressure be put on them to do more than they are now doing.

We feel,

000319

554 March 11, 7 p.m. to Chungking

-2-

We feel, however, that if the Soviet Government can be convinced of the fact that we are sincerely determined to do what we can to prevent the murder of the Jews and other persecuted peoples by Hitler, they may be prepared to cooperate in some of the programs which we have under consideration.

There are many ways in which the Soviet Government might be of assistance in connection with these programs. The representative of the War Refugee Board in Turkey, Ira Hirschmann, at the suggestion of Ambassador Steinhardt, has already discussed two specific problems with Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov in Turkey. Vinogradov was informed of our intention to exert pressure on Bulgaria and other satellite countries and was requested to take parallel action. Vinogradov was also informed of our efforts to get the Turkish Government to give permission for the use of a ship for evacuating refugees and was asked to support our request. Although Vinogradov agreed to speak to the Bulgarian Minister informally, he pointed out that on both of these matters he could not act formally except through Moscow. Vinogradov suggested that you should request the assistance of his Government on these two problems and he agreed to do likewise.

We feel that it is very important that you discuss this whole matter with the Soviet Government immediately. You should make clear the policy of this Government and discuss frankly the problems with

554 March 11, 7 p.m. to Chungking

-5-

with which we are faced.

The following information concerning some of the things we are working on and some of the obstacles we have encountered is furnished for your information and use in connection with your discussions with the Soviet Government:

The War Refugee Board is convinced that it is of utmost importance to undertake at once an organized and concentrated effort to make clear, by all appropriate means, to all Axis satellites that the Allied Governments view in a most serious light their assistance in any form to Hitler's program to exterminate the Jews, and other similar groups, regarding all such action as criminal participation in organized murder. The Board also believes it necessary to make clear to the satellites by all possible means, its intention to do everything in its power to rescue such unfortunates who are in danger of death, in order not only to give the satellites a clear view of the attitude of this country in the matter, but also of the opportunities which exist for assisting in the execution of our policy. The Board feels very strongly that a campaign of this kind must be made through all possible channels and be constantly repeated at every available opportunity. The Board believes that parallel action on the part of other Allied Governments would do a great deal to assure the success of this endeavor. At the moment it is important that
pressure

700321

554 March 11, 7 p.m. to Chungking

-4-

pressure be brought to bear particularly on Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary, because in those areas there are many refugees in imminent danger of death who can be evacuated to Turkey and other places if those Governments permit it.

In addition to bringing pressure to bear through various channels on the governments of the satellite countries, the Board feels that there should be employed in this campaign all available means for effecting the widest dissemination of our attitude not only to the governments themselves but to the largest number possible of the people of satellite countries. In this connection the Office of War Information is cooperating with the War Refugee Board in bringing home to the people in Germany and the satellite countries the fact that we consider this matter to be of paramount importance and intend vigorously to pursue all possible means of accomplishing our objective.

This cable has been repeated to Ambassador Steinhardt at Ankara.

HULL

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To the Code Room:

Please repeat the foregoing to the American Embassy at Ankara with the following closing sentence, "The above is the Department's _____ of March _____ to Moscow. Please transmit the substance of the foregoing to Hirschmann."

WBB:GLW:KG
3/11/44

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ME

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3MP

000322

*war Refugee Bill
(Mr. Pella)
1 copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Embassy, Moscow
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: March 9, 1944
NUMBER: 775
X

CONTROL COPY

The following message refers to circular airgram dated January 26, 1944, 7 p.m., from the Department.

There are no private or public agencies in Russia which are active in bringing war refugees into the country so far as the Embassy can find out. The enormous refugee problem of taking care of the millions of Soviet citizens whom the German invasion displaced is the one with which Russia is essentially concerned.

The relief of the Jews and the Poles whom the Government of the U. S. S. R. sent to Siberia and Central Asia from the portion of eastern Poland which the Russian forces occupied in 1940 is another of their problems. The breaking of diplomatic relations between Poland and Russia has complicated this problem. The Australian Legation which represents Polish interests in the U.S.S.R. has been able to secure exit visas for only a very few although many of the persons mentioned above would like to get out of Russia.

Steps to repatriate Russian war refugees from North Africa were taken by the Government of the U.S.S.R. your may remember.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972 The only immigrants

110323

2- from Moscow, #775 dated March 9, 1944

The only immigrants who are likely to receive a welcome here during the period of the war at least, would be persons with a Communist background and entrance into the country in all probability would be desired by very few others.

I do not believe it would be advisable under these circumstances to approach the Government of the U.S.S.R. on this subject unless in developing our own specific plan of action we find that for its execution we need the cooperation of Russia.

HARRIMAN

DOR:MPL
3/11/44

February 29, 1944

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: Mr. Pehle

Attention: Mr. Warren

Attached is a cable to Ambassador Harriman in Moscow from the War Refugee Board designed to secure if possible the cooperation of the Russian Government in some of the projects in which this Government is working to rescue the Jewish people of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.

We feel that it is important that this cable be dispatched as soon as possible. The cable should also be repeated to Ambassador Steinhardt in Ankara for his information and the information of Hirschmann.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

Attachment.

JED
JEDuBoinstecr
2/29/44

154
2/1/41
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN, MOSCOW.

TO HARRIMAN FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Our circular airgram of January 26 described the functions of the War Refugee Board, composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. This Board has been established by the President to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jewish people of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.

The Board is actively engaged in carrying out the policy of this Government as announced by the President, and is seeking the cooperation of all members of the United Nations in this tremendous task.

The Board is fully conscious of the great work which the Russian Government has done to date in saving the lives of untold numbers of refugees, including Jews, from Hitler who were rescued in the midst of battle from the jaws of the German army. At the same time the Board is convinced that if it could secure the cooperation of the Russian Government in some of the projects on which this Government is working, the chances of saving many people from death would be greatly increased. In view of the outstanding record of the Russian Government in this whole matter we are not suggesting that pressure be put on them to do more than they are now doing. We feel, however, that if the Russian Government can be convinced of the fact that we are sincerely determined to do what we can to prevent the murder of the Jews and other persecuted peoples by Hitler, they may be prepared to cooperate in some of the programs which we have under consideration.

There are many ways in which the Russian Government might be of assistance in connection with these programs. The representative of the War Refugee Board in Turkey, Ira Hirschmann, at the suggestion of Ambassador Steinhardt, has already discussed two specific problems with Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov in Turkey. Vinogradov was informed of our intention to exert pressure on Bulgaria and other satellite countries and was requested to take parallel action. Vinogradov was also informed of our efforts to get the Turkish Government to give permission for the use of a ship for evacuating refugees and was asked to support our request. Although Vinogradov agreed to speak to the Bulgarian

Minister informally, he pointed out that on both of these matters he could not act formally except through Moscow. Vinogradov suggested that you should request the assistance of his Government on these two problems and he agreed to do likewise.

We feel that it is very important that you discuss this whole matter with the Russian Government immediately. You should make clear the policy of this Government and discuss frankly the problems with which we are faced.

The following information concerning some of the things we are working on and some of the obstacles we have encountered is furnished for your information and use in connection with your discussions with the Russian Government:

(1) The War Refugee Board is convinced that it is of utmost importance to undertake at once an organized and concentrated effort to make clear, by all appropriate means, to all Axis satellites that the Allied Governments view in a most serious light their assistance in any form to Hitler's program to exterminate the Jews, and other similar groups, regarding all such action as criminal participation in organized murder. The Board also believes it necessary to make clear to the satellites by all possible means, its intention to do everything in its power to rescue such unfortunates who are in danger of death, in order not only to give the satellites a clear view of the attitude of this country in the matter, but also of the opportunities which exist for assisting in the execution of our policy. The Board feels very strongly that a campaign of this kind must be made through all possible channels and be constantly repeated at every available opportunity. The Board believes that parallel action on the part of other Allied Governments would do a great deal to assure the success of this endeavor. At the moment it is important that pressure be brought to bear particularly on Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary, because in those areas there are many refugees in imminent danger of death who can be evacuated to Turkey and other places if those Governments permit it.

In addition to making formal representations to the governments of the satellite countries, the Board feels that there should be employed in this campaign all available means for

effecting the widest dissemination of our attitude not only to the governments themselves but to the largest number possible of the people of satellite countries. In this connection the Office of War Information is cooperating with the War Refugee Board in bringing home to the people in Germany and the satellite countries the fact that we mean business in this matter.

(2) In addition to this program designed to bring about a change in the actions and attitude of our enemies, the Board is convinced that there is a real opportunity for actually bringing many of these peoples out of German controlled territory. The Board is convinced that one of the greatest opportunities for actually rescuing such people exists in the areas adjacent to Turkey and the Black Sea. It is known that in Transnistria, Rumania and Bulgaria there are substantial numbers of refugees in imminent danger of death. It also appears that arrangements can be made with the Turkish Government to receive refugees from these areas. There are strong indications that the Rumanian Government at least will permit a substantial number of these refugees to leave Rumania. It is indispensable that means of transportation be found at once.

The Board is now trying to make arrangements for a small Turkish vessel to proceed to the Rumanian port of Constanta and evacuate approximately 1000 children to Turkey. The Board's representative in Turkey reported that the charter of the S.S. VAFAN, a small Turkish ship, might be obtained if we could offer to the Turkish Government a guarantee to replace the ship if lost. This Government promptly offered such a guaranty. It is possible that the Russian Government may be of some assistance to us in our negotiations with the Turkish Government. We are also taking up with the Swedish Government the possibility of obtaining some Swedish ships for this purpose. In your discussions with the Russians you should bear in mind that this transportation problem appears to be the key to evacuations in the Black Sea areas.

(3) It is one of the functions of the Board to find places which will serve as temporary havens of refuge to which persons now in danger of death in German controlled Europe may

consider the fact that as such data
is being prepared in the Bureau
Office of War Relocation in cooperation
at the Office of War Relocation Administration
to the Board of War Relocation Administration
at the Office of War Relocation Administration

- 4 -

be removed. In getting the cooperation of Spain and Turkey the essential point is to make sure that we remove as soon as possible the refugees coming into these countries and transport them to other places. A camp has been set up in North Africa to which refugees from Spain are being removed in order that more refugees may enter Spain from occupied areas. Refugees coming into Turkey are at present being received into Palestine. In order to increase the flow of refugees through Spain and Turkey from occupied areas the Governments of those countries are being requested to relax border and other controls, etc. The Board is offering to arrange for financing the setting up of reception camps which would receive refugees entering these countries and would make it possible to take them on to other places as rapidly as possible.

The Board believes that if a substantial number of persons are to be evacuated it will be necessary to find at least temporary havens of refuge in many places. Accordingly, the Board is presently exploring all possibilities of this kind.

In the case of Switzerland the Swiss Government apparently is willing to accept refugee children if it can be guaranteed that such children will be removed from Switzerland after the war. Efforts are being made to satisfy Switzerland on this score.

If the Russian Government were prepared to accept immediately Jews and other war refugees who escape to neutral countries from German controlled Europe, or who could be transported from the Balkan countries across the Black Sea to Russia, and give them at least a temporary haven of refuge in Russia, the possibility of evacuating large numbers of people would be greatly increased. Also if the Russian Government were prepared to give assurances to countries like Switzerland that she would be willing to take refugees from them after the war, they might be willing to receive considerably more refugees than they are now receiving. If as a result of your discussions with the Russians it appears that they would be willing to receive such refugees at least on a temporary basis, you should of course make all efforts to secure their full cooperation.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

February 17, 1944

Re: Refugees in Russia

On January 19, 1944 Rabbi Miller and Mr. Herman Schulman of the American Jewish Conference advised Florence Hodel that there are between 250,000 and 400,000 Jewish refugees in Russia, principally in Siberia and Turkestan along the Caspian Sea. It was stated that at one time there were supposed to have been one and one-half million refugees in Russia but that hundreds of thousands of these had died. Most of these refugees had come from Poland with the retreating Russian armies.

In the course of my examination of the American Red Cross files, I noted numerous statements by Polish refugees to the effect that they had been poorly treated in Russia and that thousands of refugees had died of starvation and exposure. I made efforts to inquire into this situation, and asked Mr. Robert Scovell of the American Red Cross concerning the Russian refugee situation. Mr. Scovell, who returned to the United States in December 1943 after a two year stay in Russia as representative of the American Red Cross, replied that from what he could ascertain the refugees in Russia were treated just like Russians, so long as they were willing to assimilate themselves with the local population. Mr. Scovell gave little credence to the statements of the Polish refugees because politically speaking, they are so bitterly anti-Communist and anti-Russian.

WJ Marksa

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H/Markosin 2/17/44

Copy with letter from Russia

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

February 14, 1944

Summary of the Contents of State Department file, entitled "Refugee Groups--Rabbis and Students in Soviet Union".

The Polish Government is prepared to include a list of rabbis submitted by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in a contingent of Polish refugees in Russia scheduled for evacuation to Mexico. (Letter of February 16, 1943 from the Polish Embassy in the United States to the Union of orthodox Rabbis). The State Department advised the American Embassy in Moscow that the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States was inquiring of the Department concerning the prospects of evacuation of the above group from Russia. (State cable 1336, dated December 4, 1943). The Embassy replied that no doubt the names of many rabbis in the above group would be included in a list of candidates for evacuation from Russia submitted to the Russian Foreign Office by the Australian Legation, which is the representative of the Polish interests in Russia. The Australian Legation had apparently promised the American Embassy to check the list and submit to the Russian Foreign Office the names not included therein. (Moscow cable 2213, dated December 14, 1943). Apparently only ten percent of the rabbis in the aforementioned group were on the list submitted by the Australian Legation to the Russian Foreign Office. The Soviet Government was unable to ^{state} what it could do for the rabbis in question until it knows where the individuals comprising the group are located. (Moscow cable 192 dated January 19, 1944).

WJ Markas

*Taken for Mr. Livers
files*

We wish to express to your Excellency, and, through your Excellency to the commanders of your victorious armies, our gratification at the entry of the armed forces of the USSR into Roumania and Czechoslovakia and their imminent entry into Hungary.

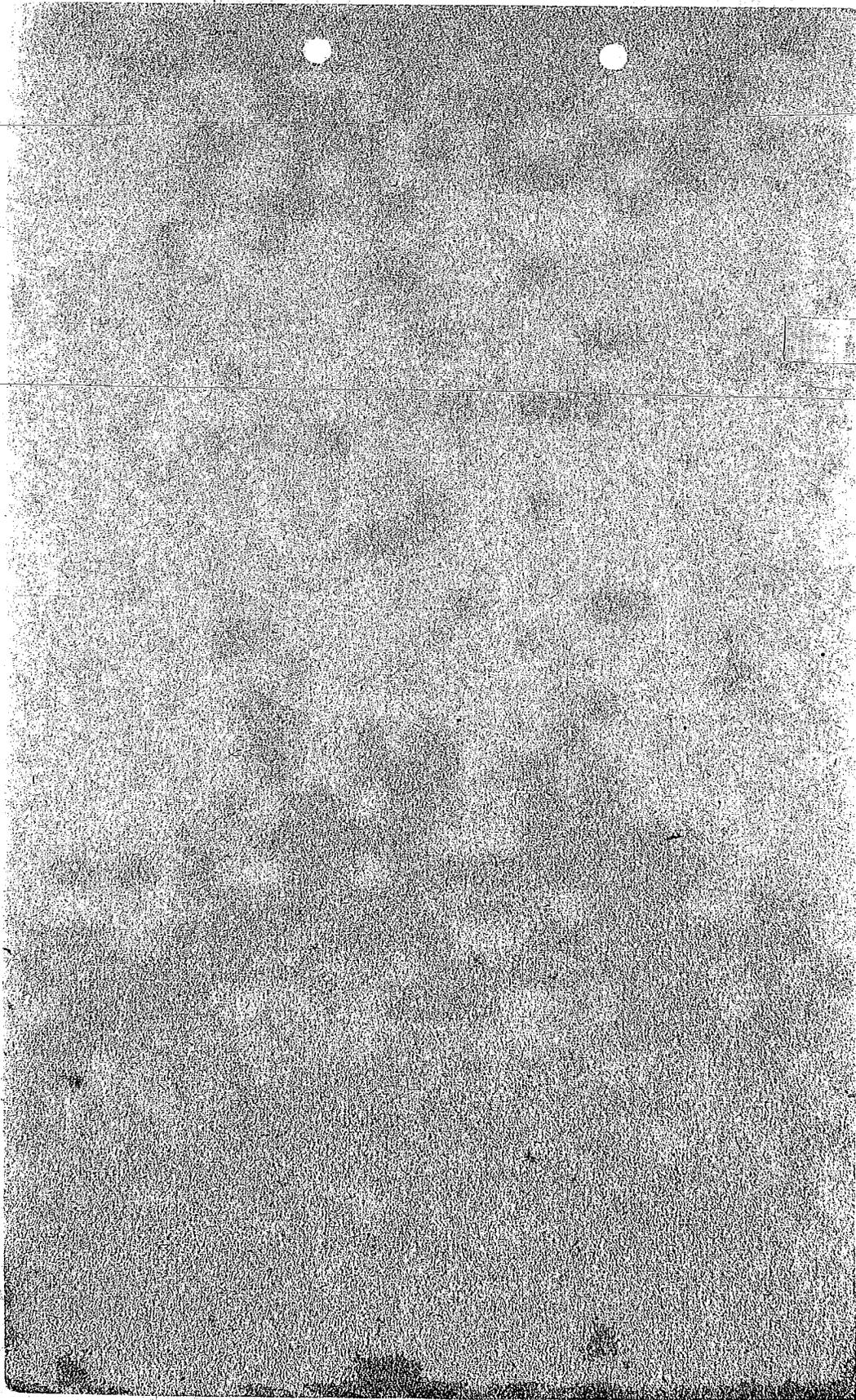
In view of this Government's deep concern over the fate of the Jews and all others marked for death by the Hitlerites, we salute the massive military successes that are crushing the very forces which instituted and sustained a criminal reign of terror wherever they hoisted the hated flag of Nazism.

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We salute the massive military successes that are crushing the very forces that have instituted and sustained a criminal reign of terror wherever they intruded beneath the hateful flag of Nazism.

In view of this Government's deep concern over the fate of the Jews and all others marked for death by the Hitlerites as reiterated by President Roosevelt in his March 24th statement, and since vast numbers of refugees are trapped behind the German lines in the Balkans, we suggest to your Excellency that it would be timely to warn the Nazi military and the Gestapo once again of the Allied Policy toward war criminals of all ranks.



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4 Jewish Groups to Publish 'Black Book' on Nazi Crimes

Copyright, 1945 by N.Y. Tribune, Inc.

New York, Feb. 15—Four organizations, representing thousands of Jews throughout the world, joined tonight in announcing plans for the Jewish black book of Nazi atrocities, a documentary record to be published in seven languages early this summer.

The book will be sponsored by the world Jewish Congress, the Jewish community council of Palestine, the Jewish anti-fascist committee of the union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the committee of Jewish writers, artists and scientists.

Senator Harley M. Kilgore (D. W. Va.), declared that punishment of war criminals on the basis of documentary proof of atrocities was "not an act of vengeance." Kilgore said that such a book would "open the eyes of the German people themselves who have little comprehension of the inhuman deeds of their present masters."

Eugene D. Kisselev, consul general of the U. S. S. R. said more than 600 pages of documentary proof of Nazi atrocities in Russia had already been turned over to the editors of the black book.

Jews to Record Nazi Atrocities In a Black Book

Plans to Publish It in Seven
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Announced at Dinner

Four organizations, representing thousands of Jews throughout the world, joined Wednesday night in announcing plans for the Jewish Black Book of Nazi Atrocities, a documentary record to be published in seven languages early this summer.

Officially announced at a dinner at the Hotel Commodore, the book will be jointly sponsored by the World Jewish Congress, the Jewish Community Council of Palestine, the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Committee of Jewish Writers, Artists and Scientists.

Senator Harley M. Kilgore, Democrat, of West Virginia, declared that such a record was a basic prerequisite for the punishment of war criminals.

"That book," he declared, "should be so strong that it will cause even the kind of statesmen who prefer sugar-coated pills to the surgeon's knife to mete out the kind of punishment these criminals deserve."

"Prompt action against the war criminals in every walk of life, reaching to the highest strata of Nazi officialdom and the industrialists who supported them, is an urgent demand not alone of the Jewish people but of all European peoples who have suffered under the Nazi yoke."

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Herbert C. Pell, former American representative on the United Nations War Crimes Commission, declared that "a good deal more than 10,000 per cent of atrocity stories published today are true."

Because the Nazi leaders "have found malnutrition is better than machine guns in weakening their neighbors," he said, "at the end of this war Germany will be relatively stronger in Europe than ever before."

"We must see to it," he urged, "that we do not tolerate an attitude of cheap cynicism that will not believe in these atrocities. We owe it to the world, we owe it to our children, to see to it that these people receive adequate, prompt and severe punishment."

In a strong indictment of the Allied countries for negligence in caring for Jewish refugees, Ira C. Hirschmann, former special representative of the War Refugee Board, said that 500,000 more war refugees could have been admitted into this country under existing immigration quotas than had been admitted.

He asserted that the Nazis had "butchered 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 members of minority races," and said that "indirectly the responsibility for these murders lies upon the entire human race."

Eugene D. Kisselev, Consul General of the Soviet Union, told the audience of 600 persons that more than 500 pages of documentary proof of Nazi atrocities in Russia had already been turned over to the editors of the Black Book.

Other speakers included Dr. Ariele Tartakower, of the World Jewish Congress; B. Z. Goldberg, author, and William S. Gaffmor, radio commentator. Albert Kahn, author of "Sabotage," presided.

Herald Tribune
New York, N. Y.

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DATE FEB 16 1945

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The New York Times.
JAN 23 1945

BOOK SHOWS HORRORS OF REFUGEE CHILDREN

A "Black Book of the Children," an expose of Nazi torture and mistreatment of Jewish children, has been compiled from thousands of case histories of young refugees in Palestine and soon will be issued by Hadassah, it was announced yesterday at the midwinter conference of the group's national board at the Park Central Hotel.

The pace at which these children are entering Palestine from Europe has doubled in the last two months, it was said. A total of 822 boys and girls from the Transnistria section of Rumania, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria were taken to Palestine between Nov. 3 and Jan. 9 under the auspices of the Youth Aliyah movement, of which Hadassah is the official American agency. Ranging in age from 7 to 17 years, most of the children have seen their parents taken away to slave labor, it was said. Eighty-five per cent are orphans.

Mrs. Alexander M. Dushkin, vocational education chairman, and Mrs. Harry P. Fierst, child welfare chairman, reported on a plan to provide safeguards for the present younger generation in Palestine to prevent a breakdown in standards of health and hygiene. Hadassah supports fifty infant welfare stations in Palestine, feeds 30,000 boys and girls through its school-lunch project and supervises the health of 80,000 grammar school children, they said.

The conference ends today with delivery of a citation by the Treasury Department to Mrs. Nathan D. Perlman, American affairs chairman of Hadassah, for her success in a campaign to raise \$10,000,000 in the Sixth War Loan Drive.

NOV 28 1944

**Reds Finish First Portion
Of Atrocity 'Black Book'**

MOSCOW, Nov. 26 (UP).—The first volume of a five-volume Russian "black book" recording in documentary form the German massacre of about 6,000,000 European Jews has been completed by the Soviet State publishing house and will make its appearance before the end of the year.

The "black book" will present four categories of documents: German decrees and orders of the day, eyewitness accounts of survivors of murder camps, diaries and letters of the victims and accounts of non-Jews who aided in the escape of certain prisoners.

Editors of the work—which will be published in Russian and English in press runs of hundreds of thousands of copies—estimate from data now available that the Germans killed between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 Jews in Russia, Poland and western Europe. They believe an additional 500,000 now are being murdered in Hungary.

Times Herald

NOV 27 1944

'Black Book' Records 6,000,000 Jews' Murder

MOSCOW, Nov. 26 (U.P.).
The first volume of the five-volume Russian "Black Book," recording in documentary form the German massacre of approximately 6,000,000 European Jews, has been completed and will make its appearance before the end of the year. The five-volume work is under the general editorship of Ilya Ehrenberg, noted Soviet writer and war correspondent.

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The News

NOV 27 1944

Nazi Killing of 6 Million Jews Recorded by Soviets

MOSCOW, Nov. 27—The first volume of five-volume Russian "Black Book" recording in documentary form the German massacre of approximately 6,000,000 European Jews has been completed by the Soviet State Publishing House and will make its appearance before 1946.

The "Black Book" will record the Germans' unparalleled persecution of Jews in four categories of documents: German decrees and orders of the day, eyewitness accounts of survivors of murder camps, diaries and letters of the victims and accounts of non-Jews who aided in the escape of certain prisoners.

NOV 27 1944

Red 'Black Book' Tells How Jews Were Slain

By HENRY SHAPIRO,
United Press Staff Correspondent.
MOSCOW, Nov. 27.—A five-volume "Black Book," containing a documentary record of the German massacre of about 6,000,000 European Jews, was being prepared today by the State Publishing House.

In many of the reoccupied areas the Russians found intact records listing the names and origin of victims along with identification certificates, passports and photographs.

Among letters left behind by victims this correspondent saw one from a woman and a girl addressed to their husband and father—M. Wishner, 196 Central Ave., Orange, N. J.

"They are coming to murder us," the wife wrote. "The only thing you can do is to avenge us."

The little daughter scribbled: "I want to live. I am afraid to die."

Signatures on the tear-stained letter were illegible.

The first volume of the "Black Book" has been completed and will be distributed before Jan. 1.

The work was under the general editorship of Ilya Ehrenborg and the editorial board included Konstantin Simonov, poet-playwright Vsevolod Ivanov, writer, and Vera Imber, poetess.

The "Black Book" will contain four categories: German decrees and orders of the day; eyewitness accounts of survivors of murder camps; diaries and letters of the victims, and accounts by non-Jews who aided in the escape of certain prisoners.

Data available to the editors indicated that between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 Russian, Polish and Western Europe Jews were killed and an additional half million Jews face probable death in Hungary now.

The "Black Book" will show that

systematic annihilation of the Jews began in 1939 and was carried out in eight principal places, with death methods including gas chamber asphyxiation, electrocution, firing squads, bacterial inoculation and carbon monoxide chambers.

One of the largest camps was operated near Warsaw, where a majority of Polish Jews and many Polish Catholics were killed, the "Black Book" editors said.

Congressmen Demand 'Hard Peace' Revenge

By the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—Congress erupted today with demands for relentless punishment of Germans guilty of what a Cabinet committee calls the systematic

murder of millions of innocent European civilians.

There was no angry talk of retaliation in kind, of eye-for-an-eye retribution.

But in both Senate and House arose a measured call for peace terms severe enough to keep the Nazis from ever again committing crimes of atrocity and for the death penalty for those tried and found guilty of them in this war.

The New York Times.

OCT 27 1944

HARRIMAN CONFIRMS GERMAN ATROCITIES

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 26—The many reports that have come out of Russia concerning widespread German atrocities in the country were supported today by W. Averell Harriman, American Ambassador to the Soviet Union, who is now here reporting on the recent Moscow conversations among ranking British, Russian and Polish officials.

"The character of the German atrocities on the eastern front have not been and cannot be exaggerated," he told newspaper correspondents at the State Department.

Emphasizing that his comment referred to the character of the atrocities, he added: "Its ruthlessness and the efficiency of it were utterly unbelievable."

Ambassador Harriman said Russia was anxious for the friendship of the United States and that the Russians were going to work with us in the defeated countries.

Because of the German atrocities on the eastern front, Mr. Harriman said, the Russians are tremendously interested in what is to be done with war criminals.

The atrocities in the east, he explained, were entirely different from those committed by the Germans in western Europe. While the shooting of hostages in the west was shocking, he pointed out, these incidents were relatively less than the killing of large masses of people, especially Jews, in the east.

He mentioned in this connection the reports from Lublin, Poland, where Soviet and Polish authorities have estimated that as many as 1,500,000 persons were killed in a "slaughter house" operated by the Germans at Maidanek.