Cooperation with Other Governments: Neutral Europe: Eire (Ireland)
CROSS REFERENCE ON IRELAND

FOR:

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

For undated memo from Mr. Friedman concerning problem of sending refugee children to Ireland

SEE: WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION.
CROSS REFERENCE ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS:
NEUTRAL EUROPEAN (EIRE)

FOR:

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FOR RELATIVE MATERIAL RE REFUGEES CHILDREN TO IRELAND

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO SWITZERLAND (EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE)
SUBJECT: Irish Refuge for Jewish Children.

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular telegram of August 12, 8 p.m., and to the Legation's reply No. 131 of August 15.

There is enclosed a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Joseph P. Walshe, Permanent Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, requesting that the Irish Government's offer to provide refuge for Jewish children be extended in principle to children from Hungary as well as from France. Mr. Walshe's reply confirming his informal statement to an official of the Legation that the Irish Government would extend its acceptance in principle to Jewish children from Hungary is also transmitted herewith.

At the time that the question of the Hungarian children was taken up with Mr. Walshe, he said that the Agudas Israel World Organization of London had taken up the question with the Irish Red Cross. When the matter came to his attention he had felt that as the London group obviously could not obtain any results without the assistance of the Allied governments he would recommend that the Agudas Israel World Organization coordinate their efforts with those of the War Refugee Board. It was hoped that thereby confusion might be avoided. There is also enclosed a copy of a letter to the American Ambassador in London supporting Mr. Walshe's recommendation that the Agudas Israel World Organization cease its efforts to make its own arrangements with the Irish Red Cross and instead to coordinate its activities with the War Refugee Board.

Respectfully yours,

For the Minister:

Aaron S. Brown,
Third Secretary of Legation

Enclosure:
1. Letter of August 14, 1944, to Mr. Walshe.
2. Reply of Mr. Walshe dated August 21, 1944.
3. Letter to Ambassador Winant dated August 23, 1944.
Dublin, August 14, 1944.

Dear Mr. Walshe:

I wish to refer to Mr. Gray's letter of March 22 and your reply of April 6 relative to your Government's generous offer to provide haven for 500 Jewish children for whom it was hoped to make arrangements to leave France.

In the absence of the Minister, who is enjoying a few days' leave in the country, I am instructed by my Government to request that the Irish Government extend its acceptance in principle to children from Hungary as well as from France. This request is made in view of the situation in Hungary and the recent statement by Admiral Horthy that his government would grant exit permits to, and suspend deportations of, all Jewish children for whom havens may be provided outside Hungary.

I am instructed to assure you that no detailed plans have as yet been developed for the actual immigration of refugee children into Eire. If such plans become necessary at a later date, they will, of course, not be developed without previous consultation with the Irish Government.

Sincerely yours,

Aaron S. Brown,
Secretary of Legation

ASB/tmd

Joseph F. Walshe, Esq.,
Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
80 St. Stephen's Green,
DUBLIN.
Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch No. 948
dated August 24, 1944, from the
American Legation, Dublin, Ireland.

Department of External Affairs,
DUBLIN.

21st August 1944.

Dear Mr. Brown,

In reply to your letter of August 14th, I now confirm that our Government gladly extends its acceptance in principle of Jewish refugee children to the Hungarian Jewish children.

Incidentally, I should tell you that the Agudas Israel World Organisation of London has approached the Irish Red Cross in the same matter. I am suggesting to the Red Cross that they should inform the Organisation of the American Government's interest. Of course, there is no possibility whatever of private organisations being able to effect any transfer of children to Ireland without the collaboration of the American or British Governments, and it seems better to prevent the Agudas people now from taking an independent course which might cause confusion in your plans.

I hope you will be able to let us know the details very soon.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ J. P. WALSH

Aaron S. Brown, Esq.,
Secretary
Legation of the United States
of America,
DUBLIN.
Personal and

Dear John Winant,

As you may know, at the request of the American Government the Irish Government sometime ago agreed to permit the entry of five hundred French Jewish children and to accept the responsibility for their care. Recently we were instructed to request the Irish Government to include Hungarian Jewish children as well as French Jewish children. This request was acceded to without question. In the course of our discussions with the Irish Government it was agreed that in all existing circumstances five hundred was as many as the Jewish population in Eire and Irish economy could reasonably be expected to absorb. The quota is limited to children inasmuch as for security reasons it was considered undesirable both from the American and Irish viewpoint to permit the entrance of adult persons from Axis countries.

It now appears that the Agudas Israel World Organization of London has approached the Irish Red Cross with the request that it accept Jewish refugees. As this could only be done by alteration of the arrangement already agreed to by the American and Irish Governments, it would avoid confusion if the Agudas Organization were informed of the situation, in which case it would doubtless abandon its effort to make arrangements with the Irish Red Cross in the interest of the more comprehensive official scheme for Jewish relief.

If you think well of the idea, you might have a copy of this letter to you transmitted to the Agudas Organization to explain the situation. I, of course, am acting on my own responsibility but it seems unnecessary to trouble Washington with this matter if it can be arranged by you in London. I will, however, send the Department a copy of my letter to you.

With all best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Letterhead]

[Address]

[Date]
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

MAE-695

1944 AUG 16 AM 9 Dublin

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

Dated August 15, 1944

2

Rec'd 9:30 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

August 15, 1944, 1 a.m.

Reference is made to Department's circular telegram August 12, 8 p.m. concerning refugee children.

Irish Government in principle extends its offer of refuge to children from Hungary as well as from France.

Gray

EMB

CONTROL COPY
In view of the situation in Hungary and the recent statement by Admiral Northy that his Government would grant exit permits to, and suspend deportations of, all Jewish children for whom havens may be provided outside Hungary, would you request the Government to which you are accredited to extend its acceptance in principle to children from Hungary as well as from France.

You may assure appropriate officials of that Government that no detailed plans have as yet been developed for the actual immigration of refugee children into its country. Should such plans become necessary at a later date, they will not (repeat not) be developed without previous consultation with the Government to which you are accredited.
Department of State,
Washington.

A-16, April 13, 3 P.M.

Reference to Department's telegram No. 39, March 14, from A.R. Refuse Board.

The A.R. Refuse Board's telegram was made available to the Irish Department of External Affairs, and there is quoted below the reply of Mr. Joseph P. Walsh, Permanent Secretary of the Department.

"Dear Mr. Gray,

"I received your letter dated the 22nd March enclosing copy of a telegram from the A.R. Refuse Board.

"The Government will be very glad to receive and provide haven for the 500 Jewish refugee children. The Executive Committee of the Red Cross have given their full agreement, and they are ready to make arrangements at once for the housing and reception of the children.

"I should let you know, however, that so far we have had no success in securing permission for Jews to leave the occupied countries, and it might be better if your Government would ask the Swiss Government to obtain the necessary
Dublin, 8-16, April 13, 3 p.m. -2

necessary permits. However, we are instructing our Charge d'Affaires in Berlin to make a further request.

"I shall write you later about the guarantee concerning the further 500 refugees mentioned at the end of the telegram."

In the event that the Irish Government has any success in obtaining permission for the Jewish children to leave the occupied countries, the Department will be immediately advised.

GRAY

AS3/T.D
DUBLIN,

Y 39, fourteenth

PROF. WAR REFUGEE BOARD,

Refer your A-7 of February 10, 1944 regarding the rescue and relief of war refugees.

Please inform the appropriate Irish officials that this Government accepts with deep appreciation the generous and humanitarian offer which we understand the Irish Government is prepared to make to receive and provide haven for 500 Jewish refugee children.

It is anticipated that these 500 children may be able to leave France and to enter Eire by transit through Spain and Portugal.

We are presently examining the matter of securing the shipping space necessary for the transportation of these children and will advise you further with respect thereto.

We are also canvassing the possibility of assisting the Irish Government in its humanitarian endeavor, with respect to supplies of food and clothing.

The Swiss Government has been requested to take up the matter of evacuating children from France with Vichy, and we are considering the desirability of requesting similar action on
on the part of the Irish Government, as we understand that it was prepared last year or earlier this year to take such action. However, we would appreciate your informing this matter with the appropriate Irish authorities to ascertain whether they are still prepared to make such an approach to Vichy.

You are also requested to ask the appropriate Irish authorities whether their Government would be willing presently to guarantee the admission into Eire after the war of an additional 800 Jewish refugee children in the event that they are evacuated from France to Switzerland during the war. Such a guarantee would probably enable us to induce the Swiss Government, which may be in a position to obtain the release of children from Vichy, to accept larger numbers of them for the duration of hostilities.

We will appreciate being kept promptly and fully advised of all developments.
Miss Nodel  

Mr. McCormack  

March 9, 1944  

Confirming our conversation regarding neutral Bire and their current offer of haven to 500 refugees, I submit for your consideration (this might be utilized by the Board to encourage an increase in the Irish offer) the following:

The American National Red Cross, utilizing funds from the Emergency Relief Appropriation (Public Resolution No. 85, 76th Congress) is currently shipping to the Irish Red Cross Society certain medical and surgical supplies which, after all requisitioned supplies have been shipped, will have an approximate value of $500,000. As of December 31, 1943 (most recently available Red Cross accounting figure) a total of $104,091.92 has gone forward to Bire with regular monthly shipments being made.

Omitting for purposes of this memorandum the political aspects of this "humanitarian" offer to the Irish people, it is significant that the entire project "meets with the approval of the State Department." (Summer Kelley's letter of 4/10/42 to Chairman Davis, A.R.C.) In Suma Numan's letter of 3/16/42 to Mr. Davis (Numar is Counselor of the Irish Legation in the United States), Mr. Numan wrote in part as follows:

"With reference to the President's generous offer to apply the sum of $500,000 for the relief of war refugees in Ireland...I am now instructed to request on behalf of the Irish Red Cross Society that the sum be allocated by American Red Cross for the purpose of furnishing medical supplies to be used for the benefit of refugees.

"My government informed me that the Irish Red Cross Society will guarantee that any supplies received will be employed in accordance with the requirements of your organization; exclusively for the relief of men, women, and children who have been driven from their homes or otherwise rendered homeless by hostilities or invasion."

1Exact language of Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1941, approved June 26, 1940 (Public Resolution No. 85, 76th Congress).
Quoted below are significant items from the "Minute of July 17, 1942" which represents the formal agreement between American and Irish Red Cross Societies with respect to these supplies.

"Item 8: The Irish Red Cross undertakes that the goods supplied shall be held in reserve and shall not be used unless and until Ireland is involved in the war, or an emergency arises in Ireland as a result of the present war. Permission, however, may from time to time be granted by American Red Cross to use any of the goods sent.

"Item 10: The goods supplied will remain the property of American Red Cross but will be under the control of the Irish Red Cross Society."

The latter item in the agreement made it evident to the Irish people almost at the outset that use of much of the gift was to be very limited. This is significant, inasmuch as the items being supplied may be more accurately described as medical supplies designed to actually meet the Irish health problem as opposed to health problems that might have been precipitated by refugee influx.

It occurred to me that tasteful release of greater quantities of these supplies to the Irish Government and Red Cross Society might well spell greater refugee intake. Such action would not only be embraced within the letter of the Act but also within the intent.
To: Mr. George L. Warren
From: J. W. Fehle

I would appreciate it if the attached cable were transmitted to Dublin, Ireland, as soon as possible.
FROM DEPARTMENT TO DUBLIN, IRELAND

Please refer to your A-7 of 10 February 1944 regarding the rescue and relief of war refugees.

Please inform the appropriate Irish officials that this Government accepts with deep appreciation the generous and humanitarian offer of the Irish Government to receive and provide haven for 500 Jewish refugee children.

We are presently examining the matter of securing the shipping space necessary for the transportation of these children and will advise you further with respect thereto. We are also canvassing the possibility of assisting the Irish Government in its humanitarian endeavor, with respect to supplies of food and clothing.

The Swiss Government has been requested to take up the matter of evacuating children from France with Vichy, and we are considering the desirability of requesting similar action on the part of the Irish Government, although we understand that it was prepared last year or earlier this year to take such action. However, we would appreciate your informally raising this matter with the appropriate Irish authorities to ascertain whether they are still prepared to make such an approach to Vichy.

You are also requested to ask the appropriate Irish authorities whether their Government would be willing presently to guarantee the admission into Eire after the war of up to 500 Jewish refugee children evacuated from France to Switzerland during the war. Such a guarantee would probably enable us to induce the Swiss Government, which may be in a position to obtain the release of children from Vichy, to accept larger numbers of them for the duration of hostilities.

We will appreciate being kept promptly and fully advised of all developments.

[Signature]
Executive Office of the President
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

FROM: **Mr. Stewart**

TO: **Mr. Pehle**

--- Mr. Abrahamson --- Mrs. B. King
--- Miss Alexander --- Miss Laughlin
--- Mrs. Cohn --- Mr. Lesser
--- Mr. DuBois --- Mr. Luxford
--- Mr. Friedman --- Mr. Mann
--- Miss Hodel --- Mr. Marks
--- Mr. McCormack --- Mr. Stewart
--- Mr. Murphy --- Mrs. Taylor
--- Mr. Parke --- Mrs. Towler
--- Mr. Poliek --- Mr. White
--- Mr. Smith ---

---
Dear Commander Becker:

Attached hereto is a copy of an airgram from Dublin, No. A-7 of February 10, 1944, which refers to the possibility of bringing to Eire 500 Jewish children and specifies various transportation difficulties.

I am sending this airgram to you in the hope that you may have some thoughts as to how the transportation difficulties might be met.

I also want to thank you for the extremely valuable assistance you have already rendered to the War Refugee Board, which I appreciate very much.

With personal regards.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fehle
Acting Executive Director

Lt. Comdr. Arthur Becker,
Room 4717,
Department of Commerce,
Washington, D.C.

Enclosure

JWFehle:mg 2/25/44
DUBLIN, February 25, 1944.

No. 211

SUBJECT: Anti-Semitism in Ireland.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular circulars of January 26, 1944, 7 p.m. and to the Department's circular No. 4-7 of February 10, 4 p.m. regarding the rescue and relief of war refugees. There is quoted below a news item appearing in the February 22nd edition of The Irish Times:

"SHOP FRONTS DUBLIN"

During the week-end a number of shop fronts in the Grafton Street area were daubed with yellow paint in two-foot squares. On none of the shop doors were the words/squares painted.

Soon after the shops concerned opened for business yesterday morning the yellow paint had been washed off."

The incident thus reported is the first anti-Semitic demonstration which has come to public notice in Ireland in some time. The words which were painted on the stores consisted of slogans such as "Down with the Jews" and the word "Jew" in large letters of yellow paint, but the Censor did not permit the Dublin newspapers to print that the demonstration had been directed against the Jews. It is commonly believed in Dublin that a major portion of the property in the Grafton Street area, which is the shopping center of Dublin, is owned by persons of Jewish race.

Although there are, as a matter of fact, only approximately 3,300 Jews in Dublin out of a population of half million, many Irish are passionately opposed to them and express their anti-Semitic feelings openly. The Catholic Church, which is a great power in the community, has done little to preach tolerance to its members and indeed The Standard, a popular Catholic weekly, regularly prints letters denouncing the Jews and their alleged leadership in certain occupations. It has lately been learned that an attempt is being made to revive the Christian Protective Association.
whose activities were directed against Jewish-owned enterprises and which died out a few years ago. The Dublin press has also given recent notice to attempts being made to localize against the changing of names for commercial uses. German radio propaganda directed to hire has urged Catholic Irish listeners to beware of the Jews.

While it does not appear that anti-Semitic demonstrations will take place in a violent form in the near future in Dublin, it should be recognized that anti-Semitism is widely prevalent among all classes of Irish and that the stresses and strains felt here as the result of war-time restrictions and unemployment may bring it out into the open at any time. This possibility should be considered in connection with any project for sending Jewish refugees to this country.

Respectfully yours,

For the Minister:

Aaron S. Brown
Third Secretary of Legation.

100/30.0.1
ASB/12.

To Department in Original and Photostat.
Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-7, February 10, 4 p.m.

Reference the Department's circular of January 26, 1944, 7:00 p.m., regarding the rescue and relief of war refugees.

In the course of a conversation on February 9 with the Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, I discussed the policy outlined in the President's Executive Order, explaining that all the facilities of the United States Government will be devoted to the rescue of Axis victims as far as possible. As a result of our discussion I feel that the most which this location could accomplish in carrying out the President's policy would be the obtaining of permission for the entry of some 500 Jewish children into Eire. The reasons for this discouraging conclusion are given below.

The most important question to be considered by our government in asking Eire to become an asylum for war refugees is that of security. United States Army and Navy installations are located in Northern Ireland which is being used as a depot and gathering point for forces and supplies to be used in coming operations. Northern Ireland is separated from neutral Eire by an almost completely unguarded border. At the same time there is a continual stream of personnel from various branches of the British forces who come to Eire on leave. The ease with which information can be picked up by enemy agents here is all too apparent. If adult refugees were allowed to come to Eire, enemy agents included among them would be in a position to do direct harm to our war effort in cooperation.
Dublin, A-7, February 10, 4 p.m.

Cooperation with German and Japanese officials were.
For this reason we strongly believe that it would be
wiser for adult refugees to be sent to an area farther
removed from the centers of war. I am confidentially
informed that the Irish Government would likewise be
unwilling to take the responsibility presented by a
large number of refugees who might be a danger to Allied
as well as Irish security.

A second important factor governing the attitude
of the Irish Government is that of the scarcity of food.
Ire's overall food supply is barely sufficient for her
present population and she is finding it necessary to
import from a third to a half of her wheat supply from
United Nations' stocks. All available evidence indicates
that the food situation will deteriorate in the
course of the next year. The pressure which this con-
stantly growing scarcity puts on the de Valera admin-
istration tends to make it distinctly inhospitable to
a large number of refugees unless the United Nations
are prepared to supply these with food and clothing.

I believe it would be possible, however, to arrange
for the reception and indefinite stay here of a maximum
of 500 Jewish children. I fully realize that such a
small concession provides only a fractional answer to
the war refugee problem, but the factors outlined above
should make it clear that the local facilities are
extremely limited.

To answer the specific questions raised in the
Department's airgram:

(a) The Irish Government has no strict exclusion
policy with regard to war refugees, who have
not attempted to enter this country because of
the impossibility of obtaining transportation.
It would, however, for the reasons given
above not permit a large number of war refugees
to enter Iire.

(b) Iire does not encourage the entry of war refu-
gees for the reasons given above.

(c) The failure of Iire to encourage and cooperate
in the entry of refugees affects the inability
of refugees to reach this country in that no
small group of refugees can reach Iire because
of
of the lack of transportation, while the entry of a large enough group of war victims to make the chartering of a neutral vessel worthwhile would have been definitely discouraged by the Irish Government.

The possibility of gaining entry into Eire for even a small number of refugees is predicated on the difficulty of getting them here. Irish ships have no facilities for carrying passengers, nor do any other ships touching at Eire except the cross channel steamers from England. The War Refugees Board must, therefore, arrange for transportation in the event that Eire is chosen as an asylum for even a small number of victims of persecution and war.

GRAY

ASB/MD